



the pioneer

Established 1865

INSIDE

MONEY 10
MARKETS MAY REACT TO
ASSEMBLY POLLS
OUTCOME: ANALYSTS

NEW DELHI, MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

Violence erupts at Sambhal mosque survey, three dead



Police and security personnel stand guard amid protest by locals during a second survey of the Jama Masjid, claimed to be originally the site of an ancient Hindu temple, in Sambhal, Sunday, November 24, 2024. Police used tear gas and "minor force" in the face of stone pelting by locals on Sunday as tension escalated during the survey of the Mughal-era mosque PTI

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Tensions flared into violence on Sunday as a court-mandated survey of the Mughal-era Jama Masjid triggered clashes between locals and police resulting in the deaths of three individuals. Over 40 people including policemen were reported injured in the violence. Eyewitnesses say that during a second survey of the mosque, a mob attacked police personnel with stones and set vehicles ablaze. The police responded with tear gas and a baton charge to control the situation. Over 20 police

officers and more than two dozen civilians were injured in the clashes, with reports of three deaths adding to the unrest. According to police, violence erupted when a crowd of nearly a thousand gathered outside the mosque to prevent a survey team, led by a court-appointed advocate commissioner, from entering. As tensions escalated, some individuals in the crowd reportedly began pelting stones at the police, leading to retaliation with tear gas. Amid the chaos, over ten vehicles were set ablaze. "Some miscreants in the crowd resorted to violence. The police used minor force

and tear gas to bring the situation under control. Those involved will be identified and strict action will be taken," said Krishna Kumar Vishnoi, superintendent of police. District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia confirmed that approximately ten individuals were detained. Videos circulating on social media show scenes of stone-pelting and vehicles engulfed in flames. "Three people identified as Naeem, Bilal and Nauman have been killed. Some policemen including the gunner of the superintendent of police have also been injured," Moradabad Divisional Commissioner

Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said. Despite the unrest, the survey, which commenced at 7:30 am, was completed as planned. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the petitioners, stated that the survey team conducted a detailed examination of the site, supported by videography and photography in compliance with court directives. The report is set to be submitted by November 29. The controversy stems from a court case filed by a Hindu group claiming that the Jama Masjid was originally the Harihar temple. Following a court directive, a commissioner was appointed to survey the site. Last Tuesday, the court-appointed team conducted an initial survey, including videography and photography, lasting about two hours. However, the second survey attempt on Sunday sparked violent protests. The court commissioner is expected to submit a detailed report to the court by November 29. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav criticised the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing them of deliberately orchestrating the violence. "The mosque was already surveyed earlier. Sending the team again, unprepared, was a deliberate attempt to provoke unrest and divert attention from pressing electoral issues," he alleged. **Continued on page 2**



All party meeting ahead of Winter session of the Parliament Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

BJP win dampens Opposition plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Winter session of Parliament anticipated to begin on a stormy note on Monday at the backdrop of latest controversy around Adani Group with the Opposition ready to flex its muscles, is now likely to be dampened after BJP's morale booster Assembly results in Maharashtra, by-polls of Uttar Pradesh and last month's Harayana success to its kitty. The Opposition on Sunday asked the Centre to allow discussions in the Parliament on the US prosecutors' bribery charges against the Adani Group even as Union minister Kiren Rijiju made it clear that the matters to be taken up in the two houses will be decided by their authorised committees with the consent of the respective chair. Following the customary all-party meeting on the eve of the Parliament's Winter Session commencing Monday, Rijiju told reporters that the government has appealed to all the parties to ensure smooth conduct of

business in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Forty-two leaders from 30 parties attended the meeting, which was chaired by senior BJP leader and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting was attended by BJP President JP Nadda, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal and LJP (Ram Vilas) MP Arun Bharti, among others. The government has listed 16 bills for consideration in the Winter Session. The bills pending in the Lok Sabha include the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which has been listed for consideration and passage after a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) of the two houses submits its report on it to the lower house. The panel is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the winter session. On the Congress party's demand to hold discussions on the Adani issue on priority, apart from a host of other matters, including the Manipur unrest, Rijiju said the business advisory

committees of the two houses will take a call on the subjects of Parliamentary business with the consent of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. Raising the matter at the meeting, Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, dubbed the Adani issue as a scam, saying the government should not reject or ignore their demand on any technicality as it concerns Indian institutions and investors. Billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani, whose conglomerate includes a host of companies covering power to ports sectors, has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts in four Indian states. Congress leader Pramod Tiwari also said the government should set aside other businesses to take up a discussion on the issue on priority. **Continued on page 2**

Accused in policeman murder killed in encounter

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a Delhi Police constable was killed while on duty, the main accused in the case was shot dead in an encounter by police personnel in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar area early Sunday morning. The encounter comes a day after Kiran Pal, 28-year-old constable in the Delhi Police, was stabbed to death by three people on Saturday while on night patrolling duty in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area. Two of the three accused, Deepak Max (21) and Krish Gupta (18), were arrested later that day. According to a senior official of the Delhi Police's Special Cell, the third and the main accused in the murder of constable Kiranpal lost his life in an armed encounter with a joint team of local police and special cell. A senior police officer of special cell said that the third accused, Raghav, who stabbed Pal with a knife was hiding in Sangam Vihar. "Late evening on Saturday, information was received regarding the whereabouts of the prime suspect, identified as Raghav alias Rocky, a resident of D-Block, Sangam Vihar. **Continued on page 2**

Shinde, Fadnavis, Pawar to discuss future in Delhi



File photo: PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Sunday said leaders of the ruling MahaYuti alliance and the BJP leadership will decide who will be the next chief minister of the state. Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said incumbent Chief Minister (CM) Eknath Shinde who belongs to the Shiv Sena (SS), Deputy (Dy) CM Devendra Fadnavis from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Dy CM Ajit Pawar from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will reach Delhi to discuss on the future shape of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the state where all sections of the society supported the BJP in the Assembly polls and

rejected the Congress. The focus has now shifted to BJP leader Fadnavis, the architect of his party's stunning victory as it bagged 132 of the 149 seats it contested in the state. Political circles are abuzz with reports that the state's second Brahmin to become the CM will don the post for the third time. BJP's national joint general secretary Shiv Prakash and Maharashtra unit head Chandrashekhar Bawankule met Devendra Fadnavis at his residence on Sunday. The tenure of the current state Assembly ends on Tuesday, which has also necessitated meetings among leaders of the ruling allies to finalise the name for the CM's post. **Continued on page 2**

reaching the landmark. The 22-year-old Jaiswal, on Sunday, emerged as the unofficial flag-bearer of Indian batting for the next decade and a half during his 297-ball stay at the wicket, giving a glimpse of his ever-improving technique and composed temperament. But it was veteran Kohli, who showed how to play on a wicket that consistently misbehaved during his second hundred at the Perth Stadium and 30th overall, which incidentally took him past Sir Don Bradman's 29 Test tons. There were deliveries that simply didn't bounce. One from Mitchell Starc was upper cut for six over backward point while the shot of the day was an on drive off Cummins. When Nathan Lyon started turning the ball square, he either got a big stride forward or brought the sweep shot, which he doesn't play often, out of his closet. His hundred, in fact, came off a sweep. **Continued on page 2**



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren handover his resignation to Governor Santosh Gangwar as he stakes claim to form the new government, at Raj Bhawan, in Ranchi PTI

Soren to take oath as CM on November 28

PRANAV PRATYSH ■ RANCHI

Leader of the INDIA block's legislature party in Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, met Governor Santosh Gangwar at the Raj Bhawan in Ranchi on Sunday, November 24 and staked his claim to form a new government in the state. Accompanied by an eight-member delegation, the incumbent chief minister submitted a letter of support from 56 MLAs to the Governor. Accepting Soren's claim, the Governor invited him to form the government and asked him to continue as acting chief minister (CM) until a new arrangement is made. Speaking to media persons after the meeting, Soren announced that the INDIA Alliance has initiated the process of forming a new government. "Today, we submitted our resignation for the current government to the Governor and proposed forming the next one. We will now focus on the next steps," he stated. **Continued on page 2**

PTI ■ PERTH


The King and The Prince

Virat Kohli brought all his technical expertise into play while dealing with vagaries of variable bounce during his 30th hundred after heir apparent Yashasvi Jaiswal's classy 161 put India in sight of a remarkable Test victory against a nervous and fumbling Australia here on Sunday. The Indians dominated the third day to first set an improbable 534-run target for the hosts before reducing them to 12/3 at close of play. Once Kohli reached an unprecedented seventh Test century Down Under, Indian skipper Jasprit Bumrah declared at 487 for 6 with five overs to go flat out. The skipper then immediately disposed off debutant Nathan McSweeney (0) and Marnus Labuschagne (3), both of whom got balls that kept perilously low. The nervousness was palpable when rival captain Pat



Cummins walked in as the night-watchman and the decision proved to be a not so wise one. The match would be memorable for many reasons and one of them would be the exhibition of top quality batsmanship by the 'King' and

'Prince' of current India batting but in contrasting conditions and different match situations. Jaiswal built a fascinating structure with care and Kohli (100 not out, 143 balls) polished it and put a beautiful coat of paint while throwing caution to the wind while



Those who don't have the knowledge of Ayurveda and other Vedas, those who treat the country as a market and not as their family, how can they make Authentic Chyawanprash in the tradition of sages like Maharshi Charak, Sushrut, Dhanvantari, and Chyawan?

Adhering to the heritage and science of sages, we use 51, not 40, valuable herbs and saffron in making Patanjali Special Chyawanprash.

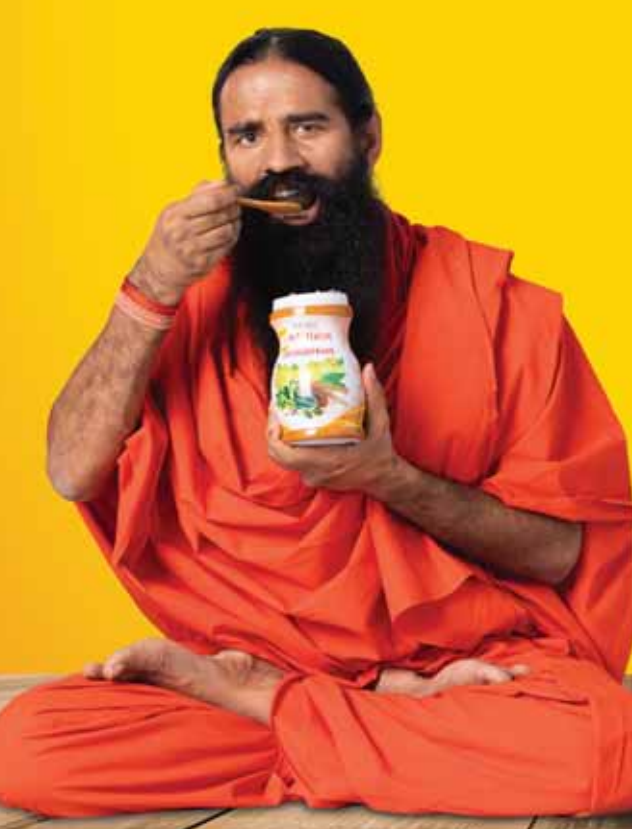

Take it daily to cast out diseases and save your body from turning into a medical store.

Protects from cough and cold, strengthens respiratory system and enables you to fight hundreds of diseases.

Ayurvedic Superfood that boosts immunity, keeps diseases at bay, and keeps you young forever.

51

Precious Herbs

For the first time in the world, a research paper published in highly reputed journal 'Frontiers in Pharmacology' establishes Patanjali Special Chyawanprash as the best Chyawanprash that heals inflammation and gives power to fight diseases.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8633414/

Shop Online- www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108

Order Patanjali Products Online from ORDER ME APP

Women score low in a women-led election

■ MUMBAI

In an election where the BJP-led MahaYuti's flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana" proved to be a game-changer that ensured its return to power in Maharashtra, only 21 women have been elected to the 288-member State Legislative Assembly.



Of the total 4,136 candidates in fray, there were 3,771 men and 363 women. Given that 21 women candidates out of the total 363 female candidates romped home in the polls, the women representation in the 288-Assembly is meagre 7.29 per cent.

That only 21 women candidates have emerged victors in the State Assembly polls is ironic considering that both the ruling MahaYuti and Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had made pink as the theme in the polls and they reached out in a big way to the women voters in the state.

While the BJP went to polls with a promise to increase the quantum of assistance under the "Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana" from Rs 1,500 to 2,100 per month, the Opposition MVA promised a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 3,000 per month for women under its Mahalakshmi Yojana.

They are Shweta Mahale (Chikli constituency), Meghana Bordikar (Jintur), Devyani Farande (Nashik Central), Seema Hiray (Nashik West), Manda Mhatre (Belapur), Manisha Chaudhari (Dahisar), Vidya Thakur (Goregaon), Madhuri Misal (Parvati), Monica Rajale (Shevgaon) and Namita Mundada (Kaiji).

The four BJP women nominees, who have been elected as MLAs for the first time are: Shreejaya Chavan (Bhokar), Sulabha Gaikwad (Kalyan East), Sneha Pandit (Vasai) and Anuradha Chavan (Fulambari).

Furious India rejects 'unfair', 'stage-managed' climate finance deal

■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)



Yalchin Rafiyev, Azerbaijan's COP29 lead negotiator, left, Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, center, and Simon Stiell, United Nations climate chief, talk ahead of a plenary session at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. AP/PTI

India on Sunday fiercely rejected the paltry USD 300 billion climate finance package for the Global South and said the COP29 presidency and the UN climate change office forced through the deal before allowing it to voice its objections.

Making a strong statement on behalf of India at the closing plenary of the UN climate conference here, Chandni Raina, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, termed the adoption process "unfair" and "stage-managed" and said it reflected the troubling lack of trust in the UN system.

India said the new climate finance package of a meagre USD 300 billion annually by 2035, replacing the USD 100 billion pledge made in 2009. The USD 300 billion figure is a far cry from the USD 1.3 trillion the Global South has been demanding over the past three years of talks to tackle climate change.

The UN climate conference adopted a new climate finance package of a meagre USD 300 billion annually by 2035, replacing the USD 100 billion pledge made in 2009. The USD 300 billion figure is a far cry from the USD 1.3 trillion the Global South has been demanding over the past three years of talks to tackle climate change.

India said its request to speak before the adoption of the climate finance package was ignored. "We had informed the presidency and the secretariat that we wanted to make a statement before any decision on the adoption. However, and this is for everyone to see, this has been stage-managed, and we are extremely disappointed with this incident," Raina said.

"We had informed the presidency and the secretariat that we wanted to make a statement before any decision on the adoption. However, and this is for everyone to see, this has been stage-managed, and we are extremely disappointed with this incident," Raina said.

Developed countries, which have historically been responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, are required to provide finance, technology, and capacity-building support to developing and low-income economies to help them cope with a warming world. In 2009, they pledged to provide USD 100 billion per year by 2020. However, this pledge was only met in 2020, with around 70 per cent of the funds coming in the form of loans.

Developed countries, which have historically been responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, are required to provide finance, technology, and capacity-building support to developing and low-income economies to help them cope with a warming world. In 2009, they pledged to provide USD 100 billion per year by 2020. However, this pledge was only met in 2020, with around 70 per cent of the funds coming in the form of loans.

East is India's growth engine: PM Modi

■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that his government considers India's eastern region as the country's growth engine, while the area was considered backward earlier.

Manipur CM assures action on poppy plantations

■ GURUGRAM



Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday said action will be taken against poppy planters and their accomplices following an ultimatum by a Naga village authority. Singh's assurance came after a police team, led by an additional SP, and village volunteers were allegedly targeted by armed planters when they attempted to destroy poppy cultivation in Kangpokpi district recently.

action within four days against poppy planters in Kangpokpi district. In a statement, the village authority said on November 20, volunteers and a police team were confronted by armed men while attempting to destroy poppy cultivation in the hill areas of the district. "Wielding guns and weapons, the poppy planters attacked the volunteers and the police team and damaged the equipment brought to cut poppy plants, thereby incapacitating the mission," the statement added.

Use tech to resolve public grievance: Haryana chief sec

■ GURUGRAM

Haryana Government Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi has said that officers should establish such a system in their department that the complaints and problems of the general public should be resolved quickly. In this, new technology and expert services should be used, he said.

the department, then legal action should be taken against it. "Officials should ensure that people here are not troubled due to basic problems like electricity, water, road. Also ensure that if any citizen faces such a problem, it should be resolved on the spot. The services of city cleanliness, waste management, MCG or GMDA should be linked to new technology. Officers can also take the services of skilled experts or companies from another state," he said.

Soren to take oath as CM on November 28

From page 1

Soren also revealed that the swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, November 28, at the historic Morhabadi Ground in Ranchi, though he declined to share details about the new cabinet's composition. Earlier in the day, INDIA block MLAs convened at the CM's residence, where Soren was unanimously elected as the alliance leader.

It is expected that, alongside Soren as CM from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), six MLAs will be sworn in as ministers-four from the Congress, one from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and another from the JMM. Discussions are going on regarding the potential inclusion of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) in the coalition government, with the

possibility of introducing fresh faces to the cabinet. As four ministers of Hemant Soren's cabinet lost the Assembly polls, new faces will surely be inducted in the cabinet. It is being said that Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren or his brother Basant Soren will be inducted in the cabinet apart from the loyal faces of JMM.

Pawar credits MahaYuti win to Yogi

■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday attributed the rout of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to the UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath's divisive slogan "Batenge to katenge", MahaYuti's flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana", use of large sums of money by the ruling alliance and lack of adequate support from the OBC voters.

"The poll outcome is totally unexpected. After all, it is a verdict given by the people in the state. I have not seen this kind of an electoral outcome in my entire political career. That being the case, we need to study the reasons for the Opposition MBA's debacle in the polls and go back to people and work enthusiastically once again". Queried as to what could be the reasons for the Opposition MVA's shocking defeat, Pawar said: "One of the reasons is that the 'Batenge to katenge' slogan given by Yogi Adityanath contributed to polarisation among voters.

Accused in policeman murder...

From page 1

A joint team from the Special Cell (New Delhi Range) and Narcotics Cell, South East District, which had been working together since the incident, went to the area connecting Sangam Vihar to Surajkund Road to verify the information," the officer said. He added that the accused was identified close to midnight. However, when the police asked him to surrender, the accused opened fire at the police personnel who retaliated in self-defence and injured the accused.

suspect, in a premeditated manner, opened fire from a close distance at the police party using a firearm that he was carrying. The police team retaliated in self-defence, which led to the suspect being injured by gunshot wounds," another official said. The suspect was immediately rushed to ESIC Hospital, Okhla, where he passed away due to the injuries suffered in police action. A pistol with two cartridges has been seized, the police officer said, adding no police official was injured in the encounter. "All protocols as laid down by law for instances of death in police action are being

followed," the official said. Constable Kiran Pal, posted at Govindpuri Police Station, was on night patrolling duty when he stopped three people riding a two-wheeler in the early hours of Saturday. "The accused threw stones at the constable to evade arrest but he managed to waylay them by putting his bike in front of their vehicle," the officer said. "The constable also took away the keys of the two-wheeler and started questioning the trio during which the accused stabbed him," the officer added. The constable is survived by his widowed mother and an elder brother, who is currently unemployed.

Violence erupts at Sambhal...

From page 1

Yadav further claimed that the BJP government was using such incidents to sideline discussions on governance failures and election-related malpractice. Following the violence, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilvi, president of the All India Muslim Jamaat, appealed to the Muslim community to maintain peace and avoid acts of violence. "Islam promotes peace, and we must follow the Prophet's message. The legal battle over the historical Jama Masjid will be fought strongly in court," he said.

Shinde, Fadnavis, Pawar...

From page 1

The BJP-led MahaYuti, on Saturday retained power in the state by bagging 230 of the 288 Assembly seats. The Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) dream of wresting power fizzled, with the opposition combine managing to garner just 46 seats. The BJP bagged 132 seats, the SS won 57, while the NCP got 41 seats.

Bawankule said the decision on CM would be taken by the Mahayuti leaders and the BJP's parliamentary board. "The selection process would be in-line with the alliance's plans for governance," he added. Notably, the Mahayuti's landslide in Maharashtra will leave the state Assembly without a Leader of Opposition as no party outside the ruling alliance has been able to get the mandatory minimum 29 seats. "The mandate of the people in this Assembly election is against the Congress. Having no leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly is the karma of Congress," Bawankule said.

on Sunday said the Ladki Bahin scheme, women's participation in voting in large numbers, and religious polarisation may have played a role in Mahayuti's victory in Maharashtra Assembly polls. He said the election results, declared on Saturday, are not on the expected lines but he would revitalise his party. Responding to a query on his retirement from active politics, Pawar tersely said he and his party colleagues will decide. Responding to a query on EVMs, a day after SS (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut expressed doubts over the massive verdict in Mahayuti's favour, Pawar said he would speak about EVMs only if he has official data.

BJP win dampens Opposition plans

From page 1

Raising the issue of violence in Manipur, Gogoi said the ruling dispensation jailed the Jharkhand chief minister (Hemant Soren) and made changes in Jammu and Kashmir for a variety of reasons, but kept its faith in Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh, despite his alleged involvement in violence. The matter must be debated in the Parliament, he said.

raised the issue of pending implementation of the promises made during the division of the state in 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, saying the Parliament should know their present status. "We want the government to put the status on record," TDP leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu said, noting that while some promises have been fulfilled and some are being taken up, a few still remain unfulfilled. Jana Sena leader Balashowry Vallabhaneni spoke on similar lines. DMK asked the Centre to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which the government is keen to table in

the session despite opposition by several Muslim organisations. The Opposition members in the Waqf panel are demanding an extension in the timeline to submit its report accusing the JPC Chairman and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal of bulldozing the committee's meetings, the opposition members sought the intervention of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Commenting on the matter, Rijju said there is a provision to extend the tenure of the JPC but as of now, there have been no discussions on it. He also underlined that the business advisory committee of the Lok Sabha is the right platform to discuss the issue

of extending the JPC's timeline. As many as eight bills, including the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, are pending in the Lok Sabha. According to a Lok Sabha bulletin, two bills are pending with the Rajya Sabha. A Rajya Sabha bulletin said an additional bill -- The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak -- passed by the Lok Sabha is pending with the Upper House. A set of proposed bills to implement simultaneous elections in the country are not part of the list yet, though some reports suggested that the government is likely to bring the proposed legislation in the coming session.

The King and The Prince

From page 1

The straight six off Lyon with the turn was exhilarating as young Nitish Reddy (38 not out off 27 balls) only enhanced his reputation with some muscular IPL-like strokes that took India past the 500-run mark. Before 'King Kohli' took charge, the new 'Prince' Jaiswal, just a month short of his 23rd birthday, notched up a classic fourth century in Tests. The knock has provided his skipper Bumrah with enough ammunition to exploit the treacherous bounce that is starting to trouble batters.

opening day as India, starting the session at 275 for 1, slumped to 321 for 5 but by then, the lead was well past the 360-run mark and it didn't hurt the team much. With no seam movement, Kohli was able to control the other factor -- variable bounce -- and his front-foot stride was way more assured than the first essay. While he was completely side-on in his stance while facing the pacers, against Lyon, he turned it into an open-chested one. There was a minor back-foot trigger before he would stride on the front-foot for either drive or defence. However, if India go on to win the Test match, Jaiswal and KL Rahul (77)'s 201-run opening stand would be as important

as Bumrah's first innings five-for. Jaiswal 'Arrives' in Australia Exactly 32 years ago, 17-year-old Sachin Tendulkar became a global phenomenon with a hundred for the ages at the old WACA ground on a track that had those snake-like cracks and in the last two days, Jaiswal has shown the entire world that he is here to be the torch-bearer of Indian batting for the next decade and a half. He became the second youngest Indian batter after Sachin Tendulkar to score a hundred at Perth. Jaiswal completed his fourth Test hundred and first in a SENA country with a beautifully executed ramp shot off a bouncer bowled by Josh Hazlewood.

The celebration was one for the keeps with hands in the air and gratitude towards the almighty before showing his lean but muscular biceps. All his four Test hundreds are now scores of 150 plus. The six also ensured that Jaiswal and KL Rahul's opening pair surpassed the previous record stand of 191 set by Sunil Gavaskar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth way back in Sydney in 1986. When Jaiswal was finally out trying to cut a long hop from Mitchell Marsh, the 'Prince' looked distraught even as the entire stadium gave him a standing ovation while the 'King' clapped with his bat at the other end as one witnessed a silent passing of the baton.

Air quality index continues to fluctuate between 'severe' and very poor in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The air quality index continued to fluctuate between the "severe" and "very poor" categories in Delhi. The air quality in the Delhi-NCR remained grim in the high concerning zone as several areas continued to be in the 'severe' AQI category on Sunday. Despite the clear sky and bright sun, a layer of smog was visible all over Delhi-NCR. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average air quality index (AQI) in the national capital is 318, which is in the 'very poor' category. CPCB data identified PM2.5 as the primary pollutant, with its levels recorded at 138 at 3 pm.

According to IQ Air, PM2.5 concentration is currently 22.2 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value. The Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi pointed out the transport sector is the most significant contributor at 18.155 percent. Notably, there is a ban on entry of non essential trucks from other states to Delhi and around four lakh vehicles are off the road due to stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan imposed in the Delhi-NCR. While the residential sector contribution is 4.557 percent, industries contributed 3.667 percent, construction 2.595 percent, energy sector 1.564 percent, waste

burning 1.651 percent, and road dust 1.361 percent. In the morning, the AQI in eight areas, remained above 400 and between 500. It was 410 in Alipur, 412 in Anand Vihar, 408 in Nehru Nagar, 404 in Vivek Vihar, and 409 in Wazirpur. Whereas in other parts of the national capital, the AQI level remained between 300 and above 400. It was 392 in Ashok Vihar, 313 in Aya Nagar, 362 in Burari Crossing, 353 in Chandni Chowk, 354 in Mathura Road, 356 in Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, 400 in Dwarka Sector 8, 327 in IGI Airport, 380 in Dilshad Garden, 340 in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, 302 in Lodhi Road, 372 in Major Dhyanchand Stadium, 328 in



Mandir Marg, 319 in Najafgarh, 348 in North Campus DU, 371 in Okhla Phase-2, 388 in Patparganj, 370 in Punjabi Bagh, 327 in Pusha, 373 in RK Puram, 382 in Rohini, 382 in Shadipur 385, 357 in Siri Fort and 340 in Sri Aurobindo Marg. Shallow fog reported at Safdarjung airport during early morning today. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 800 m during at 0530 hours which improved thereafter becoming 1200m at 0730 hours IST. Mainly clear sky condition with wind speed less than 10 kmph west direction prevailed over the region in the forenoon today. The air quality improved as the winds picked up, in the morning hours on Sunday. The average wind speed remained around 3 kmph, but this increased to 6 to 10 kmph by noon, according to data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee. A favourable wind speed of more than 10 kmph was reported in a few stations. At Alipur, for instance, the wind speed reached above 10kmph as of 10 am, Sunday. Predicted maximum mixing depth is likely to be 1800 m on Saturday. The ventilation

index lower than 6000 m2/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Delhi's air quality has remained hazardous for nearly a month. On October 30, it first slipped into the 'very poor' category and stayed there for 15 days. It worsened further last Sunday as Delhi recorded 'severe' air quality and stayed so on Monday and Tuesday. By Wednesday, the air quality was in the 'severe plus' category. Favorable wind conditions brought slight relief on Thursday but the air quality began deteriorating again, nearing the 'severe' category, on Friday. Delhi's air quality slipped back to the 'severe' category on Saturday. The situa-

tion was no better in other NCR cities. The AQI in Faridabad was 309, Gurugram 240, Ghaziabad 312, Greater Noida 304 and in Noida it was 309. The maximum temperature was recorded 29 degree celsius while the minimum 12 degree celsius. Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are likely to record a further dip in temperatures over the next two to three days, IMD scientist Naresh Kumar said. The minimum temperature in the national capital was recorded at 12 degrees Celsius on Sunday. The weather department has forecast shallow fog during the morning or night hours, with the maximum temperature expected to hover around 28 degrees Celsius.

Basic necessities of life missing for residents at DUSIB shelter

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

At the shelter homes under the AAP led Delhi government, all is free except the basic necessities of life-hygiene, cleanliness and a dignified life where even fixing simple problems takes months and caretakers await for their salaries to be credited. Under the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), these homes were created to provide a place for the poor from Delhi and those seeking a place to live temporarily coming from other states. Instead, a look at the shelter home in Sarai Kale Khan, where 350 people live in four family homes and one gents home, shows rodents, flies and stray dogs creating a safety and hygiene menace. Despite claims of regular cleaning of the premises and homes, it hardly appears clean with spider webs seen around and the campus looking in a very dilapidated state. Some bathrooms in the shelter home are broken including a ladies toilet where there is a missing door on one of the toilets and a broken bathroom which is not working for taking a bath.



Some of the machines, which are installed for killing mosquitoes in the rooms, are also not functioning. A caretaker also said that some of the bathrooms on the premises are not working as repair work is pending. Similar situation exists also in the Bangla Sahib-1 shelter home where there are no taps in the bathrooms and people have to carry buckets from outside. But the repair work which should be done in days takes months. Caretakers say that their hands are tied as they can only complain about various issues including broken floors, fans and other things to the NGOs responsible who in turn ask the Delhi government for the necessary arrangements. A 30 year old caretaker said, "Ultimately what can we do other than raising the complaint. It is the government that has to do something even as it takes months for us to get something fixed." Many workers also alleged that they have not received payment for about four months even as they somehow manage to carry on with their lives. "The landlord won't understand our issue. They want their payment

every month but think about us, we don't get our payments sometimes for months," he said, adding that the conditions have only gotten worse in his experience of 14 years working in the shelters. "The government pays no attention to us nor do they care about these people that are seeking shelter here," another one added. These homes also grapple with security issues. In the Bangla sahib-1 shelter home, many people complained of frequent fights which can turn dangerous sometimes. A 40 year old woman residing with her 15 year old son had come to the shelter home after her husband passed away. She sets up her small shop in the premises, hardly earning enough to suffice for their needs. She expressed concerns over the general safety of people. "I tell my son to not say anything and I also try to mind my own business since there is no sense of security. Anyone can do anything and scuffle over petty issues in the home is a normal thing," she said. While The Pioneer tried to contact the officers of DUSIB with queries, they didn't answer any.

75-year-old daughter of spiritual leader Kripalu Maharaj killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The elder daughter of the spiritual leader Jagatguru Kripalu Maharaj was killed on Sunday after a truck ramed into her car here while her two other sisters were seriously injured. According to the police, 75 year old Vishakha Tripathi along with her two younger sisters and five others were travelling to Delhi from Vrindavan via Yamuna Expressway, in two cars on Sunday morning. "From there, they were to travel to Singapore for personal work," a senior police official said. On Sunday morning, a canter driver hit both cars in the Dankaur area when on their way to board a flight from Delhi. "A Canter number UP 80 FT 5477 Ashok Leyland hit two cars UP 72 BX 7148 Innova Hi Cross and car number DL 7 CV 3044 Toyota Camry from behind on the Yamuna Expressway near the 8 km board under Thana Dankaur area on the way from Agra to Noida," a police officer stated. Eight people including Maharaj's three daughters were seriously injured in the accident,



a police spokesperson said. The other two daughters included 69 year old Shyama Tripathi and 67 year old Krishna Tripathi who were also travelling with Vishakha. They are receiving treatment in Apollo hospital. The spokesperson said that the victims were admitted to hospitals in Noida and Delhi for treatment. "Soon after the accident, a police team reached the spot and admitted the injured to Kailash Hospital in Noida where Vishakha breathed her last while undergoing treatment," a police official stated, adding that the police have sent the body for post-mortem. The other injured in the car accident include 35 year old Deepak, 57 years old Sanjay

Malik, 40 year old Januka Khadka, 53 years old Kashmiria Patel and 56 years old Hansa Patel. Khadka and Kashmiria are sisters. Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat in a condolence message said that it is with great sorrow that it has to be informed that the President of Bhakti Dham, Dr Vishakha Tripathi has unfortunately passed away and her last rites will be performed in Vrindavan. Vishakha Tripathi served as President of Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat. Known for her work in healthcare and education, she established charitable hospitals and schools while managing globally renowned temples such as Prem Mandir.

As AQI worsens, global scientist urges for compulsory health education for middle classes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With air quality deteriorating across Delhi NCR and posing serious health risks to children, the urgency for comprehensive, preventive health education has reached a critical point. Dr Rahul Mehra, India's National Representative for the UNESCO Chair in Global Health & Education, said that, among others, we must work on long-term solutions including compulsory inclusion of health in the curriculum of middle classes. On a visit to India, Mehra, a scientist with 70 patents to his credit mentioned the future of India, must start working on the future of health of India. "Children must be taught the many aspects of preventive healthcare from early on, and the time to introduce such a curriculum could not have been better than now," Mehra told The Pioneer. He also emphasized that health education can arm children with essential knowledge to better handle environmental and health challenges as they grow up. Pursuing his passion Mehra, through his organization Tarang Health Alliance, is advocating for preventive health education as a means to combat rising health risks for Indian youth. "If children in cities like Dallas & Detroit can breathe safely, why can't our young ones in Delhi?" he questioned, highlighting the urgency of safeguarding children's health. An alumnus of Capital's Modern School, Dr Mehra argues that introducing health education into school curriculums can empower students with the knowledge to make informed choices and adopt healthier behaviors, addressing the root causes of health issues rather than merely treating symptoms. Tarang Health Alliance, a non-profit organisation founded in 2016, has implemented a pilot program in 30 schools in Haryana, NCR, and Jaipur covering both government and private institu-



tions. This initiative provides a structured curriculum that promotes physical, mental, and social health. The curriculum includes lessons on nutrition, hygiene, stress management, and conflict resolution, helping students foster lifelong health values. In collaboration with the Haryana government, this program aligns with state welfare initiatives. "Our goal is to make health education as integral to a child's learning as mathematics or science," Dr Mehra, who has also contributed over 100 research papers and book chapters, said. Research indicates that preventive health education can significantly reduce chronic disease rates, which could decrease long-term healthcare costs and improve national health outcomes. As the initiative gains momentum, Tarang Health Alliance aims to expand nationwide, advocating for health education to become a core subject for students in classes VI to VIII. Dr Mehra's vision dovetails with the broader mission of "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat" (Clean India, Healthy India) and Viksit Bharat. "By investing in preventive health education, we can cultivate a healthier, more aware generation equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow," Dr Mehra asserted. With growing support from policymakers, educators, and healthcare professionals, there is optimism that such initiatives will inspire policy changes, creating a ripple effect across India, added the IITian now settled in the United States of America.

Refrain from using loudspeakers, distributing pamphlets after declaration of results: DUSU candidates asked to sign affidavit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University has asked all candidates contesting the students' union elections to sign an affidavit pledging to refrain from using dhols, loudspeakers, firecrackers or distributing pamphlets, both in open and closed premises, after the declaration of results, according to officials. The affidavit also prohibits candidates from organising roadshows or rallies to celebrate their victory. According to the affidavit, failure to comply with these conditions can result in the cancellation of a

candidate's victory or removal from their elected post. The measure aligns with the existing election rules and comes amid an ongoing Delhi High Court case concerning the defacement of public property during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls. Candidates are required to submit the affidavit by Sunday to the office of the Chief Election Officer. The undertaking stated "... I shall not use or allow my supporters the use of dhols, loudspeakers, firecrackers and pamphlets in the open or closed premises of college/



department/institution/centre after the results". Non-compliance with these measures could result in the nullification of a candidate's victory or removal from their elected position, as per the affidavit. The results will be declared on Monday after a delay of nearly two months due to court orders. The Delhi High Court had halted the declaration of results, originally slated for September 28, citing defacement caused during the campaign and instructing the university to address the issue. Earlier this month, the Delhi

High Court on Monday allowed the counting of votes in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections from November 26, subject to clearance by the Delhi University regarding cleaning and repainting of defaced property. The Bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Fushar Rao Gedela noted that the intent of the present proceedings was to ensure the students recognised that the university property belonged to the public at large, and the students were entitled to use the same for a limited period.

Traffic advisory issued for Samvidhan Divas Padyatra to be held today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police issued an advisory in connection with Samvidhan Divas Padyatra on Monday alerting commuters about traffic restrictions near India Gate. According to the advisory, information has been received that the department of Youth Affairs through its autonomous organization 'Mera Yuva Bharat' is conducting a nationwide Samvidhan Divas Padyatra to mark the 75th Year of adopting our constitution. The Padyatra will be flagged off and led by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment, and other dignitaries. "It will begin around 8 am from Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, India Gate Circle and will culminate at the same place by 9:30 am. It is estimated that about 10,000 youth/participants are likely to participate in the Padyatra," the advisory said. To ensure smooth traffic management in the vicinity of C-Hexagon and round about MLNP, no vehicle will be allowed to halt or park anywhere on C-Hexagon and other surrounding areas as mentioned in the routes to avoid, it said. Further, the advisory added that vehicles found parked on the above roads shall be



towed away and prosecuted for improper parking and disobedience of lawful instructions. "Towed vehicles would be parked in the Traffic Pit in front of Bhairi Mandir, Bhairon Marg," it read. Police also asked to avoid Tilak Marg, Ashoka Road, Shahjahan Road, C-Hexagon, India Gate, Zakir Hussain Marg, Akbar Road upto R/A Gol Methi, and Janpath and surrounding areas including MLNP. The advisory also mentioned Tilak Marg-Bhagwan Dass Road Crossing, Purana Quila Road-Mathura Road Crossing, Shershah Road-Mathura Road Crossing, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg-Subramanian Bharti Marg Crossing, Pandara Road-Subramanian Bharti Marg Crossing, Q-

Point, R/A Mansingh Road, R/A Jaswant Singh Road, K.G Marg-Firozshah Road Crossing and R/A Mandi House as diversion points. It is further requested people to avoid the tunnels of Pragati maidan approach to India Gate. "Commuters are requested to cooperate by avoiding/bypassing the above mentioned roads, if possible, and make maximum use of public transport to ensure a safe journey. We appreciate your understanding and your cooperation towards alleviation of traffic congestions during the above mentioned period. People who are going towards ISBT/Railway Stations/Airports are advised to carefully plan their travel with sufficient time at hand," it added.



Artists performed at the International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan

Ranjan Dimri

LG approves appointment of 232 GDMOs across city Govt hospitals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the appointment of 232 General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) across various hospitals of the city government as per their vacancy positions. According to a Raj Niwas official on Sunday, these doctors, appointed as Group 'A' officers through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), as a result of concerted exercises to fill vacant positions, following Saxena's directions after taking over. "Appointed as Group 'A' officers, their postings have been done through the National Capital Services Selection



Authority (NCSSA) and they will be placed at various hospitals including Lok Nayak, Raja Harish Chandra, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospitals as well as in offices of the Chief District Medical Officers," he added. "It is expected that these appointments will bring relief

to the situation caused by inordinate delays over the past many years in the appointment of permanent doctors, with the AAP government focusing on appointments on a contractual basis in an ad-hoc manner," the statement said. Recently, Saxena distributed appointment letters to 702 newly appointed government employees in various Delhi Government Departments and civic bodies at an event organized at Vigyan Bhawan. According to officials, these appointments have been made in Delhi Government departments like Education, Health, Training & Technical Education, Delhi Transport Corporation and Delhi Fire Services.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue to be held in Delhi on January 11-12: PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that a "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue" will be held on January 11-12 here and said the initiative was part of efforts to connect youngsters having no political background with politics. He said Swami Vivekananda's 162nd jayanti on January 12 would be celebrated in a very special way next year. On this occasion, a "Maha Kumbh" of young minds will be held at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam on January 11-12 and the initiative will be called the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.

"Crores of youths from all over India will participate in it. Two thousand such youths selected from villages, blocks, districts and states will gather at Bharat Mandapam for the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue," Modi said. In the 116th episode of his monthly "Mann Ki Baat" radio broadcast, Modi also called on people to celebrate inspiring stories of the Indian diaspora who made their mark globally, contributed to freedom struggles and preserved "our heritage". "You might remember that from the ramparts of the Red Fort, I urged such youths to join politics, none of whose family members or even the entire family have had a political background. To connect one lakh such youths, new youths, to politics, many special campaigns will be run in the country. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is one such effort," he said. Noting that experts from the country and abroad would be present for it, Modi said many national and international personalities would also be there and he would be present for as much time as possible. The prime minister also hailed the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and noted that the NCC name reminded one of their school and college days. "I myself have been an NCC

cadet, so I can say with full confidence that the experience I got from it is invaluable for me. The NCC instils a spirit of discipline, leadership and service in the youth," he said. The compassion and energy of India's "Yuva Shakti" in helping senior citizens is commendable, Modi said and cited the example of a young person from Lucknow helping the elderly submit digital life certificates. He also talked about a person from Ahmedabad who is warning and making the elderly aware about cyber-crimes, including digital arrests. "I had discussed digital arrest in the last episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'. The elderly are the most common victims of such crimes. In such a situation, it is our responsibility to make them aware and help them stay safe from cyber fraud," he said. "We have to explain to people again and again that there is no provision of digital arrest in the government; this is a blatant lie, a conspiracy to



trap people. I am happy that our young friends are participating in this work with full sensitivity and motivating others as well," Modi said. Talking about his recent visit to Guyana, Modi said thousands of kilometres away from India, a 'mini India' dwelled there. "Around 180 years ago, people from India were taken to Guyana to work in the fields and for other tasks. Today, people of Indian origin in Guyana are leading the country in every field -- be it politics, business, education or culture. The President of

Guyana, Dr Irfan Ali, is also of Indian origin and is proud of his Indian heritage," he said. "When I was in Guyana, a thought struck my mind that I am sharing with you. Just like Guyana, there are lakhs of Indians in dozens of countries across the world. Their ancestors have their own stories of decades; even those over 200-300 years ago. Can you be on the lookout for such stories of how Indian immigrants made their mark in different countries?" he said. "How they took part in their freedom struggle! How they

kept their Indian heritage alive! I want you to find out such true stories, and share them with me. You can also share these stories on the NaMo app or on MyGov with #IndianDiasporaStories," the prime minister said. Modi also highlighted an extraordinary project underway in Oman and said numerous Indian families had been living in the country for many centuries, with most of them who settled there being from Kutch in Gujarat. These people created important trade links and, even today, they have Omani citizenship but Indianness is ingrained in their persona, he said. "With the support of the Indian Embassy in Oman and the National Archives of India, a team has started the work of preserving the history of these families. Thousands of documents have been collected under this campaign so far. These include diaries, account books, ledgers, letters and telegrams. Some of these documents even date back to the

year 1838. These documents are full of sentiments," he said. The "Oral History Project" is also an important basis of this mission and, in this mission, senior people from there have shared their experiences, he said. A similar "Oral History Project" is being carried out in India as well, he added. Under this project, history enthusiasts are collating the experiences of the victims during the country's Partition, the prime minister said. "Now, there are very few people left in the country who have witnessed the horrors of Partition. In such a situation, this effort has become even more significant. The country that preserves its history, its future is also secure. With this very thought in mind, an effort has been made in which a directory has been created to preserve the history of villages," Modi said. Talking about the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, Modi said people from all over the country participated in it with great enthusiasm.

"I am very happy to tell you that this campaign has crossed the important milestone of planting 100 crore trees. Hundred crore trees, that too, in just five months," he said. Modi pointed out that the campaign was now spreading to other countries as well. "You must have noticed that as soon as someone mentions a 'government office', a picture of a pile of files emerges in your mind. You must have seen something similar in films, too," he said. "So many jokes are made on these piles of files in government offices; so many stories have been written. These files used to gather dust after lying in offices for years and years, and would start accumulating dirt," he added. A special Swachhata Abhiyan was launched to remove such decades-old files and scrap and this campaign brought amazing results in government departments, he said, adding that the cleanliness drive freed up a lot of space in offices.

Army Chief's Nepal visit culminates in stronger defence, bilateral ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's five-day official visit to Nepal has culminated in stronger defence and bilateral ties. He returned to New Delhi on Sunday after a resoundingly successful visit, army said here. The visit, which exceeded all stated objectives, further solidified the robust defence cooperation, cultural ties, and mutual respect between the two nations. It underscored the shared commitment of the Indian and Nepali Armies to fostering peace, security, and partnership in the region. During his visit, the Army chief engaged extensively with Nepal's political and military leadership. He held high-level meetings with President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and Defence Minister Manbir Rai. He also engaged in meaningful discussions with General Ashok Raj Sigdel, chief of Nepal Army along with other senior military officers. These interactions were charac-



terised by exceptional openness and mutual respect, reflecting the shared commitment to strengthening bilateral relations. Strengthening India-Nepal ties was a central theme of the visit. General Upendra Dwivedi and his Nepalese counterpart discussed aspects of mutual interest and avenues to strengthen bilat-

eral defence cooperation. General Dwivedi was briefed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Nepali Army and engaged in high-level discussions with other senior military leaders. These discussions focused on enhancing military bonds, joint exercises, training cooperation, and capability development, rein-

forcing the shared commitment to global peace and security. As a gesture of friendship between the two armies, the Indian Army presented Valour Mount horses and Sentinel dogs to the Nepali Army. General Dwivedi was conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Paudel. This

unique tradition underscores the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between the Indian and Nepali Armies. Enlightening the future leaders at the Nepal Army Command and Staff College in Shivapuri, the visiting Army chief delivered a lecture on "The Changing Character of War". He emphasised on strengthening and deepening the engagements for mutually building the competencies & capabilities of both Armies. He attended an Ex-Servicemen Rally at the Pension Paying Office in Pokhara, interacting with Gorkha veterans and Veer Naris of the Indian Army. The bond between the veterans and the Indian Army was very visible and thriving, reflecting their strong ties. This visit, marked by comprehensive discussions and mutual respect, has reinforced the strong partnership between the Indian and Nepali Armies. The outcomes of the visit are expected to usher in a new era of collaboration, with a greater focus on defence cooperation, cultural exchange, and regional security.

CRPF sets up three new forward bases in Chhattisgarh's hardcore naxal areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RAIPUR

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has opened three new forward bases in the "hardcore" Maoist violence affected districts of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region to provide security forces with "strategic" hubs for launching intensified anti-Naxal operations. The forward operating bases (FOB) have come up in Tumpalpad and Rayagudem in Sukma district and Kondapalli in the adjoining Bijapur district. These bases have been made operational over the last week or so, officials told PTI. The central force is working on a strategy to make inroads into "hardcore" Naxalite areas of the state where the final battle against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is concentrated. The FOBs act as launching pads for all security forces, including the CRPF and state police units, to launch specific and intelligence-based anti-Naxal operations in core areas, they said.



All these three villages in the two districts of Bastar region have served as the logistical centres for the Maoists for decades. Kondapalli, as per LWE theatre experts, used to be an important recruitment centre for the "most vital" PLGA battalion no. 1 of the Maoists. The village located on the banks of river Talperu also served as a training area for the Maoists. Similarly, Tumpalpad, on the banks of the Chintavagu river, served as a halt area and corridor for the Naxals, the experts said. The Tumpalpad FOB was operationalised by the 74th battalion of the force while the Kondapalli base has been created by the 170th CRPF unit.

The specialised jungle warfare unit of the CRPF, Command Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), provided active security to the teams which created these FOBs, the officials said. These FOBs will act as physical barriers and curb the free movement of Naxals in these areas called as 'no go' territories for government authorities and security forces till now, they said. The CRPF has created more than 40 such FOBs in Chhattisgarh over the last three-four years as the toughest anti-Naxal operations combat remains concentrated in Bastar that borders Odisha and Telangana.

Centre issues guidelines for disability reservation to ensure uniformity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued comprehensive guidelines to streamline reservation and identification of posts for persons with at least 40 per cent disabilities, mandating periodic identification of such posts and formation of committees to assess them. The guidelines also state that if a post is deemed suitable for them, all subsequent promotional posts will also be reserved for persons with disabilities. The guidelines are in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. The move comes after the Delhi High Court flagged inconsistencies in implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and criticised entities like the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for unauthorised actions in identifying posts. The high court earlier this month observed that KVS had overstepped its authority by independently identifying posts for PwBDs and highlighted inconsistencies in the understanding of the Act among various departments. The court mandated the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to establish uniform guidelines. The updated guidelines aim to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and uniformity in the employment of persons with disabilities across central government establishments. The new guidelines also ask ministries and departments to form committees, including representatives with dis-



abilities, to assess all posts for their suitability. A comprehensive review of identified posts is required every three years to incorporate technological advancements and evolving job requirements. The guidelines also mandate a four per cent reservation in direct recruitment and promotions across categories, including blindness, locomotor disability, hearing impairment, and intellectual disabilities. Additionally, they emphasise timely filling of backlog vacancies, wide publicity to ensure accessibility, and a three-year validity period for exemptions from reservation policies. The government has also clarified that exemptions from reservation are valid for a maximum of three years and must be periodically reviewed. The move aims to ensure fairness while leveraging advancements in assistive technology. Effective immediately, these guidelines supersede all previous instructions on the matter, except notifications issued in 2021 and 2022. Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for

Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP), said identifying posts suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities is not just about fulfilling reservation mandates; it's a stepping stone to enabling career growth. Extending this process to promotional positions ensures that persons with disabilities are not confined to entry-level roles but have equal opportunities to advance in their careers. "It's important to emphasise that the one per cent reservation for different categories of disabilities does not imply any hierarchy or chronology. While these measures need to be enforced more effectively in the past I welcome this step as a positive move towards inclusivity. The formation of expert committees and their regular meetings must be strictly adhered to," he said. "I see the two most crucial tasks of the committee are to ensure the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities which is the most important part and to have people with disability have a seat on the table," he said.

Ex-CJI Chandrachud removed fear of law from political defectors: Raut

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday slammed former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, alleging that he had removed the fear of the law from politicians who defected from parties in Maharashtra. Raut claimed that by not deciding on the disqualification petitions, Chandrachud kept doors and windows open for defectors. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader's statement comes after his party faced a severe drubbing in the state assembly elections, as it managed to clinch only 20 out of 95 seats it contested as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The performance of the



party's alliance partners was no better, with the Congress winning only 16 out of 101 seats and NCP (SP) getting only 10 out of 86 seats it con-

tested. Talking to reporters, Raut alleged, "He (Chandrachud) has removed the fear of the law from defectors. His name will be written in black letters in history." Following the split in the undivided Shiv Sena in 2022, the party's faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray filed petitions in the Supreme Court on the disqualification of party MLAs who defected along with Eknath Shinde. The apex court put the onus on the assembly Speaker to decide on the disqualification petitions, which he did earlier this year, declaring the Sena bloc led by Shinde as the "real political party". Raut alleged that the results of the assembly election were pre-decided. If the then CJI had decided on the disqualification petitions on time, the outcome would have been different.

"We are sad but not disappointed. We will not leave the fight incomplete. Division of votes was also a factor, and the RSS played an important role in the election. The poisonous campaign impacted us negatively," he said. He said the swearing-in ceremony for the new government should be held in neighbouring Gujarat. Meanwhile, in his weekly column "Rokhthok" in the party mouthpiece "Saamana", the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader claimed that it was time to offer condolences to the Election Commission, which turned a blind eye to the use of money power. "The courts have been in the ICU for a long time," he alleged.

Cong's performance shocking, worst-ever in Maharashtra polls, says Chavan

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan on Sunday said his party's defeat was "shocking" and dubbed it as the "worst-ever" loss in the state assembly polls. Talking to PTI, Chavan said the Mahayuti government's Ladki Bahin Yojana, for providing financial assistance to women, clicked with voters in rural areas while polarisation hit the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) prospects in urban parts of the state. "It is difficult to say whether there was a wave or tampering," said Chavan, who lost from his Karad South seat. The results of the November 20 polls to the 288-member state assembly were announced on Saturday. Several bigwigs from the MVA, including Chavan, were defeated. The Congress, which contest-



ed 101 seats as part of the MVA, posted its worst-ever defeat by managing to win only 16 seats. Chavan said he was expecting to win his Karad South seat in Satara district by 5,000 to 6,000 votes. But, all MVA nominees in the district lost by nearly a margin of 40,000 votes, he noted. BJP's Atul Bhosale defeated the former CM in Karad South by a margin of 39,355 votes, as per the results announced by the Election Commission on Saturday.

Chavan said that in the 1977 Lok Sabha polls, Congress' tally of 20 out of 48 seats in Maharashtra was the lowest ever. "This is a shocking defeat and is the worst-ever in the assembly polls," he said, referring to the just concluded state elections. Chavan said he had spoken to All India Congress Committee in-charge for Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala, who has left for Delhi to discuss the state results with the Congress leadership.

Puri Jagannath temple administration urges ASI to start repair work of Ratna Bhandar

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has requested the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) authorities to immediately take up the repair, maintenance and conservation work of the entire Ratna Bhandar (treasury) in the 12th century shrine in Puri. SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee on Saturday said the temple administration will extend all its cooperation to ASI in the repair and maintenance of the Ratna Bhandar. "We have received the report of the Ratna Bhandar's GPR-GPS survey conducted by the ASI", Padhee said. He said the SJTA has all along been careful about the stability and security of the temple. Earlier, the ASI had conducted the GPR-GPS survey of the 12th-century shrine's Ratna



Bhandar (treasury) with the assistance of Hyderabad-based NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute). Padhee said the ASI has given a 45-page report on the survey. "There has been indication of damage done to the floor and wall of the Ratna Bhandar. However, the technical report needs to be studied further by our team," he said. Ratna Bhandar was reopened in July this year after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

Yogi Adityanath's by-election win paves way for 2027 dominance

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emerged stronger after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) clinched a decisive 7-2 victory in the state's by-elections. This triumph not only revives the BJP's morale following its disappointing performance in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year but also cements Yogi's leadership ahead of the 2027 assembly polls.

"This is a booster dose for our workers," said Vijay Bahadur Pathak, a senior BJP leader. "The results show that when we work unitedly under Yogi

ji's guidance, the BJP is unstoppable."

The BJP's campaign focused on unity, encapsulated in Yogi Adityanath's rallying cry, "Batege to katenge" (If we divide, we will be cut). The slogan resonated deeply, underscoring the party's collective strength. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced this message during a campaign in Maharashtra, stating, "Ek hain to safe hain" (If we are united, we are safe). Political analyst Rajesh N. Bajpayee highlighted the impact of this messaging. "The BJP's narrative of unity struck a chord with voters and played a key role in their victory. It's a



lesson in disciplined, cohesive campaigning."

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), often the BJP's ideology backbone, amplified its support for Yogi Adityanath during the by-elections. Unlike its limited involvement in the Lok Sabha elections, the RSS fully backed Yogi's leadership in these by-elections, emphasizing societal cohesion.

"Yogi ji's vision aligns with our principles," said a senior RSS functionary during a high-level meeting in Mathura. "His leadership is crucial for the BJP's continued success in Uttar Pradesh."

Opposition in Turmoil

While the BJP celebrated, the

opposition struggled. The Samajwadi Party (SP), touted as the BJP's primary rival, secured just two seats. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's reliance on caste-based vote banks failed to counter the BJP's development narrative.

"The SP's inability to tap into anti-incumbency sentiments is glaring," Bajpayee noted. "Akhilesh Yadav must rethink his strategy if he hopes to remain relevant."

The Congress performed dismally, opting to contest only a handful of seats. In Phulpur, Congress district president Suresh Yadav rebelled and contested independently, managing just 1,365 votes.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) fared no better, with over 60% of its traditional vote bank shifting to other parties. The by-election results provide a glimpse into Uttar Pradesh's political future. While the BJP has regained its footing, the opposition faces an uphill battle to recalibrate and mobilize effectively before 2027.

As the dust settles, the by-polls have reaffirmed Yogi Adityanath's stature as a formidable leader. Whether the BJP can sustain this momentum will depend on its ability to address voter aspirations and maintain its narrative of unity and progress.

Shinde's party defeats Uddhav's outfit in 36 seats, loses in 14

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has trounced rival Shiv Sena (UBT) of Uddhav Thackeray in 36 assembly seats in Maharashtra, putting to rest the debate over which is the real party founded by late Bal Thackeray.

Shinde's Sena, a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, won 57 of the 81 seats it contested in the state polls, the results of which were announced on Saturday. The Sena (UBT), a partner in the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), managed to bag only 20 despite fielding 95 candidates. In 14 seats, it defeated Shiv Sena candidates.

In one of his biggest political gambles, Shinde rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership in June 2022 and aligned with the BJP along with his backers to become the chief minister. The move split the Sena, led to the collapse of the Thackeray-led MVA government and sparked almost daily bickering between the two factions.

Subsequently, Shinde got the party name and its 'bow-and-arrow' symbol from the Election Commission. Shinde had retained most of the sitting MLAs, who chose to be with him when he led



the rebellion two years ago. They delivered for him on Saturday when votes for the state polls were counted. Minister Abdul Sattar defeated Suresh Bankar in Sillod. Pradeep Jaiswal, who fought against Balasaheb Thorat, was the winner in Aurangabad Central. Sanjay Shirsat beat Raju Shinde in Aurangabad West seat, while Vilas Bhumre came on top in his fight against Dattatreya Gorde in Paithan. Chandrakant Sonawane, who replaced his wife and sitting MLA Lata Sonawane, defeated Prabhakar Sonawane of Sena (UBT) in Chopda. Sanjana Jadhav trounced Uday Singh Rajput in Kannad, while Sanjay Bangar emerged victorious against Santosh Tarfe in Kalamnuri. Ganesh Dhattrak was bested

Ramesh Korgaonkar in Bhandup West. Murji Patel, who had earlier lost to Rutuja Latke in Andheri East, bounced back as the winner. Tukaram Kate defeated Prakash Phaterpekar in Chembur. Both Latke and Phaterpekar were sitting MLAs who had stayed with Uddhav. Bharat Gogawale got more votes than Snehal Jagtap to bag the Mahad seat, while Shambhura Desai trounced Bhanupratap Kadam in Patan. In coastal Dapoli, Yogesh Kadam defeated Sanjay Kadam. Minister Uday Samant won against Bal Mane in Ratnagiri, while Kiran Samant beat sitting MLA Rajan Salvi in Rajapur. Nilesh Rane, who switched from BJP to Shiv Sena before the polls, defeated sitting MLA Vaibhav Naik in Kudal. In Sawantwadi near Goa, Deepak Kesarkar got the best of Rajan Teli. Prakash Abitkar defeated KP Patil in Radhanagari. The Sena (UBT) won against the Shiv Sena in 14 seats. In Mehkar, Rambhau Kharat defeated Shiv Sena's Sanjay Bhaskar Raymulkar, while Nitin Bhiknrao Deshmukh was the winner in Balapur. Shiv Sena's Bhagwan Siraskar came third. Sunil Raut defeated Suvarna

Karanje in Vikhroli and his Sena (UBT) colleague Anant Nar was the winner in Jogeshwari West after a face-off with Manisha Waikar. Sunil Prabhu defeated Sanjay Nirupam in Dindoshi. Mahesh Sawant beat Sada Sarvankar in Mahim. Uddhav Thackeray's son and former state minister Aaditya Thackeray retained his Worli seat by defeating Milind Deora, who recently joined the Shiv Sena from Congress. Manoj Jamsutkar defeated Yamini Jadhav in Byculla. The vote share of the Sena (UBT) was 9.96 per cent compared to Shiv Sena's 12.38 per cent. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance on Saturday retained power in Maharashtra, pocketing a whopping 230 of the 288 assembly seats, as the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's dream of wresting power fizzled, with the opposition combine managing to garner just 46 seats. The Election Commission announced that the BJP has won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena won 57, while the NCP got 41 seats. In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates won 10 seats, Congress won 16, while Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) won 20 seats.

work of the entire party leaders and workers. "The party expected this huge majority in Wayanad. Soon after the polling, there was a huge concern about the majority. But, after the internal assessment of the party, we were sure that the low poll percentage would not impact Priyanka's majority," he said. He also made it clear that the Wayanad landslide tragedy and the subsequent issues would be one of the issues that would be raised by Priyanka in the Lok Sabha. Rejecting the opposition campaign that she would not visit Wayanad frequently, Venugopal said she would prove them wrong through her actions. He also said that Priyanka would continue her interventions in north Indian politics as well, along with being the MP of Wayanad.

Will collectively introspect 'shocking' drubbing in Maharashtra polls: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DELHI

A day after BJP-led Mahayuti retained power in Maharashtra, the Congress on Sunday said that the party and other partners of the Maha Vikas Aghadi will collectively introspect the reasons of their 'shocking' drubbing in the crucial polls.

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance on Saturday won 230 of the 288 assembly seats in Maharashtra and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi managed to garner just 46 seats. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said that the assembly poll results in Maharashtra was 'shocking' and 'unbelievable'.

"We don't understand what happened. It was not just the debacle of the Congress party but that of the entire alliance," he said. So, we will sit together and collectively introspect (its reasons), Venugopal added. The Election Commission announced that the BJP had won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena 57, while the NCP 41 seats. In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates won 10 seats, Congress 16, while Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) 20 seats. When asked whether the grand-old-party suspected any sabotage in the Maharashtra election results, the leader



said they were not raising any such allegation soon after the debacle. "We suffered huge setbacks in the strongholds of Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and that of the Congress. It is the failure of not just the Congress party but that of the entire alliance," he said. So, we will sit together and collectively introspect (its reasons), Venugopal added. The Election Commission announced that the BJP had won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena 57, while the NCP 41 seats. In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates won 10 seats, Congress 16, while Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) 20 seats. When asked whether the grand-old-party suspected any sabotage in the Maharashtra election results, the leader

Maharashtra poll results were rigged, alleges Congress

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Indian National Congress which was mauled by the BJP-led alliance in the election held to the Maharashtra assembly said on Sunday that the poll results were rigged and do not reflect the real feeling of the electorate.

"This is shocking and mysterious as we had scored a fantastic victory under my leadership in the Lok Sabha election held in June 2024. The results of the assembly election in Maharashtra is shocking and dubious. We have doubts about the authenticity of the electronic voting machines used in Maharashtra," said Ramesh Chennithala, veteran Congress leader who was in charge of the Maharashtra assembly polls. Speaking to reporters at Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Chennithala said that he was entrusted the responsibility of Maharashtra elec-



tion by the High Command because it was confident that he could lead the party to impressive win, similar to the Lok Sabha win. "A thorough probe should be held about the poll results in Maharashtra. The changes in the poll prospectus over the last four months is shocking, unbelievable and against the will of the people," said Chennithala. When asked about the results of the Jharkhand assembly election which saw the INDI Alliance led by the Congress romping home and retaining power, Chennithala was eva-

sive. "May be the EVMs in Jharkhand performed well while those in Maharashtra were faulty," said the aging leader from Kerala who is a strong contender for the chief minister's chair after the 2026 assembly polls in the State. Chennithala said he was equally shocked over the poll results of Haryana which was won by the BJP. "The communist BJP had no chance of winning the Haryana election and we were confident of returning to power in the State. But Haryana result too was against the will of the people," said Chennithala. He also said that the Congress would take up the issue in the national level itself and investigate the factors behind the volte face in the will of the electorate. The Maharashtra poll result has come as a shocker to Chennithala because he fears that the outcome may dampen his chances as a strong contender for the top job in Kerala.

Didn't expect winning margin to be so huge: BJP's Ramveer Singh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/MORADABAD

Like all politicians, BJP's Ramveer Singh dreamt of ending the losing streak of his party, but little did he know his victory would be so stylised, featuring a rout by 1.44 lakh votes of his nearest rival.

Singh won the Kundarki assembly constituency, a seat BJP had been losing since 1993, defeating Samajwadi Party's Mohammad Rizwan, who bagged 25,580. His victory assumed more significance as it came against an all-Muslim lineup in a constituency where around 60 per cent of the electorate comes from the community. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath termed it a victory of nationalism. "What was once a dream has become a reality today," he said on Saturday after the results were announced. Singh claimed that when the seat became vacant, he was approached by hundreds of Muslims, who urged him to contest the bypoll.



Bypolls in Kundarki were necessitated following the election of its sitting MLA, SP's Ziaur Rehman, as the Lok Sabha MP from Sambhal parliamentary constituency earlier this year. "I was expecting a victory margin of 50,000 to 60,000. But workers told me I would win by more than 1 lakh votes. People had a feeling of love towards me. They were disappointed by the SP, as

cases were framed against lakhs of people, and thousands of them were put behind bars during the SP rule from 2012 to 2017," Singh said. "When the seat got vacated, hundreds of Muslims came to me and asked me to seek a ticket. We will make you an MLA, we have made up our mind," they said. Because they requested, I remained active, and the party leadership also

listened to the voice of the people," he said. To Rizwan, who alleged that the elections were rigged, Singh said he was hiding his failure. "He can get the election conducted once again. He will know what his worth is," Singh said. On Saturday, when the results were announced, Rizwan contested the mandate, alleging booths were captured.

"It is not the defeat of the Samajwadi ... people did not vote here and the booths were looted," he told PTI. Rizwan served as Kundarki MLA in 2002, 2012, and 2017. The Muslim-dominated seat in west UP's Moradabad was a test of BJP's Hindu unity plank. The party's campaign in the bypolls largely revolved around 'Ram aur Rashtira' against the opposition Samajwadi Party's bid to consolidate the OBC-Dalit-Muslim vote bank. The win came as a salve for the BJP, which suffered a massive cut in seats in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier in the year. It won six of the nine Assembly seats in the state where bypolls were held on November 20. Adding to BJP's emphatic performance, its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal clinched Meerapur, the lone seat it contested. The Samajwadi Party emerged victorious on the remaining two seats -- Karhal and Sishamau.

Veg diet, alcohol abstinence, behaviour training: UP cops prep for 'pleasant' Maha Kumbh

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ (UP)

A strict vegetarian diet, alcohol abstinence and behavioural training are among the steps the Uttar Pradesh Police is taking to ensure its personnel act as "servants of faith" and create a pleasant experience for the devotees gathering in this holy city for the Maha Kumbh. The Maha Kumbh will commence on January 13 on the occasion of Paus Purnima and conclude on February 26 on Mahashivratri. Senior Superintendent of Police (Kumbh) Rajesh Dwivedi emphasised that the primary focus of the police, alongside maintaining security, would be to foster a welcoming environment for the pilgrims.

He said, "Our aim is to ensure that the devotees have a pleasant experience, and the police behave with warmth -- not just as enforcers of the law but as servants of faith." Police personnel to be deployed for the Maha Kumbh are undergoing behaviour-focused training at a designated facility within the mela area. External trainers are also being invited to impart lessons in etiquette and public service. So far, 1,500 police personnel have completed the training. By the time the mela commences, 40,000 personnel will have completed the exercise. Atul Kumar Singh, the training programme in-charge, said 700 police personnel were receiving training at a time, following a 21-day module.



The duration will gradually come down to 14 days as the mela draws closer, he added. Personnel such as Satish Kumar Yadav, a head constable from Mathura who will be deployed during the mela, expressed appreciation for the training. "I have learned the importance of courteous behaviour and how to assist the devotees during times of distress. The training also covered topics such as cybercrime prevention," he said. The force is also receiving expert instruction from the National Police Academy. Personnel trained there are now preparing trainers who, in turn, are equipping the larger police contingent for their role at the mela. In addition to behavioural training, the police are also

being instructed to maintain the Maha Kumbh's sanctity. District police chief Dwivedi reaffirmed the Maha Kumbh's strict policies regarding food and drink and said non-vegetarian food or alcohol would not be permitted in the mela ground. "The food in the police mess is entirely vegetarian and we have instructed all personnel to act in a manner that respects the devotees' faith," he said. New technologies will also be deployed at the Maha Kumbh this time. An AI chatbot -- Kumbh Sahayak -- is being developed to assist the devotees with information in more than 10 languages via the Bhashini app. This initiative is designed to bridge language barriers and provide instant support to the vast number of devotees.

The police will also deploy bilingual personnel and translators to assist non-Hindi speaking devotees. Mounted police on 160-170 horses will assist in crowd control, ensuring safety while maintaining a harmonious atmosphere. With cybercrime on the rise, the personnel were also briefed by domain expert Pawan Kumar. Security measures, including the use of cutting-edge technologies, are being incorporated to ensure both safety and a positive experience for the devotees. In preparing for the Maha Kumbh, the authorities are combining tradition with modern technology, ensuring that this once-in-a-lifetime gathering will be as safe, respectful and efficient as possible.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Mixed bag

Ruling JMM retains Jharkhand and the BJP-led Mahayuti, Maharashtra, indicating anti-incumbency is not at play right now

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alongside its allies, achieved significant electoral victory in Maharashtra while the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) fought its way to victory in Jharkhand despite many handicaps proving once again that it is difficult to read the voters' mind. In Maharashtra, the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition, including factions of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), secured a decisive majority, capitalising on effective consolidation of OBC votes and strategic welfare schemes like direct cash transfers for women. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and grassroots outreach programmes further bolstered their appeal. Meanwhile, in Jharkhand, the BJP failed to wrest power from the ruling alliance of JMM. It could not emphasise governance issues and leverage dissatisfaction with the Hemant Soren-led coalition. The JMM's success was amplified by strong voter mobilisation in tribal areas and development-focused messaging. In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and the original NCP struggled with internal divisions and a lack of clarity on critical issues such as reservations for the Maratha community.

In Jharkhand, the BJP's limited reach and failure to address rural distress effectively diminished its appeal. The electoral outcome in Maharashtra underlines the BJP's ability to adapt and dominate state politics. All this while the Opposition struggled to regain voter trust. The NDA led by the BJP, achieved notable success in Maharashtra due to a combination of strategic alliances, effective voter outreach and targeted welfare initiatives. In Maharashtra, the BJP presented itself as a cohesive force with Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) group, ensuring a consolidated voter base. The party's focus on OBC consolidation, welfare schemes such as direct cash transfers for women, and the influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership resonated strongly with voters. But it was different story in Jharkhand where the BJP could not harness dissatisfaction with the governance of the Hemant Soren-led coalition and failed to highlight local issues like unemployment and tribal welfare and banked more on its national agenda. The JMM also benefited from a grassroots campaign that addressed tribal and rural voter concerns, further solidifying its position. Similarly, in Maharashtra the opposition failed to effectively capitalise on the BJP's perceived shortcomings, such as economic challenges and allegations of governance lapses. In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (Uddhav), and Sharad Pawar's NCP, struggled with internal divisions and inconsistent messaging, particularly on sensitive issues like Maratha reservations. In Jharkhand, JMM and Congress were able to counter the BJP's narrative and present a compelling vision for change. These results indeed underscore the innate acumen of the voters to vote on the issues they deem important.

PICTALK



Artists dressed as clowns perform during the International Clown Festival, in Chennai

Emerging contours of artificial intelligence

The interplay between AI and human intelligence offers both challenges and opportunities, heralding a future where adaptability and innovation are key



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The foundation of understanding an organisation lies in understanding the role relationships within it. An individual may even, lose their identity in living up to the requirements of his organisational role. Illustratively, the President of an organisation is no longer just an individual who occupies that position. The person who occupies that position becomes the President of the organisation with the President's characteristics, the President's traits, and the President's attributes.

Being a true President may often require his acting in denial of his inclinations in favour of the role requirement. This issue has usually constituted the foundation of organisation analysis and operations. The theoretical basis of this thinking was laid out in 1952 by Elliott Jaques in his classical book "Changing Culture of a Factory." This was a report of 1948 and 1950 of a Glacier Metal Company, London. The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations was the sponsor.

The significance of the book lies, among other things, in the theoretical and operational implications of the research findings. The study went back to 1938. That is another story. Since then, few things have so fundamentally affected organisations understanding till the coming of artificial intelligence (AI). These are indeed seminal times in terms of understanding organisations. AI has affected how one looks at manufacturing, finance, logistics, and more. The expressions of job design have changed. If the basis of job design has changed, the understanding of organizational structure stands to change. The key issue is whether the fundamental changes through the new model of business products for increasing profit have impacted organisational operations. And how they have affected pricing, job market changes, and created or altered new revenue streams. Currently, the world of products and academia is dealing with a lot of jargonise. The popular references are two models, one is the platform-based model, other is the subscription model.



There may be several others but are yet to acquire significance. Many of them who would survive, would get modified, and much of them would evolve into something totally different. Time can tell. For the present, efforts are being made to understand business models and their impact on work conduct. An obvious outcome of AI is the redundancy of many tasks. As the character of tasks changes, the character of organizational models is open to change.

The whole approach of aggregation of organizational tasks into job designs has undergone a fundamental change. Many humanly rendered tasks have become redundant, and they have then been replaced either by machines or machine-led aggregation of skills. This whole process is akin to a major revolution in the understanding of the work. It needs to be realized that once such forces are generated, there is no reversal that can take place in its entirety. It also impacts job designs, which for whatever reason may not change. Put simply, the nature of the task itself has revolutionized organizations. Practically everyone needs to understand AI because there is nothing that can be quite untouched by that process. The overlapping jobs



THE WHOLE APPROACH OF ORGANISATIONAL TASKS INTO JOB DESIGNS HAS UNDERGONE A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. MANY HUMANLY RENDERED TASKS HAVE BECOME REDUNDANT, AND THEY HAVE THEN BEEN REPLACED EITHER BY MACHINES OR MACHINE-LED AGGREGATION OF SKILLS

would disappear, skill shifts would take place, and reskilling and upskilling would become the order of the day as never before. When such fundamental changes are let loose, job displacement is not just job displacement but the seedbed of new forms of job creation. The interesting thing is that AI acquires some human characteristics that are still in the domain of documentation, understanding, and interpretation. The bias in AI would have been the act of abbreviation and one might say, even the dispensation of organization fair play. Privacy and security are concepts that change, and nothing stays quite what it was even a quarter of a century ago.

The upshot of all these is the creation of a paradigm of organization management, whether the top management may not be necessary at the top but acquire primacy even while imbibed in the heart of an organization. This would happen because of the ability of the AI specialist to affect the nature of the work itself. The chances are clear that AI as a service is on the way to acquiring a character of its own. For some AI will be the first language, and they will affect the running of the organization in a very critical manner. For the

rest, AI would be a second language, and everyone would need to understand a little bit of the nature of AI.

Put simply, the future of work will be a diligent factor in many ways, which might be an outcome of the revolution of AI. The fascinating thing is to observe how the character of AI affects other functions of the organization like finance, marketing, the functioning of ports, and more. The above is not to say that pathways are clear and the shift in organisational nature is irrevocable. The AI is a job in progress. It's a work in progress that is still taking shape and a character that remains in service of organization management, will only gradually become clear. How this will roll out is difficult to predict, but one thing is clear: AI is here to stay. All in all, it will be interesting to observe how AI and human intelligence deal with each other and create an amalgam of human efforts for organizational growth. The future is here, and over time, it will take shape with better clarity and hopefully some predictability.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADANI GROUP CONTROVERSY

Madam— Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others were indicted by US prosecutors in New York on Wednesday (November 20) in an alleged Rs 2,029 crore bribery case that could be a much bigger blow for business than the Hindenburg report. Side by side, it could upset the group's global expansion ambitions, hinder capital-raising and tarnish the fundraising abilities of other Indian firms by association. Though the White House expressed confidence in the resilience of India-US ties despite allegations against industrialist Gautam Adani and his associates of orchestrating a \$265 million bribery scheme to secure state energy contracts.

Even after all this, citizens of the country strongly believe that whether Adani paid the bribe or not is to be probed by the agencies. When Indian agencies failed, US court indicted him for the bribery. Let Adani & his companies defend themselves in the US courts. If Adani has invested in the non-BJP-ruled states, that is only for the minerals, forests, lands and other resources of those states. Where Indian compromised agencies failed, the US caught him on the wrong foot. Let him and his other conspirators face the music. Remember, the US laws are very strict in the cases of bribery or anti-competition laws. Let Adani face the music in the US courts and international financiers or hawala money suppliers. Whatsoever, for the clean image of the country, India must also set up a probe into this matter and be prepared to go by the evidence presented to the US regulators and courts to determine if there has been wrongdoing on our soil.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Delhi

MAHAYUTI WINS MAHARASHTRA

Madam — The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra has won the Assembly elections 2024 is a double booster for BJP after its recent surprise win in Haryana. It's a celebration time for the CM and Shiv Sena

Women's hockey team wins ACT



The Indian women's hockey team has created history once again by retaining the Asian Champions Trophy title after beating China. It would always be a moment of pride seeing Indian women securing victory in India's national sport, hockey. The title is extremely prestigious for all of us, and our women players deserve this victory

leader Eknath Shinde.

The magic wand of Sharad Pawar had lost its power while his breakaway factions of Sena and NCP led by Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, had seen the downside quite significantly. The Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray termed the victory as note-jihad by attacking the BJP leader Vinod Tawde and alleged that cash for votes marred the end results. While all parties facilitate cash for votes, it's not that how much one bribe matters and, at the end, how much of welfare the party extends to the people that brings such a huge victory need to be respected. The BJP has used their arm of RSS to campaign to target women, farmers and OBCs in the last six months and has gained momentum by a constructive approach to focus on this landmark victory.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

LONG-TERM PLANNING NEEDED

Madam — This refers to the editorial, 'Cars the Main Culprit', wherein it was observed that the real culprit behind Delhi's toxic air is not stubble burning but the city's over-

whelming vehicular emissions. The Supreme Court, concerned about the health of the residents of the capital and commuters, has taken a commendable initiative to close schools up to class 12 and implement all the necessary restrictions of the Graded Response Action Plan-Stage 4. A section of the society is praising the commendable effort of the judiciary wholeheartedly.

The Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi has come under fire over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital. But instead of controlling the worsening conditions, the Aam Aadmi Party is bent on criticising the Modi government at the Centre. Before the upcoming Assembly elections, the Atishi government will have to show its work on the ground in Delhi. The Central and State governments should together take practical steps on a concrete action plan to reduce pollution and improve the environment in Delhi.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Grey divorce: The new reality of modern relationships

Far from a rash dissolution of vows, grey divorce is reshaping societal views on commitment, showcasing that it can lead to new beginnings

The entertainment media is abuzz with news of AR Rahman's separation from his wife of many years, Saira Banu. It is not the first time that famous couples, married for several years, have called it quits. What was once anathema in the old scheme of things—namely, a marriage breakup—has now become a lot more common, giving rise to a new term in the nuptial dictionary: grey divorce.

All cases of middle-aged separation have been well-thought-out decisions, taken after life has given the couples all their due during their togetherness. The best of relationships can fray, the pristine love that couples vouch for can gather moss, and what seemed like a lifetime's vow can wither after many winters of frozen emotions. What was once considered unthinkable becomes inevitable in the narrative of two people who once thought they would grow old together and be each other's crutch when their feet faltered. What had been held sacred and secure slowly gives way, and couples arrive at a decision that is ironic, painful, and lib-



erating at the same time. We have now entered a new era of human relationships, where binding and breaking look like two sides of the same coin. While separation at a younger age is more common than parting at twilight or thereabouts, even long-standing unions are no longer immune to the reconfigurations of modern relationships. Grey divorce has come to symbolise not just the unravelling of a marriage but the assertion of individuality—a reclaiming of one's universe after years of compromise and shared existence. For couples who part ways after decades together, it is not a rash decision taken in the heat of conflict but the culmination of deep reflection and an honest appraisal of their shared journey. It is not about undoing the years they spent together or

dismissing the love they once held; rather, it is about recognising that their paths have diverged, their goals have shifted, and their needs have evolved in ways that no longer align. Marriage, in its ideal form, is a partnership where two people grow together while allowing each other room to flourish individually. But as life unfolds with its relentless demands and shifting priorities, it is not uncommon for this delicate balance to tilt. What once felt like a harmonious duet may start to sound discordant, not out of malice or neglect, but simply because human beings are not static.

Divorce in later years, though heart-wrenching, is often an act of self-preservation—a decision to honour the person each has become rather than clinging to a version of themselves that no longer exists. It is a painful shedding of skin that no longer fits, and like all transformations, it comes with its share of sorrow and scars. Yet, it is also an opportunity for renewal, a chance to readjust one's life with one's inner truth. Couples who choose to separate after years together are not betraying the

sanctity of marriage; they are embracing the courage to let go of something that no longer serves their mutual wellbeing.

It is a quiet revolution in the way society views commitment—not as an unyielding contract but as a partnership rooted in growth, love, and respect, even when that means stepping away. While the process is undeniably painful, it also holds the promise of freedom and self-discovery. It allows individuals to reclaim their lives, find joy in their own company, and pursue paths that were perhaps once abandoned for the sake of togetherness. Grey divorce is not the undoing of a life lived together; it is the rewriting of two lives that are still unfolding. It reminds us that while love may not always last in its original form, the lessons it imparts and the growth it inspires are eternal. And in that, there is hope—a hope that even in endings, there can be beginnings. As Rahman said, they will eventually find meaning in the shattering. (The author is a columnist and children's writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR



FIRST COLUMN

ONLINE PREDATORS

They exploit the anonymity and reach of digital platforms to target vulnerable individuals, particularly children



SHAINY SHARMA

The emergence of the internet has revolutionised the way an individual connects, communicates and accesses information. However, alongside its numerous benefits, this emergence has also given rise to various dangers, one of the most concerning being the presence of online predators - someone who uses the internet to exploit others for personal gain, often engaging in deceptive and manipulative behaviour. These individuals exploit digital platforms to manipulate, exploit and harm unsuspecting victims, often targeting vulnerable populations such as children and teenagers. Social media platforms, online gaming environments, chat rooms and even educational forums provide predators with access to potential victims. The motives range from financial fraud and identity theft to emotional manipulation, sexual exploitation and many more. The anonymity of the internet emboldens these individuals, allowing them to craft fake personas and deceive others without immediate risk of detection.

Online predators employ various strategies to target and exploit their victims. One of the most common is grooming, a process in which predators build trust and emotional connections over time. This tactic often begins with flattery, attention or shared interests making the victim feel valued and understood. Once the trust is established, the predator isolates the victim by discouraging contact with family or friends, making the victim more dependent on them. Not only this, but these predators also exploit vulnerabilities, such as low self-esteem, loneliness or a desire for acceptance. They use threats, blackmail or promises of love or gifts to control their victims. In some cases, the



predators coerce victims into sharing sensitive information or explicit content, which can later be used as leverage. Victims falling prey to an online predator can be devastating. They may experience emotional trauma, anxiety, depression and a loss of trust in others and if it's a minor then the outcomes are even worse affecting their development and relationships.

A combination of education, vigilance and robust digital safeguards and awareness campaigns can teach individuals, especially young people, about the risks of interacting with strangers online for they tend to put up in place as younger influencers who will share their lives on camera. And the importance of protecting personal information.

Technological solutions, such as parental controls, advanced privacy settings and reporting mechanisms, can also help deter predators. There is no denying that the threat of online predators is a sobering reminder of the darker side of the digital age. While the internet offers incredible opportunities for connection and growth, it also demands vigilance and responsibility from all users.

By understanding the tactics of online predators and implementing protective measures, individuals can work toward a safer online environment. Only when education, communication and technology unite to combat this pervasive issue, can society ensure that the Internet remains a tool for empowerment rather than exploitation.

If you suspect someone is being targeted by an online predator, report it to the authorities or an organisation like NCMEC (National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children) through their CyberTipline.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Trump 2.0: Stark challenges for the climate and global stability



B K SINGH

With promises to overhaul bureaucracy, impose steep tariffs and retreat from climate commitments, Trump's policies are set to reshape the US and the world

Donald Trump will take over as US President on January, 20 2025 and his pre-election promises would have economic and environmental consequences. On the economic front, countries worldwide would face still stronger dollars sucking money out of emerging markets, high protectionist tariffs imposed and consequent trade war slowing the growth and increasing inflation globally. His regime is not only committed to sacking thousands of bureaucrats and replaced by his supporters but has also announced a new department named the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to be headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to slash the bureaucracy.

No doubt it would disrupt the continuity of the functioning of government, and it would also lead to job losses. Nationwide federal government employs nearly 3 million people. Trump says Musk and Ramaswamy would dismantle government bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditure and restructure federal agencies. While Musk has announced to cut \$2 trillion from the federal budget, Ramaswamy has proposed to eliminate the education department and FBI.

Internal Revenue Service as well as cutting the federal workforce by 75 per cent in a mass layoff. Trump has consistently maintained to levy a 10 per cent tariff on all imports in the US, 60 per cent on imports from China and 100 per cent on cars imported from China. This would mean cutting imports from many countries which may even result in trade wars. Capacities created in countries like China would be rendered unutilised. With limited domestic consumption in China, the country would face a backlash.

If all countries take action to cut on imports, it certainly boomerangs somewhere and exports would be adversely impacted in most cases. A 10 per cent tariff on imports would increase US prices of goods by at least 3 per cent and a continued trade war may even further raise the prices. While domestic producers in the US would welcome it, the consumers will have to pay more. Tariff is not the solution to all problems. Trump's idea to shift manufacturing back to the US may be hit by supply chain disruption on account of higher tariffs.

The job creation in the US may be impacted. In his first term, Trump increased tariffs on Aluminum and Steel to bring its manufacturing back to the US, but the goal was not achieved. His acceptance of higher prices to be paid by consumers, while protecting producers had also made consumers pay 18 per cent extra on Washing machines in 2018. Later some of Trump's tariff was increased by Biden too. It went up to 100 per cent on electric vehicles, 50 per cent on solar cells and 25 per cent on batteries from China. It had its impact on climate action too - the transition to cleaner energy was slowed down. Herbert Hoover, a Republican, US President nearly a century ago had similarly announced the imposition of tariffs, which ultimately culminated in the adoption of the Smoot-Hawley Act, of 1930 and increased tariffs by 40 to 60 per cent.

It led to a trade war and the US faced retaliation from its trade partners too. It triggered the great depression and the



IN HIS FIRST TERM, TRUMP INCREASED TARIFFS ON ALUMINUM AND STEEL TO BRING ITS MANUFACTURING BACK TO THE US, BUT THE GOAL WAS NOT ACHIEVED

worst economic crisis humankind has ever experienced. Presently global economy is already facing considerable headwinds, any trade war can have disastrous consequences. US's technological advancement for decades has placed it as the leading powerhouse in the world.

Its investment in research and development has been quite rewarding as evident from the fact that there have been more Nobel laureates in the last five or six years than the rest of the world put together have produced. With its technological superiority, the rest of the world is dependent on it economically too and the tariff policy would leave them behind in the trade war. So far China's growth has been manufacturing followed by exports. With the slowdown in exports, it is dealing with the problem of overcapacity of its industries and making efforts to boost domestic consumption. There has been budget constraint in Europe - money is spent on subsidies in several countries, causing growth retardation. Germany, to continue producing in the country has to match the US subsidy offering 900 million euros to Swedish battery makers Northvolt, which is experiencing sluggish growth of the economy. Subsidies continue to slow the growth globally.

As the growth suffers, climate action also suffers. For instance, countries in the African subcontinent have vast potential for solar and wind energy, which has remained untapped so far. China's interest in Africa is going up through its Belt and Road initiatives; it has an eye on the natural resources of the continent. It is

to be seen whether Trump 2.0 can counter China in Africa.

In his election speeches, Trump has already sought to restore US manufacturing and has targeted to end the Chinese dominance in sectors like advanced information technology, high-end numerical control machinery, robotics, aviation equipment, maritime engineering technology, sophisticated rail equipment, energy-saving vehicles, electrical equipment, medical devices and agriculture machinery etc.

European business finds it now difficult to continue investing in China and India should try to leverage the churn to its advantage. President-elect has already announced Immigration hardliner Tom Homan for the deposition of illegal immigrants. He said that there is nobody better in policing and controlling US borders and there is no doubt that Homan will do a fantastic job which has been long awaited.

Homan also spoke to the press supporting the deportation of even US-born children of undocumented immigrants. Another Immigration hardliner Stephen Miller has been announced to be deputy Chief of Policy in the new administration. Unprecedented deportation is around the corner, which is bound to impact the labour force. What will happen to manufacturing? Also, his tax cut promise would lead to a fiscal deficit; the US has one of the highest fiscal deficits 22 per cent of GDP, more than four times as high as India.

The country is already under heavy debt and indebtedness would further increase the deficit. Despite a good chemistry between Trump and Modi, India

may not be spared of 10 per cent tariff, which may impact our imports. By 2028, when Trump's term ends, not only the US, but many other countries will be reeling under high inflation and poor growth. UN is also reconciled to accept a cut in US funding in Trump 2.0. A US retreat at the UN is likely to open the door for China, which has been building influence in global diplomacy. The best part of Trump's promises is that he would stop funding war. The end of war in West Asia and Ukraine is expected soon. The re-election of Trump has cast a shadow on the ongoing world climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. His withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in his first term and halting climate funding has slowed down the progress globally.

Trump in his election campaign has vowed to ignore any climate emergency. He has been categorical in his election speeches - abandon climate, drill, baby, drill. He has also joked in speeches that if the sea level rises, we will have more properties facing the sea. In some other speeches, he said that why should we be concerned if the sea level rises by a thousandth of an inch after thousands of years? Global leaders at Baku perceive the inaction and obstructions from the US and debate whether they can afford such inaction for four more years. They must work out the strategy and pursue advanced climate actions and goals. Barbados PM has invited Trump for a face-to-face meeting on climate.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests - head of Forests Force- Karnataka; views are personal)

Goa's timeless allure: Ultimate destination despite misleading claims Recent reports claiming a decline in its popularity seem at odds with the reality on the ground

Goa has long been a dream destination for both domestic and international travelers. Its blend of scenic beauty and cultural richness has earned it a prominent place on the global tourism map. But is the charm of Goa fading? Is it losing its allure? Certainly not. In fact, anyone visiting Goa would find its flights fully booked well in advance, its hotels packed, and its beaches bustling with lively crowds. However, some media reports have suggested a decline in its popularity, which seems at odds with the reality and the figures.

For decades, Goa has been synonymous with sun-kissed beaches, lively shacks, and a carefree lifestyle that has charmed travellers from



DIVYA BHATIA

around the world. Beyond its picturesque coastlines lies a treasure trove of history, culture, and tradition waiting to be discovered.

Ironically, a report from the CEIC (China Economic Information Centre) claimed a drastic drop in foreign tourist arrivals to Goa, alleging a fall from 8.5 million in 2019 to just 1.5 million in 2023. This nar-

rative suggested that Goa was losing its allure to international competitors like Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Interestingly report is bereft of the details of the sources and how they were collected. Casting aspersions on the motive of the report in first place. These claims have been contested by Goa's Tourism Department, which points out significant discrepancies in the data. Official figures indicated approximately 450,000 foreign arrivals in 2023—a notable recovery post-pandemic-while domestic tourism surged to 8.17 million in 2023, surpassing the 7.12 million recorded in 2019. Altogether, Goa welcomed 8.62 million tourists in 2023, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Addressing these concerns,

Tourism Minister Rohan A Khaunte has criticised the report, describing it as a deliberate attempt to misrepresent Goa's standing. "The numbers are manipulated to present a false narrative," he stated. "In 2023, we recorded 4.5 million international tourists and about 9 million domestic tourists. It's not just about quantity but the quality of tourism and the revenue it generates. Domestic tourists are now spending more, opting for premium accommodations." To further boost the international Khaunte stresses the importance of improving Goa's international connectivity, particularly with emerging markets in Southeast Asia, the West Asia and Europe. He revealed ongoing efforts to establish direct flight routes to



key destinations such as the UAE, Malaysia and South Korea. "These regions hold immense potential for quality tourism," he noted. In fact, Goa has gone notch up to promote tourism that is both sustainable and rejuvenating. In 2023, Goa launched a pioneering regenerative tourism campaign, emphasising sustainability across the pillars of economy, environment, and society. This initiative aims to go beyond sustainable prac-

tices, creating tourism models that leave a positive impact on local communities while offering unique, meaningful experiences for travelers. "Regenerative tourism is about ensuring that tourism not only sustains but enriches the local culture, economy, and environment," Khaunte explains. Despite its many strengths, Goa faces ongoing challenges. The lack of app-based taxi services and disputes among taxi operators have been longstanding grievances for visitors, often resulting in complaints about high fares. Additionally, while Goa offers accommodations catering to all budgets, from luxury to backpacker-friendly, the state has been criticised for expensive lodging options. Khaunte acknowledged these concerns,

emphasising the need for improved public transportation and better policies to enhance the tourist experience. Indeed the 'Unverified data without revealing the methodology employed and source makes the data suspect and report motivated. What sets Goa apart is its versatility. Whether you're seeking beach parties, adventure sports, spiritual retreats, or cultural festivities, Goa caters to a wide range of interests. This adaptability has been the cornerstone of its enduring appeal. Goa's enchanting landscapes and vibrant culture have long served as a cinematic muse, making it a favored backdrop for filmmakers worldwide. From Bollywood blockbusters to Hollywood thrillers, Goa's charm has been

immortalised on screen. Iconic films like *Ek Duje Ke Liye* (1981) was all about love in the Goan air, while *Dil Chahta Hai* (2001) redefined the idea of weekend getaways, inspiring a generation to explore its idyllic beaches. *Dear Zindagi* (2016) captured its serene vibe, while the *Golmaal* series (2006-2010) added a playful twist to its allure as a honeymoon destination. Even international cinema embraced its beauty, with *The Bourne Supremacy* (2004) using Goa as a stunning backdrop for its high-stakes drama. Whether on screen or off, the magic of Goa continues to captivate and mesmerise, unaffected by reports or negative propaganda.

(The author is travel writer and influencer; views are personal)

Indian Overseas Bank

RO : NHPC Complex, Sector-33, 1st & 2nd Floor, Faridabad-121003, Telephone : 0129-2259544-50

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC Date & Time of & Mega Auction : 26.12.2024 (1st Time Auction) From 09.00 AM to 03:00PM.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE AND MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 6(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules E-Auction Sale for Sale of Immovable and Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso To Rule 8(6) and 6(2) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable Property/ Movable Property Mortgaged/Hypothecated/ Pledged/ Charged to the Secured Creditor, the "Symbolic Possession" of which has taken by the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank (Secured Officer), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 26.12.2024 as per details mentioned hereunder.

Sr No.	NAME OF BORROWER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE AND DUES (WITH FURTHER INTEREST AT CONTRACTUAL RATES & REST, CHARGES ETC TILL DATE OF PAYMENT)	RESERVE PRICE (INCLUDING 1% INCOME TAX ON RESERVE PRICE OF PROPERTY ABOVE RS. 50.00 LAKH) EMD AMOUNT/ INCREMENTAL BID AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY ALONGWITH NAME OF MORTGAGOR (OWNER OF THE PROPERTY) (SYMBOLIC / PHYSICAL POSSESSION)	NAME OF BRANCH AND DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSON
1.	M/s KSC Krishna Steel Private Limited	01.03.2024 Rs.4,64,90,567.70	Rs. 2,28,06,000.00 Rs. 22,80,600.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Factory land & Building Situated at Nagla Gujran, Sarurpur Industrial Area, behind Nagar Property, Nagar Chowk Sohna Road, Faridabad - 121005, Haryana. Admeasuring 504 Sq. Yards & 504 sq. yds. respectively in the Name of Smt. Kusum Singla vide sale deed no. 3290 dated 30.05.2007 & 20779 dtd 01.01.2013 Sohna Road Plot No. 8 (Kh.No.31/13/2)-Symbolic Possession	Faridabad Branch Mr. Anil Kumar Chaudhary Contact No.8925950192 9650158453
			Rs. 3,18,63,000.00 Rs. 31,86,300.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Factory Land Building situated at village Talegaon Dindori Taluka Dindori District Nashik Admeasuring 8000 sq mtrs. in name of KSC Krishna Steel Pvt Ltd Vide Sale Deed No 3351/2018 Nashik Survey No 07 Gat No 11B.-Symbolic Possession	
2.	Mr. Mithun Kumar	Date: 07.11.2023 Rs. 35,96,184.24	Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 004, Ground Floor, Tower C2, Avalon Homes, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 106, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 460 sq. ft. in the name of Mr. Mithun Kumar-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 005, Ground Floor, Tower C2, Avalon Homes, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 106, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 460 sq. ft., in the name of Mr. Mithun Kumar-Symbolic Possession	
3.	Mr. Shah Nawaz, Mrs. Nazish	Date: 30.12.2023 Rs. 73,18,855.00	Rs. 32,15,000.00 Rs. 3,21,500.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 1202, 12th Floor, Tower C1, Avalon Regal Court, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 57, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan, floor area 1500 sq ft. Mr. Shah Nawaz and Mrs. Nazish-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 25,62,000.00 Rs. 2,56,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. Flat 1504, 15th Floor, Tower A 2, Avalon Regal Court, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 57, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan, superarea 1500 sq ft. The properties is in the name of Mr. Shah Nawaz and Mrs. Nazish-Symbolic Possession	
4.	Mr. Jitender Malik, Mrs. Neetika Singhania	Date: 07.11.2023 Rs. 30,71,268.40	Rs. 23,52,000.00 Rs. 2,35,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat/Unit No. 105, 1st Floor, Tower A-7, Avalon Rangoli, Villgae Karampur, Bhiwadi, Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 65, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 1000.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Jitendra Malik-Symbolic Possession	
5.	Krishnendu Kar	Date: 18.07.2023 Rs. 36,14,289.22	Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 003, Ground Floor, Tower C-1, Avalon Homes, Villgae Karampur, Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Krishnendu Kar-Symbolic Possession	Gurgaon Branch Mr. Pankay Kumar Mohanty Contact No.9832796369 89259550403
			Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 002, Ground Floor, Tower C-1, AvalonHomes, Villgae Karampur, Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Krishnendu Kar-Symbolic Possession	
6.	Mr. Bhavnish Kumar Suman, Mrs. Rani Kumari	Date: 14.08.2023 Rs. 30,86,551.40	Rs. 18,67,000.00 Rs. 1,86,700.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 1504, 15th Floor, Tower A-6, Avalon Rangoli, Village Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 65 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 1000.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Bhavnish Kumar Suman-Symbolic Possession	
7.	M/s Mittal Trading Corporation	Date: 30.12.2023 Rs. 2,22,34,111.00	Rs. 1,81,21,000.00 Rs. 18,12,100.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Industrial plot of 300 sq yards 60 ft * 45 ft. out of Killa no. 21/21/2 situated in the revenue estate of village-Kadipur, Kadipur Industrial area, Gali No. 3 main Pataudi Road (Near Krishna Collection, G.A.V. International School and Opp. Rahul Steel & cement) Tehsil & District Gurgaon in the name of Mr. Tej Ram Aggarwal S/O Mr. Sant Ram Aggarwal-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 1,40,38,000.00 Rs. 14,03,800.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Land and building out of Killa no. 32/1 situated in the revenue estate of village-Kadipur, Kadipur Industrial area, Gali No. 3 main Pataudi Road (Near Krishna Collection, G.A.V. International School and Opp. Rahul Steel & cement) Tehsil & District Gurgaon in the name of Mr. Parsotam Dass S/O Mr. Murari Lal-Symbolic Possession	
8.	Mr. Ajit Sharma	04.11.2023 Rs. 46,08,352.00	Rs. 15,48,000.00 Rs. 1,54,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential 3BHK Flat Having-Unit No.502 at 5th Floor Tower B5-"Avalon Rangoli ", At Alwar bypass Road Mouja Karampura Tehsil Bhiwadi Rajasthan. Measuring 1300.00 Sq. feet. The property Allotment in the name of Mr. Ajit Sharma- Symbolic Possession	
9.	Mr. Ajit Sharma, Mikki Sharma				
10.	Mr. Kamal Banoudhia	Date: 02.02.2024 Rs. 42,80,374.82	Rs. 15,63,000.00 Rs. 1,56,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No.802, Tower A7, "Avalon Rangoli" Residential Society, Village Grahi Alwalpur Sector 24 thesil Dharuera and District Rewari. Measuring 1300 Sq. ft. (super area) in the name of Kamal Banoudhia- Symbolic Possession	Retail Mart Gurgaon Branch Mr. Saraweshwar Tiwary Contact No.7088321928
11.	Mr. Dharmendra Singh	Date: 29.12.2023 Rs. 47,96,783.00	Rs. 14,35,000.00 Rs. 1,43,500.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No.1103, 11th Floor, Tower PR 1, Krish City Phase-2 Alwar Bypass road, Mauja Tapukara within registration Tehsil Bhiwadi and District Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 818 Sq. ft. (super area) in the name of Dharmendra Singh-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 8,08,000.00 Rs. 80,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Flat No. 1410, 14th Floor, Tower C-3, AvalonHomes, Villgae Masit Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet. in the name of Dharmendra Singh- Symbolic Possession	
12.	Mrs. Poonam W/O Sunil	Date: 07.10.2023 Rs. 6,24,933.79	Rs. 17,04,000.00 Rs. 1,70,400.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential property- House measuring 258 sq yards out of 299.61 sq yards of plot no. 12 block no. 16, report serial no. 292 situated in village new bohli tehsil Madlauda district Panipat vide deed no.2273 dated 25.02.2020 and sale deed no. 1355 dated 21.11.2017. Shri Sunil S/O Mahavir is the Owner of the Property. -Symbolic Possession	Kabri Branch Mr. Ranjit Kumar Jha Contact No.8925953636
13.	Mr. Jagbir	Date: 31.12.2022 Rs. 2,98,466.68	Rs. 13,92,000.00 Rs. 1,39,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential property situated at Plot No. 07 Block No. 9 HUDA Colony Village new Bohli, Tehsil Madlauda, Panipat situated at village New Bohali Post Kabri Tehsil Madlauda and District Panipat. Area: 119.84 sq. mtr. The property is in the name of Mrs. Nirmala W/O Mr. Jagbir-Symbolic Possession	
14.	Mr. Daynish Priya Singh	Date: 19.03.2024 Rs. 22,50,474.26	Rs. 21,28,000.00 Rs. 2,12,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00	Residential Property-Flat No. SF-1, 2nd Floor, Plot No. J-21 & J-22, Khasra No. 1455 & 1462 situated at the colony known as Balaji Enclave, Village - Raispur, Parga-na Dasna, Tehsil & District: Ghaziabad- 201002, Uttar Pradesh. Measuring 397.00 Sq. yards. The property is in the name of Mr. Daynish Priya Singh-Symbolic Possession	Nodia KRIBHCO Branch Mr. Amarjeet Sahoo Dr Contact No. 8925951725, 9883110703
15.	M/s OSM Projects Private Limited	Date: 19.03.2024 Rs. 22,50,474.26	Rs. 99,79,000.00 Rs. 9,97,900.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Residential property- Plot No. 1008, Urban Estate Sec-2, Palwal In the Name of Sh. Munesh Sharma S/O Shri Yogpal Sharma & Smt. Poonam Sharma W/O Mr. Munesh Sharma. Area of the property as per Title deed-84 Sq. Mtr -Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 1,21,28,000.00 Rs. 12,12,800.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Residential property- Plot No. 550-A, Omaxe City, Sector 11-14 Palwal in the name of Sh. Surender Sharma S/O Shri.Ramesh Chand Sharma Area of property as per title deed 264.25 sq. mtr. -Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 4,85,70,000.00 Rs. 48,57,000.00 Rs. 5,00,000.00	Industrial Land measuring 7 Acres, 1 Kanal & 1 Maria and building constructed there upon situated at Village Kot hathin Palwal in the name of M/s OSM Projects Private Limited-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 1,10,92,000.00 Rs. 11,09,200.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Residential Property- Flat no : 771/F-8, Sagar Presidency, 7th Floor, Sector 50, Noida in the name of Shri. A.V Singh S/O Shri. Janardhan Singh Area of the property as per title deed 146.87 sq. mtr. -Symbolic Possession	Sector 46 Faridabad Branch Ms. Shaivya Agrawal Contact No. 8925951836, 9811259720
			Rs. 2,10,90,000.00 Rs. 21,09,000.00 Rs. 2,00,000.00	Commercial property- office of OSM Projects Pvt. Ltd. At plot No. 53 Pragati Vihar Sector 59 Industrial Estate Faridabad in the name of M/s OSM Projects Pvt. Ltd. Area of the property as per title deed 285.85 sq. yds. -Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 87,19,000.00 Rs. 8,71,900.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00	Residential property- Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, Reliatio Tower, Block No.8, Omaxe Height, Sec-86, Faridabad in the name Sh. Surender Sharma S/O Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma Area of property as per title deed 145.11 sq. mtr. Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 1,82,22,000.00 Rs. 18,22,200.00 Rs. 2,00,000.00	Industrial property- Plot No. 90, Sector-58, Urban Estate, sub district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad Haryana in the name of Mr. Om Prakash Sharma S/O Mr. Ram Ji Lal Sharma. Area of property as per deed 265 sq. mtr.-Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 7,96,58,000.00 Rs. 79,65,800.00 Rs. 5,00,000.00	Residential property situated at Plot No: 1487 P. Sector 14, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 in the name of Mr.Surender Sharma & Mrs. Suman Sharma [This property is common security for credit facilities in form of housing loan & loan against property which are under default since 29.06.2024 and outstanding Rs. 2,08,46,992.30 (Rupees Two crore eight lakh forty six thousand nine hundred ninety two and paise thirty only) as on 31.08.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment.] -Symbolic Possession	
			Rs. 3,41,57,000.00 Rs. 34,15,700.00 Rs. 3,00,000.00	Residential property- House No.249, Sector-8, Faridabad in the name of Mr. Sushel Sharma. Area as per title deed 366.67 sq. yds.-Symbolic Possession	

Outstanding Govt.Dues if any- Not Known, EMD Start Date: 09.12.2024, Last Date of Deposit of EMD up to - 25.12.2024, Date and Time of Inspection of Property- 09.12.2024 to 25.12.2024, 11.00 AM to 4:00 PM, Date and Time of E-auction -26.12.2024 from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

Terms and conditions of e-auction

- The properties will be sold by e-auction through the Bank's approved service provider portal <https://ibapi.in> under the supervision of the Authorized Officer of the Bank.
- E-auction bid document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, general terms and conditions of online auction sale are available in <https://ibapi.in>
- Intending bidders shall hold valid email ID and Mobile No. to register their name / account by login to the website of the aforesaid service provider. They need to create log in with user id and password on the aforesaid service provider portal which should be used in the e-auction proceedings. For details please contact the service provider portal <https://ibapi.in>
- Bids in the prescribed formats shall be submitted "online" through the portal <https://ibapi.in> along with the detail of EMD & scanned copy of KYC documents including photo, PAN Card & address proof to the service provider and to the Authorized Officer before 05.00 P.M on 25.12.2024 otherwise shall not be eligible for consideration.
- The EMD and other deposits shall be remitted through EFT / NEFT / RTGS to the Bank account as specified above and the amount of EMD paid by the interested bidder shall carry no interest. The amount of EMD paid by the successful bidder shall be adjusted towards the sale price.
- Bids without EMD shall be rejected summarily.
- Online auction sale will start automatically on and at the time as mentioned above. Auction / bidding will initially be for a period of 120 minutes with auto extension time of 10 minutes each till the sale is concluded.
- The property shall be sold to the successful bidder. The successful bidder (purchaser) as declared by the Authorized Officer shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of the EMD) immediately on the same day and not later than the next working day. The balance amount of sale price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of auction sale. Failure to remit the entire amount of sale price within the stipulated period will result in forfeiture of deposit of 25% of the bid price to the secured creditor and forfeiture of all claims over the property by the purchaser and the property will be resold.
- The sale certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser only, after payment of the entire sale price amount and other taxes/charges, if any.
- The purchaser shall bear the charges/ fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty, etc., as applicable as per law.
- The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or postpone or cancel the sale, as the case may be without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The property is being sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The Bank has disclosed only the known encumbrances, statutory liabilities, if any, as above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries at their own costs with concerned co-operative housing societies/SRO as well as the Revenue Records regarding the title, nature, description, condition, encumbrance, lien, charge, statutory dues, etc. of properties put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting to the properties, prior to submitting their bid. The properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.
- Sale is subject to confirmation by the secured creditor.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned through EFT / NEFT / RTGS to the bank account details provided by them in the bid form and intimated via their e-mail id.
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on Indian Overseas Bank's website i.e. www.ioib.in (https://www.ioib.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_Auction) or <https://ibapi.in>

Lebanese soldier killed, 18 wounded in Israeli strike

AP ■ BEIRUT

An Israeli strike on a Lebanese army centre on Sunday killed one soldier and wounded 18 others, the Lebanese military said. The Hezbollah militant group meanwhile fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel, wounding at least five people. Israeli strikes have killed over 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which has said previous strikes on Lebanese troops were accidental and that they are not a target of its campaign against Hezbollah. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned it as an assault on US-led cease-fire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war. "(Israel is) again writing in Lebanese blood a brazen rejection of the solution that is being discussed," a statement from his office read.

The strike occurred in southwestern Lebanon on the coastal road between Tyre and Naqoura, where there has been heavy fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

Hezbollah fires rockets after strikes on Beirut. Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel after Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip ignited the war there. Hezbollah has portrayed the attacks as an act of solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups.

Israel has launched retaliatory airstrikes since the rocket fire began, and in September the low-level conflict erupted into all-out war, as Israel launched waves of airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders.

Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel on Sunday, some of which were intercepted.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it was treating two people in the central city of Petah Tikva, a 23-year-old man who was lightly wounded by a blast and a 70-year-old woman suffering from smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire. The first responders said they treated three other people in northern Israel, including a 60-year-old man in serious condition.

It was unclear whether the injuries and damage were caused by the rockets or interceptors.

Israeli airstrikes early Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 20 people and wounding 66, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardments in northern Israel and in battle following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

EU envoy calls for pressure on both sides to reach a truce

The Biden administration has spent months trying to broker a cease-fire, and US envoy Amos Hochstein was back in the region last week.

The European Union's top diplomat called for more pressure on both Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli government."

Musk, Ramaswamy seen as biggest threat to Beijing

PTI ■ BEIJING

US President-elect Donald Trump's plan to overhaul the government with a new department headed by tech billionaire Elon Musk and Indian-origin entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy will be the biggest threat for China as it has to compete with far more efficient US political system, a policy advisor to the Chinese government said. China's biggest risk during Donald Trump's 2.0 would be US government overhauls driven by Musk and Ramaswamy, according to Zheng Yongnian, China's top academic and policy advisor to Beijing.

"A more efficient US political system would put huge pressure on China's current system," Zheng, dean of the School of Public Policy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Shenzhen campus, said while speaking at Baichuan Forum hosted by the Institute for International Affairs (IIA) on Saturday.

"Of course, the pressure is not exclusive to China but also others, especially Europe," he said.

Trump named Musk and Ramaswamy to lead a new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

The duo has already planned to scrap "thousands of regulations" and reduce the size of the government workforce. Zhena said, "In the medium to long term, the greatest pressure on China may come from changes within the US."

If Trump succeeds in his efforts to overhaul the government, the US would "develop a new, more competitive system," Zheng said, calling it a form of "state capitalism with American characteristics."

"I think we should not underestimate the institutional reforms prioritised by figures like Musk," he warned, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday.

China is gearing up for Trump's second term, beginning on January 20 next year, on several fronts, including his threat to impose a 60 per cent increase of tariffs on its over USD 427 billion annual exports to the US.

Trump, who acted tough on China during his previous term, is expected to reinforce measures against Beijing on various global fronts, including Taiwan and the South China Sea. China asserts Taiwan as part of its mainland and claims ownership over most of the South China Sea.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims over the area.

To counter tough tariff increases by the incoming Trump administration in the US, China announced new policy measures on Thursday to back its export sector against "unreasonable foreign trade restrictions" and to create a "good environment" for its exports.

Islamabad locked down ahead of protest

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan deployed heavy security forces in the national capital, sealed key roads and suspended mobile and internet services in certain areas as supporters of jailed former premier Imran Khan on Sunday geared up for a protest march towards Islamabad. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has called on the public to join the march to "break the shackles of slavery."

A convoy under the leadership of Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur left for Islamabad from Peshawar. Geo News reported that Bibi was part of the convoy that started from Peshawar, but the KP chief minister was leading the protest. Earlier, it was said that Bibi would not attend the protest. KP government spokesperson Muhammad Ali Saif said all arrangements have been made to remove the obstacles. He also alleged that last night police opened fire on the anti-barricading machinery and tried to set it on fire, but the PTI supporters foiled the arson attempt. He also said that the government still has time to fulfil their demands, warning that there could be a situation like Bangladesh, where a mass protest led by students toppled longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina's government in August. Khan's party shared pictures and videos of various groups leaving from different cities for Islamabad to take part in the protest. In the national capital,

police were taking no chances to let anyone enter the city and arrested about 16 protesters from the Faizabad area of Rawalpindi as they tried to enter Islamabad. Meanwhile, internet tracking monitor Netblocks said WhatsApp backends have been restricted in Pakistan, according to a post on X. "Live metrics show WhatsApp backends have been restricted in Pakistan corroborating reports of media sharing issues; the measure comes as authorities tighten security ahead of protests planned by opposition party PTI calling for the release of former PM Imran Khan," Netblocks said. The federal government has taken several steps to block the protest, including deploying heavy security forces, sealing key roads, and setting up barriers around the capital. The Interior Ministry has emphasised that, in accordance with court orders, no protests or sit-ins will be allowed in Islamabad, and any attempts to disrupt public order will be met with legal action. Khan, in a statement, urged the masses to unite for the protest, calling it a movement for freedom and justice. The PTI leaders earlier held a high-level meeting at the KP Chief Minister's House to finalise the strategy for the planned protest, Geo News reported. Ignoring calls by the government to postpone the protest - the second one in as many months - Khan's party declared to go ahead with its planned march to Islamabad,



coinciding with the arrival of a large Belarusian delegation even as the authorities issued a warning of a potential threat during the protest. The PTI gave a call last week for a long march to Islamabad to press for three demands: the release of the jailed party founder and other leaders, against the alleged "stolen mandate" during the February 8 elections and restoration of the judiciary by revoking the recent 26th amendment to the Constitution that granted legislators more power in appointing top judges. Containers have been placed across Islamabad, including along the Srinagar Highway, GT Road, and the Expressway, limiting access to strategic areas like Islamabad Airport and D-Chowk, which is located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office,

the Parliament, and the Supreme Court. Rangers, along with police and Frontier Constabulary (FC), have been deployed to monitor the area. The federal government has also warned against any unlawful protests, stating that no one will be permitted to hold a demonstration in violation of judicial orders, with legal action promised against any violators. Also, Pakistan Railways has suspended all train services between Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar in light of the ongoing PTI protest, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. According to railway authorities, services between Peshawar and Rawalpindi, Lahore and Rawalpindi as well as between Multan and Faisalabad to Rawalpindi, have been halted immediately. Public transport, including metro bus services in Islamabad

and Rawalpindi, has been halted, and all bus terminals at Faizabad, linking the twin cities, have been barricaded. Section 144 - which prohibits gatherings of individuals - has been in effect in Islamabad since November 18. On the other hand, the Punjab government too has enforced Section 144 across the province from November 23 to November 25, banning protests, public gatherings, rallies, and sit-ins. Additionally, internet and mobile services have been partially suspended in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab as a precaution. Khan, 72, has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022. He has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since last year, facing, according to his party, over 200 cases; got bail in some of them, convicted in some others, and hearings going on for some more. Khan's party won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol and the PTI chief has already alleged that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its coalition partners, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had "stolen the mandate" to grab power at the federal level. Relations between the PTI and the PML-N-led coalition government - already tense since Khan's ouster in 2022 - have strained even more in recent times.

Absence of 'vote' doesn't mean it's a win for everyone

PTI ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Although countries agreed on a new USD 300 billion climate finance package for the Global South at the UN climate conference here, reactions pouring in show that not everyone is happy. Evans Njewa, chair of the "Least Developed Countries" (LDCs) group, called it a disappointing outcome. "We missed a chance to shield our most vulnerable from the climate crisis and heal our planet. Strong concerns remain over the adopted climate finance goal. Thanks to all who stood with us. We fight on," he said in a post on X. The chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) said the deal was done "acrimoniously." "Developed countries taking a lead with USD 300 billion by 2035 is a joke," Nkiruka Maduekwé, a negotiator from Nigeria, said during the closing plenary on Saturday. "It is not something we should take lightly. I think we should rethink it... We have a right as countries to choose if we want to take this or not," she added. R R Rashi, a fellow at Teri Energy Resources Institute of India, told PTI that technically, an agreement is adopted in the absence of a vote against it. "This case is complex. Here countries were not satisfied with the decision, but they were pushed to adopt it," he said. On Saturday evening, negotiators from the LDC group and

the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) walked out of the meeting, throwing talks into turmoil. The LDCs said they were not consulted on the draft and that it did not include separate funding allocation for them. A statement by the AOSIS said they felt insulted by being left out. The LDCs and the SIDS have been asking for at least USD 220 billion and USD 39 billion, respectively, from the total climate finance package. Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson said the

economist and Co-Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said: "The climate summit in Baku was not a success, but at best the avoidance of a diplomatic disaster." The final hours of COP29 ended tense, with strong criticism of the texts and the presidency. India strongly reacted to the USD 300 billion climate finance package, saying the COP29 presidency and the UN climate change office forced through the deal before allowing it to voice its objections. It termed the adoption process "unfair" and

CLIMATE FINANCE DEAL

UN climate talks almost failed and ended with a disappointing deal. Rachel Cleetys, policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, criticised the Azerbaijani COP29 Presidency's handling of the climate finance talks. "Rich nations, including the United States and EU countries, have exercised brute power here at COP29 to force a deeply unfair and inadequate climate finance outcome that imperils the science-based goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. "Despite their starring role in causing the climate crisis, this wealthy coalition of the unwilling collectively offered a grossly insufficient USD 300 billion annually by 2035," she said. Ottmar Edenhofer, climate

"stage-managed" and said it reflected the troubling lack of trust in the UN system. Malawi, Nigeria, Cuba, and Bolivia supported India. The final text, released early Sunday with little time for analysis, showed little progress compared to earlier drafts. While it plans to triple current funds, it doesn't add much in real terms. Due to inflation, this fund in 2035 will be equivalent to what was agreed in 2009, experts told PTI. The agreement also avoids clearly stating that developed countries are responsible for providing the necessary funds. Instead, it includes private sources and "innovative" methods rather than ensuring the funding is public, additional, sufficient, and predictable, as civil society groups have called for.

Sado mines memorial held despite S Korean boycott

AP ■ SADO (JAPAN)

Japan held a memorial ceremony on Sunday near the Sado Island Gold Mines despite a last-minute boycott of the event by South Korea that highlighted tensions between the neighbors over the issue of Korean forced laborers at the site before and during World War II. South Korea's absence at Sunday's memorial, to which Seoul government officials and Korean victims' families were invited, is a major setback in the rapidly improving ties between the two countries, which since last year have set aside their historical disputes to prioritise US-led security cooperation. The Sado mines were listed in July as a UNESCO World Heritage site after Japan moved past years of disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history, promising to hold an annual memorial service for all victims, including hundreds of Koreans who were mobilized to work in the mines. On Saturday, South Korea announced it would not attend the event, saying it was impossible to settle unspecified disagreements between the two governments in time. Families of Korean victims of the mine accidents were expected to separately hold their own ceremony near the mine at a later date. Masashi Mizobuchi, an assistant press secretary in Japan's Foreign Ministry, said Japan has been in communication with Seoul and called the South Korean decision "disappointing." The ceremony was held as planned on Sunday at a facility

near the mines, where more than 20 seats for Korean attendees remained vacant. The 16th-century mines on the island of Sado, off Japan's north-central coast, operated for nearly 400 years before closing in 1989 and were once the world's largest gold producer. Historians say about 1,500 Koreans were mobilized to Sado as part of Japan's use of hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at Japanese mines and factories to make up for labor shortages because most working-age Japanese men had been sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific. Japan's government has maintained that all wartime compensation issues between the two countries were resolved under a 1965 normalization treaty. South Korea had long opposed the listing of the site as World Heritage on the grounds that the Korean forced laborers, despite their key role in the wartime mine production, were missing from the exhibition. Seoul's backing for Sado came as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol prioritized improving relations with Japan. The Japanese government said Sunday's ceremony was to pay tribute to "all workers" who died at the mines, but would not spell out inclusion of Korean laborers - part of what critics call a persistent policy of whitewashing Japan's history of sexual and labor exploitation before and during the war. Preparation for the event by local organizers remained unclear until the last minute, which was seen as a sign of

Japan's reluctance to face its wartime brutality. Japan's government said on Friday that Akiko Ikuina - a parliamentary vice minister who reportedly visited Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine in August 2022, weeks after she was elected as a lawmaker - would attend the ceremony. Japan's neighbors view Yasukuni, which commemorates 2.5 million war dead including war criminals, as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. Ikuina belonged to a Japanese ruling party faction of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who led the whitewashing of Japan's wartime atrocities in the 2010s during his leadership. For instance, Japan says the terms "sex slavery" and "forced labor" are inaccurate and insists on the use of highly euphemistic terms such as "comfort women" and "civilian workers" instead. South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul said Saturday that Ikuina's Yasukuni visit was an issue of contention between the countries' diplomats. "That issue and various other disagreements between diplomatic officials remain unresolved, and with only a few hours remaining until the event, we concluded that there wasn't sufficient time to resolve these differences," Cho said in an interview with MBN television. Some South Koreans had criticized Yoon's government for supporting the event without securing a clear Japanese commitment to highlight the plight of Korean laborers. There were also complaints over South Korea agreeing to pay for the travel expenses of Korean victims' family members to Sado.

New poll panel sworn in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and four other commissioners were sworn in on Sunday nearly three months after the resignation of the previous commission as deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime was toppled in a student-led mass uprising. Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed administered the oath of office to the new commission at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge at a ceremony joined by the top court judges and concerned officials. The swearing-in ceremony was staged days after a search

committee appointed by the interim government of Muhammad Yunus recommended the names of the new Election Commission chief and members who previously served as civil servants, military officers and lower judiciary judges. The new chief election commissioner (CEC) is a retired secretary to the government. The four election commissioners are retired district judges Mohammad Anwarul Islam Sarker and Abdur Rahmani Masud, retired joint secretary to the government Begum Tahmidah Ahmed and retired army brigadier general Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah. President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed the

new commission on November 21. The commission had been vacant since September 5 when members of the previous commission, led by Kazi Habibur Awal, resigned after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime was toppled. Awal and other commission members had tendered their resignation letters on September 5 while officials said the EC had never been vacant for this long since it was founded in 1972. The interim government on October 29 formed a six-member search committee led by retired Supreme Court judge Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury to come up with

the names of two individuals for each EC membership. The interim government, formed after the ouster of the previous Awami League regime in August, has constituted six commissions to bring reforms to the election system and other fields. The EC was installed as political parties, including ex-premier Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have been asking for weeks for staging elections in the quickest possible time after required reforms in the election system. Yunus on November 17 said his government would issue an election roadmap as soon as decisions on electoral reforms were made.

Stolen shoe mystery solved; weasel caught in act!

Tokyo (AP): Police thought a shoe thief was on the loose at a kindergarten in southwestern Japan, until a security camera caught a furry culprit in action. A weasel with a tiny shoe in its mouth was spotted on the video footage after police installed three cameras in the school in the prefecture of Fukuoka. "It's great it turned out to be a human being," Deputy Police Chief Hiroaki Inada told The Associated Press Sunday. Teachers and parents had feared it could be a disturbed person with a shoe fetish. Japanese customarily take their shoes off before entering homes. The vanished shoes were all slip-ons the children wore indoors, stored in cubbyholes near the door. Weasels are known to stash items and people who keep weasels as pets give them toys so they can hide them.

B'desh to review major energy projects

PTI ■ DHAKA

A review committee formed by Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday recommended engaging an investigation agency to examine power agreements signed by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime with different business groups, including one with India's Adani Group. "The National Review Committee on Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has recommended the appointment of a reputed legal and investigation agency to review the major power production agreements signed during the autocratic regime of Sheikh Hasina from 2009 to 2024," an official statement said. The statement, issued by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's office, said the committee was currently reviewing

seven major energy and power projects, including the Adani (Godda) BIPPL 1234.4 MW coal-fired plant, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power Limited. The six other agreements include one with a Chinese company that built a 1320 MW coal-fired power plant, while the rest are with Bangladeshi business groups said to be close to the past regime. According to the statement, the committee gathered "enormous proof" warranting the agreements be "scrapped or reconsidered" in line with international arbitration laws and procedures. It said the committee needed additional time to further analyse other solicited and unsolicited contracts. "In doing so, we recommend immediate appointment of one or more top-level international legal and investigation

agency or agencies to assist the committee," the statement said quoting a letter of the committee, headed by retired High Court judge Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury. India's External Affairs Ministry had earlier said that cooperation in the power and energy sector has become one of the crucial pillars of India-Bangladesh relations. The Adani Group, however, recently sent a letter to the Bangladesh government over its unpaid USD 800 million power supply bill while Bangladesh's state-run Power Development Board said they had already paid USD 150 million despite its dollar crisis and was expecting to pay the full amount. Adani's Godda thermal plant was set up exclusively to supply power to Bangladesh but India recently changed a law allowing the Indian company to sell the Godda power in the domestic market sparking speculation if Bangladesh would get dedicated power supply from the plant. The interim government had earlier formed a committee to examine contracts made under

the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 (Amended 2021).

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. KHAUSHAH SIDO MR. SHAMSHAD KHAN is the owner of FREE HOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOT Area Measuring 98.35 SQ. YDS. i.e 82.2 sq. meters, out of Gata No. 646, situated in the village Choudas, Tahsil - Gadhana distt. Aligarh UP. He lost his sale deed on dated 01/10/2024 vide Registered Sale deed Doc No.3524, Dated 01/07/2013 executed by Mr. WASID KHA/S/O ISHUKHA in favour of Mr. AKIL KHA S/O MR. AKHTAR KHA in respect of said property and also one FIR No. 2024000919341 and same mortgaging the said property with HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. **DEEPKA MISHRA ADVOCATE** A-272 BLOCK SOUTH CITY GURGAON UP-226376

PUBLIC NOTICE
That, Mr. Neeraj Singh Makhlis is seeking a loan from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. the property bearing Plot area measuring 300 sq. mtrs., Bearing No. 545C, in Block No. H, in residential colony known as Palam Vihar, situated in and around village Chausa & Carterpur, Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana; Herein after referred to as the "said property"; That, Mr. Jasbir Singh, Mrs. Manjit Kaur and Mr. Gurdeep Singh are the legal heirs of the Deceased Late Mrs. Surjit Kaur. That there is no other legal heirs of the said persons. Where Mr. Surjit Kaur has made owner to Mr. Gurdeep Singh through Will 867, dated 19.01.2007 in respect to said property and there is no objections to remaining legal heirs. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/details of disputes within seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, we will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Said Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained. **M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP** B-132, L.G.F. Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017, Mob: 999116006

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (J), AT SHILLONG
MAT. Divorce Suit. No. 38 (T) of 2018
Between:
Smti. Sunita Thangkiew, ...Petitioner
-Versus-
Shri. Nitesh Awasthi, ...Respondent To.
Shri. Nitesh Awasthi,
H/o - Smti. Sunita Thangkiew,
Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201007.
Take Notice that the Petitioner has submitted a Petition for dissolution of marriage under Section 10 (1) IX of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 as amended, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed, and be able to answer all material questions relating to the application for who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer (all such questions) on the 2nd day of December, 2024 and has been fixed for appearance. The petition will be heard as soon as the business of the Court may permit, but no notice of such further date shall be given except the inclusion of the petition in the daily cause list. If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself, your advocate, or by someone authorized to act for you in this suit on the date of appearance, above mentioned or before such later date on which the suit may be heard, and decided ex-parte in your absence. Signed and sealed by order on this the 7th November, 2024.
Additional Deputy Commissioner (J) Shillong.

Romanians cast ballots in presidential race

AP ■ BUCHAREST

Romanians are casting ballots on Sunday in the first round of a presidential election that could pit a far-right nationalist against the incumbent leftist prime minister in the runoff. Thirteen candidates are vying for the presidency in the European Union and NATO member country, and the vote is expected to go to a second round on December 8. Polls opened at 7 am local time (0500GMT) and will close at 9 pm (1900GMT). Romanians abroad have been able to vote since Friday. By 2 pm (1200GMT), 4.8 million people - about 27 per cent of eligible voters - had cast ballots, according to the Central Election Bureau. The final vote could see George Simion, the leader of the far-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR,

face off against incumbent Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, backed by Romania's largest party, the Social Democratic Party or PSD. The presidential role carries a five-year term and has significant decision-making powers in areas such as national security, foreign policy, and judicial appointments. Romania will also hold parliamentary elections on December 1 that will determine the country's next government and prime minister. Simion, 38, is a vocal supporter of US President-elect Donald Trump and has long been a controversial figure. He campaigned for reunification with Moldova, which this year renewed a five-year ban on him entering the country over security concerns, and he is banned for the same reason from entering neighbouring Ukraine. "I would like that in the next five to ten years, for

Romanians to be really proud to be Romanians, to promote Romanian culture, Romanian products," he told reporters on Wednesday in the capital, Bucharest. "As a Romanian president, I will promote Romanian interests. In most cases, Romanian interests coincide with partner interests." Ecaterina Nawadia, a 20-year-old architecture student, said she voted for the first time in a national election on Sunday and hopes young people turn out in high numbers. "Since the (1989) revolution, we didn't have a really good president," she said. "I hope most of the people my age went to vote ... because the leading candidate is not the best option." Cristian Andrei, a political consultant based in Bucharest, says Sunday's vote will be "a tight race" in which the diaspora will likely play a key role

in which candidates make it to the runoff. "We are at a point where Romania can easily divert or slip toward a populist regime because (voter) dissatisfaction is pretty large among a lot of people from all social strata," he told The Associated Press. "And the temptation for any regime, any leader - will be to go on a populist road." He added that Romania's large budget deficit, high inflation, and an economic slowdown could push more mainstream candidates to shift toward populist stances amid widespread dissatisfaction. Ciolacu told the AP that if he is elected, one of his biggest goals is "to convince Romanians that it is worth staying at home or returning" to Romania, which has a massive diaspora spread throughout EU countries. "Romania has a huge chance to become a developed economy in the

next 10 years, where honest work is fairly rewarded and people have the security of a better life," he said. "But for this, we need balance and responsibility ... I am running for the Presidency of Romania because we need a change." Other key candidates include Elena Lasconi of the Save Romania Union party, or USR; former NATO deputy general secretary Mircea Geoana, who is running independently; and Nicolae Ciuca, a former army general and head of the center-right National Liberal Party, which is currently in a tense coalition with the PSD. Geoana, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the United States, told the AP that he believes his international experience qualifies him above the other candidates. "I think I bring a lot of competence and experience and connections in this complicated world," he said.

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 25.11.2024

E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:-

NIT No.	Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & time of opening
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/SKS/SS/43	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF PACKAGED DRINKING WATER (IN 20 LTR JARS) FOR 01 YEAR IN VARIOUS OFFICE LOCATIONS IN BYPL	₹ 0.98 Crore	₹ 1.96 Lakh	16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs	16.12.2024 15:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/SKS/APT/44	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, CONFIGURATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFTWARE DEFINED WIDE AREA NETWORK (SD-WAN) CONNECTIONS ACROSS VARIOUS OFFICES OF BYPL	₹ 3.40 Crore	₹ 6.80 Lakh	16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs	16.12.2024 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/SKS/APT/45	IMPLEMENTATION OF SERVICE DESK MANAGEMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IN BYPL	₹ 2.97 Crore	₹ 5.94 Lakh	16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs	16.12.2024 16:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitment of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tenders->Open Tenders.
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

Markets may react to Assembly polls outcome: Analysts

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Global factors and FII activity will dictate trends in domestic equity markets this week while assembly poll results of Maharashtra and Jharkhand may impact stocks on Monday, say analysts. Stock markets witnessed a spirited recovery on Friday with benchmark Sensex and Nifty notching the best single-day gains in more than five months and offering relief after weeks of Correction. On Friday, Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11 while Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25. "On the domestic front, the outcomes of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections will

be crucial triggers. Especially Maharashtra where NDA witnessed a one-sided victory which is likely to boost bullish sentiment further. However, global factors continue to pose significant risks. Escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, alongside rising crude oil prices, have added to inflationary concerns," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. A strengthening US dollar index and elevated US bond yields are weighing on the rupee, leading to record foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows. "The direction of FII flows will remain a key determinant for the markets following the recent correction," Meena added. The BJP on Saturday pulled



off a stunning performance in Maharashtra winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing

by the JMM. Global oil benchmark Brent crude and the rupee-dollar trend would also influence trading in the stock market. Global triggers, including US economic data such as GDP growth rate, and FOMC (Federal Open Market

Committee) meeting minutes, will play critical roles in shaping investor sentiment, Meena added. "Overall, the political outcomes, particularly in Maharashtra, suggest a positive outlook for the Indian stock market, especially in sectors that benefit from infrastructure development and political stability," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said. "Macroeconomic indicators, including GDP and infrastructure output, will garner significant attention. Participants remain focused on FII fund flows, given their ongoing selling spree," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Last week, the BSE benchmark zoomed 1,536.8

points or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points or 1.59 per cent. Most sectors, except energy, contributed to the rebound, with realty, auto, and FMCG leading the pack. IT and banking played a pivotal role in capping losses and driving the recovery in the benchmark. Broader indices also edged higher, with gains ranging between 0.9 per cent and 1.8 per cent. "On Monday, the market will react to the outcome of state assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand along with other global triggers including developments in the Russia-Ukraine war," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

FPI selling spree continues in November at ₹26,533 crore, intensity of outflow reduces

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 26,533 crore from the Indian equity market this month so far owing to increasing allocations to China, concerns over muted corporate earnings and elevated valuation of domestic stocks. While the sell-off continues, the quantum of net outflows has significantly reduced compared to October, when Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) withdrew Rs 94,017 crore (USD 11.2 billion) on a net basis. With the latest pull-out, FPI outflows on a net basis are Rs 19,940 crore in 2024 so far. Going ahead, the flows from foreign investors into the Indian equity markets would depend on the policies implemented under Donald Trump's presidency, the prevailing inflation and interest rate dynamics, the trajectory of the geopolitical landscape, and the third-quarter earnings performance of Indian companies, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of Rs 26,533 crore so far this month (till November 22). This came following a net withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore in October, which was the worst monthly outflow. However, in September, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore. Concerns over the elevated valuations of Indian equities persist, prompting FPIs to redirect their attention toward

markets offering more attractive valuations, Srivastava said. Additionally, China continues to draw significant foreign inflows at India's expense, bolstered by its compelling valuation levels and the recent announcement of stimulus measures aimed at revitalizing its slowing economy, he said. Furthermore, India's sub-par corporate earnings and elevated inflation figures have raised concerns about potential delays in domestic interest rate cuts, he added. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, flagged investors' concerns surrounding FY25 earnings. He added that while the 'Sell India, Buy China' trade is over, 'the Trump trade' also appears to be on its last leg since valuations have reached high levels in the US. In terms of sectors, FPIs have been buying IT stocks while banking stocks have been resilient despite facing selling pressure, mainly due to support from domestic institutional investors. On the other hand, FPIs withdrew Rs 1,110 crore from the debt general limit and invested Rs 872 crore in the debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) this month until November 22. So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 1.05 lakh crore in the debt market.

Mobile industry seeks enhanced air cargo handling capacity

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Mobile phone players want Indian airports to ramp up their existing cargo handling capacity to support a projected eight-fold increase in device exports to USD 180 billion by 2030, industry body ICEA said. India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo told PTI that the turnaround time at customs is a major hurdle for the electronics industry which delays shipments' processing further. "In China, while the factory to export take-off from the cargo terminal is achieved on Day 1, in India, the export take off happens only by Day 2. This is a glaring chasm especially when seen in the context of the volume of exports which in the case of China is more than 30 times electronics output (USD 959 billion) compared to India (USD 29 billion) in 2023," Mohindroo said. Electronics is already India's largest export in air cargo while it's ranked third overall behind engineering and petrol. "To keep pace with the expected growth in exports, concerted efforts are needed at the Central and State level. The infrastructure at current airports has already reached saturation levels as they are operating at 80-100 per cent of their capacity which calls for expansion of existing airports and developing new ones," Mohindroo said. According to ICEA, total electronics exports stood at USD 29.1 billion for the period from financial year 2023-24, out of which mobiles stood at USD 15 billion.

"To achieve the USD 500 billion of electronics production by 2030 requires airport capacities to increase parallelly to handle USD 180 bn of exports, the vast majority on an annual basis which would be 6 times higher than the current exports. By 2030, electronics will not only be India's top 2 exports (at the rate of USD 180-200 billion per year), but also significantly larger in terms of air cargo as compared to any other export from India," Mohindroo said. At present 55 per cent of total mobile phone exports from India are handled by Delhi, 30 per cent by Madras Airport and 10 per cent at Bangalore airport. Mohindroo said many airports lack adequate areas for essential cargo operations such as docking, unit load device (ULD) assembly, truck parking, and the smooth loading and unloading of goods. "Electronics products are highly sensitive to heat, water and other weather conditions. Also, they require to be sent with speed to ensure just-in-time production schedules. Thus, dedicated space that takes care of safety, security and ease of transport is critical

for electronics," he said. Mohindroo said that the custom brokers, who are responsible for verifying packages before shipment, often operate in an unstructured and ad-hoc manner which further adds to delays. The Indian government is aiming to set up 50 more airports in the next five years to develop the country's airport ecosystem and help boost job creation. Recently, India's commerce ministry stated that the government is considering measures to provide tax incentives, rationalization of aviation turbine fuel prices, and infrastructure development for handling air cargo. Mohindroo said that the development of some of the airports including Noida International Airport, and greenfield airports in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are expected to expedite exports. Apple and Samsung are the top two mobile phone exporters from India. Majority of Apple's iPhones are made in Tamil Nadu while Samsung has one of the world's largest smartphone factories in Noida.

Mcap of 8 of top-10 most-valued domestic firms jumps ₹1.55 lakh crore; HDFC Bank, TCS sparkle

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Eight of the top-10 most valued domestic firms together added Rs 1,55,603.45 crore in market valuation last week, with HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, in tandem with firm trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark zoomed 1,536.8 points, or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points, or 1.59 per cent. The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points, or 2.54 per cent, to settle at 79,117.11 on Friday. The NSE Nifty soared 557.35 points or, 2.39 per cent, to 23,907.25. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the laggards.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 13,239.95 crore to Rs 5,74,569.05 crore and that of ITC zoomed Rs 11,508.91 crore to Rs 5,94,272.93 crore. Bharti Airtel's mcap went up Rs 11,260.11 crore to Rs 8,94,068.84 crore and that of State Bank of India rallied Rs 10,709.55 crore to Rs 7,28,293.62 crore. However, the valuation of LIC declined Rs 11,954.24 crore to Rs 5,62,545.30 crore. The mcap of Reliance Industries dipped Rs 2,368.16 crore to Rs 17,13,130.75 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

Patanjali Ayurved's FY24 revenue up 23 per cent to ₹9,335.3 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved's total income has risen by 23.15 per cent to Rs 9,335.32 crore in 2023-24, helped by other income which includes OFS of Patanjali Foods (earlier known as Ruchi Soya) and income from other group entities, according to RoC filing by the company. In FY24 Patanjali Ayurved's other income was at Rs 2,875.29 crore against Rs 46.18 crore in the year-ago period, according to financial data accessed through business intelligence platform Tofler. Its revenue from operations, which is mainly income from net sales, was down 14.25 per cent to Rs 6,460.03 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2024. Revenue was

impacted as Patanjali Ayurved transferred its food business to Patanjali Foods on July 1, 2022, which includes biscuits, ghee, cereals, and nutraceuticals. It reported a five-fold jump in its total profit to Rs 2,901.10 crore in FY24.

Patanjali Ayurved reported a total profit of Rs 578.44 crore on a revenue of Rs 7,533.88 crore for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2023. The total income of Patanjali's Ayurved, a non-listed entity, which includes other income as well as at Rs 7,580.06 crore

in FY23. Patanjali Ayurved's advertising promotional expenses were also up 9.28 per cent to Rs 422.33 crore in FY24. Earlier this year in July, the Haridwar-based organisation Group announced the transfer of its entire home and personal care business from Patanjali Ayurved to another entity Patanjali Food for a consideration of Rs 1,100 crore. In July 2023 promoters of Patanjali Foods had launched a two-day OFS (offer for sales) to pare its total stake in the company by around 7 per cent to meet the minimum public shareholding requirement. This was oversubscribed more than two times. Patanjali Foods, a leading edible oil maker was acquired by Patanjali Group through an insolvency resolution process and Patanjali Ayurved is one of the promoters of it. It posted a total revenue of Rs 31,961.62 crore in FY24 as against Rs 31,821.45 crore in the preceding year. Patanjali Ayurved mainly operates in the ayurvedic product & FMCG business comprising primarily hair care, skin care, dental care, home care, personal care, dairy products & bulk trading of food products etc. The group has manufacturing facilities across the country and has other contract manufacturing facilities at Dehradun & Manesar. Its sales are primarily in India through independent distributors, marketing federations exclusive stores etc.



Air India Express increases flight operations from NE destinations

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Low-cost airline Air India Express has announced an increase in flight operations from three major destinations in the northeast - Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal - as part of its winter schedule. This is part of the airlines' expansion of winter services across the country, it said in a statement here. Air India Express has increased its operations to 106 weekly flights from 63 last winter, from Guwahati. It provides direct connectivity to eight domestic destinations of Agartala, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur and Kolkata. The airline also provides one-stop connectivity to 18 domestic destinations and six international destinations from Guwahati. In Imphal, the airline hiked

its weekly flights to 34 this season, an addition of 20 over last winter, the statement said. Since adding Agartala as a station in September 2024, the airline has increased its flights from 14 to 21 weekly, and connects two destinations - Guwahati and Kolkata - directly. It also offers one-stop connectivity from Agartala to 11 domestic destinations. "The expansion not only facilitates easier travel for those wishing to explore North East, but also strengthens Guwahati's role as a vital link with the rest of the country," Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) Ankur Garg said. "With our fleet now exceeding 90 aircraft and rapidly growing, we are well-positioned to support the evolving needs of emerging Indian cities," he added.

India's 26 major listed realty firms sell ₹35,000 crore worth properties in Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India's 26 major listed real estate firms have sold properties worth nearly Rs 35,000 crore during the September quarter with Godrej Properties reporting highest sales bookings. According to the data compiled from regulatory filings, the 26 major listed realty firms have reported a combined sales bookings of Rs 34,985 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal year. Bulk of pre-sales (sales bookings) came from residential segment. In terms of sales bookings, Godrej Properties emerged as the largest listed player during July-September quarter with pre-sales of Rs 5,198 crore. Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers Ltd, which sells properties under the Lodha brand, reported sales bookings of Rs 4,290 crore during the quarter under review. Delhi-NCR-based Max Estates sold properties worth Rs 4,100 crore, while Bengaluru-based Prestige Estates Projects Ltd clocked sales bookings of Rs 4,022.6 crore during the quarter. Delhi-NCR based Signature Global achieved sales bookings of Rs 2,780 crore in the September quarter, driven by strong demand for its housing projects at

Gurugram. DLF Ltd, the country's largest realty firm in terms of market capitalisation, sales bookings declined sharply during the July-September period to Rs 692 crore as it did not launch any new housing project. Among other major listed players, Bengaluru-based Brigade Enterprises Ltd reported a sales bookings of Rs 1,821 crore during July-September period of this fiscal year, while Mumbai-based Oberoi Realty did pre-sales of Rs 1,442.46 crore. Mumbai-based Aditya Birla Real Estate sold properties worth Rs 1,412 crore. Bengaluru-based Puravankara Ltd and Sobha Ltd clocked sales bookings of Rs 1,331 crore and Rs 1,178.5 crore, respectively. Delhi-based TARC Ltd also performed well and achieved pre-sales of Rs 1,012 crore during the September quarter. There were many players that

reported sales between Rs 500 crore and Rs 1,000 crore during the second quarter of this fiscal year. Pune-based Kolte-Patil Developers Ltd sold properties worth Rs 770 crore, while Mumbai-based Keystone Realtors (Rustomjee brand) achieved pre-sales of Rs 700 crore. Delhi-based Ashiana Housing Ltd reported sales bookings of Rs 673 crore during the September quarter while Bengaluru-based Shriram Properties clocked pre-sales of Rs 568 crore. Mumbai-based firms Raymond Ltd and Sunteck Realty Ltd sold properties worth Rs 562 crore and Rs 524 crore, respectively. Among listed firms that booked less than Rs 500 crore, Ahmedabad-based Arvind Smartspaces sold properties worth Rs 464 crore during the July-September period. Mumbai-based Mahindra

Lifespace Developers Ltd achieved a sales bookings of Rs 397 crore. Mumbai-based realtors Aribhat Superstructures Ltd, Ajmera Realty & Infrastructure Ltd and Arkade Developers Ltd reported sales bookings of Rs 270.8 crore, Rs 254 crore and Rs 215 crore, respectively. Suraj Estate Developers sold properties worth Rs 107 crore, while Lucknow-based Eldeco Housing & Industries Ltd clocked pre-sales of Rs 102.9 crore. Mumbai-based Equinox India Developments Ltd (earlier Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd) achieved pre-sales of mere Rs 98 crore during the second quarter of this fiscal year. Sales bookings of many listed entities have declined in the second quarter of 2024-25 because of inauspicious Shraadh period, monsoon rain and also lack of regulatory approvals to launch their projects. For example, DLF Ltd's pre-sales plunged to Rs 692 crore in the September quarter from Rs 6,404 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal. Sales bookings data of many listed players was not available on the stock exchanges. Post-Covid pandemic, the residential real estate segment has revived strongly because of pent-up demand growing desire to have homeownership.

National Consumer Helpline to roll out AI-based features, partners with 1,000 firms



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Consumer Helpline (NCH) is set to introduce artificial intelligence-based features including speech recognition and multilingual chatbots as part of a major upgrade to its consumer grievance system. The helpline has also announced partnerships with over 1,000 companies to expedite complaint resolution. The new AI capabilities, dubbed NCH 2.0, will allow consumers to file complaints through voice input in their local languages, marking a significant technological transformation of the consumer protection platform that currently operates in 17 languages. The helpline has seen dramatic growth in usage, with monthly calls surging to 141,817 in January 2024 from 14,795 in January 2015. Monthly complaint registrations have tripled to 112,468 in 2024 from 37,062 in 2017. "These technological upgrades are aimed at making the

grievance filing process more seamless, efficient, and inclusive," the Department of Consumer Affairs said in a statement. The partnership programme, known as the Convergence Programme, has expanded to include major companies across sectors such as e-commerce, travel, education, and banking. The number of participating companies has grown nearly fourfold from 263 in 2017 to 1,009 currently. The department has identified several major companies with high grievance numbers, including Delhivery Ltd and Domino's Pizza, and plans to meet with them next week to discuss bringing them into the partnership programme. Consumers can access the helpline through multiple channels including a toll-free number (1915), WhatsApp, SMS, email, and a dedicated mobile app. Unresolved complaints can be escalated to the Consumer Commission under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.



HEALTHY WINTER RECIPES

Winter is the perfect season to cozy up with nourishing, homemade meals that not only warm you up but also keep you energised. From vibrant power bowls to indulgent yet healthy treats, these recipes are packed with nutrients and flavour. Here are some curated for you!



AVOCADO POWER BOWL

Recipe by Chef at World Avocado Organisation

A creamy and nutrient-packed dish to kickstart your day with a burst of energy. **SERVINGS:** 2

INGREDIENTS: 1 small ripe avocado, 100g fresh or frozen mango, 1 handful of spinach, 1 small ripe banana, 2 tbsp ground almonds, 125ml milk of your choice (or coconut water). **OPTIONAL:** 1 tsp honey (to taste). **TOPPINGS:** Sliced kiwi, Flaked almonds, Berries, Pomegranate seeds, Fresh mint leaves. **EQUIPMENT:** Blender

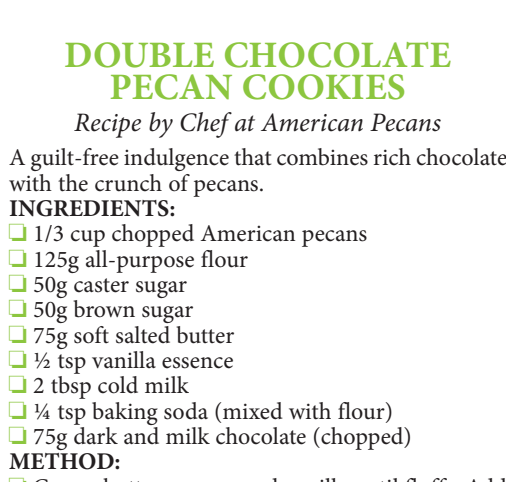
METHOD: Add avocado, mango, spinach, banana, ground almonds, and milk to a blender. Blend until smooth. Add honey if desired. Adjust the consistency by adding more milk or water. Divide into two bowls and top with sliced fruits, nuts, and fresh mint leaves. Store leftovers in the fridge or freeze with a squeeze of lemon or lime juice to preserve the color. **PRO TIP:** Prepare in larger batches and freeze portions for quick meals during busy mornings!



PRUNES AND VEGETABLE SOUP

Recipe by Chef at Chilean Prunes

A comforting and fragrant blend of fruits, vegetables, and spices that's both unique and hearty. **INGREDIENTS FOR SYRUP:** 1L water, 120g sugar, 1 red apple peel, 1 lemon and 1 orange (sliced), 1 star anise, 1 clove, 1 vanilla piece, 5cm cinnamon stick, 1 dried prune, 1 dried fig, 1 dried apricot, 10 mint leaves. **INGREDIENTS FOR COOKED VEGETABLES AND FRUITS:** 100g each of chopped carrots, celery, fennel, apples, pears, pineapple, and violet aubergines; 100g each of fresh fruits: orange, banana, kiwi, cherries, apricots, peach, raisins, blueberries, currants, strawberries. **GARNISH:** Mint, celery leaves, tarragon, rosemary flowers, and flaked white chocolate. **PREPARATION:** Prepare syrup by boiling water with sugar, spices, and peels. Let it infuse for 10 minutes, then strain. Cook vegetables and fruits separately in the syrup until just tender. Combine all ingredients in a bowl, garnish with red fruits and herbs, and serve warm or chilled. **CHEF'S NOTE:** The syrup doubles as a flavourful base for other desserts!



DOUBLE CHOCOLATE PECAN COOKIES

Recipe by Chef at American Pecans

A guilt-free indulgence that combines rich chocolate with the crunch of pecans. **INGREDIENTS:** 1/3 cup chopped American pecans, 125g all-purpose flour, 50g caster sugar, 50g brown sugar, 75g soft salted butter, 1/2 tsp vanilla essence, 2 tbsp cold milk, 1/4 tsp baking soda (mixed with flour), 75g dark and milk chocolate (chopped). **METHOD:** Cream butter, sugars, and vanilla until fluffy. Add milk and mix well. Gradually fold in flour, then stir in pecans and chocolate chunks. Shape into cookies and bake at 180°C for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt (optional) and cool before serving. **TIP:** These cookies pair perfectly with a warm cup of spiced tea or coffee!



WALNUT DALIYA HALWA (WITH JAGGERY)

Recipe by Chef at Chile Walnut

A traditional dessert with a nutty twist, perfect for winter nights. **INGREDIENTS:** 2-3 tbsp ghee, 1/4 cup Chilean walnuts (roasted), 1 cup broken wheat (daliya), 1/2 cup jaggery, 1 1/2 cups water, 1 tsp cardamom powder. **METHOD:** Heat ghee in a pan and roast walnuts until fragrant. Set aside. In the same pan, sauté daliya until golden. Add water and pressure cook for 2 whistles. Transfer cooked daliya to a pan, add jaggery, and stir until dissolved. Mix in cardamom powder and roasted walnuts. Simmer until the mixture thickens. Serve hot, garnished with additional walnuts. **QUICK TIP:** Adjust sweetness by altering the jaggery quantity as per your preference. Enjoy a Winter of Warmth and Wellness! These recipes are designed to provide comfort while nourishing your body. Whether you're looking for a quick breakfast, a unique soup, or a sweet treat, these dishes are sure to brighten up your winter days.

PREVENTIVE POWER FOODS

By KAVITA DEVGAN

If you're aiming to keep your blood sugar levels steady and support heart health, these super foods offer powerful preventive benefits. Incorporate them into your diet consistently for best results.



CINNAMON

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning. Cinnamon contains hydroxychalcone, which helps manage fasting glucose levels. Add a pinch daily to your tea or sprinkle it over your breakfast cereal. **FOR TRYING:** Brew cinnamon tea by steeping 1/4 tsp of powdered cinnamon in a cup of boiling water for 10-20 minutes. Drink it early in the day to maximise its benefits.

TURMERIC AND BLACK PEPPER

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning or bedtime. Curcumin in turmeric reduces inflammation, helping to balance blood sugar, while black pepper's vanadium content keeps blood sugar stable. **FOR TRYING:** Combine them in curries or make a soothing bedtime haldi-pepper milk.



BITTER GOURD

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Anytime during the day. Bitter gourd (karela) has a compound similar to insulin that helps reduce blood sugar levels. **FOR TRYING:** Include bitter gourd in your meals twice a week or drink karela juice 3-4 times weekly.

FOR BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL AND HEART HEALTH



FENUGREEK SEEDS (METHI SEEDS)

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning. Fenugreek seeds help slow sugar absorption and stimulate insulin production. **FOR TRYING:** Add them to dals or soak 1/2 tsp of seeds in water overnight and have in the morning.



BARLEY

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Lunch. Rich in soluble fiber, barley slows down digestion, preventing blood glucose spikes. **FOR TRYING:** Boil soaked barley and have it for breakfast with walnuts, honey, and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

PUMPKIN SEEDS

WHEN TO HAVE IT: As a mid-meal snack. Pumpkin seeds, high in lignans and magnesium, improve insulin efficiency. **FOR TRYING:** Make seedy bites by roasting 50g musk melon seeds in ghee, adding 50g jaggery, and shaping into small balls.

APPLES

WHEN TO HAVE IT: As a mid-meal snack. Apples are rich in quercetin, which enhances insulin secretion and helps reduce insulin resistance. **FOR TRYING:** For a quick snack, chop an apple, add 30g pecans and 1 tsp pumpkin seeds, and sprinkle with cheese.

— The author is a Nutritionist and has used resources from American Pecan



ADDRESSING POLLUTION-RELATED ILLNESSES

By Dr P.N. ARORA

The rising air pollution is taking a toll on people's health, influencing everything from respiratory function to cardiovascular well-being. In urban areas like Delhi-NCR, where rapid urbanisation and population growth have surged, air pollution has emerged as a crucial public health concern. Following Diwali celebrations, Delhi is facing a significant pollution crisis, with a recent survey indicating that 69% of families in the capital and the National Capital Region (NCR) report health issues stemming from deteriorating air quality. The Air Quality Index (AQI) surged to a staggering 999 on the night of Diwali, marking one of the highest levels recorded in the area. These conditions are particularly pronounced during winters when a combination of vehicular emissions, construction dust, and seasonal crop stubble burning create a toxic haze that blankets the city. This persistent state of poor air quality poses an urgent challenge, demanding immediate attention to mitigate its far-reaching health implications. A recent survey by LocalCircles highlighted the significant health impact of air pollution on residents in Delhi-NCR. The findings revealed that 31% of families reported members suffering from breathing difficulties or asthma, while another 31% experienced frequent headaches. Additionally, 23% of respondents noted symptoms of anxiety or difficulty concentrating, and 15% reported trouble sleeping due to poor air quality. On a somewhat optimistic note, 31% of



families stated that no one in their household had encountered pollution-related health issues, underscoring the varied effects of air pollution across different households. Prolonged exposure to poor air quality has far-reaching consequences for public health, affecting multiple body systems and leading to a surge in pollution-related illnesses. One of the most immediate and visible impacts of poor air quality is on respiratory health. Long-term exposure can lead to reduced lung function and increased respiratory infection risk. Pollution caused due to poor air quality also leads to inflammation and oxidative stress, increasing the risk of heart attacks, hypertension, and other cardiovascular diseases. Besides, certain groups are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution. Children, with their developing lungs and immune systems, are at a heightened risk, as prolonged

exposure can lead to stunted lung growth and a higher likelihood of respiratory diseases later in life. Older adults also face significant risks, with their age-related susceptibility making them more prone to respiratory and cardiovascular issues. Additionally, individuals with pre-existing asthma and heart diseases experience more severe health impacts, often requiring increased medical attention during high-pollution periods. The government has also implemented several initiatives to combat poor air quality with a multifaceted approach. One of the initiatives is the imposition of GRAP, which outlines a series of measures to be enacted based on the severity of the air quality index. This plan includes a range of actions, such as controlling construction activities, enforcing vehicle restrictions, and promoting the use of public transport during periods of high pollution. Therefore, improving air quality requires collective action from both communities and individuals. Community initiatives, such as tree plantation drives, are vital in enhancing air quality. Trees act as natural air filters, absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen. Engaging in proper waste disposal practices, including segregating waste and avoiding open burning of garbage, helps prevent the release of harmful toxins into the air. Thus, collaboration and commitment across all sectors are vital for achieving lasting improvements in air quality and safeguarding public health. — The author is the Managing Director of Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals



Rishabh Pant becomes most expensive IPL buy at ₹27 crore

PTI ■ JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA)

Rishabh Pant became the most expensive player in the history of IPL as Lucknow Super Giants splurged a humongous Rs 27 crore to buy the flamboyant India keeper-batter in the tournament's mega auction here on Sunday.

The amount LSG spent for Pant ensured Shreyas Iyer's record of being the tournament's costliest player lasted barely a few minutes after Punjab Kings broke the bank to buy the India batter for Rs 26.75 crore.

Moments before Pant emerged as the most expensive player, Iyer surpassed the record held by Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs 24.75 crore in the last auction. Pant went to LSG after his former franchise Delhi Capitals did not use the Right to Match card to buy him back. Starc got a much lower price this time and was sold to Delhi Capitals for Rs 11.75 crore,



while England's Jos Buttler went to Gujarat Titans for Rs 15.75 crore.

Among others, left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh's consistency earned him a massive bid of Rs 18 crore, also from Punjab Kings via the Right to Match card, while South African speedster Kagiso Rabada was bought for Rs 10.75 crore by Gujarat Titans.

Iyer, the former Kolkata Knight Riders captain, started with a base price of Rs two crore. Delhi Capitals had the bid at Rs 26 crore for him but PBKS raised the amount to get the player. Chennai Super Kings started with the first bid for Arshdeep, whose base price was also Rs two crore.

Eventually, after an intense bidding war, the seamer was bought back by Punjab, who exercised the right to match option to complete the deal, having released him earlier. This is the second time an IPL auction is being held outside the country after last year's event in Dubai.



I played with fearless mindset, took brave decisions: Yashasvi

PTI ■ PERTH

Yashasvi Jaiswal termed his "fearless mindset" and ability to take "brave decisions" as the catalysts behind his exceptional hundred against Australia in the ongoing first Test, here on Sunday.

Jaiswal made a 161 in only his second innings on Australian soil and added 201 runs for the opening wicket with KL Rahul (77) to lay the foundation of India's imposing 533-run target.

"It was a very special moment for me. I always wanted to tour Australia and do well and this knock is very important for me," Jaiswal said in the post-day press meet.

"I always wanted to play with a fearless mindset. I always believe in myself and take brave decisions. So, it was an amazing experience to play against such quality bowlers in their country, and it's special to score a hundred against the world's best," he added.

Jaiswal, who was dismissed for an eight-ball duck in the first innings, said the focus was on negating the new ball spell by Australian quicks.

"The wicket was seaming a bit more in the first innings. In the second innings we were discussing how to play the new ball better — which balls to leave and which to play. So, it was important for the team that I play the new ball better," Jaiswal said he had set small targets for himself in the second essay.

"I never thought I would get this big a hundred, as my goals were small, taking it session by session. Then I had a good partnership with (KL) Rahul bhai. He was guiding me during the partnership, so that was helpful."

So, what was the conversation between him and Rahul during the alliance?

"We have been playing together for a while, we all know each other well and talk between ourselves in the dressing room.

"Whenever I felt nervous in the middle, Rahul bhai was telling me to remain focused and calm. It was helpful because you are going to get some good balls in these kinds of pitches," he said.

The left-hander said the team was prepared to tackle the bounce at Perth.

"We knew that the ball would bounce here. We were prepared for the bounce. We had a nice camp here ahead of this Test. We were practicing in similar conditions with the same kind of mindset as how we can score runs in these conditions. It's all about practicing hard and learning what shots to play here," he explained.

Jaiswal brought up his fourth Test hundred with a remarkable ramped six off pacer Josh Hazlewood. The 22-year-old said he was mentally prepared for it.

"To be honest, I knew he was going to bowl a bouncer because the field was set like that and I was ready for the bounce, and I was ready to play that shot. Happy that I pulled it off and carried on for some more time," he said.

'Virat paaji is incredible'

Virat Kohli brought up his 30th Test hundred a while after Jaiswal reached the landmark, and the youngster said it was a privilege to watch and play alongside the star batter.

"I have seen Virat paaji making runs at Perth (in 2018) on TV. Now, I have seen it live too. He has been doing it for a long, long time. So, he is just incredible.

"We were so happy for him that he could finish it. We were all waiting for his 100. He played amazingly," he said.

Justin Greaves scores first century as West Indies lead Bangladesh by 410 runs



AP ■ NORTH SOUND

Justin Greaves scored a patient maiden century in only his third test before West Indies declared at 450-9 on the second day of the first test against Bangladesh.

Greaves, who finished 115 not out, had a previous highest score in tests of 33 and only one century in 43 first-class matches before compiling a composed hundred from 181 balls, batting at No. 6.

He completed the first century of West Indies' innings after Mikyle Louis was out for 97 and Alick Athanaze for 90 on the first day.

Bangladesh was 40-2 at stumps, trailing by 410 runs when bad light stopped play with seven overs left in the day. Shahadat Hossain was 10 not out and Mominul Haque on 7.

The tourists lost Mahmudul Hasan Joy (5) and Zakir Hasan (15) in 20 overs before the close.

brought up his century. Otherwise, he took 52 runs from singles, 38 from twos and nine from threes in an excellent example of running between wickets.

His batting form had been hinted at by the fact he scored four centuries in domestic one-day matches in West Indies.

"It was a fantastic effort," Roach said. "He's one who wants to learn ... I've had big hopes for him from the time he started."

Roach also restrained his attacking instinct, hitting two boundaries and scoring at a strike rate of 32.6 as he played a vital support role to Greaves. When Roach came to the crease, Greaves was only 18 after resuming Saturday at 11 not out.

The pair came together in the 87th over after Alzarri Joseph (4) was brilliantly caught in the gully by Zakir Hasan from the bowling of Hasan Mahmud. They built their partnership diligently, ticking off milestones.

Greaves reached his half century from 88 balls and by lunch the West Indies had recovered to 336-7, scoring at a steady three runs per over. Brief rain breaks failed to disturb the batters' concentration.

Roach finally was out in the 134th over when the total was 401-8. Mahmud delivered a ball outside off stump which beat Roach's shot as it curled back to hit middle.

Greaves was 98 when Roach was out but kept his concentration and avoided the fate of Louis and Athanaze who both fell just short of maiden centuries. He reached his personal milestone four balls later, raising his bat to acknowledge the applause of the crowd.

Hyderabad FC host Odisha FC

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad FC will play hosts to Odisha FC in the Indian Super League here on Monday as both sides seek to climb up the ladder to strengthen their positions in their respective first matches after the international break.

After a tough campaign last year, Hyderabad FC have shown increasingly encouraging signs by securing two victories and a draw in their seven matches thus far. Their seven points place them at the 11th spot and with the sixth-placed Punjab FC merely five points ahead (12), the home team can begin thinking towards bridging the gap with the higher-ranked opponents.

Odisha FC, positioned ninth in the table, have nine points from eight games. Head coach Sergio Lobera has been amongst the most competitive tacticians in the competition regardless of the team that he has been at the helm of, and the Spaniard would hence want better



results with consistent performances from the juggernauts.

This away fixture gives them the opportunity to begin maximising points in the matches coming their way.

Hyderabad FC believe in making early inroads into the opposition's defence, ensuring that they set the tone for the flow of the proceedings.

This has resulted in them netting 43 per cent of their goals in the opening 15 minutes of the matches in ISL 2024-25, with three out of their seven strikes so far coming in this phase of the game.

Will they push Odisha FC back with an early breakthrough here too? Interestingly though, Hyderabad FC play their best away from home. That explains their concerning home form, since they have not registered a victory in the previous 15 matches in their backyard.

In fact, their last win at the stadium came back in February 2023 against Mohun Bagan Super Giant by a 1-0 margin.

Having worked on their impediments this year, can they brush aside this concern to go on an upward surge? Odisha FC have recorded eight sequences of 10+ open play passes per game in ISL 2024-25.

This is the highest such average by any team and it clearly suggests that Hyderabad will have to strategise through which they can secure points despite not having possession for a large chunk of the game, since Odisha FC prefer keeping the ball.

Verstappen captures 4th F1 championship

AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Max Verstappen cruised to a fourth consecutive Formula 1 championship by finishing fifth in the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren to give Red Bull a fourth straight driver championship. The Dutchman started fifth but was already up to second by the 10th lap around the street circuit that includes the famed Las Vegas Strip on Saturday night.

Norris, who had to score at least three points more than Verstappen to extend the championship fight, finished sixth. Verstappen needed only to finish higher than Norris to win the title, which he did with two races remaining on the season.

"Max Verstappen you are a four-time world champion," team principal Christian Horner said on the radio. "That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement. You can be incredibly proud of yourself as we are."

Verstappen, only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles, sounded unusually emotional on the radio.

"Oh My God, what a season. Four times. Thank you, thank you guys," he said. "We gave it all."

The race was won, meanwhile, by George Russell who was followed by Lewis Hamilton in the first 1-2 sweep for the Mercedes drivers since 2022. Hamilton came from 10th on the grid — two weeks after a demoralizing race in Brazil — to capture his podium finish.



The duo crossed the finish line under a checkered flag waved by actor Sylvester Stallone.

Carlos Sainz Jr. Finished third for Ferrari as the constructor championship remains a tight battle between leader McLaren and Ferrari. Charles Leclerc, his teammate, was

fourth. Red Bull had won the title that pays roughly \$150 million in prize money the last two seasons but has slipped to third in the standings.

But that championship battle appears headed to next month's season finale in Abu Dhabi.

Verstappen, meanwhile, made easy work of Norris after a season where the McLaren driver pushed him harder than he'd been challenged since Verstappen's 2021 first title. He was cruising in third with about 20 laps remaining and not overly pushing when Red Bull urged Verstappen to be patient over the team radio.

"Max, just don't lose sight of our aim today, yeah?" he was told.

Verstappen wasn't interested in receiving any instructions.

Virat Kohli doesn't have anything to prove, his contribution is unparalleled: Kapil Dev

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Legendary Kapil Dev said Virat Kohli doesn't have anything to prove and his contribution is "unparalleled" after the Indian batting star made his 30th Test hundred against Australia in the ongoing first Test at Perth on Sunday.

Kohli (100 not out) joined young gun Yashasvi Jaiswal (161) in rewriting record books as they put Australia to swords on the third day of the Test with their respective tons powering India to a huge 533-run lead.

Kohli also surpassed batting legend Sachin Tendulkar (6) for hitting most centuries by an Indian batter with his seventh ton Down Under.

"People who have to criticise will

criticise. If a big player takes a lot of time to bounce back, (the) media's job is (to do) that," Kapil told PTI at the Vishwa Samudra Golden Eagle Golf Championship.

"One has to see his ability and talent. He's a big, big player. He doesn't have to prove anybody, prove me or prove (it to the) media."

"What he's done for cricket is amazing. We should all say, well done (to him). (Even) if he doesn't get too many runs, it's (also) okay. But what he's given to cricket is unparalleled," Kapil added.

Kapil said he was happy to see the mix of young and senior Indian batters making their mark.

"I don't like to compare. I just want to see our youngsters coming out and playing well. The new records are (always) going to be made.



(But) it's important (for) the youngsters to come out and take the responsibility, represent the country and perform better," he said.

"Don't compare any player with anybody. It's unfair, (they play in) different conditions, different eras.

Today's youth are far more intelligent. They are much more ruthless and they have much more confidence," he said, referring to Jaiswal.

The 1983 World Cup-winning captain said India's fight from the front in the Perth Test and said the visitors have so far performed beyond expectations.

Bumrah, the stand-in captain for the Perth Test, led the team's charge towards a vital 46-run lead

in the first innings returning 5 for 30, as Australia were bowled out for a mere 104.

Bumrah's 11th five-for in Test cricket was also his seventh in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia), which put him at par with Kapil for most five-wicket hauls in these nations.

"Special congratulations must be given to Bumrah because it is very rare that bowlers are chosen as captains and it feels very good to see him lead the way he has done," Kapil told the media.

Kapil lauded Bumrah for bringing fast bowling back into the discussions in the country.

"I need not say anything — his records show (how good he is). He is the top bowler in the world, what else do we need?" he said.

"I hadn't thought before that a fast bowler would be discussed so much in India but that is happening today and I feel happy and proud about that," he added.

Kapil said India's performance was contrary to the exceptions given the team was recently trounced 0-3 by New Zealand at home.

"The team is playing really well. They should win the first Test, positive thinking should always be there," he said.

"It wasn't expected that the team would play so well after the New Zealand series. You feel angry when they play badly but also (rediscover the) love when they do well," he said.

"It (the praise) is for all, it is a team game. One player has done the job today for the team and tomorrow there would be someone else."