

RESULT DAY: WINNER TAKES IT ALL Centre opposes ex-SC judges panel

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI/MUMBAI/RANCHI

ne-and-a-half months after an interesting day of counting of votes for the Haryana Assembly elections which ultimately retained the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government for a third straight term with initial trends showing a massive lead by Congress, another season of a bitterly contexted a bitterly contested election, in Maharashtra, and Jharkhand, as well as bypolls in Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, and Assembly segments in Uttar Pradesh, will conclude on Saturday afternoon with the declaration of results.

While Wayanad is set to pave the way for Congress candidate Priyanka Gandhi to Lok Sabha who shall join her brother Rahul and mother Sonia in the Parliament, stakes are high for BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and Congress-led INDIA bloc in both states, as well as a battle of prestige in the by-polls of Punjab, Kerala, Uttarakhand, and a crucial one in Uttar Pradesh, post the BJP's dismal performance in this year's General Elections.

The results of Uttar Pradesh by-polls will be a huge contributing factor in setting a narrative for the next Assembly polls in the state, due in 2027. By-elections to 48 Assemblies constituencies constituencies spread across 15 states were also held simultaneously. The Elections for the 81-seat Jharkhand Assembly took place on November 13 and 20, while Maharashtra, which has 288



Security personnel stand guard outside a strong room ahead of the counting of votes for the Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Nagpur, Maharashtra

in a single phase on trends suggest the Congress November 20. will get the maximum

But in Maharashtra fissures have emerged within the ruling BJP Shiv Sena combine Mahayuti and the Opposition Sena ministerial face will be Vikas decided by all alliance Shiv Congress, Maha Vikas (Udhhav) Aghadi (MVA) as who will head the next government with several contenders for and two Parliamentary the chief minister's post currently held by Shiv Sena's breakaway faction Eknath Shinde who toppled Congress and NCP backed Uddhav Thackeray regime. president

According to media reports from Mumbai, Maharashtra Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi

Assembly seats, went to polls Congress remarks that voting and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should announce the same. On the MahaYuti side, Shiv number of seats has not gone down well with alliance Shiv Sena MLA and party spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said the Assembly elections were contested with Chief Sena (UBT), whose tall leader Sanjay Raut insisted the chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the face. "Voters have shown partners jointly once the MVA secures majority. The Rajya Sabha MP said if the their preference for Shinde through voting. I think it is Shinde's right (to be the next Congress high command has CM) and we are confident told State Congress chief that he will be the next CM," Nana Patole that he will be Shirsat said. However, BJP the Chief Ministerial face leader Pravin Darekar batted for Deputy Chief Minister then the national party's Mallikarjun Devendra Fadnavis for the top post. "I think if anyone from the

BJP is becoming the CM then it will be Devendra Fadnavis, he said. On the other hand another partner NCP advocated for their party chief and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar for the coveted job.

Down South, elaborate arrangements have been made for the counting of votes in the three bypolls in the state, Wayanad Lok Sabha and the Palakkad and Chelakkara Assembly seats. Wayanad seat attracted national attention due to the electoral debut of Privanka Gandhi, who is contesting against Communist Party of India (CPI) veteran Sathyan Mokeri and BJP's Navya Haridas. The UP by-elections are seen

as a litmus test for the BIP's organisational discipline and electoral strategy. While the party hopes for favourable results, senior leaders are bracing for potential fallout if outcomes fall short of expectations.

For by-polls to Punjab's four Assembly seats, Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal (SC) and Barnala, the ruling RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress and BJP are looking to register victories in these seats. Congress on Friday also

appointed observers for Maharashtra and Jharkhand to oversee the post-election scenarios. Senior party leaders Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel and G Parameshwara will be AICC observers to Maharashtra, while Tariq Anwar, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Krishna Allavuru have been named observers for Jharkhand.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday I opposed in the Supreme Court a proposal to form a committee of former SC judges to oversee the implementation of measures to curb stubble burning, a key contributor to Delhi-NCR's air pollution. The suggestion was put forth before a Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, hearing a case related to the rising pollution in Delhi-NCR, by senior advocate and amicus curiae Aparajita Singh. Meanwhile, the Bench said it would consider on November 25 whether or not to ease the anti-pollution GRAP-IV restrictions in Delhi-NCR keeping in view the drop in air quality index levels. The amicus said the judges had previously dealt with air pollution and stubble burning issues. A Bench headed by former Supreme Court's Justice Madan B Lokur had

Temperature falls, AQI rises

445. By the evening fog engulfed the National Residents of the National Capital Region (NCR) woke up to a cold morning with a minimum temperature Capital, reducing visibility which led to disruption of road, rail and flight operations. of 11.3 degrees Celsius on This November, Delhi has Friday. The air quality also already seen seven "severe" plunged to a 'severe category' reaching an AQI of 401 by the evening, as a clear sky and bright sun failed to neutralise pollution days. Last year's winter experienced four similar episodes. An AQI of 400 or higher is classified as "severe" and poses significant health risks. The PM2.5 the cocktail of slow winds, dipping temperatures. Out of 38 monitoring stations in the city, 19 have already reported concentration is currently 68.1 times the World Health AQI levels in the "Severe" Organization annual PM2.5 category. Jahangirpuri recorded the highest AQI at guideline value.

File photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pionee

heard pleas related to pollution and the role of stubble burning as а contributing factor in the past. In 2020, a bench headed by the then CJI Justice S A Bobde set up a panel headed by Justice Lokur to deal with the issues relating to stubble burning. The order was later recalled. On Friday, the amicus curiae proposed that a committee of these judges could monitor and hear all stakeholders, including farmers and government authorities, for a

comprehensive approach to address the crisis. committee of experienced judges familiar with these issues could efficiently oversee the situation and hear individual grievances," said Singh.

The proposal, however, was met with strong resistance from Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre. Bhati asserted the Centre and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) were taking adequate measures and that adding another oversight would laver

counterproductive.

"We strongly oppose this suggestion. There is no need for an additional judicial committee as your lordships are already monitoring the situation. We are answering all concerns, correcting shortcomings, and making progress," said ASG Bhati while opposing the creation of "any more tier". The amicus clarified her suggestion was for a fact finding committee hut a fact-finding committee, but Bhati countered the statement, saying the government was already working with the available data and frameworks to address the issue effectively. Continued on page 8

Continued on page 8

Ten Naxalites killed in Sukma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SUKMA

 $T_{in}^{en Naxalites were killed}$ security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Friday, a senior police official said. Chief

Déjà vu for AAP, LG Saxena now praises CM Atishi RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI cutenan





Canada dismisses report linking PM, Doval to criminal activities

PTI OTTAWA

The Canadian government has dismissed a media report linking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to criminal activities in Canada, including the alleged plot to kill Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, terming it as "speculative and inaccurate". The denial made by Nathalie G Drouin, National Security and Intelligence Advisor to Canadian Prime Minister on Thursday came a

Canadian Prime Minister, on Thursday came a Canadian Prime Minister, on Thursday came a day after India strongly trashed the report as "smear campaign". Quoting an unnamed senior national security official, 'The Globe and Mail' newspaper on Tuesday reported that Canadian security agencies believe Prime Minister Modi knew about the killing of Nijjar and other violent plots. The official said Canadian and American intelligence tied the assassination operations to Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah. Also in the loop, the official said, was Doval and Jaishankar. official said, was Doval and Jaishankar.

Minister Atishi on Friday, and said she is "a thousand times said she is "a thousand times better" than her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal. The praise of Atishi comes amidst a backdrop of political friction between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the LG over a range of issues, including governance, air pollution, and control of bureaucracy ever since he attained the office at Raj Niwas.

Tn a rare gesture, Lieutenant

Governor Vinai Kumar

These remarks have set the political circles abuzz about the CM's future since her former cabinet colleague Kailash Gehlot, once close to AAP supremo, was also reportedly favoured by the L-G who just quit the party and joined BJP.

LG Saxena made the remarks during the convocation ceremony of the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical and Jaishankar. University for Women in the national Capital. "I am happy



Delhi Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chief Minister Atishi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi Yogesh Singh (L) and others during the 7th Convocation of the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), in New Delhi PTI

today that Delhi's CM is a woman, and I can confidently say that she is a thousand times better than her predecessor," the L-G said, glancing at Atishi who was during present the convocation ceremony and also addressed the students.

In his speech, Saxena told the students, "As you move ahead, you have four guiding stars. First is your responsibility

towards yourself, the second is your responsibility towards is your responsibility towards your parents and family while the third responsibility is towards the society and nation building." "The fourth responsibility is to prove yourself as women who have broken the glass calling of gender and stand on

ceiling of gender and stand on par with others in all fields," he said.

Continued on page 8 | in Kolkata

Artists take selfies during 'Jangal Mahal Utsav', a festival to promote tribal arts and culture,

hailed security forces and said the era of peace and progress has returned to the Bastar region, which includes Sukma. The gunfight broke out in the morning in a forest within the jurisdiction of the Bhejji police station when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P.

PTI

Range) Sundarraj P. The operation was launched based on inputs about the presence of Maoists belonging to Konta and Kistaram area committees of Naxalites on forested hills of Korajguda, Dantespuram, Nagaram and Bhandarpadar villages, he said. Bodies of 10 Naxalites have

been recovered from the spot so far, he said. Besides, a cache of weapons, including an INSAS rifle, an AK-47 rifle and a Self Loading Rifle (SLR), were also seized, he said.

The search operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is still underway in the area, he added.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai praised security forces and asserted that his government's priority is to establish peace, facilitate development and ensure the safety of citizens in the

Bastar region. "Security forces gunned down 10 Naxalites in a major operation in Sukma district this morning. The state government has been working on the policy of zero tolerance towards Naxalism. Ensuring development, peace and safety of citizens in Bastar is the top priority of the state government. The era of peace, development and progress has returned to Bastar," Sai said in a statement.

BGT: Team India fights back, after a flop show

PTI 📕 PERTH

Skipper Jasprit Bumrah made amends for his debatable toss call to bat first with a mesmerising opening spell that left Australia scurrying for cover at 67 for 7 and helped India make an emphatic comeback after a flop show with the willow on the opening day of the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024.

The match, which was billed as a battle between two out of form batting units, lived up to the prediction at least on the first day. As many as 17 wickets fell, which is the first time in seven decades for a Test match on Australian soil. The stand-in India skipper, much to everyone's surprise, opted to bat on a track with a liberal grass cover which generated appreciable seam movement and midriff high bounce.

But neither the youngsters nor the seasoned ones in the Debutant Nathan McSweeney

Indian line-up were up to the task. It was debutant Nitish Reddy's gutsy 41 and Rishabh Pant's 37, including an unbelievable sixer, that got India to 150 in 49.4 overs with Josh Hazlewood (4/29), Mitchell Starc (2/14 in 11 overs), Pat Cummins (2/67 in 15.4 overs) and Mitchell Marsh (2/12 in 5 overs)

sharing the spoils. In the driver's seat when they came out to reply, Australia had no answer to Bumrah's (4/17 in 10 overs) quality that was on display. Defending a low first innings total cannot be a one-man show and Mohammed Siraj (2/17 in 9 overs) and debutant Harshit Rana (1/33 in 8 overs) stepped up to support their skipper.

The lengths they hit were immaculate, around five metres from the stumps and on the off-stump channel. The live grass did the rest whenever the ball landed on

the seam.



balls), didn't make any mistake on this one.

(10) got a nip-backer and DRS ruled him leg before. Usman Khawaja (8) just froze in his crease once Bumrah decided But it was out of form Steven Smith (0), who got a very difficult first delivery that to square him up by coming round the wicket. Virat Kohli, zoomed in and dipped who had earlier dropped Marnus Labuschagne (2 off 52 catching him plumb in front. Once Bumrah set the tone,

debutant Harshit, with a bustling action, got one that pitched on middle stump, drawing Travis Head (11) forward before it deviated to dislodge the off-bail. Australia were reeling at 31 for 4. two players who were intent Labuschagne took 24 balls to on a pushback. Among the

get off the mark and also found himself at the receiving end of some heated words top-half, KL Rahul (26 off 74 from an agitated Siraj.

The Indian then pitched one up to Mitchell Marsh and the up to Mitchell Marsh and the resultant edge was brilliantly snapped by KL Rahul before ending Labuschagne's 52-ball agony with an in-cutter. Bumrah then came for his final spell of the day to remove the rival skipper as India took control of the proceedings proceedings.

But this resurrection was preceded by a horror show with the bat. Reddy's grit and Pant's brief daredevilry were the only saving grace against a disciplined Australia. Pant and Reddy had added 48 when rival skipper Cummins, who had dropped a skier, got a fuller delivery to straighten as the southpaw closed his bat face and the thickish leading edge flew to the second slip. Pant and Reddy were the only

balls) was ready to grind it out balls) was ready to grind it out before getting a contentious caught behind decision. Young guns like Yashasvi Jaiswal (0) and Devdutt Padikkal (0) looked completely out of place during a brilliant opening spell bowled in tandem by Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Virat Kohli (5) was done in by Virat Kohli (5) was done in by a short ball from Hazlewood. The star Indian batter couldn't remove his bat from

couldn't remove his bat from the line of the ball and the resultant edge became a regulation slip catch. Rahul followed the basics during this course, playing the one coming into his body while leaving all other deliveries from length.

He got out when Starc, back for his second spell, got one to move a shade and the snicko showed deflection although the batter suggested that his bat hit the pad at the same time when the ball went past the edge.

PHOTO: PTI



city 02

Goods worth lakhs gutted

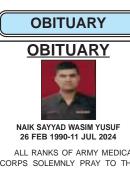
Lucknow (PNS): A fire broke out in the warehouse of a company located in the Gangotri Bihar area in Khargapur, Gomti Nagar, on Friday morning. Upon receiving the informa-tion Comti Nagar fire safety.

tion, Gomti Nagar fire safety officer Sushil Kumar reached the spot with two fire tenders. However, as the intensity of the fire increased, three more fire tenders were called and the blaze was brought under control after about three hours. Goods, including biscuits, chips, etc, worth lakhs of rupees were damaged. The godown consists of a ground floor, basement, and first floor. The fire initially started on the ground floor, but the firefighters extinguished the flames completely after checking the first floor and basement as well. Warehouse owner Deepanshu Agarwal said that there was no loss of life in the incident. The rescue team was led by Gomti Nagar FSO Sushil Kumar.



Auction Notice

दिनांक 25-11-2024 मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे सेन्ट्रल जी.एस.टी. एण्ड सेन्टल एक्साइज आडिट, आडिट कमिश्नरेट, अप्रत्यक्ष कर भवन, 5वाँ— 6वाँ तल, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य कम्प्यूटर / सहवर्ती उपकरणों, अन्य सामग्रियों की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 5,000 ∕ − नकद, ई−वेस्ट डिस्मेन्टलर / रिसाइकलर सर्टिफिकेट तथा जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण के साथ जमा होगी। आई. पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स.



ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA ORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRAN STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NK SAYYAD WASIM YUSUF WHILE SERVING WITH CH (SC) PUNE. FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SINGH AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Govt to host grand roadshows in India, abroad for Maha Kumbh

ities

PNS LUCKNOW

The cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved several key proposals on Friday. Among them is the plan to organise grand roadshows in major cities across India and abroad to promote Maha Kumbh 2025.

Additionally, the government sanctioned the purchase of 220 vehicles for the event. The preparations for Maha Kumbh, set to take place in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025, are underway on a mission-mode to ensure it becomes a grand celebration of Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing the media at Lok Bhavan on Friday, Cabinet Minister AK Sharma Minister AK Sharma announced that the grand Maha Kumbh will be held in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025.

Highlighting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to promote Sanatan culture both domestically and internationally, Sharma revealed plans to conduct roadshows in major

cities across India and abroad. These events, to be led by ministers, will be held to generate global awareness and participation.

Within India, roadshows will take place in cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Jaipur, Hyderabad Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Dehradun, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Patna. Internationally, roadshows are planned for Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Mauritius and other countries. The Urban Development department will cover the costs, estimated at Rs 20-25 lakh per city. Industry bodies like FICCI

and CII will also partner in the initiative. Additionally, Sharma announced the cabinet's approval for purchasing 220 vehicles to support the Maha Kumbh preparations, with an allocated budget of Rs 27.48 crore. This includes 40 Mahindra Bolero Neo vehicles,

160 Bolero B6BSVI models, and 20 buses.

Extra neutral alcohol brought under purview of VAT

PNS LUCKNOW

nother major decision in Athe cabint meeting was taken regarding extra neutral alcohol. It has been brought under the purview of VAT by taking it out of GST. This will reduce the cost of making liquor and customers will be able to get cheap liquor. With this, the 50 per cent profit due to GST till now will turn into 100 per cent. Extra neutral alcohol (ENA) is the purest form of alcohol which has no taste or smell. It is made from sugarcane jaggery, maize, rye, wheat, barley and rice. Apart from liquor, it is also used in making beauty

and personal products. Apart from this, Urban Development Minister AK Sharma and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna informed that the Energy department is the Energy department is producing a lot of solar ener-gy in Bundelkhand. A project of more than 4000 MW is going on in Bundelkhand. With the help of the urban project and UPNEDA, an

800 MW solar power plant is being built in Chitrakoot. Sub-station and transmission line will be built at a cost of Rs 620 crore.

It is being built under the Green Energy Corridor. It will be built by taking a loan of 33 per cent from the Centre, 20 per cent from the state government and 47 per cent from the German institution KFW Finance Minister Suresh

Khanna disclosed that the council of ministers has decided to add 80 villages to

the limits of Kanpur Development Authority. This proposal has been approved keeping in mind the development of Kanpur city. This decision has been taken under the Chief Minister

circuits due to such devices.

Commissioner of Income Tax

Abha Kala Chanda, and the

guest of honour was General Manager of Reserve Bank of

India, Lucknow, Shraddha

Thakur, along with other dig-

nitaries. The cultural extrava-

ganza began with the ceremo-

Urban Expansion Scheme. Apart from this, Rs 3,000

areas of the state. In this, 50 per cent money is being given to nine development author-Housing and Development Council for land purchase. Under this, a proposal to give Rs 4,164.16 crore as seed capital to Saharanpur, Mathuratrict. Firozabad, Vrindavan, Lucknow, Shikohabad, Moradabad, Khurja, Banda and Meerut development authorities in 14 schemes has

been approved. The finance minister stated that the government provides loans from financial institutions to departments like infrastructure, cooperation and rural development. According to the guidelines of the Central Finance Commission, and Comptroller and Auditor General, it has been decided to create a Guarantee Redemption Fund in Uttar Pradesh, so that if any department defaults, it can be paid from the fund. There is a provision of this fund in 19 states of the country.

The Uttar Pradesh government has taken a guarantee of Rs 1,63,399.82 crore for this fund. A decision will be taken to keep Rs 8,170 crore in this fund. Along with this, a provision of Rs 1,634 crore will be made for this fund in the budget every year. The min-ister said that no department of Uttar Pradesh was in default right now.

Higher Education Minister Upendra Upadhyay informed that two proposals of higher education were also cleared on Friday.

He claimed that earlier, there was no government university in six divisions of Uttar Pradesh. Now there is a university in every division. Currently, there are 171 colleges in ÚP. Also, 71 colleges

crore has been proposed for the expansion of other urban construction. Out of these, 17 were operating as constituent colleges, which were affiliat-ed to the university. Now a proposal has been passed to operate these 71 colleges as government schools. In the next five years, a university will be opened in every dis-

professors, 639 Class-3 and 710 Class-4 posts will also be created. Vivek College in Bijnor has been recognised as

one more university. Today, three universities of Uttar top-100.

expanded by 17.435 kilome-tres in Noida. The Central government will give Rs 394 crore and the state government will give the same amount. This project is worth

According to reports, 24 pro-posals were placed in the cabinet meeting held on Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi out of which, 23 were

Meanwhile, the revised proposal of Nazul land was also placed in the cabinet meeting but it has been stopped for the time being. Even before this, the Yogi cabinet had passed the proposal of Nazul land once and sent it to the legislature. The proposal was passed in the Vidhan Sabha but it was sent to the Select Committee from the Vidhan Parishad. After some amendments, it was again brought to the cabinet but could not be passed. The proposal in the Vidhan Parishad was opposed by Bharatiya Janata Party's state president Bhupendra Chaudhary himself.

sticks.

Apart from this, 71 posts of principal, 1,136 of assistant

a private university. This means the state has got Pradesh have come in the

The Aqua Line Metro will be

Rs 2,960 crore.

approved.

TOURISM DEPT INITIATIVE 10 selfie points set up at

Shopkeeper beaten to death

PNS LUCKNOW

Ayoung shopkeeper was allegedly beaten to death in the Bakshi Ka Talab police station area on Friday. The body was found on the roadside outside the village. The incident took place in Deori village of BKT.

The deceased was identified as Arjun Lodhi (28). He ran a grocery shop near the village and lived with his wife and daughter. He was returning home after closing the shop when he was attacked with

Police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Officers said that the matter

was being investigated. The family of the deceased demanded the immediate arrest of the accused. Police suspect that more than one person might have been involved in the murder of the deceased.

As per reports, his jaw was also

KLF inaugurated

added.

Author and poet Nilotpal

Mrinal captivated the audi

Ajay Jain, joined by Sumati

by musical renditions that

The afternoon continued with

a session featuring Ila Arun,

from her autobiography 'Parde

The conversation revealed

ke Peechev'.

PNS LUCKNOW

The third edition of Koshala Literature Festival kicked ence with his storytelling and poetry off with enthusiasm, bringing together a vibrant blend of lit-Misra, offered an intimate exploration of Sahir erature, culture, and storytelling. Hosted in the heart of Ludhianvi's poetry, enriched the city, the festival celebrates the region's rich heritage while celebrated themes of love, connecting contemporary audiences with the transforsocial justice, and human emotion. mative power of words and ideas. who, alongside co-author Anjula Bedi, shared insights

Day one witnessed a lineup of sessions that grew in atten-

dance and energy. The day started with historian and author Ira Mukhoty exploring the rise and fall of Awadh during the 18th centu-

In conversation with Eric Chopra, Mukhoty delved into the power struggles of the Mughal Empire, the British and French East India Companies, and the region's influential nawabs and begums, offering an insightful Vinayak Savarkar. Sanyal shared thrilling narranarrative of Awadh's transformation and cultural legacy. tives of armed resistance and espionage that shaped India's Raghavan followed with a captivating discussion on the independence struggle, as lesser-known freedom fighters documented in his latest work featured in his book 'Circles of Freedom'.

In conversation with Javant Kavi Sammelan', directed by Gopal Sinha, paying homage Krishna, Raghavan illuminated the lives of figures such as to legendary poets such as Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Asaf Ali and Sarojini Naidu, offering fresh perspectives on Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, their contributions to India's Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and Gopal Das Neerai. independence.

YOUTH SHOT AT OVER MINING DISPUTE broken in the incident. Additionally, deep injury marks were found on the body. A youth was shot at following a mining dispute in the Bakshi Ka Talab police station area late on Thursday night. His bicycle was found parked at the scene.

The police and forensic team Identified as Kuldeep Singh (27), a resident of Digoi police have collected evidence from the spot. Reports suggets that the incident happened after a station in BKT, the victim was minor quarrel. admitted to hospital.

Around 8 pm on Thursday, Arjun Lodhi was returning The incident took place in the Kathwara outpost area, where incidents of illegal mining are reported regularly. home with goods from the shop. On the way, he had an argument with some people from the village, after which he Upon receiving information was attacked with sticks. about the incident, the vic-

The police are looking for the tim's acquaintances also reason behind the murder and reached the hospital. The reaefforts are underway to track son for the attack is said to be down the perpetrators. ACP, BKT, Rishabh Jaiswal related to extortion in soil mining. The dispute escalatsaid that on receiving informa-

ed so much that one party opened fire, in which Kuldeep tion about the incident, a police team and the forensic was injured. According to doctors, his team inspected the crime scene. "CCTV footage is being condition remains critical. BKT police are investigating scanned, and the criminals will be arrested soon," he

the matter. The accused have yet to be arrested.

Anti-encroachment drive continues

Lucknow (PNS): The antiencroachment squad of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) continued its demolition drive on Friday, the second day of operations in Transport Nagar.

On Friday, the squad partially demolished two structures and sealed off three more unauthorised buildings.

LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar explained that the action was part of efforts to curb illegal construction and ensure compliance with the land-use policy. He emphasised that the LDA would take necessary measures, including sealing or demolishing illegal structures, in

Arun's journey from Rajasthani folk music to the interest of public safety. On Thursday, the squad had sealed off five illegal buildings. Bollywood stardom, providing a rare glimpse into her life behind the scenes. The LDA had previously issued Historian Sanjeev Sanyal warnings to business owners in the area, advising them to offered an account of India's revolutionary freedom fightremove any unauthorised exteners, including Bhagat Singh sions or modifications that did Subhas Chandra Bose, and not align with the approved lay-

out plans.

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, राँची Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi E-TENDER (Retender-I) NOTICE

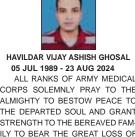
IIM Ranchi invites e-tender from eligible bidders for 'Providing Integrated Education Software Solution for Academic Programme Offices'. Last date for submission of the e-bids is 03:00 pm on 06.12.2024. For More details, please refer to our website : www.iimranchi.ac.in

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key locations **Pravagrai** (PNS). The Uttar Limited has released strict any resulting fire incidents A across citv त्रांकः— 375/सै०सै०(न०नि०हरि०)/2024–25

Govt bans heaters, blowers in Maha Kumbh area





HAV VIJAY ASHISH GHOSAL WHILE SERVING WITH 151 BH. FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SINGH AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

Pradesh government, has introduced stringent measures to ensure the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 is safe and free from fire incidents. A series of restrictions and guidelines have been put in place to prioritise the safety of devotees and institutions participating in the grand event. Learning from past incidents, the government has completely banned the use of unauthorised electrical equipment such as heaters, blowers and immersion rods in the tents of Kalpvasis. These measures aim to mitigate fire risks and create a secure environment for all attendees.

The UP Power Corporation

Such organisations may also face future bans.

guidelines regarding electricity use during the Maha Kumbh 2025 to prevent fire incidents. Institutions have been instruct Manoj Gupta, Superintending Engineer for Maha Kumbh, ed to ensure their wiring meets safety standards. The use of MCBs and conduit pipes is said that devices like heaters, blowers and immersion rods mandatory, and organisations were completely banned at the must obtain a No Objection event. This decision was taken Certificate (NOC) from the electrical safety department after completing their wiring. to address past incidents, where most fires were caused by short The government's measures aim Executive Engineer Anoop to make Maha Kumbh 2025 a Sinha mentioned that using completely safe and fire-free illegal connections, such as event. By enforcing strict safety standards, the event will hooking wires, was also strictly prohibited. Violators will face ensure that millions of devotees strict action, and institutions can participate in this spiritual tampering with electrical wiring will be held fully responsible for gathering without any concerns.

PNS LUCKNOW

In an effort to engage citizens in the 'Dekho Apna Desh -People's Choice 2024' campaign, 10 selfie points have been established at key locations across Lucknow. At these spots, people can scan the QR code to vote for their favourite tourist destinations in Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, another QR code

allows them to upload selfies, reels, and other content directly to the campaign portal. This voting can also be done conveniently from other locations using QR codes or by visiting

the portal directly. Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh shared details about the campaign, which aims to encourage participation from all sections of society, including common citizens, dignitaries, students, etc.

The initiative will run until November 25, and invites everyone to vote for their preferred tourist spots in the state. Participants can fill in details on the portal, upload photos, reels, and have a chance to win exciting rewards for their contributions. Jaiveer Singh emphasised that

0

nial lighting of the lamp, fol-

lowed by captivating perfor-mances from students and fac-

finale, celebrating unity, talent,

India

the Uttar Pradesh government is conducting this campaign in support of the Ministry of Tourism's 'Dekho Apna Desh -People's Choice 2024'.

'The goal is to gather public opinion on the state's spiritual, cultural, historical, and natural heritage sites, as well as wildlife destinations, in order to develop them into worldclass tourist attractions," he

added. ulty. The pre-primary section presented a jungle rumble, while grades I and II show-In Lucknow, selfie points have been placed at locations such as Charbagh railway station, Chaudhary Charan Singh cased dance journeys. The event also featured Sufiyana International Airport, Hanuman Mandir in Qawwali, a fusion orchestra, and thought-provoking plays in Hindi and English. The Hazratganj, Bada Imambara, Residency, Lucknow Zoo, UP evening concluded with a Darshan Park, Lucknow University, the tourism minister's camp office, and Paryatan and the vibrant culture of Bhawan in Gomti Nagar.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

ई-निविदा सूचना

'Revolutionaries'.

The day culminated in 'Retro

नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा जिलाधिकारी/प्रशासक महोदय, नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा दी गयी स्वीकृति के क्रम में नगर निगम हरिद्वार के सराय स्थित A.B.C. Center के संचालन हेतु फर्म का चयन किये जाने हेतु टू–बिड (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचना www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। जिसका विवरण निम्नानसार है:–

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The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited) amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr	Loan	Type of	Name of borrowers	Section 13 (2)	Outstanding amount as
No.	Account No.	Loan	and co-borrowers	Notice Date	per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	39417534.	HOME LOAN	1.RAJESHWARI MAURYA 2.MATA PRASAD MAURYA	27.09.2024	5,73,887.39/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF A RESIDENTIAL LAND ADMEASURING 600 SQ. FT I.E. 55.762 SQ. MTR., BEING PLOT ON KHASRA NO. 2276, SITUATED AT VILLAGE- PARA, WARD-ALAM NAGAR, TEHSIL & DISTRICT LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-226009, AND, BOUNDED AS: EAST: HOUSE OF MRS. SUKUMARI W/O DWARIKA PRASAD WEST: PLOT OF SELLER, NORTH: HOUSE OF NAFISA, SOUTH: RAASTA 10 FT. WIDE

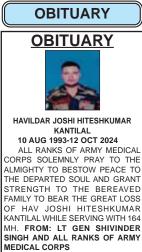
Sr	Loan	Type of	Name of borrowers	Section 13 (2)	Outstanding amount as
No.	Account No.	Loan	and co-borrowers	Notice Date	per Section 13 (2) Notice
2	19611698	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. SANGEETA BALA 2. SHANAL ANAND	16.10.2024	18,50,079.83/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PLOT NO. 21, ADMESURING 1500 SQ. FT. I.E. 139.40 SQ. MTRS., MINJUMLA OF KHASRA NO. 312. SITUATED UNDER THE SCHEME AT SEMRAGAUDI, PARGANA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT: LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-226013, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: PLOT NO.20, WEST: PLOT NO.22 NORTH: PLOT NO.16, SOUTH: RASTA 15 FEET

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. Sd/-

Date : 23.11.2024 Place : LUCKNOW	Authorized Officer IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with
	IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

SEOPY KRISHAN SINGH 10 JUN 1998 - 28 JUN 2024 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRAN STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED AMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEP KRISHAN SINGH WHILE SERVING WITH 402 FD HOSP. FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SING AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



Changing paradigms of military medicine discussed at CME

Training College, Lucknow.

environment.

sised the importance of utilising a full spectrum of technology-

CITYBRIEFS

Lucknow (PNS): A Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on 'Changing Paradigms of Military Medicine: Imperatives & Way Forward' was organised by the Officers Training College (OTC) at the Major Laishram Jyotin Singh, Ashok Chakra Auditorium of the Army Medical Corps Centre & College in Lucknow Cantonment on Friday. The CME began with a Sarasvati vandana, followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony conducted by Vice Admiral Arti Sarin (surgeon), Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), along with Lieutenant General Shivinder Singh, Commandant, Army Medical Corps Centre & College, and Maj Gen Parag A Deshmukh, Commandant & Chief Instructor, Officers Lt Gen Shivinder Singh outlined the evolution of military medicine, highlighting the dynamic ments from the academic year, and rapidly changing battlefield on Friday. The chief guest on the occasion was Chief

celebrating talent and achieve-

Vice Admiral Arti Sarin empha-

driven solutions in combat medical support. She called for equipping Armed Forces Medical Services to be optimally structured and ready for the future.

ANNUAL CONCERT DPS Eldeco hosted its annual concert, 'Encore', an evening



city 03

Govt ensures fair recruitment, has ended nepotism: CM

Yogi distributes appointment letters to 701 forest inspectors

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed appointment letters to 701 newly selected forest inspectors through the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) under the transparent and meritbased Mission Rozgar initiative. Speaking at an event organised by the Forest department at Lok Bhavan here on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised the government's dedica-tion to forest and environmental conservation while highlighting the responsibilities of the newly appointed officers. He congratulated them on their new roles.

Chief Minister Yogi reiterated the government's commitment to fair recruitment, stating that nepotism has been eliminated to ensure a transparent selection process.

He praised the UPSSSC for providing opportunities based solely on merit, noting that since 2017, seven lakh youth have secured government jobs through transparent procedures. This integrity, he empha-sised, ensures that deserving candidates can achieve their dreams without facing discrimination.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remarked that in the past, recruitment announcements in Uttar Pradesh often favoured personal connections, reminiscent of the complex kinship seen in the Mahabharata. He emphasised that his government has eradicated nepotism and favoritism in the recruitment process.

Chief Minister Yogi stated that all officials and departments have been clearly instructed that the 25 crore people of Uttar Pradesh are part of one family and no youth should face dis-crimination. He highlighted that recruitment processes are now conducted with complete transparency.



Addressing the newly appoint-ed candidates, Chief Minister Yogi stressed that the government expects them to uphold the same standards of transparency and fairness in their roles. He reminded them that since the government was formed in 2017, strict measures have been in place to ensure honesty in the appointment process.

Any negligence at any level is held accountable. This approach has allowed the government to provide over seven lakh youth with government jobs in the past seven and a half years, realising Prime Minister Modi's vision of transparent and fair recruitment," he remarked

Chief Minister Yogi further highlighted the state's remarkable progress, noting that Uttar Pradesh has nearly doubled its economy and per capita income during this period. "Over seven lakh youth have secured government jobs, and over two crore have found employment opportunities in the private sector," he asserted. According to the chief minis-

ter, the state has also revitalised traditional industries, creating abundant employment opportunities. He expressed pride in Uttar Pradesh's large, skilled and energetic youth popula-tion, whose talents are being harnessed across various sectors — including government jobs, startups, micro, small and medium enterprises and other industries — driving the

other industries — driving the state's development forward. Chief Minister Yogi highlight-ed that among the newly appointed 701 forest inspectors, 140 are women — a testament to the success of the state's women reservation policy. He women reservation policy. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing equal opportunities for women across all sectors, emphasising that their participation will elevate environmental protec-

tion efforts. He noted that 20 per cent of all

recruitment positions in Uttar Pradesh are reserved for women and a significant number will be selected in the upcoming police recruitment drive as well

Addressing critical environ-

mental challenges such as global warming, climate change and pollution, Chief Minister Yogi underscored their sever-ity. He pointed to the recent closure of schools in various parts of the state, including Lucknow, due to escalating air pollution, highlighting the urgent need for environmental awareness and action.

He called upon the Forest department to take a leading role in addressing these issues, stressing that since humans have created these problems, they must also be part of the solution. He urged department employees to engage communities and raise awareness about environmental concerns.

Focusing on the growing threat of plastic pollution, Chief Minister Yogi advised the Forest department to launch extensive awareness campaigns. He emphasised that plastic poses significant dangers to the environment, wildlife and water resources, and combating this issue requires large-scale community involvement. He encouraged promoting alternatives to plastic and educating

the public about the harmful effects of plastic to foster a more sustainable and ecofriendly future.

Chief Minister Yogi stated that over 200 crore trees have been planted in Uttar Pradesh over the past seven and a half years, with a remarkable survival rate of 75 per cent. He attributed this success to the government's emphasis on community participation, noting that when public movements align with government initiatives, success is inevitable.

He urged the Forest department to continue promoting plantation and wildlife conserplantation and withine conser-vation by collaborating with local communities, emphasis-ing that protecting forests is not solely the government's responsibility but requires active public involvement.

Chief Minister Yogi highlight-ed the vital role of wildlife conservation, stressing that forests and wildlife are essential components of the environment. He underscored the need to maintain ecological balance while exploring economic opportunities through ecoFurthermore, he instructed Forest department personnel to educate local communities on the benefits of eco-tourism and the importance of preserv-ing wildlife. According to the chief minister, even small efforts in environmental conservation can yield significant results when pursued collectively.

tourism.

The chief minister told the newly appointed forest inspec-tors that their responsibilities extend beyond protecting forests and the environment. He said, "You must also focus on conserving wildlife, maintaining biodiversity and engaging with local communities." He described each Forest department employee as an "environmental guardian" and encouraged them to step beyond their offices, reach out to villages and educate communities about the importance of environmental conservation. Chief Minister Yogi highlight-ed the government's commitment to strengthening the Forest department, viewing the appointment of 701 forest inspectors as a significant step toward this goal. He expressed confidence that their dedication and performance would elevate Uttar Pradesh in both environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Congratulating the inspectors and their families, he noted that their work would not only safeguard the state's natural resources but also contribute to economic development.

Inspiring the recruits, Chief Minister Yogi reminded them of their duty to fulfill the expectations of their families and communities. He emphasised that Uttar Pradesh has given them recognition and respect, and it is their collective responsibility to make the state stronger and more prosperous. Many officials and dignitaries of the department including Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Independent Charge) Dr Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State KP Malik, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary (Environment, Forest and Climate Change) Anil Kumar were present in the programme.

Appointees hail Yogi

possible."

Subordinate

Shashank Singh from Varanasi expressed his heart-

felt gratitude to the chief minister and the UP

Selection Commission for

ensuring a simple and transparent appointment process. He said, "I faced no difficul-

ties throughout the entire

process. Whether it was the

Kirti Singh from Ghaziabad

was overjoyed with her

appointment as forest inspec-

tor. She praised the govern-

ment for ensuring full trans-

parency and fairness through-

out the recruitment process,

from the examination to the

distribution of appointment

"For this appointment, I did

not have to make any recommendations or pay any fees," she said. Expressing her grat-

itude to the chief minister for

facilitating a transparent

process, Kirti emphasised that

she has always carried out

her work and responsibilities

Naveen Dubey from Jaunpur district, expressing his heart-

felt gratitude to the chief min-ister, said, "This government

has provided me with the

appointment with complete

integrity. It is fully committed

to offering employment to the

youth promptly, and today, job

opportunities are being pro-vided without any fees."

with complete honesty.

letters.

Services

PNS LUCKNOW

ing, "The chief minister directed that government The newly appointed forest appointments be conducted The newly appointed forest inspectors praised the Mission Rozgar and expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. They emphasised how, under the Yogi government, recruit-ment in all departments is conducted with fairness and transparency with full transparency, and today, as a result of that, I and many other youths have been selected as forest inspectors. I am extremely happy today, and I am proud to say that I did not have to pay any fee during this selection process. I am deeply grateful to the chief minister for making this

transparency. Kirti Singh, hailing from Kanpur Dehat, received her appointment letter for the position of forest inspector and shared her gratitude, say-ing, "This government had earlier appointed me as a lekhpal, and now I have another opportunity. I am now faced with the decision

now faced with the decision of which job to choose." She expressed her apprecia-tion, highlighting that the government supports both youth and women. "Previously, women were afraid of stepping out of their preliminary exam, main exam, physical test, or med-ical test, all were conducted afraid of stepping out of their homes, but today govern-ment jobs are being filled with complete transparency," with utmost transparency and fairness, and in a timely manner. My family and I are deeply grateful to this govern-ment for providing such an opportunity." she said.

"The chief minister has done an excellent job by ensuring fair appointments to vacant positions. I am grateful to this government for this remarkable initiative, which enables even a child from a poor family to appear in exams with dignity and confidence,"

she added. Another appointee Shweta Saxena remarked: "As far as I know, no government has ever claimed to conduct exams as fairly as this one. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi, appointments in the state are being made with complete transparency, ensuring no discrimination of any kind. Our chief minister has provided equal opportu-nities to everyone, especially empowering women to suc-ceed. As a result, today, 140 women have been appointed as Forest inspectors.

Shivendra Kant Singh from Ghaziabad, upon receiving his appointment letter for the position of forest inspector, expressed his gratitude, say-

Sambhal mosque row: Mayawati seeks govt, top court intervention

UP bypolls: Akhilesh claims SP will win all 9 PNS LUCKNOW

PTI LUCKNOW

awmakers in Uttar Pradesh

Lhave always been touch-

sensitive about protocol during

official meetings and irrespec-

tive of the party in power, complaints of breach of guide-

sparkling white towels during

As the complaints have begun

affairs department has directed

lawmakers get a chair "befitting"

of their status. Simply put, if an

official has a full-length towel on his chair -- a usual sight in

the state's government offices -

- the same has to be ensured for

The directive was issued by JP

Singh, principal secretary of the

parliamentary affairs depart-

ment, after Uttar Pradesh's par-

liamentary monitoring com-

"It was revealed at a meeting

convened to discuss protocol

violations that in government

meetings held either at the dis-

trict level or at the state head-

quarter, the officials sit on big-

ger and 'towelled' chairs than

the one offered to the lawmak-

ers," read Singh's order dated

mittee met on September 6.

the visiting lawmaker.

visits to government offices.

PNS LUCKNOW
the counting of votes tomor-row (Saturday) and leave the claiming to repeat the per-formance of Lok Sabha elections, Samajwadi Party
SP chief said.
SP chief said.
SP chief said.
Akhilesh Yadav maintained that "the truth is that the way getting the certificate of victo-ry. We have won morally, we
SP chief said.
SP chief said.
SP chief said.
SP chief said.
Akhilesh Yadav maintained that "the truth is that the way the electoral malpractices resorted to by the BJP and its.
So to jail and get bad name in society. The ruling BJP wash-esits hands off them as the ruling party is more interest-ed in trapping the people rather than protecting them.
Sources said he was worried over the low voter turnout of nearly 50 per cent in the assembly by-elections for nine seats in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.
Sources said he was worried over the low voter turnout of nearly 50 per cent in the assembly by-elections for nine seats in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

We cannot predict the out-

been a gross misuse of govern-

ment machinery. We will move the court, if required.

The party is confident of

pulling out a victory in Karhal

seat besides Kundarki and

Katehri. However, the party is

not confident about the

seats

PNS/PTI LUCKNOW/SAMBHAL

Bahujan Samaj Party presi-dent and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, on Friday appealed to the government and the Supreme Court to take cognisance of the controversy that has started over the Jama Masjid of Sambhal.

In a post on social media plat-form 'X', Mayawati said, "The news of the sudden controversy, hearing and then the survey in a hurry regarding the Shahi Jama Masjid of Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh are in the national discussion and media headlines. But the government and the honorable Supreme Court should also take cognisance of spoiling the harmony and atmosphere in this way." Petitioner advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain had said on Tuesday that the court of civil judge (senior division) had directed to form an 'advocate commission' for the survey of

Jama Masjid. The civil judge has said that a report should be filed in the court after conducting a videography and photography survey through the commission. Jain had added.

"Harihar temple in Sambhal is the centre of our faith. According to our religious beliefs, Kalki avatar from Dashavatara is to be born here. In 1529, Babar tried to convert the temple into a mosque by breaking it. This is a protected area by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). There can be no encroachment of any kind in it." Meanwhile, Friday prayers were held peacefully at the Jama Masjid in Sambhal amid tight security with police imposing prohibitory orders and conducting a flag march earlier in the day following claims that the Mughal-era mosque is an ancient Hindu temple site.

The Shahi Jama Masjid was surveyed on Tuesday on the orders of a local court after a petition claimed that a Harihar temple originally stood at the site. Superintendent of Police (SP) Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said

Friday prayers were held safely at the mosque with the help of forces from seven police stations and tight security arrangements around it.

The central and Uttar Pradesh governments, the mosque committee and the district magistrate of Sambhal have been made parties in the petition, Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is also the

petitioner in the case, said. Given the petition and the subsequent survey, police personnel held a flag march in the area and warned people of strict action against anyone creating chaos over the issue, Vishnoi said earlier in the day.

"Clerics have been told to inform everyone that they should offer Namaz in their own mosques," he said, adding that social media was also being monitored. District Magistrate Rajendra

Pesia said prohibitory orders have been imposed in the area to prevent any gathering of more than five people. Jain has claimed that Mughal

emperor Babar partly demolished the temple in 1529. 'The Harihar temple in

lines have often cropped up. Their latest gripe: not being offered chairs draped in Sambhal, we all know, is a central part of our faith. This is an ASI-protected area. There can be no encroachment of any kind in the ASI-protected area. There piling, the state's parliamentary are many signs and symbols there which are of the Hindu officials to ensure that visiting

temple," he said. Jain and his father Hari Shankar Jain have represented the Hindu side in many cases related to places of worship, including the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath dispute.

Gopal Sharma, a local lawyer of the Hindu side, told PTI that the writ filed before the civil judge senior division "also mentioned Babar Nama and Ain e Akbari books in which it is confirmed that we have a Harihar Mandir". "Now, the hearing of this case is on January 29 in which after the

advocate commissioner's report comes, we will decide our future action. Further survey will be required but at present, we are waiting for the report," he added.

that his party would win all cate," Akhilesh Yadav said in a nine assembly seats where post on 'X'. "Samajwadi Party is getting all

bypolls were held on November 20. The counting of round praise for the grit and determination with which our votes will be taken up on Saturday. SP had won 37 Lok voters, supporters, workers, office=bearers, leaders, candi-dates and entire PDA Sabha seats in 2024 against the five seats it had won in the (Picchda, Dalit, Alpsankhvak) 2019 parliamentary elections. bloc and some honest media "We have won morally; we just persons have faced the need to receive the certificate. onslaught and rigging in elec-I appeal to all party candidates, party cadre, office-bearers, tion by the Bharatiya Janata Party government. This INDIA bloc supporters and activism will continue in common people to stay firm, maintain the vigil and protect future as well and we will form our government in 2027," the their votes day and night or

allies are being exposed, the number of people supporting BJP is dwindling fast. The people no longer favour the BJP, that is why the BJP is adopting undemocratic practices and using state machinery to remain in power".

"We hope that gradually everyone, including the political leaders and bureaucrats, will realise that BJP first makes them do wrong things by luring them or by exerting pressure or by emotionally deceiving them, then when they are caught, they are suspended and face penal action or they

rather than protecting them," the SP chief said, adding "BJP is not sincere to none". Akhilesh Yadav said, "I make

an additional appeal to honest media persons to be alert with media persons to be alert with their cameras and pens and tell the big media channels and their journalists that one becomes great not by superfi-cial glamour but by honest work. Your integrity and pos-itive activism are your significance. Your one truth will outweigh a hundred lies. Thank you."

Contrary to the bravado dis-played by the SP chief, party

(Muzaffarnagar), Sisamau (Kanpur) and Kundarki

An initially hopeful Samajwadi (Moradabad). Party now fears that it may have lost the supposed gains, alleging large-scale rigging by the ruling BJP. come right now. Even the Lok Sabha poll results came as a surprise. Besides, there has

Samajwadi Party on Thursday demanded repolling in the Meerapur, Kundarki, and Sisamau assembly seats, claiming that voters, particularly those from the minority community, were prevented from casting their ballot at gunpoint.

The Yogi government has directed that all these pending

cases be resolved by the end of

this month to provide relief to

ing expenses.

the fund are eligible for tax

exemptions under Section 80G

of the Income Tax Act.

Sisamau seat (Kanpur), which The polling on Wednesday witnessed high drama amid allegations and counter-allegawas also held by the party," a SP leader said.

UPSIFS conference on Nov 26, 27

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science is organising a two-day conference here on November 26 and 27. Besides inaugurating an auditorium, website, digital library etc, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would also give certificates to the students who have cleared oneyear diploma courses.

the victims. Following the Eminent subject experts from instructions, the district steer-India and abroad will particiing committee constituted pate in this event.

Giving this information at a under the chairmanship of the district magistrate, will settle press conference here on Friday, these cases on priority basis. UPSIFS Founder Director GK Under Chief Minister Yogi's Goswami and Additional leadership, revolutionary changes have been introduced Director Rajiv Malhotra disclosed that on the occasion of in women welfare schemes. 75th Constitution Day, a twoday international conference Through the Rani Lakshmibai has been organised by the insti-Mahila Samman Kosh, women victims of heinous crimes tute on November 26 and 27 receive financial assistance rangthis year in which experts relating from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. ed to forensic science from This support helps in medical India and abroad will participate. Goswami said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who treatment, rehabilitation, education for children, and daily livwould be the chief guest in the The chief minister has emphaseminar, would also inaugurate sised transparency and timely action in implementing the the 800-seater grand auditori-um built in the institute and scheme. The government has launch the website of UPSIFS, not only increased the budget Lucknow. He stated that after for the initiative but also encourthe completion of the institute's aged public contributions to the first academic session of the fund. Donors contributing to

year 2023-24, certificates will be provided by the chief minister to the students who passed in the session.

Lawmakers miffed over 'chairs sans **Government speeds up** towels' for them at govt offices

October 7, 2024.

"It was also reported that in sev-eral cases officials conduct meetings sitting on a sofa while the lawmakers are seated in ordinary chairs. This is highly objectionable," the order said. In a bid to pacify the miffed lawmakers, state's chief secretarv Manoj Kumar Singh held a video conference with subordinate officials earlier this month to ensure administrative protocol is followed, according to which lawmakers are ranked above the officials.

The order marked to all additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, secretaries, director general of police, all divisional commissioners and district magistrates lists down the dos and don'ts as mentioned in the subsidiary warrant of precedence - that lists dignitaries in order of precedence according to protocol at government programmes.

The latest order makes it to the list of similar directives issued in the past that seek to assert the superiority of elected representatives over government officials.

In January this year, a detailed order was issued by the then chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra to all the officials reiterating the protocol for the

elected representatives, right down to the rows – first row, of course - in which they would be seated in an official event. "Only if the number of lawmakers is higher and they can't be accommodated in the first

rows, then they should be seat-ed in next available rows," the order read. In February last year, the Parliamentary Affairs Department issued an order marked to all officials, reiterating the dos and don'ts of phone" protocol. In the order, the officials were directed to ensure all phone calls from lawmakers to officials met with a response and in case the calls were not answered, a "call back"

was a must. To make sure they don't miss out on any phone call made from an elected lawmaker, the officials were directed in the same order to ensure they saved the names of all lawmakers for easy recognition.

A couple of years before he became the UP Assembly speaker (2017-2022), Hriday Narain Dikshit, then a BJP leader had actually led a protest right outside the Vidhan Sabha demanding among other things, "proper respect" for lawmakers and political party leaders by officials.

resolution of pending compensation cases steering committee levels, total-ing 17,177 unresolved cases.

PNS LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is making continuous efforts to empower women victims of heinous crimes and provide quick justice and support in cases of violence against women. Acting on the chief minister's instructions, orders have been issued to resolve pending compensation cases for such victims without delay. This initiative is part of the state's Rani Lakshmibai Mahila Samman Kosh Yojana, under which Rs 50 crore has been approved for the financial year 2024-25. The scheme, run under the Women Welfare department, aims to offer financial support to women affected by violence and their families. The goal is to help these women overcome challenges, return to normal life and actively contribute to society.

The scheme supporting women victims of nine types of heinous crimes in Uttar Pradesh is working effectively, but official data reveals delays in many cases. Currently, 701 cases are pending at the police nodal officer level, 7,583 at the nodal medical officer, and 8,893 at the district

state 04



Arrangements made for counting of votes



City police commissioner Akhil Kumar inspects the security arrangements at Naubasta Galla Mandi on Friday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

In a bid to conduct peaceful counting of votes on Saturday, City Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar inspected the arrangements at the Naubasta Galla Mandi compound under Hanumant Vihar police station area on Friday. Police officers have pre-

pared a blue print of the arrangements and said people, if any, found involved in creating hurdles during the count-ing will be dealt with sternly. During the inspection, CP Akhil Kumar issued necessary directives to officials relating the parking spots, routes arrangements, barricading and barrier duty etc. He said initial-

ly minimum force would be deployed at the counting spot and if need be, additional force could be sent there. According to him, as per arrangements, one DCP, two ADCP, four aCP, 10 inspector, 41 men and 18 woman sub-inspectors, 76 head constables (men and women), 85 constables (men and women), five teams of QRT,

Phulpur bypoll: Counting today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

After the voting on November 20 for Phulpur by-election, the counting of votes will be held on Saturday. The lock of the strong room of Mundera Mandi will be opened at 7 am while the counting process will start

two company PAC, Intelligence Unit, traffic police and fire brigade would be deputed. During the inspection, CP was accompanied by the DCP (Traffic) Ravindra Kumar, DCP (South) Ankita Sharma, ACP (Traffic) Shrishti Singh, SO Hanumant Vihar and his force. Meanwhile, all arrangements for the counting of votes polled for the Sisamau bypoll have been made.

The counting personnel will report at the Naubasta Galla Mandi at 5 am on Saturday. On the 14 tables set up on a plat-

from 8 am. Tight security arrangements have been made for this.

The counting will be done in a total of 32 rounds. It is expected that the result will also be declared by 2 pm. A total of 103 counting per-sonnel have been put on duty for counting.

form, counting of EVM votes would be held. Two tables were available for the counting of postal ballets while one for the service voters. The counting will start from 8 am. The counting will be completed in 20 rounds. The first round counting will be completed in 30 minutes. Prior to counting, randomisation would be carried out. Returning Officer Ram Prakash said one micro observor will be deputed on each table to supervise the counting. The RO said that he will also remain present on the spot.

Four of a family killed as car collides with tree

when their uncontrolled car suddenly collided with a sheesham tree near Ganga Baba turn under Sahayak police station area of Auraiya district around 7 am on Friday. Police sent the injured to a hospital. Reports said that Krishna Behari (60) of Shashtri Nagar, Rasoolabad (Kanpur Dehat) along with family members was going to Gwalior to attend

Kanpur (PNS): Four persons of a family were killed while three others seriously injured a marriage ceremony in his rel-ative's house. His car collided with the tree near Ganga Baba ative's house. His car collided turn under Sahayak police sta-tion area of Auraiya district, killing of three members of the family on the spot while another succumbed to her injury at the hospital. On hearing the screams, passersby informed the police which rushed to the spot and carried out rescue operation. With the help of passersby, police rescued the family and found Krishna

Behari (60), his son Neeraj Chaturvedi (40) and Rishabh (12), son of Neeraj dead while Madhu Devi (60) wife of Krishna Behari, Achana (40) wife of Neeraj Chaturvedi, Rishi (8), son of Neeraj and Yogesh (40), son of Ramswarup were seriously injured. The injured were sent to CHC where Madhu also succumbed to her injury. Police informed the kin of the injured who, due to their critical condition, were referred to another hospital.

Elderly man found dead

Kanpur (PNS): An elderly man was found dead under mysterious circumstances near a tree near Muradpur village under Baraur police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Friday morning. On getting informa-tion police rushed to the spot which, on failing to ascertain the identity of the deceased, sent the body for autopsy after

panchnama. According to reports, when villagers were passing through the village, they recovered the body of an elderly man and informed the police at Dial-112. SO Baraur Kalicharan reached the spot with force and forensic team and carried out investigation. After the forensic team collect-ed evidence from the spot

strive for excellence and collab-

police sent the body for autopsy as unidentified deceased. SO Baraur said the cause of his death could not be ascertained. The deceased wore black lower. black full sweater and white half sweater. He was aged around 80. Efforts are on to ascertained his identity. On receipt of autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said.

DRM inspects progress of doubling works PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi Division of NER, Vineet Kumar Srivastava inspected the progress of doubling works on Varanasi City- Chhapra section on Friday with the aim of ensuring safe and secure rail movement during fog season. He directed the officers con-He directed the officers con-cerned to maintain the visibil-ity of signals of this section dur-ing fog season. During the window-trailing inspection, the DRM reviewed the progress of doubling projects related to safety as well as the develop-ment works going on in this section. After reaching Chhapra station Srivastava conducted a station, Srivastava conducted a thorough inspection of the ongoing construction work there. Along with the expansion of Chhapra station, he inspected various works of passenger amenities including secondary renovated entrance, expansion of circulating area, sheds of plat-



forms, pay and use toilets and seating arrangement in waiting room for convenience of passengers, glossine station name board, signages, water drainage, reserved/unreserved ticket counter building, running room, crew lobby, RPF post, improvement of ATM, QR scanner etc. He directed the concerned officers to increase the pace of development work going on at the station and to complete all the works within the stipulated time limit. The DRM said Chhapra Junction is a railway station of NS 03 category and more cleanliness is required there.

MoU enables provision of grant-in-aid to IMS-BHU by MoHFW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda witnessed the signing of a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Education to provide enhanced funding and technical support to IMS-BHU. This collaboration represents a significant step toward redefining the future of healthcare, education, and research in our country. The MoU signed on Friday enables provision of grant-in-aid to IMS-BHU by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the lines of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The provision of grant to IMS-



Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and JP Nadda along with BHU VC Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain and others in Delhi during signing of MoU on Friday.

BHU will enhance the avail-ability of affordable state-ofthe-art secondary and tertiary health care services to the people of the region. It will contribute significantly in reducing referrals by enhancing delivery of clinical care services. This will result not only in increased patient experience and satisfaction but is expected to notably

reduce out of pocket expenditure on patient care. Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said the MoU will deepen academic and research collaborations, facilitate student, faculty, staff and research professionals exchanges between MoHFW, AIIMS and IMS-BHU paving the way for sharing of knowledge and

expertise, particularly in the areas of upgradation of clinical and healthcare facilities, robotics surgery, hospital adminis-tration and governance among others. The MoU will help establish IMS-BHU as a worldclass institute, he added. Underscoring a sharper focus

on research outcomes, Pradhan said that IMS-BHU should

orate with national premier higher educational institutions and international institutions to enhance its research output. Highlighting the importance of IMS-BHU towards addressing the medical needs of eastern UP and surrounding states, he urged the institute to further improve its teaching standards to bring more efficiency in its services. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has consistently emphasised on holistic and inclusive development in healthcare and education. His vision of a New India is deeply rooted in empower-ing institutions like BHU to serve as global centers of excellence, the Minister added. Pradhan also said this MoU aligns with the PM's vision, ensuring that Varanasi becomes a hub of integrated healthcare and education services. Calling this a historic day, JP Nadda stated that this MoU is a result of the Union Government's "whole of the

government" approach, which fosters increased collaboration across various government departments for shared goals aimed towards people's benefit. Nadda emphasised that this MoU would establish close partnership between AIIMS, New Delhi, and IMS-BHU leading to higher teaching stan-dards and excellence in research outcomes too. He also proposed regular student and faculty exchanges between IMS-BHU and AIIMS for enhanced outcomes. An MoU was signed India between AIIMS-Delhi and IMS-BHU on June 19, 2018, to facilitate exposure to latest developments and best practices in health care, medical education and research. The MoU inter alia provided that MoHFW may also consider financially supporting infrastructure development projects to create health care and research facility in various super specialties in collaboration with Ministry of Education.

Advocates boycott judicial work

Tight security arrangements were made to prevent any ruckus in Salori. Three police teams are conducting raids in search of the accused. The lawyers of the district court became angry over the Akhilesh Shukla's death. The police had arrested Nikhil Kant Singh and Prince Singh alias Ranvijay Singh two days ago for attacking the lawyer in Salori area. After presenting them in the court, they have been sent to jail. But the advocates were adamant for the arrest of the remaining accused involved in this incident. Shivkuti police station in charge Virendra Singh Yadav said on the complaint of the victim's brother, a case has been registered against six unknown persons, including three named ones. However, two accused were arrested and sent to jail and raids are being conducted in the search to perform the last rites. After of the remaining accused.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ this, the last rites were per- ARRESTED: The Utraon lakh and ₹5,000 in cash was formed on Friday morning. police claimed to have arrest- kept. They looted the money ed two accused who were and fled towards Sahaso involved in looting jewellery through the highway bran-dishing a gun. The victim had complained about this and ornaments from a bullion trader. The police also recov-ered cash and money looted matter to the Utraon police. On being tipped off by an informer the police arrested from the bullion trader from the accused. After necessary Akash Yadav and Ajit Kumar action, police has sent the accused to jail. Satish Soni of Yadav, residents of Lahurtara village of Tharwai police sta-tion area, from the Balipur Chandauha Rampur village of Saraiinaayat police station area has a jewellery shop in Sithauli market On October Service Road flyover and recovered six pairs of anklets, 23 evening he was returning home on bike after closing the 10 toe rings, eight anklets of white metal and 6 nose pins of jewellery shop when the masked miscreants riding a yellow metal and ₹4,630 cash looted from the bullion tradbike attacked Satish on the er. head with the butt of a gun under the culvert of the In another incident a 25-yearold youth returning home on a cycle trolley died while his national highway in front of Khodaypur village. As a result the victim fell down from the friend sustained serious injuries after being hit by a bike, bleeding. After this, one speeding car which went out of control and collided with a of the miscreants put the gun on Satish's temple and his accomplice took out the key of Bolero coming from the oppo-site direction in Bahria. As a Satish's bike and opened the dickey where gold and silver jewellery worth about ₹1.50 result a youth died and his friend was seriously injured and is undergoing treatment. worked soon.

Thieves steal cash, jewellery PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Trade fair provides excellent opportunity to youth to showcase skills: Prof Sharma

C nraged over the death of Llawyer who was injured in the attack by miscreants here a large number of advocates resorted to chakka jam after boycotting the judicial work in the district court on Friday morning. They protested by burning tyres and blocked the road in front of the district court. On November 17, the miscreants beat up lawyer Akhilesh Shukla alias Guddu badly with the butt of a rifle and a rod and then shot him in the leg. Akhilesh, who was seriously injured in the incident, was undergoing treat-ment at Medanta Hospital in Lucknow and died during treatment on Thursday night. A large number of police and RAF personnel have also been deployed around the court. Late night the body of lawyer Akhilesh Shukla alias Guddu reached Salori in Prayagraj from Lucknow. The police officers convinced the family

rewellery worth around ₹20 lakh and cash ₹3 lakh were stolen from the locked house of a teacher in Auraiya on Thursday night. The incident came to light when the landlord reached the house late at night. On getting information the Kotwali police carried out investigation. Reports said that the house of teacher Sipu is situated near Nashedi Pulia on Bidhuna-Kishni road under Auraiya Kotwali police station area. Sipu's father Ram Kishan is also a teacher. Owing to father's ill health all the family members had gone to a Kanpur hospital for his treatment. On returning at night, they found the locks of rooms broken and household goods ransacked and immediately informed the police which rushed to the spot and quizzed people. Circle Officer (CO) Bidhuna Bharat Paswan along with Kotwali incharge Ravi Srivastava rushed to the spot. The CO said forensic team had collected samples from the spot and claimed that the case would be

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANAS

Vice-Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Prof Bihari Lal Sharma inaugurated the Trade Fair in the university premises here on Friday by cutting the ribbon. It was organised by Deen Dayal Upadhyay Skill Centre locat-

ed in front of Lal Bhawan, SSU. Expressing his views on the relevance of the fair, Prof Sharma said this trade fair provides an excellent opportunity to our youth to showcase their skills and talent.

The V-C said this fair not only provides an opportunity to our students to display their products and services, but also an opportunity to our society to recognise and support their skills and talent. Prof Sharma said this trade fair is in line with the mission of our university, which is to inspire our students to develop their skills and talents and contribute to the society. He also honoured the participants of various stalls in the fair.

In the beginning, convener of the fair and director of the Skill Development Centre Prof Vidhu Dwivedi welcomed and greeted all the

guests and said this fair provides an excellent opportunity to the students of our university to showcase their skills and talents and we hope that this fair will help our students achieve their goals. Prof Sharma invited everyone to partici-

pate in this trade fair. Registrar Rakesh Kumar, Prof Ramkishore Tripathi, Prof Jitendra Kumar, Prof Hirak Kanti Chakraborty, Prof Shailesh Kumar Mishra, Prof Rajnath, Prof Mahendra Pandey, Prof Dinesh Kumar Garg, Prof Amit Kumar Shukla, Dr Vishakha Shukla, Dr Satyendra Kumar, Dr Kunjbihari Dwivedi etc were also present. SEMINAR: Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO)

दयाल

and Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM), NER Neelmani said honesty is very important for living life and whatever we do, we should do it with honesty. Addressing a vigilance seminar organised at Bharatendu Auditorium of DRM office here on Thursday, he said if we give wrong kind of benefit to anvone, then it is corruption and appealed to railway employees to do their work with honesty.

Exhibition of Banaras brocade inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

An exhibition of Banaras brocade was inaugurated by former deputy director of Bharat Kala Bhavan Prof Jasminder Kaur in the Central Hall of Bharat Kala Bhavan in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Friday. A national seminar was also inaugurated in the seminar hall jointly in collaboration with Textile collaboration with Textile Clothing & Research Centre, New Delhi (TCRC), Jnana Pravah, Varanasi and IICD, Jaipur. TCRC president Dr Anamika Pathak, Director of IICD (Jaipur) Dr Toolika Gupta, Prof Anjan Chakraverty of Jnana Pravah and Director of Bharat Kala Bhavan Prof Sreerup Raychaudhuri jointly inaugurated the national seminar on 'Banaras: The Artistry and Tradition of its Textile' by lighting the lamp. Deputy Director of Bharat Kala

Bhavan Dr Nishant welcomed the guests on dais. The keynote address was delivered by Asif Sheikh (online) from Ahmedabad. He could not join



Namrata Jaiswal and Madhu

Kulwant from BHU also pre-

sented papers. The session was

chaired by Dr Bani Jha. The

programme was coordinated by

Dr Priyanka Chandra, assistant

curator of Bharat Kala Bhavan.

Dr Ashok Kapoor, Shyam Sundar Agrawal. Prof Suresh Nair, Dr Anil Kumar Singh,

Vinod Kumar, Dr DB Singh,

Deepak Bharathan Alathur and

staff of Bharat Kala Bhavan and

the students of different depart-

ments were present.

the lecture in person due to health issue. Lectures were delivered by Dr Anamika Pathak on costume described in Buddhist literature and art and Amrit Layak on silk production and marketing. Prof Jasminder Kaur and Dr Priyanka Chandra presented a joint research paper on Bharat Kala Bhavan's textile

collection and its weaving technique. Kunal Maurya (IIT-Delhi) presented a research paper on use of AI feature on textile and Angika Kushwaha,

The two-day Regional Performance Review Meeting-2024 organised by Directorate of Vigilance, Railway Board at BLW concluded on Friday. The meeting dis-cussed in detail reforms, innovations and transparency in the working of the Vigilance Department of Railways. It was

chaired by Principal Executive Director (Vigilance), Railway Board, DK Singh and was attended by senior officers of Railway Board along with representatives from railway zones like NER and ECR and production units RDSO, CORE and BLW. The meeting discussed issues related to vigilance, their resolution and concrete suggestions were presented for improvement in the working methods. DK Singh emphasised the need for prompt disposal of vigilance cases with fairness and transparency. The

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI meeting was also attended by ED (S&T) SP Beck, EDVE AK Mishra and other senior officers who also shared their experiences and views in the field of

vigilance officer of BLW presented mementoes to all the guests. TO BE HONOURED: A senior medical practitioner Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava will be honoured with the National Academy Excellence Award by the Indian Medical Association

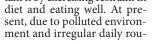
(IMA) for his outstanding contribution and research in the field of medical sciences. This award will be given in the IMA National Convention on December 26 in Hyderabad. Dr Srivastava has written 31 books so far and has presented many research on haemophilia. He is currently also working as the editor of six medical journals and has done his research on blood cancer under the supervision of Prof VP Singh from IMS-BHU.

Health check-up camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Conference Hall of the National Sugar Institute on Friday. ECG testing facility was also available in the camp. Experienced physician, Dr Abhishek, dentist Dr Sakshi Pandey and dietician Dr Anupriya and the team conducted health check-up of the students, daily wagers, employees and officers and gave advice for treatment accordingly. Director of the Institute, Prof. Seema Paroha, Marketing Head Shantanu Sarkar, Corporate Manager Gagan Mamgen and

Marketing Manager Kumar Gaurav Chaurasia of Paras Hospital, were present. Inaugurating the programme Director Prof Seema Paroha said a healthy body is a gift from God. A person can maintain it by exercising restraint in





A free health check-up camp organised at NSI, Kanpur, on Friday.

tine, about 70 per cent of the people have some problem. There is an urgent need for health services to solve these problems. At present, maximum expenditure is being incurred on education and medicine. Continuous efforts are being made by the govern-ment for the availability of better health services.

In the health camp Director, Prof Seema Paroha, Sanjay Chauhan, Anup Kumar Kanojia, Brijesh Kumar Sahu, Vivek Pratap Singh, Akhilesh Kumar Pandey and other senior officers took benefit of

More than 400 people, including employees and students working in the institute, received health check-up and counselling. Mallika Dwivedi, Assistant Director (OL) and Welfare Officer, Daya Shankar Mishra, Private Secretary and Umesh Chandra Pander had a special contribution in organising the health camp. Prof. Paroha congratulated the team concerned on organizing the event successfully and said that the institute is committed to organising such public welfare events.

health related consultation.

Performance review meeting concludes Ageneral health check-up camp was organised in the Physical Chemistry

vigilance. At its conclusion chief





BJP leader demands apology from **Congress over baseless allegations**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

B^{JP} leader Vinod Tawde Tawde bas demanded an apology from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for making "false and baseless" alle-gations against him in the cash-for-votes incident in Maharashtra, saying if they do not he would sue them for defamation. He sent a legal notice to Congress seeking apology in 24 hours.

Tawde was accused by Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, a regional party, of distributing Rs 5 crore to woo voters, with its members barging into a hotel room on November 19 in a Mumbai suburb, where the BJP leader was present. The former Maharashtra minister and BJP national general secretary claimed innocence, saying the alleged amount was not recovered in the probe by the Election Commission and police.



tionally fabricated the story

distribution of money. You all

have published false, baseless

allegations against our client

on various media for tar-

the Minister said the popula-tion of the country will be the

driver of the global economy. For this, skilling needs to

begin right at schools and NEP 2020 has envisioned

mainstreaming skilling in

Pradhan also said technolog-ical disruptions will change

the nature of jobs and eco-

nomic activities and it is

needed to continuously up-

skill and re-skill the workforce

approach and working col-

laboratively to skill, up-skill

'whole-of-a-government'

for future-proofing them.

schools, he said

he mentioned.

society," the notice read.

The Congress only believes a "totally false story fabricatin spreading lies, and this ed" by them. incident is a proof of the "You all have deliberately, party's low level politics to mischievously with the sole intention of damaging the dent me and my party's reputation of our client inten-

image," Tawde said. The two Congress leaders and the party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate seized on the row to accuse the BJP of using money power to influence the November 20 assembly polls in the state.

The legal notice sent to the three claimed that they were

not bother to check the fact and or despite knowing the entire fact they made the false, baseless allegations, it said. The entire imputation made by you all are totally false, baseless, malicious and mala

Tawde's reputation, they did

fide and as our client is in no way involved in any such illegal activity and as a respon-sible office bearer of the sible office bearer of the national political party he is aware of his duties," it added. The notice demanded an "unconditional apology" to Tawde within 24 hours from the time the receipt of the the time the receipt of the notice, which was sent on November 21, and published in newspapers and social

media. If they do not offer apology, then Tawde will initiate criminal proceedings under Section 356, which covers defamation, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and also civil nishing his image in the eyes of right thinking people in the proceedings for the damages of Rs 100 crore against the three Congress leaders, the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MEW

The National Green Tribunal(NGT)has been informed by the UP government's environment department that over 1.12 lakh trees will be felled in the protected forest area in the state to make way for the upcoming Kanwar Ýatra route. The NGT had sought a reply

from the secretary of the state's environment depart-ment in a case pertaining to the felling of more than one lakh trees and shrubs in the protected forget area protected forest area. The area in question spreads across three forest divisions of

Ghaziabad, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar for the pro-posed route between Muradnagar in Ghaziabad and Purkaji in Muzaffarnagar. The reply, filed by UP principal secretary, Department of Environment, and dated November 19 said, "It is important to mention that the Public Works Department (PWD) received permission



Over 1.12 lakh trees will be felled to make way

for Kanwar Yatra route: UP Govt informs NGT

reply uploaded on the tribunal's website on Friday. the Kanwar Marg project, as approved by the (Union) Ministry of Environment, Noting that the tribunal asked Forest and Climate Change on the secretary to enumerate the February 28, 2023.

number of trees under the UP It said at present, 25,410 trees Tree Protection Act provihad been marked and assigned for felling, of which sions, the reply stated such an enumeration was not be pos-17,607 were cut by the PWD sible in the stretches where under the supervision of the tree cutting was completed as plants and bushes were also Uttar Pradesh Forest cleared during the drive. "In the future, once PWD Corporation. "Presently, the tree-cutting work has been suspended by PWD since finalises a revised road align-August 9, 2024, and tree ment with width of 15-20 felling in certain stretches of metre, joint inspections will

However, the total number of affected trees/plants should not exceed 1,12,722," it stated. The UP tree act provisions did not apply to the reserved and protected forest

land, the reply added. "The land used for the construction of above-mentioned Kanwar Marg is a protected forest and the implementing agency has obtained in-prin-ciple approval from Government of India for Kanwar Marg Project. Thus, enumeration of trees as per the provisions of UP Tree Act 1976 was not carried out," it said.

Regarding the definition of trees, as asked by the tribunal in its previous order, the reply cited the Centre's Parivesh Portal, according to which trees were categorised based on girth size such as 0-30 cm, 31-60 cm, and more than 150 cm, and included provisions for also counting smaller plants and trees having a girth between zero and 30 cm. "This ensures that all relevant vegetation is comprehensively accounted," the reply said.

the proposed alignment has not commenced," said the identify and enumerate any The Congress leaders were in aware that they were pushing "great hurry" to damage to cut 1,12,722 trees/plants for remaining trees to be felled. notice said. а There is need to broaden definition of jobs and employment: Pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DFI HI

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday here said there is a need to broaden the definition of jobs and employment adding technological disruptions will change the nature of jobs and economic activities. He stressed the need to continuously up-skill and re-skill the workforce for future-proofing them.

He made these assertions after launching along with Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya a report titled Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Atul Kumar Tiwari; Country Director, World Bank, India

Auguste Tano Kouame; Lead Modi's vision to transform Education Specialist, India into a global skills hub, Shabnam Sinha, World Bank, the Minister said the popula-India, officials of the Ministries and some school Principals were also present at

the event. Speaking at the event, Pradhan complimented the World Bank team for the detailed report on six states. He also suggested the World Bank team adopt a pan-India framework. Such in-depth diagnostics on skilling and jobs will enable stakeholders to create new architectures and make progressive policies for empowering our popula-

tion, he said. He highlighted the need to broaden the definition of jobs and employment. Pradhan said the framework has to be broadened and viewed from the perspective of economic opportunities and empowerment.

Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra ness the potential of region-specific skills and employ-



ment, following a hub-andspoke model.

and re-skill our large population is needed to emerge as He also stressed on correctthe skill capital of the world, ing the definition of job beyond employment. It is important to include informal Mandaviya, in his address, mentioned that in the last education in academic education, he added. budget, it was proposed to Sanjay Kumar reaffirmed develop a curriculum to har-

Prime Minister Modi's vision of a 'whole-of-government' approach, which has inspired collaboration between the two Ministries to develop systems in schools for inculcating the culture of skill education.

Emphasizing the significance of practising a skill to achieve mastery, he noted that the NEP 2020 recommends instilling diligence and consistent practice in students. The Government of India has an ambitious plan to transform the economy towards a high-income country status by 2047.

by 2047. To achieve the goal of India becoming a productive econ-omy, she needs to urgently address challenges facing its employment landscape and prepare its workforce. Multifaceted, dynamic, con-vergent approaches aligned to

vergent approaches aligned to educational reform and market-linked skill development (SD) will help India reach its job growth potential.

Key reforms by Government of India will help strengthen the vocational education sector to become a decentralized, local market-led, inclusive and fiscally sustainable sector, to train the workforce for the skills required for a high-

income India. The Ministry of Education has made major strides on this front by launching the

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023. Both policies (NCF) 2023. Both policies emphasize the importance of skilling in schools, with the NEP setting ambitious targets of 50 per cent of students accessing skill education by 2025 and all secondary schools offering skill educa-tion by 2030. tion by 2030.

As India sets out to achieve these targets, the "Jobs at Your Doorstep" report serves as both a diagnostic and roadmap to providing strategic linkages and convergence between education and the jobs agenda of India. It goes deep into the job landscape of six states: Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan, and identifies key priority sectors and roles that offer the highest employment potential for young people graduating from secondary school.

The World Bank assists the Ministry of Education with its program called Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) covering six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan (collectively the STARS states). STARS Scheme has a national component under which key reforms are shared and dis-seminated for implementa-

tion. This report underscores the significant benefits of embedding skill-based education from grades 9-12 to prepare students for diverse career paths relying on a bottom-up approach, going deep in districts of the six states.

These present varying socio economic profiles offer a nuanced view of how industry and government can both contribute towards the jobs agenda.

with the

Rescue

Centre

PM Modi expresses grief at death of former IIS officer SM Khan informal interactions during tour

PM Modi participates in 31 bilateral meets,

media during high-profile cases, including the Bofors

scandal, stock exchange scams

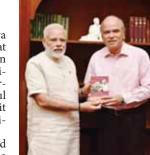
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DFI HI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his grief at the death of retired Indian Information Service(IIS)officer and Press Secretary to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, S M Khan, calling it "irreparable loss to the soci-

In his message to bereaved family Thursday from Guyana where he was on the last leg of five-day and three-nation visit, Modi said Khan was a hardworking and dedicated officer of Indian Information Service and worked in various departments.

"With his experience and expertise, he handled various challenging responsibilities with dedication. His humane approach and nature taking everyone along was worth mentioning," the Prime Minister said.

He will be remembered for his efforts for needy people and



his demise is an "irreparable loss to the society," he said. "It is difficult to put in words the pain of loneliness in your life. He is not in this world in physical form but his memories and values will always be

with the family," Modi said. A distinguished officer, who was spokesperson for the Central Bureau of Investigation for 15 years before joining as press secre-tary to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Khan died

at a private hospital on Sunday after a brief illness.

and various white-collar crimes. Following his extensive service with the CBI, Khan was appointed as the press secretary to the late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a role in which he further solidified his

reputation in public communication. After Kalam's term, Khan moved to a prestigious position as the director general of News at Doordarshan. In addition to his notable career in public service, Khan authored a book titled "People's President," which was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also held the position of vice president and trustee at the India Islamic and Cultural Centre, contributing to cultural dialogue and community development.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Throughout his tenure, he became the face of the CBI, regularly addressing the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 31 bilateral meetings and informal interactions with world leaders during his five days of three-country tour, officials said on Friday.

The whirlwind diplomatic engagements included a bilateral meeting with the Nigerian president in Nigeria, 10 bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil and nine during Modi's visit to Guyana.

In Brazil, Modi held bilateral meetings with the leaders of the country, besides those of Indonesia, Portugal, Italy, Norway, France, the UK, Chile, Argentina and Australia. These were marked by his maiden bilateral meetings with Indonesian leader Prabowo Subianto, Portugal's Luis Montenegro, the UK's Keir Starmer, Chile's Gabriel Boric, and Argentina's Javier

Milei, the officials noted. Modi also had informal interactions and pull-aside meetings in Brazil with the leaders of Singapore, South Korea, Egypt, the USA and Spain and with the heads and executives of various international organisations like Ursula von der Leyen of the European Union; Antonio Guterres of the United Nations; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of the World

Trade Organization; Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization; and Kristalina Georgieva and Gita Gopinath of the IMF. In Guyana, the officials said, Modi held bilateral meetings with the leaders of Guyana, Dominica, Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada and St Lucia.

Indian Navy's submarine bers is ongoing and was being

coordinated

Coordination

(MRCC) in Mumbai. The

Navy has ordered a high-

level probe into the matter.

A spokesperson from the

Navy said additional assets,

from the Coast Guard as well,

Maritime

Two fishermen go missing

as boat collides with

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

¬wo fishermen were miss-I ing after their boat collided with an Indian Navy submarine late Thursday evening 70 nautical miles off Goa Coast. There were 13 fishermen onboard the boat and 11 of them were rescued, navy said here on Friday adding search operations were on for the remaining members. 'An Indian fishing vessel

Marthoma with a crew of 13 reportedly collided with an Indian Naval unit on November 21 about 70 nm North West of Goa," an Indian Navy spokesperson said.

"Search and rescue efforts were immediately launched by the Indian Navy with six ships and aircraft. Eleven crew have been rescued so far," he said.

The search operation to find the two missing crew mem-

were being mobilised and diverted to the area of the incident to help with the rescue efforts. The Navy deployed six ships and surveillance aircraft in the rescue mission. The fishing vessel collided with a Scorpene class submarine - which is a crucial part of India's naval strength,

capable of executing a wide range of functions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.

It has superior stealth techniques and low noise levels, making it a deadly and precise weapon.

Nitish lays foundation stones for rural road, bridge projects Rise in sea levels likely to increase risk

were inaugurated on Friday,

should be inspected regular-

ly and their continuous main-

tenance must be given the top

priority", said the statement.

The event was organised at

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones of multiple road and bridge projects of the state Rural Works Department (RWD) worth Rs 8,837.77 crore.

The Chief Minister asked officials to ensure that priority is also given to the maintenance of rural roads, bridges or causeways in the state.

"With a view to improving rural connectivity, the CM on Friday virtually inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 6,199 projects of the RWD worth Rs 8,837.77 crore ", a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

"All roads and bridges of the RWD, for which foundation He also asked officials that all



directed officials to complete the projects on time and ensure that there should not be any compromise on the quality of works and materi-

CM's official residence, 1 stones were laid, the CM the roads and bridges which Anne Marg. The programme

was attended by RWD minister, Ashok Choudhary, Chief Secretary, Amrit Lal Meena, Additional Chief Secretary of RWD, Dipak Kumar Singh, and several other senior officials of the state government. Projects which were inaugurated on Friday included: 763 roads (total length 947 km) and 4 bridges (total length 435 metre) -- constructed at a cost of Rs 983 crore under the Chief Minister Gram Sampark Yojana. Under Chief Minister Rural

Maintenance Road Programme, 972 roads (total length 1,904 km) have been repaired at a cost of Rs 1,113 crore and under the Chief Minister Rural Road Development Scheme, 33 roads (total length 104 km) have been upgraded (reconstructed/strengthened/widene

d) at a cost of Rs 92 crore. Projects for which foundation stones were laid included: 1,472 roads (total length 1,571 km) and 5 bridges (total length 304 metre), which will be constructed at a cost of Rs 1,824 crore under the Chief Minister Gram Sampark Scheme..

Under the Chief Minister Rural Road Maintenance Programme, 2.306 roads (total length 4,148 km) will be repaired at a cost of Rs 2,350 Under crore. the Mukhyamantri Gramin Sadak Unnayan Yojana, the work of upgradation (reconstruction/strengthening/widening) of 442 roads (total length 1,701 km) and one bridge (total length 27 metre) is to be done at a cost of Rs 1,739 crore.

for millions of coastal residents, says study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Tlimate-driven hazards such as rise in sea levels are likely to increase risk for millions of coastal residents, a study has

Published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the study estimates that a 1-metre sea level rise by 2100 would affect over 14 million people along the Southeast Atlantic coast, from Norfolk, Virginia, to Miami, Florida. The study holds relevance for India which has a large number of people living not only along the coastal areas but also dependent on sea for their livelihood.

It showed that by 2100, 70 per Virginia Tech's Department of cent of the coastal population Geosciences. will also be exposed to shallow or emerging groundwater -- a pounded by sinking land and



far more significant exposure

than daily flooding. This groundwater hazard is

likely to affect approximately \$1

trillion in property value, cre-ating new challenges for infra-

structure such as roads, build-

ings, septic systems, and utili-

ties. The scale of these inter-

connected hazards is much

greater than anticipated, said

Manoochehr Shirzaei from

"The risk of flooding, com-

beach loss, could displace millions and damage critical infrastructure unless robust adaptation strategies are implemented," said Shirzaei. The findings, in collaboration

with the US Geological Survey, are based on assessments of the cumulative impact of multiple climate-driven coastal hazards, including sea level rise, flooding, beach erosion, sinking and, and rising groundwater. All these are expected to wors-en significantly by the end of the 21st century. Further, the researchers noted that coastal storms and hurricanes will amplify the risk of flooding over land. With 1 metre of sea level rise, overland flooding will affect up to 50 per cent of residents in the region, impacting US\$770 billion in property value.

DFI HI warned.

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Cars the main culprit

Delhi's residents continue to bear the brunt of the city's toxic air, which is mostly driven by cars and not stubble burning

ome November and the capital city of Delhi turns into a gas chamber with AQI shooting to severe category. Most often the farmers are blamed for burning stubble and winds taking the fumes to Delhi. But that is not the true picture. Delhi vehicles are the main culprit, as has been indicated by many studies. So nothing is done and till it is swept away by the wind, smog hangs over the city. This year is no different. Delhi's air pollution has escalated to catastrophic levels, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) frequently crossing into hazardous territory hovering in the vicinity of 500. This public health emergency has fueled political blame games between the State and Central Governments, with stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring states often cited as the primary cause. However, research and scientific studies tell a different story: the real culprit behind Delhi's toxic air is not stubble burning but the city's overwhelming vehicular emissions. Vehicular traffic is consistently identified as the leading source of pol-



lution in Delhi. A 2019 study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water found that vehicles contributed between one-third and two-thirds of Delhi's harmful particulate matter. This alarming contribution is tied to the city's explosive growth in vehicle ownership. Between 1990 and 2018, the number of registered vehicles in the National Capital Region increased fivefold. Delhi alone accounts for over 11.8 million vehicles, 90 per cent of which are cars and two-wheelers. The volume of vehicular traffic has turned the capital into a pollution hotspot, with transport emissions driving air quality deterioration throughout the year. In contrast, stubble burning, often portrayed as the main

villain in Delhi's pollution narrative, plays a far smaller role. A 2017 study revealed that stubble burning contributed less than 3 per cent to Delhi's annual particulate matter. Even during its peak season from mid-October to early November, the share of pollution from crop residue burning is limited to 8 per cent, according to a 2023 report by the Centre for Science and Environment. Most of Delhi's pollution originates locally, with vehicular traffic contributing the largest share. This pattern becomes even more evident when air quality fails to improve after the stubble-burning season ends. Despite these findings, public discourse and policy responses disproportionately focus on stubble burning. This misplaced focus has real consequences. While interventions like subsidies for crop residue management have reduced farm fires, the overall air quality in Delhi remains dire because transport emissions and other local sources remain largely unaddressed. Addressing Delhi's air pollution crisis requires an urgent shift in priorities. Expanding and improving public transportation is crucial to reducing dependence on private vehicles. Cleaner fuels and technologies, such as electric vehicles, must be promoted alongside stringent enforcement of emission standards. Recognising this reality and acting accordingly is imperative. Until then, the capital's air will remain a health hazard.



Global concerns over gender bias in politics



pinion 06

In the wake of Donald Trump's victory, a survey unveils deep concerns over the future of women's rights, reproductive autonomy and gender equality in the US

n the aftermath of Donald Trump's electoral victory for the second term, a prominent US daily conducted a survey among more than five thousand women voters for their reactions. A majority of them expressed concerns about the erosion of 'rights', and 'their reproductive future', and aired an array of emotions such as 'sadness,' 'scariness', 'disappointment', 'hurtfulness', 'betrayal' and 'heartbreaking'. Comments of some first-time voters also denoted despair, as many of them felt that their voices were 'more silenced than ever' and that they had been 'left empty-handed'. While a 36-year old woman rued that 'it is clear that men wanted to hold onto power... sexism won this election.

While, another leading US daily attributed Harris's defeat to her greater emphasis on issues like abortion rights' and the 'protection of democracy, and for not paying adequate attention to the state of the economy or immigration, which many Americans viewed as the most pressing issues. Harris, on the other hand, in her concession speech urged her supporters to 'remain vigilant' and keep fighting for their values. Nevertheless, many non-profits working for reproductive freedom urged Democrats to 'developing a ong-term plan to directly confront the sexism - both within their party and the nation - that hampered, both Harris and Hillary Clinton, the only women to win a major party's presidential nomination. In the US, women occupied 28 per cent of congressional seats in 2023, while Democrats had an edge over the Republicans, with 41 per cent of seats, and Republicans with only 15.4 per cent of members.

Women are 32.7 per cent of all state legislators, 48 per cent of Democrats and 20 per cent of Republicans. Democratic women are at or above parity with Democratic men in 26 state legislatures. While Republican women fall short of parity with Republican men in all states, holding one-third or less of Republican seats in 47 state legislatures. Studies commented that prevailing beliefs and attitudes



about gender roles in the parties control political representation, and more traditional perceptions among conservatives persist that 'women's success is at the expense of men' (Centre for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University). However, it is not the USA alone that didn't ever elect a woman in the highest political office, but, several most socially and economically advanced countries like Sweden, despite having a good record of women's representation in most institutions, 47.5 per cent in Parliament and 54.5 per cent in the council of ministers, has never had a woman as a Prime Minister. Countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have only closed 15 per cent of a hypothetical 100 per cent gender gap in political empowerment (WEF). While India, the largest democracy, has a scant presence of women (13.62 per cent) in the current Lok Sabha. Last year a law was passed,

reserving one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women, but, its implementation stands postponed till the process of delimitation of constituencies is over. India did have a woman Prime Minister and two women Presidents. But, deep structural and systemic difficulties (Raje, 2019), created women's poor representation, resulting in 'a democratic deficit' in

ipation in the rural-urban local bodies since the early 90s, yet, several surveys found that a majority of women elected representatives reported 'gender-based discrimination,' and in many places, their male relatives, especially husbands, played 'proxy' roles.While explaining reasons for this uneven power equation in politics, studies (Fox and Lawless, LAST YEAR 2004) explicated that there is a A LAW HAS 'gender gap in ambition', as many eligible women with the BEEN PASSED, required professional and economic credentials as political RESERVING candidates, often feel 'less ONE-THIRD encouraged to run for executive offices and tend to believe OF SEATS IN that they are less qualified for such offices than men'. LOK SABHA AND STATE Evidence also suggests that women's political careers are ASSEMBLIES FOR often influenced by 'family WOMEN, and relational considerations,

and if they face higher costs for BUT, ITS their career achievements, they IMPLEMENTATION shy away from pursuing such objectives. At the same time, STANDS other researchers pointed out POSTPONED TILL THE PROCESS OF women's electoral prospects.

(Esteve-Volart and Bagues (2012). Nevertheless, data from the latest wave of the World Value Survey (2017-2020), in Western Europe found that less than 20 per cent of survey respondents express agree-ment with the statement Men make better political leaders than women do'.

Now, what is the way out? The introduction of gender quotas in candidate lists in different countries like Sweden (Besley et al., 2017) is more or less effective in empowering women, and improving the 'quality' of the elected politicians, particularly by regulating the composition of candidate lists (Campa and Hauser, 2020). Many also suggested that a combined politico-economic strategy that emphasises women's inclusion in the labour market, and the re-distribution of economic roles within couples, could change gender-role attitudes and help women to make entry into positions of political power (Folke and Rickne, 2020 and Campa and Serafinelli, 2019). As the world remains deeply voters' bias and discrimination entrenched in patriarchal which matter quantitatively in mindset, sexism and gendered divisions of labour, women's share as chief political executive is still outnumbered by men by more than 9 to 1. (The author is former Director *General* Doordarshan, All India *Radio; views are personal)*

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IS OVER

Even political party leaders, act as gate-keepers, if they are aware of voters' bias against women, and are inclined to promote male candidates, rather than female contenders, as a votes-maximising strategy

governance and decision-mak-

ing (Rahman and Rao, 2004).

India ensured women's partic-

monk of Panch Dashnam Avahan Akhara during 'Nagar Pravesh' procession, in Prayagraj

Manipur in turmoil: Unraveling the roots of violence



The State is caught in the throes of a complex conflict fueled by ethnic tensions, socio-economic disparities and narco-terrorism

tion of hill tribes.

anipur, one of the seven northeastern states of India, holds strategic importance due to its geographical location. It shares borders with Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, Assam to the east, and Myanmar to the west.

Often referred to as the gateway to Southeast Asia, this state is home to diverse ethnic communities, including the Meiteis (approximately 53 per cent), Nagas (around 24 per cent) and Kuki-Chin-Zomi tribes (about 16 per cent). However, Manipur has recently experienced its worst violence in over a decade. More than a year of unrest has left over 226 people dead, more than 1,500 injured, and displaced over 60,000 residents. Understanding the root causes of this conflict requires examining several interconnected issues

(a) Demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status

The spark for the current violence was a Manipur High Court directive urging the state government to consider granting the Meitei community Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. This decision was met with strong opposition from



the Kuki community, culmigovernance, education, and nating in protests and clashthe economy. Granting them

Understanding the ST Status Debate:

(b) Narco-Terrorism Manipur is geographically divided into two main Manipur's proximity to the regions: The valley (10 per Golden Triangle and Golden cent of the total area): hotspot for drug trafficking. Predominantly occupied by the Meitei community, it is Illegal poppy cultivation in more developed and politicalthe region is reportedly conly influential, with Meiteis trolled by powerful drug holding 40 out of 60 legislalords, whose operations are threatened by government crackdowns. These drug tive Assembly seats. The hills (90 per cent of the total area): Primarily home to tribal comlords, facing intensified munities, these areas lag enforcement efforts, have behind in education, employallegedly fueled violence by ment, infrastructure, and repsupplying arms and ammunition to militant groups, fur-

resentation While residents from the hills ther destabilising the region. can migrate to the valley for opportunities, valley residents are restricted from purchas-Manipur's forests are classified ing land in the hills due to as protected under the Indian tribal land ownership laws. Forest Act and Wildlife

The Meiteis fear that an Protection Act. increasing number of hill Encroachments by hill tribes residents settling in the valley and illegal immigrants for threatens their identity and farming and settlements have culture. ST status for Meiteis led to significant deforestawould limit land purchases in tion. Recent government-led the valley, potentially safeeviction drives have targeted guarding their heritage. these encroachments, On the other hand, the Kukis argue that Meiteis already

dominate key sectors such as and hill communities. Voices from the Hill Tribes ST status, they claim, would exacerbate the marginalisa-

claim to oppose violence, emphasising their peaceful rotests against the High Court's order. They argue that militant groups responsible for the initial clashes do not represent their communi-

Á Way Forward for Peace over half of the insurgencies in northeastern India are concentrated in Manipur, making its stability crucial. Fostering dialogue among all stakeholders, addressing grievances equitably, and ensuring inclusive development are essential steps (c) Eviction of Encroachers toward lasting peace in the Approximately 32 per cent of region.

(The writer is Independent Research Scholar; views

ERS LETT 미

US COURT INDICTS ADANI

Madam — A US court indicted billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others, including his nephew Sagar and three other executives, on charges of fraud and bribery. The case pertained to a deal between Adani Green Energy and a US seller for 12 gigawatts of solar power to be sold to various states. The charges came on a day when the firm planned a green bond launch in the US. The Adani subsidiary eventually cancelled the sale.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged Adani, founder and chairman of the Adani Group, with allegedly defrauding American investors and bribing officials. The SEC alleged that the bribery scheme was orchestrated to enable renewable energy companies Adani Green and Azure Power to capitalise on a multi-billion-dollar solar energy project awarded by the Indian government. The complaint charges them with violating the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws and seeks permanent injunctions, civil penalties, and officer and director bars. But the beneficiaries of these kickbacks were Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha - all non-BJP governments at that time. But the blame goes to the BJP government. Basically, the current Biden government wants Adani to waive off Bangladesh's balance of payment of electricity and power bills. Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

MONEY DOMINATES ELECTIONS

Madam- The voter turnout in urban areas of Maharashtra shows the desperation of the literate voters over the way the election campaign is carried on. Money playing a dominant role, uncertainty over the elected candidates staying with the same party without falling prey to offers of purse or posts, and the campaign being far from the issues concerning the voters must have discouraged them from taking the pain of standing in line to cast their vote and bearing with the act of getting befooled by the meaningful changes, holding elections politicians. Even the tall leaders spoke more on hate lines than touching upon the liveli-



copos to 'Douse the fire' pubished on November 21. Manipur has been burning since May 2023, murder, abduction, rape and arson, it has seen it all. The strife-torn northeastern state has also witnessed complete apathy of the double engine of central and state government. And

hood issues of the people. The growing trend is such that it hardly matters to which party people vote, as the elected candidates put themselves in the market to be auctioned. Democracy is being redefined in India. The party delivering lectures against corruption dispenses cash for vote and it is the ability to spend and mobilise his caste votes that are the criteria to get a seat and not the genuine interest to serve the people. The right to recall is one aspect that should be affected on priority as a part of imminent electoral reforms.

At least the fear of getting recalled should ensure the elected candidates stay with the party at least till the next election and be mindful of their duties as the elected peoples' representatives. The candidacy of the sitting members of the respective bodies, whose assets have swelled more than their salary and allowances, and who exceed the status before contesting the election, should be denied the right to contest and kept out of the race. Without affecting such will be mere meaningless rituals.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Manipur needs solutions

the government's actions have been restricted to empty rhetoric, imposing an internet ban and issuing vague promises of dialogues. The Centre's move to bring warring communities to the negotiating table has not inspired confidence.

What is really baffling is that Prime Minister Modi has not bothered to visit the state. And surprisingly, the BJP has reposed the trust in Biren Singh, conveniently ignoring his lapses and the growing clamour for his removal. He must be shown the door without any further delay. Confidence-building measures with affected groups should be carried out as ethnic identities have played a great role in the socio-economic life of Manipur.

Bal Govind | Noida

RAFAEL NADAL RETIRES FROM TENNIS

Madam - Rafael Nadal, a self-made glo rious jewel of the tennis field, needs no introduction for his glittering career of winning 22 Grand Slams, 2 Ölympic Gold medals, ATP Masters, and several French Open championships. He shares the Trinity of Tennis Gems with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Despite being in his 38th, Nadal always makes sure to be the tennis new learner, full of zeal with utmost calmness and maturity like an experienced player. In the milieu of tennis stars throwing tantrums and breaking racquets, Nadal never ever hurt the sport that pays him. Despite he had paid adieu to this sport, he will always shine in this sport's history for his incredible accolades and invincible spirit for continuing his sport for more than two decades. He is and will always remain a true inspiration for all the budding tennis aficionados across the world

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

prompting accusations of anti-tribal bias and deepening tensions between the valley Many people from the Kuki-Chin-Zomi communities

Crescent has made it a

are personal)

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G20 Summit's toned-down declarations on Ukraine, climate finance and West Asia



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

he recently concluded G20 summit in Brazil, could well serve as an early preview in what could be the realignment of global forces in the next year and beyond with the new incoming President of the USA. First, some major optics moments, such as the family picture for G20 leaders, which didn't have US President (of course some others were missing too). Second, winding down of several commitments from the Delhi declaration to just passing mention regarding the situation in Ukraine and climate finance. Third, the entire G20 summit is being riddled with speculation on whether the multilateral platform would sur-

vive a Trump presidency, and if so, with what effectiveness. The view in Washington DC is similar, especially in the government circles. Every government official, some of whom may have served under Trump's first presidency, is well aware of his working ways. The incoming administration has an additional extra non government supervisor, the world's richest person Elon Musk, who has his own unique style of functioning. Many in DC, understand that their, managers have one foot out of the door, and things would change, at least for the next four years post the inauguration on January 20. Trump's foreign policy outlook, if the past presidency is any reference, is likely to be transactional. Trump can parallel have public shouting matches and back door negotiations with friends and foes. He has already talked about ensuring long lasting peace in Ukraine, at a time, when under President Biden's patronage, US missiles are landing in Russian territory. Similarly, the proposal to impose higher tariffs on Chinese products, may sound sweet to



many, but knowing the sharp businessman Trump is, he may well cut a sweet deal with President Xi Jinping, which could potentially be of benefit to both nations. On India, Trump has called it out to be the tariff king and likely to make a case for imposing tariffs in reciprocal approach, for sectors where he thinks, US exports are getting impacted. India's chief economic advisor has already sounded out a cautionary note on incoming Trump presidency. He has been quoted as saying that with Trump administration's views on trade and tariffs, plus a slowing global economy, India may have to look beyond exports as the primary drivers of growth. India has taken several steps such as providing incentives for manufacturing in various sectors, but except for mobile phones, the growth has been slow. It would not be hard to assume that the sluggish offtake for India for manufacturing in sectors it has recently provided incentives, may well be on the slow lane for some years. What can however, change the game would be the transactional style Mr Trump has, which is well known not just to senior India ministers and bureaucrats but the PM Modi himself (who is known to share a warm relationship with trump). Coming back to G20, while Delhi declarations had significant paragraphs on India promoted "not an era of war for Ukraine, the Rio De Janeiro declaration just mentioned, " Specifically concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling our discussions in New Delhi, we highlight the human suffering and negative added impacts of the war with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth." Clearly the world leaders didn't want to come out with any peace formulas, in face of President Trump assuming office next year. Similarly, the paragraph on West Asia focused on humanitarian aid, instead of taking either party's side. It read "While expressing our deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the escalation in Lebanon, we emphasize the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance and to reinforce the protection of civilians and demand the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale."

Hope floats for Sri Lanka in Dissanayake



analys \$ 07

Dissanayake's unprecedented mandate in Sri Lanka's newly elected parliament presents a mix of hope and immense challenges in the quest to rebuild the nation

nura Kumara Dissanayake, Sri Lanka's newly elected President, has emerged victorious in the November 14, 2024 parliamentary elections, securing an unprecedented landslide victory that will undoubtedly reshape the nation's political landscape. Known for his Marxist leanings, Dissanayake and his National People's Power (NPP) coalition have shocked the political establishment by gaining significant traction in minority-dominated regions-undermining the caste-driven politics that have long dominated the North, East and Central provinces. This triumph, achieved through a focused, strategic campaign, signals a bold rejection of the entrenched political elites and offers a forceful critique of Sri Lanka's frail democratic institutions. The magnitude of this victory speaks to a populace disillusioned by years of political stagnation and corruption.

After casting his vote, Dissanayake attended the 35th-anniversary commemoration of JVP founder Rohana Wijeweera, paying homage to the movement's resilience in the face of relentless oppression. Recounting its history of brutal suppression and bans, Dissanayake framed the JVP's struggle as an enduring fight for democracy, justice, and equality, despite decades of violence and persecution. "The history of our movement is one of unyielding resilience," he stated, honouring the sacrifices of fallen comrades. His rhetoric was one of defiance, and he emphasised that the JVP's ability to withstand adversity has kept its ideals intact.

Looking to the future, Dissanayake invoked the symbolism of "donning new garments," suggesting that the time has come to shed the old and embrace transformative change. The message was clear: Sri Lanka's political and economic systems are overdue for an overhaul, and his leadership intends to deliver just that. This moment represents more than a simple electoral win; it marks the dawn of a new political order, one rooted in the principles of progressive change and democratic service to the people The economic crisis that has ravaged the nation since its 2022 bankruptcy and subsequent default on foreign debt, looms large over this electoral victory. While Dissanayake's rise reflects a demand for systemic change, it also places him at the epicenter of an economic storm, where recovery will require deep structural reforms. Yet, his victory cannot be divorced from the grim reality: Can a country reeling from financial collapse truly embark on the path to transformative change? The pressure to reform and recover is intense, both from within Sri Lanka and from international actors, and failure to meet these expectations could spell disaster. Sri Lanka's long and tumultuous democratic journey provides critical context to this election. Since gaining independence in 1948, the country's democracy has been a paradox: simultaneously resilient and fragile, moving between progress and decline. Nationalist policies have repeatedly sidelined minority communities, with discriminatory measures like the Sinhala-Only Act of 1956 deepening ethnic divides. Successive governments,



often manipulated for political gain, have left a trail of unresolved grievances, and this fractured political landscape has stymied meaningful progress. Despite civil wars, uprisings, and systemic inequality, Sri Lanka's democracy has endured, offering fleeting moments of hope-only to be followed by setbacks and challenges that have hindered its progress. This backdrop of vio-lence and division underscores THIS ELECTION IS NOT JUST A the difficulty in achieving a truly inclusive democracy.

districts-again, setting new benchmarks. With 6.86 million votes, their victory represents a stunning political realignment, shifting from a meager 3 per cent in the previous election to an electoral force capable of rewriting the country's political script. In stark contrast, the main oppo-Bilawegava (SIB), led by Saiith challenge: Can it unite a fractured Premadasa, secured just 40 seats, a distant second. While the SJB's defeat is a blow to the opposition, Premadasa's ability to hold the opposition leadership could provide an awkward but necessary check on the NPP's power, particularly given the inexperience of most of its members. Dissanayake's administration, already facing an inexperienced and fragmented legislative body, will have to navigate internal rifts while ensuring political stability. The introduction of anti-defection laws will likely be one of the first challenges on the horizon. This election is not just a triumph of the NPP; it is a bellwether for Sri Lanka's future, revealing widespread disillusionment with traditional political parties, which are increasingly seen as inept and corrupt. yet, the mandate for change is not without its contradictions. Voter secured 152 constituencies and 21 turnout plummeted to just 68.93

per cent, with over 5 million people abstaining from the vote. This decline in electoral participation is a sobering reminder of the disconnect between the electorate and the political system-a symptom of the deep distrust that persists in Sri Lanka's democratic framework. For the NPP, this nation while addressing the systemic inequities that continue to stifle its potential? Dissanayake's sweeping victory provides him with the political leverage to pursue bold reforms, including the drafting of a new constitution, a task made possible by his overwhelming mandate. But his agenda is audacious: economic self-reliance, social equity, and fiscal discipline, all while addressing the deep-seated ethnic divides that have long plagued Sri Lanka. The NPP's ambition is to overhaul the nation's political and economic systems, but entrenched political factions will not surrender their power easily. Dissanayake's rise is a rejection of the old order-but whether he can truly dismantle it, or merely become another cog in its machinery, remains to be seen. (The writer is a journalist and author; Views are personal)

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

TRIUMPH OF THE In this historical context, Sri Lanka managed to hold another NPP; IT IS A parliamentary election, notable BELLWETHER FOR not for its violence but for the absence of it.

SRI LANKA'S The Election Commission confirmed that the election was con-FUTURE, ducted freely and fairly-a rare glimmer of progress in a nation accustomed to electoral REVEALING WIDESPREAD turmoil. The results, released on November 15, 2024, were noth-DISILLUSIONMENT ing short of historic. Dissanayake's NPP secured 159 WITH out of 225 seats, gaining a two-

TRADITIONAL thirds majority, a feat unprecedented under Śri Lanka's propor-POLITICAL tional representation system. The PARTIES NPP's 61.56 per cent share of the vote shattered records, surpassing the United People's Freedom Alliance's (UPFA) 2010 high. In a remarkable surge, the NPP

Trump's re-election sparks climate policy shift: US at a crossroads amid global action

As the world shifts toward renewables, the US faces mounting pressure to balance its growth with environmental responsibility

ith the re-election of Donald Trump, the United States is poised to enter a critical peri-od of climate policy retrenchment. Trump's policies promise increased fossil fuel production and the reversal of major clean energy investments, threatening global efforts to combat climate change.

Trump's proposed energy policies suggest a substantial setback for climate action. His administration aims to roll back the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which has allocated billions of dollars in tax credits for renewable energy projects and EV incentives, spurring substantial private sector investment. In 2024 alone, global clean energy spending hit \$2 trillion, dou-



MOHAPATRA

ble the amount invested in fossil fuels. Yet, Trump's proposed policies could throttle US participation in this growth, reinforcing depen-dency on fossil fuels rather than joining the global trend toward clean energy, where renewables now constitute the most economical choice in many regions.

The implications of a second US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement-a prospect Trump

has not ruled out-are profound. When Trump first exited the Agreement in 2017, it allowed other nations to delay action under the guise of US non-participation. If Trump follows through again, it could stymie global climate funding negotiations, particularly for developing countries. Although the US has commit-

ted to contributing to a \$100 billion global fund for climate adaptation and mitigation, the administration's climate skepticism puts these financial obligations at risk. Without US leadership, experts fear slower progress on international agreements crucial to keeping global warming within the .5°C target.

Domestically, Trump's poli-cies would deepen the US dependency on fossil fuels. His

domestic oil and gas production, particularly from reserves Trump calls "liquid gold." However, the fossil fuel industry's employment numbers tell a different story: the US green economy supports over 10 million jobs compared to 300,000 in fossil fuel industries. The economic case for green energy is clear, yet Trump's vision includes reestablishing subsidies for oil, coal, and natural gas, effectively sidelining the renewable sector In 2023, electric vehicles comprised 18 per cent of global car sales, a significant jump from just 2 per cent five years prior. Yet, Trump has criticised electric vehicles and promised to impose tariffs on imported Chinese EVs, potentially rais-

administration's strategy

emphasises maximising



ing prices and diminishing EV adoption in the US market. These policies might inhibit US competitiveness in EV manufacturing and battery technology, where other nations-especially China-have taken the lead. Another concerning proposal from Trump's allies involves dismantling federal programs that support climate research and environmental regulation. Plans under "Project 2025" advocate for

defunding key agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAÅ) and scaling back the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas monitoring. Without federal support for climate research and mitigation, the US could lose critical insight into atmospheric changes. In a geopolitical context, Trump's re-election could weaken the US influence in global climate

governance. Given the US role in controlling financial institutions that facilitate climate finance, its withdrawal or failure to meet commitments could reduce climate funding, a key agenda item at the COP29 summit in Baku. As the world's largest historical emitter, the US has a responsibility to lead by

example. Yet, with US emissions having only fallen 5 per cent since 1990-compared to the EU's 35 per cent reduction-the country's role as a climate leader is increasingly tenuous under Trump's leadership. Despite federal opposition, analysts believe that state governments, corporations, and financial markets will continue advancing climate action, albeit at a potentially slower pace.

Over the past decade, bipartisan support for renewable energy has increased, driven by iob creation and energy independence rather than environmental motives alone. With or without federal backing, the economic engine for clean energy remains robust, with new manufacturing plants and energy storage facilities rapid-

in states that benefit from IRA-funded projects. Given that federal policy directly influences emissions standards, environmental regulations, and international commitments, the pace of progress could indeed slow, with repercussions for both the US economy and global climate goals. If Trump's policies take effect, is it likely that the US will fall even further behind on international climate standards? What risks will US industries face if they resist the global shift to cleaner energy, only to find themselves competing in a marketplace that increasingly penalises high-emission practices?

ly coming online, particularly

(The author is a faculty member at NCAER in New *Delhi; Views are personal)*

nation 08



Supreme Court reserves verdict on 1976 amendment to preamble of Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T_{\rm Friday\ observed\ the\ 1976}^{\rm he\ Supreme\ Court\ on}$ amendment to the Constitution adding terms socialist, secular and integrity to the Preamble underwent judicial reviews and and a white a new same and a new sa New same and a Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain and others, challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble to the Constitution.

The CJI, however, said, "The subject amendment (42nd amendment) has been subjected to a lot of judicial reviews by this court. The Parliament has intervened. We cannot say that whatever Parliament did at that time (emergency) was all

nullity." The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were inserted into the Preamble to

the Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976. The amendment changed the description of India in the Preamble from a "sovereign, democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist, secular, demo-cratic republic". Emergency in India was declared by the late PM Indira Gandhi from June 25, 1975 to March 21, 1977. The bench said it would pronounce its order on the issue on

November 25. Former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, who filed a separate plea, pointed out even the subsequently elected union government led by Janata Party supported the inclusion of these words in the Preamble. He said the question was whether it should be added as a separate paragraph to the Preamble instead of saying in 1949, it was adopted as social-



ist and secular. Swamy said, "Not only the emergency Parliament adopted this but (it) was also subsequently supported by the Janata Party government's Parliament by a 2/3rd majority, in which this particular aspect of socialism and secularism was retained." He added, "The issue here is only this much - whether we would make out that this should come as a separate paragraph because we cannot say that in 1949 these words

were adopted. Therefore, the only issue that remains is, having accepted this, we can have a separate paragraph below the original paragraph." Swamy's plea contended the Preamble not only indicated the essential features of the Constitution but also the fundamental conditions based on which it was adopted to create a unified integrated communi-

During the hearing, the bench refused to refer the matter to a larger bench as sought by petitioner and said "being socialist" in the Indian sense was understood to be a "welfare state". The bench then noted, "The way, we understand socialism in İndia is very different from other countries. In our context, socialism primarily means a welfare state. That is all. It has never prevented the private sector, which is thriving well. We have all benefited from it." Justice Khanna said the word socialism was used in different contexts worldwide and in

India it meant the state was a welfare one and must stand for the welfare of the people and should provide equality of opportunities. He said the top court held "secularism" to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution in the 1994 S R Bommai case.

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who too has filed a petition said he was not against the concepts of "socialism" and "secularism" but opposed their inser-tion into the Preamble. The bench said Article 368 of the Constitution granted power to Parliament to amend the Constitution and it extended to the Preamble as well. "The Preamble is part and par-

cel of the Constitution. It is not separate," it said, making it clear the court won't go into the inquiry that the Lok Sabha in 1976 could not have amended the Constitution and that amending the Preamble was a constituent power, exercised only by the Constituent Assembly.

Mizoram govt plans to relocate refugees to single location

PTI AIZAWL

The Mizoram government is planning to relocate all refugees taking shelter in dif-ferent parts of the state and to bring them in one place, according to Lalmuanpuia Punte, political adviser to the chief minister chief minister.

Punte on Thursday convened a meeting with officials of south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district to discuss issues concerning over 2,000 Bangladeshi refugees taking shelter in the district.

He told the meeting that proper guidelines should be formulated to prevent the refugees from settling and shifting anywhere they want. Punte said that the government is taking steps to relocate and bring the refugees together in one place rather than be scattered in villages different for administrative convenience. The plan will also help the government in providing



humanitarian assistance in a more convenient way, he said. Punte further said that plans are afoot to relocate 2,014 refugees from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) currently taking shelter in different villages in Lawngtlai district to four villages within the district.

Lawngtlai shares border with both Myanmar and Bangladesh and the

southernmost district currently hosts 6,030 refugees from Myanmar and 84 internally displaced people from Manipur besides 2,014 refugees, Bangladeshi according to deputy commissioner Cheemala Siva

Gopal Reddy. Earlier, Young Mizo Association (YMA), the largest civil society organisation in the state, organisation in the state, urged the state government to constitute a systematic mechanism, including proper shelter homes, for housing and handling over 42,000 refugees and internally displaced people. According to the state Home

According to the state Home department, over 33,000 nationals, Myanmar including 12,572 children, are currently taking shelter across all the 11 districts of the state. Besides, 7,756 internally displaced people from Manipur also took shelter in different parts of the state, it said.

VBA eyes power in Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Seeking to create bargaining power ahead of the counting of votes in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) founder-president Prakash Ambedkar on Friday announced that if his party gets numbers it will support the party or group which is in a position to form the govern-ment in Maharashtra".Though a post in micro-blogging site X, 70-year-old lawyer-activist, Prakash Ambedkar -- who is the grandson of late Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar - sent out a message to both the political forma-tions--BJP-led MahaYuti and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)--expressing his readiness to join hands with either of them provided it is in a position to form the govern-ment in the state."If VBA gets the numbers tomorrow, to support a party or an alliance to form the government, we will choose to be with the one who can form the government. We will choose power! Hum saath me rehna chahenge!" Ambedkar wrote on "X". After the BVA chief's post on "X", his party spokesperson Siddharth Mokle clarified: "Our party president made it clear two days ago that the VBA is prepared to support any alliance provided our ideology is acceptable to them

campaign against vapes

Poonawalla joins nation-wide

dangerous

combating

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The crusade against vaping must involve not just mothers but the whole societysince these new-age nicotine delivery products are way more harmful than conventional smoking," said BJP National Spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, as he joined Padma Shri awardee Dr Deepa Malik at the launch of a

nationwidecampaign titled 'Please STOP This' aimed to combat the growing menace of novel nicotine delivery products such as vapes, ecigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, and nicotine

pouches among Indian children and youth. "I identify a 4S strategy to keep our kids safe from such new-age addiction," he said. "The whole of 'Samaj' or Indian society must step in tobacco companies attempting to bypass the current ban on these for stopping this menace; While 'Sarkar' or the government has put into products in India. place stringent laws, we The study, based on must ensure that extensive research from implementing agencies and available medical and nonlaw enforcement agencies medical sources, as well as should crack down more

in NEET UG paper leak "cool"; we must project positive activities, such as gymming or running, as cool things. Last, but extremely important is PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

CBI has filed its fifth Cs u p p l e m e n t a r y chargesheet in the NEET UG examination paper leak case on Friday against five persons, including key gang member Amit Kumar Singh 'Sports' since it is the best panacea for keeping kids away from the menace of vapes and addiction to such dangerous new-age devices,"Poonawalla added. 'Please STOP This' is an initiative of Mothers member Amit Kumar Singh of Bokaro who allegedly Against Vaping (MAV), a collective of concerned mothers dedicated to orchestrated and executed the leak, officials said.

In the chargesheet filed before the special CBI court in the growing crisis of novel nicotine delivery products Patna, the agency alleged that Singh was the key planner of the gang and was aided by Sudip Kumar and Yuvraj Kumar of Bokaro, such as vapes, e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, and nicotine pouches among Indian children and youth. Abhimanyu Patel of Nalanda MAV's 'Please STOP This' and Amit Kumar of Patna in campaign is powered by a study that exposes the alleged hidden agendas and tactics of multinational the distribution of the leaked papers to aspirants in Bihar and Jharkhand, they said.

"With this, the total chargesheeted accused in this case stands at 45, and all of them are still in judicial custody," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said the chargesheet has been filed under various sections of the nast legal cases and media Indian Penal Code such as

property) and under section property) and under section 13(2) read with section 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018). The CBI took over the

CBI files new chargesheet

investigation on June 23. "Names of the candidates who are beneficiaries of the paper theft or unfair means and names of the MBBS student who had solved the stolen paper or who had appeared in the exam as impersonators have already been identified shared and with NTA/Ministry of Education,"

the statement said. The NEET-UG is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. This year, the exam was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates appeared for the test.

The Bihar Police launched a crackdown after getting inputs of an alleged leak of the paper and it soon snowballed o a major political issue.

directives to restrict the entry of

trucks from neighbouring areas

into Delhi amid the capital's

pollution crisis is being properly

enforced. The list include

Pratyush Jain, Aditya N Prasad,

Aditya Bharat Manubarwala, Manisha Chava, Abhinav Aggarwal, Shrishti Mishra,

Manan Verma, Jatin Kumar,

Mohit Siwach, Abhishk

Budhiraja, Pranav Dhawan, Savi

Nagpal and Sumit Kumar.

Earlier, the Court was told that there are 113 entry points, but only 13 check points have strict

vigil.The Court proceeded to appoint 13 lawyers who volunteered to act as advocate

commissioners to go check these 13 points and see if the

restrictions on entry of trucks

are actually being enforced. The

Court added that the Delhi

government must take measures

to monitor all entry points, and

not just the 13 entry points

where strict vigil measures are

presently stated to be in place.

paper was stolen from Oasis School in Hazaribagh by one Pankaj Kumar in connivance with its principal Ahsanul Haque and vice-principal

Mohd Imtiyaz Alam using Mond Intiyaz Alam using sophisticated tools. Trunks containing NEET UG 2024 question papers were brought to the school and kept in the control room on the morning of May 5. Haque and Alam illegally allowed Kumar access to the room Kumar access to the room where the trunks were kept, the CBI has alleged. Using sophisticated tools,

Kumar allegedly opened the trunks to access the question papers, it said.

papers, it said. According to the CBI, the paper was solved in Hazaribagh on the morning of the examination on May 5 by a set of solvers studying MBBS courses at AIIMS Patna, RIMS Ranchi and a medical college in Bharatpur. The agency has arrested seven alleged solvers and seized the equipment used to open the trunk. "The solved paper was shared with certain selected students who paid money to the accused. All the solvers, who are MBBS students from reputed colleges, have been identified and most of them arrested. These solvers were brought to Hazaribagh as part of the conspiracy," the CBI spokesperson said earlier.

reservation policy

J and K to review

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

A mid growing anger against the contentious reservation policy, which allocated only 40 per cent of positions for open merit in government job recruitments, the Omar Abdullah-led government Friday conceded the demand by announcing the setting up of a cabinet subcommittee to take a holistic view in the matter ahead of addressing the genuine concerns of the common aspi-

rants. The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Abdullah at his residence in Jammu. Briefing media per-sons the CM told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Srinagar that the cabinet today decided to constitute a three-member sub-committee to review the existing reservation policy. He said some serious concerns were raised after the reservation policy was tweaked ahead of the Assembly polls earlier

this year. formed The newly gover Conference (NC) MP from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi were the most vocal voices in support of the urgent review of the reserva-

tion policy. Reacting to the cabinet decision, Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday said that the government is doing its job wherev-er it has clear powers and that the reservation policy won't be aimed at snatching somebody's rights but at rationalising it.

He said open merit needs to be rationalised. "This is what I wanted to convey through my tweet. I wanted to convey to those demanding rationalisation that if the government won't take any decision on it, I will join them and accompany them in getting their demands addressed. I also told them that I will accompany them to the CM and ensure that their demands are met forthwith by the government," Mehdi said.

In Jammu, minister for jal shakti and forests, Javed Ahmed Rana in a separate briefing said that critical issues, including employ ment, reservation, recruitment processes and develop ment, were deliberated upon elected legislators of the in the cabinet meeting. He Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led by Waheed Ur during the session was thorsaid that the LG's speech

strictly; we must also have a investigations, positive presence on 'Social Media' since our kids are on employed social media. We all need to be there too to drive out the influence negative messages that alter project vaping to look

and by strategies manufacturers of these products to policy opinion.

From page 1

advocate

During the hearing, senior

Sankaranarayanan highlighted

120-B (criminal conspiracy), reveals 109 (abetment), 409 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 380 (theft), 201 tactics (causing disappearance of and public 411 evidence) and (dishonestly receiving stolen

Union The education ministry handed over the probe to the CBI, which registered several FIRs, taking over probes from different states including Bihar. According to the CBI, the

ment has been feeling the heat ever since assuming office last month. Newly Rahman Para and National oughly discussed.

Temperature falls, AQI rises

Canada dismisses report linking PM, Doval to criminal activities

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In a statement issued by the Privy Council Office on Thursday, Drouin said, "On extraordinary step of making public accusations of serious criminal activity in Canada perpetrated by agents of the Government of India." However, he said, "The Government of Canada has not stated, nor is it aware of evidence, linking Prime Minister Modi, Minister Jaishankar, or NSA Doval to the serious criminal activity within Canada. Anv suggestion to the contrary is both speculative and inaccurate."

In a press conference on Oct 14, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme warned of widespread violence, homicides and a public security threat linked to "agents" of the Indian government. Hours after Duheme's conference, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters, "I believe that India has made a monumental mistake by choosing to use their diplomats and organised crime to attack Canadians, to make them feel unsafe here at (their) home, and even more, to create acts of violence and even murder. It's unacceptable."

David Morrison alleged that undermine the sovereignty Indian Home Minister Shah ordered a campaign of India.

violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists

inside Canada. In New Delhi on Wednesday, October 14th, because of a referring to the The Globe significant and ongoing threat to public safety, the RCMP Affairs Ministry and officials took the spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal "ludicrous said such should be statements" dismissed with the contempt they deserve and "smear campaigns like this only further damage our already strained ties". India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over Canada's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Nijjar, who was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia in

> India-Canada ties further were expelled from the

that changes in the timing of stubble burning, coupled with seasonal wind patterns, had worsened Delhi's air quality. The amicus curiae further flagged discrepancies in data reported by the CAQM and other sources regarding burnt

areas in Punjab and Haryana. "The burnt area in Punjab has increased to 19.1 lakh hectare from 15.1 lakh hectare in 2021, a 24% rise. Similarly, Haryana's burnt area rose from 3.5 lakh hectare in 2021 to 8.3 lakh hectare in 2023. This contrasts with CAQM data, which claims a reduction in farm fires in Harvana," Singh said, raising concerns about the accuracy of June last year.

nosedived last month after Canada linked Indian High Commissioner Saniav Verma and some other diplomats to the murder. India has strongly rejected all the allegations made by Ottawa in connection to the case and subsequently recalled the high commissioner. The Canadian government had said the Indian diplomats

country. India expelled Canadian Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler and five other diplomats following Canada's allegations. New Delhi accuses Ottawa of doing next to nothing to stop the activities of Khalistani On Oct 26, Canadian Deputy activities of Khalistani Foreign Affairs Minister supporters who seek to and territorial integrity of

Centre opposes ex-SC judges panel would undermine the process. The Bench observed that while

Gopal

satellites could detect farm fires, burnt area showed their exact extent. "We would like to have that data," it said. In an order on November 18, the top court directed the Centre and the CAQM to procure farm fire data using geostationary satellites, as opposed to NASA's polarorbiting satellites, to ensure realtime monitoring.

The SC noted that existing data from NASA satellites was limited to specific time windows and directed the involvement of ISRO in utilising stationary satellites for comprehensive daylong monitoring. The court will review compliance with these directions and the latest developments on stubble burning measures in its next hearing.

official reports. The ASG defended the CAQM's The Supreme Court has appointed 13 lawyers as methodology, arguing that advocate commissioners to examine whether its earlier reliance on unverified sensors

issues,

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However, Delhi still ranked as the second most polluted city in the country, only behind Bihar's Hajipur (ÁQI 403). While Delhi's AQI was the worst in the country on Monday and Tuesday, with readings exceeding 450 in the "severe plus" category, it recorded the thirdworst ranking on Wednesday before moving to the second place on Thursday. Earlier in the season, favourable conditions such as strong wind speeds and easterly winds contributed to better air quality. However, these same conditions are now linked to high Air Quality Index (AQI) readings.

According to SAFAR-India, Alipur recorded an AQI of 389, while Anand Vihar recorded 410, Ashok Vihar 395, Bawana 411, Burari Crossing 369, Dwarka Sector 8 380, IGI Airport 357, ITO 344, Jahangirpuri 426, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium 342, Lodhi Road 267, Mandir Marg 356, Mundka 402, Najafgarh 353, Narela 383, North Campus DÚ 346, Okhla Phase 2 374, RK Puram 372, Rohini 397, Shadipur 402, Siri Fort 359, Vivek Vihar 398, and Wazirpur 413 among others. The Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi pointed out the transport sector as the most significant contributor at 15. 16 per cent. While the

residential sector contribution is 3. 123 per cent, industries contributed 2.877 per cent, construction 2. 148 per cent, energy sector 1. 727 per cent, waste burning 1.348 per cent, and road dust 1.502 per cent. Keeping in view of restrictions imposed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan, the roads in Delhi witnessed reduction in traffic on most roads and intersections due to banning entry of trucks, BS 3 and BS 4 vehicles, staggering timings of government offices and work from home facilities.

The city roads, which are usually jammed with the traffic flow especially in peak hours, were visibly deserted. Addl/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer Singh Katara stated that the effect of these instructions including work from home for government employees and schools being shifted to online mode is evident as there has been about 25 per cent of reduction of traffic in Delhi. "The reduction is also helping in bringing down the aqi as is visible," he said. Further, complying to the orders of Supreme Court to the Delhi Police to ensure vigilance at entry points in the city for trucks, the officer added that they have deployed teams of traffic personnel at 13 different points including Badarpur, Ghazipur, Singhu border, Tikri border, Loni and Rangpuri border.

Déjà vu for AAP, LG Saxena now praises CM Atishi

From page 1

and families, society, and nation-building. This "Young bright women nation-building. This convocation marks a graduating today will be convocation marks a celebration of progress and breaking barriers, redefining gender roles, and stepping into a rapidly changing world the vital role women play in shaping a technologically advanced and equitable future," he mentioned. with technical expertise and determination. Their bright, young minds are a testament to the innovation and The AAP and BJP have been resilience needed to lead in at loggerheads over a range this era of transformation," of governance, air pollution, and control of bureaucracy. L-G said on social media platform.

These young women carry Recently, Raj Niwas and the AAP led Delhi government not only the promise of bright futures but also a newwere at loggerheads over the

found responsibility to issue of reemployment of over 10,000 civil defence contribute to their parents volunteers to tackle air pollution.

tendered his Keiriwal resignation in September and said that he would seek a "certificate of honesty" from the public in light of the corruption charges he faced. Kejriwal had proposed Atishi's name as the chief minister at a meeting of the legislature party and it was including unanimously accepted. The roots of the recent confrontation can be traced back to March 5, 2014, when

14 AAP members, including leaders, former journalist Ashutosh (then party member) and Shazia Ilmi, were arrested following clashes outside the BJP

national headquarters. The altercation left 28 people injured, including 13 AAP activists and 10 BJP supporters. The clashes were sparked by protests against the detention of Kejriwal in Gujarat on March 4, 2014. Meanwhile, Atishi, in her address, expressed her appreciation for IGDTUW's role in providing qualified

professionals across diverse fields in this era of technological advancements. In the first week of August, in a letter to the LG, Kejriwal, the then CM, had said his cabinet colleague Atishi would hoist the national flag in his place during the Delhi government's Independence Day programme but LG nominated Gahlot to do the honours.

In an earlier tweet, LG had targeted the AAP government saying, "During the inspection of Rangpuri, Aya Nagar, Jaunapur area of

requests of local residents. A horrific example of failure and mismanagement of the local government was once again seen. The mess of electric wires hanging dangerously, women holding pipes in their hands for drinking water, open manholes, heaps of garbage and sewer water flowing in the streets is unforgivable. The mismanagement that was seen here was also seen during the inspection of North-East Delhi and North-West Delhi".

South Delhi on the repeated

world 09



Many in Gaza eating once a day, as hunger spreads amid aid issues "Israel is looking at many cre-

AP DEIR AL-BALAH

 $\label{eq:assignment} \begin{array}{c} X^{asmin \mbox{ Eid coughs and coverses}}_{ers \mbox{ her face, cooking a small pot of lentils over a fire} \end{array}$ fed with twigs and scrap paper in the tent she shares with her husband and four young daughters in the Gaza Śtrip.

It was their only meal Wednesday — it was all they could afford. "My girls suck on their thumbs

My grifs suck on their futures because of how hungry they are, and I pat their backs until they sleep," she said. After being displaced five times, the Eids reside in central

Gaza, where aid groups have relatively more access than in the north, which has been largely isolated and heavily destroyed since Israel began waging a renewed offensive against the militant group Hamas in early October. But nearly everyone in Gaza is going hungry these days. In the

north experts say a full-blown nearly 100 aid trucks last weekfamine may be underway. On Thursday, the International

Criminal Court issued arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister, accusing them of using "starvation as a method of warfare" – charges Israel adamantly denies.

In Deir al-Balah, the Eids are among hundreds of thousands sheltering in squalid tent camps. The local bakeries shut down for five days this week. The price of a bag of bread climbed above \$13 by Wednesday, as bread and flour vanished from shelves before

more supplies arrived. The United Nations humanitarian office warned of a "stark increase" in the number of households experiencing severe hunger in central and southern Gaza. It appeared to be linked to the robbery at gunpoint of

end in southern Gaza, close to Israeli military positions. Israel blamed Hamas but appears to have taken no action to stop the looting, while Hamas said it was the work of local bandits. Aid groups say the looting is one of many obstacles to get-ting food and other vital aid to

the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians. They also have to contend with Israeli movement restrictions, ongoing fighting, and heavy damage wreaked by the Israeli bombardment of roads and critical infrastructure.

FOR THE EIDS, HUNGER IS THE DAILY ROUTINE

For months, Yasmin and her family have gone to bed hungry. "Everything has increased in price, and we cannot buy anything," she said. "We always go to sleep without having dinner." She misses coffee, but

a single packet of Nescafe goes for around \$1.30. A kg (2 pounds) of onions goes for \$10, a medium bottle of cooking oil for \$15 — if available. Meat and chicken all but vanished from the markets months ago, but there are still some local vegetables. Such sums are astronomical in an impoverished territory where few people earn regular incomes.

Crowds of hundreds wait hours to get food from charities, which are also struggling.

Hani Almadhoun, co-founder of the Gaza Soup Kitchen, said his teams can offer only small bowls of rice or pasta once a day. He said they "can go to the market on one day and buy something for \$5, and then go back in the afternoon to find it doubled or tripled in price". Its kitchen in the central town of Zuweida operated on a daily budget of around \$500 for much of the war. When the

amount of aid entering Gaza plummeted in October, its costs climbed to around \$1,300 a day. It can feed about half of the 1,000 families who line up each day.

THE SHARP DECLINE IN AID, AND US ULTIMATUM

Israel says it places no limits on the amount of aid entering Gaza and has announced a number of measures it says are aimed at increasing the flow in recent weeks, including the opening of a new crossing. It blames UN agencies for not retrieving it, pointing to hun-dreds of truckloads languishing on the Gaza side of the border. But the military's own figures show that the amount of aid entering Gaza plunged to around 1,800 trucks in October, down from over 4,200 the previous month. At the current rate of entry, around 2,400 trucks would come into Gaza

in November. Around 500 trucks entered each day before the war.

The UN says less than half the truckloads are actually distributed because of ongoing fighting, Israeli denial of movement requests, and the breakdown of law and order. Hamas-run police have vanished from many areas after being targeted by Israeli airstrikes. The war started Oct 7, 2023,

when Hamas-led fighters stormed into Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are dead, and Hamas militants have repeatedly regrouped after Israeli operations, carrying out hit-andrun attacks from tunnels and bombed-out buildings.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 44,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women

and children, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many of the dead were fighters.

The United States warned Israel in October that it might be forced to curtail some of its crucial military support if Israel did not rapidly ramp up the amount of aid entering Gaza. But after the 30-day ultimatum expired, the Biden administration declined to take any action, saving there had been some progress. Israel meanwhile passed legislation severing ties with UNRWA. Israel accuses the agency of allowing itself to be infiltrated by Hamas — allegations denied by the UN. Israeli news outlets have reported that officials are considering plans for the military to take over aid distribution or contract it out to private security companies. Asked about such plans Wednesday, government spokesman David Mercer said

ter future for Gaza". Yoav Gallant, the former defence minister who was seen as a voice of moderation in the far-right government before being fired this month, warned

ative solutions to ensure a bet-

on X that handing over aid distribution to a private firm was a "euphemism for the beginning of military rule". As that debate plays out in Jerusalem, less than 100 km (60 miles) away from central Gaza, most Palestinians in the terri-

tory are focused on staying alive in a war with no end in sight. "I find it difficult to talk about

the suffering we are experiencing. I am ashamed to talk about it," said Yasmin's husband, Hani. "What can I tell you? I'm a person who has 21 family members and is unable to provide them with a bag of flour?

UN reports heavy clashes in Lebanon

AP JERUSALEM

Israeli troops fought fierce battles with Hezbollah fighters on Friday in different areas in south Lebanon, including a coastal town that is home to the headquarters of UN peacekeepers. A spokesman for the UN

peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL told The Associated Press that they are monitoring "heavy clashes" in the coastal town of Naqoura and the village of Chamaa to the north-east. UNIFIL's headquarters are located in Naqoura in Lebanon's southern edge close to the border with Israel. "We are aware of heavy shelling

in the vicinity of our bases," UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti said. Asked if the peacekeepers and staff at the headquarters are safe, Tenenti said: "Yes for the moment." Several UNIFIL posts have been hit since Israel began its

ground invasion of Lebanon on October 1, leaving a number of

peacekeepers wounded. The fighting came a day after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence minister and a Hamas military leader, accus-ing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity over their 13-month war in Gaza and the October 2023 attack on day after Hamas' attack last Israel respectively. The warrant marked the first

time that a sitting leader of a major Western ally has been accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity by a global court of justice. Israel's war has caused heavy

destruction across Gaza, decimated parts of the territory and driven almost the entire population of 2.3 million people from their homes, leaving most dependent on aid to survive. Israel launched its war in Gaza

after Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of

whom are believed to be dead. Israel has also launched airstrikes against Lebanon after the Hezbollah militant group began firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel the

October. A full-blown war erupted in September after nearly a year of lower-level conflict.

A German official has suggested that his country would be reluctant to arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court. The ICC's warrants for Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant put Germany, a staunch ally of Israel, in an awkward position.

The government said in a statement on Friday that it is one of the ICC's biggest supporters, but "at the same time, it is a consequence of German history that unique relations and a great responsibility connect us with Israel".

The government said it takes note of the arrest warrants and that "we will examine conscientiously the domestic steps". It said that any further steps would only be an issue if a visit by Netanyahu or Gallant were "foreseeable".

Government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit was pressed repeatedly at a regular news conference on whether it would be conceivable to arrest an Israeli prime minister. He replied: "It's hard for me to imagine that we would carry out arrests in Germany on this basis."

Kremlin Meanwhile. spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday refused to comment on

the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others, saying that the court's rulings are "insignificant" for Russia, which doesn't recognices the court's jurisdiction. The ICC last year issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and a number of other top Russian officials, accusing them of war crimes in Ukraine. The Kremlin has brushed off the warrants, saying that in Moscow's eyes they're "null and void".

Asked if the ICC warrants for Netanyahu and others can help resolve the tensions in the Middle East, Peskov said: "Well, in general, the actions of the ICC are unlikely to help any-thing. That's the first thing. And secondly, we don't see any point in commenting on this in any way, because for us these rulings are insignificant."



Smoke and flames erupt from a building hit in an Israeli airstrike in Chiyah, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on

Hungary PM vows to disregard int'l arrest warrant for Netanyahu

AP BUDAPEST

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday denounced the International Criminal Court's issuing of an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Beniamin Netanvahu.



Trump nominates Bondi as his next Attorney Gen after Gaetz's withdrawal

Washington (PTI): Presidentelect Donald Trump has selected Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi as his nominee for Attorney General, hours after She is smart and tough, and is his initial pick Matt Gaetz an AMERICA FIRST Fighter, name amid conwithdrew troversy over alleged sexual misconduct. said. Former Congressman Gaetz on Thursday announced his decision to withdraw from the nomination process for the post. "I am proud to announce former Attorney General of the Great State of Florida, Pam Bondi, as our next Attorney General of the United States," Capitol Hill. Trump said in a statement on Thursday.

its intended purpose of fighting crime and Making America Safe Again. I have known Pam for many years who will do a terrific job as

Second Australian teen dies in tainted alcohol case

AP VANG VIENG (LAOS)

A second Australian teenag-er who fell critically ill after drinking tainted alcohol in Laos has died in a hospital in Bangkok, her family said Friday, bringing the death toll

The US State Department on believed to have been treated, Friday issued a health alert for initially referred all questions citizens traveling in Laos, warnto the town's health office on the hospital grounds. The town ing of "suspected methanol poisoning in Vang Vieng, poshealth officials refused to comsibly through the consumption ment, saying they lacked propof methanol-laced alcoholic er permission. drinks," following similar alerts

Methanol is som

AP/PT

saying he would defy it by inviting him to Hungary.

In comments to state radio, accused Orban the International Criminal Court (ICC), the world's top war crimes court based in The Hague, of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes," saying the decision to issue the warrant for Netanyahu over his conduct of the war in Gaza undermined international law and escalated tensions.

Member countries of the ICC, such as Hungary, are required to detain suspects facing a warrant if they set foot on their soil, but the court has no way to enforce that.

The ICC issued the arrest warrant on Thursday for Netanyahu as well as for his former defence minister and Hamas' military chief, accusing them of crimes against humanity in connection with the 13month war in Gaza.

The warrants said there was reason to believe Netanvahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid

and intentionally targeted civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza - charges Israeli officials deny. In his comments Friday, Orban, a close Netanyahu ally, called the arrest warrant "outrageously impudent" and "cynical." He said he would invite Netanvahu to Hungary later Friday and

vowed to disregard the warrant if the invitation is accepted. We will defy this decision, and it will have no consequences for him," Orban said. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto earlier criticised the ICC's war-

rant as "absurd." Israel and its top ally, the United States, are not members of the court. But other Israeli allies, including some of its close European friends, are put in an awkward position by

the warrants. Several, including France, welcomed the court's decision and signaled they might arrest Netanyahu if he visited.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Joe Biden's administration was "deeply concerned by the prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision."

Netanyahu on Friday praised Hungary for its stance on the warrant, saying in a statement: "Against the shameful weakness of those who stood by the outrageous decision against the right of the State of Israel to defend itself, Hungary - like our friends in the United States

— is displaying moral clarity and standing by justice and truth." The action by the ICC came as the death toll from Israel's campaign in Gaza passed 44,000, according to local health authorities, who say more than half of those killed were women and children. Their count does not dif-

ferentiate between civilians and combatants.

compliments

of

Pistorius.

He noted that Bondi served as a prosecutor for nearly 20 years, during which she was very tough on violent criminals, and made the streets safe for Florida families".

"Then, as Florida's first female Attorney General, she worked to stop the trafficking of deadly drugs and reduce the tragedy of Fentanyl overdose deaths, which have destroyed many families across our country," he said.

Trump praised Bondi for doing an "incredible" job. He alleged that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had been weaponised against him and other Republicans. "Not anymore," said the President-elect. "Pam will refocus the DOJ on

Attorney General!" Trump

Earlier in the day, Gaetz withdrew himself from the nomination after facing backlash from both the opposition and his own Republican Party Senators. He made the surprising announcement a day after he met with Senators on "I had excellent meetings with

Senators yesterday. I appreci-ate their thoughtful feedback and the incredible support of so many. While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition," he

said. "There is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle, thus I'll be withdrawing to the second of t in a post on social media. Gaetz said he remains fully

committed to seeing that Trump is the most successful President in history.

in the mass poisoning of foreign tourists to six.

Holly Bowles, 19, had been in critical condition on life support following the poisoning in Laos more than a week ago. "We are so sad to say that our beautiful girl Holly is now at peace," her family said in a statement sent to Australian Network 10 and other Australian media. "We find comfort and solace in knowing that Holly brought so much joy and happiness to so many people."

An officer at Vang Vieng's Tourism Police office, who refused to give his name, told The Associated Press on Friday that a "number of people" had been detained in the case but that no charges have yet been filed. Staff at the Nana Backpacker Hostel, which was still operating but not accepting new guests, confirmed that the manager and owner were among those taken in for questioning.

Tourist police offices are common in Southeast Asia and are set up specifically to help with incidents involving tourists and other foreigners.

from other countries whose citizens were involved.

Australia's prime minister had announced on Thursday that a 19-year-old citizen, Bianca Jones, had died in a Thai hospital where she had been evacuated for emergency treatment, and that her friend -Bowles - remained in a hospital "fighting for her life." A 28-year-old British woman, Simone White, also died from suspected methanol poisoning in Laos, the British Foreign Office said.

An American and two Danish tourists also died, though specifics about the causes of death have not been released. New Zealand's Foreign Ministry said one of its citizens was sickened in Laos and was a possible victim of methanol poisoning.

Laos is a one-party communist state with no organised opposition and the government keeps a tight lid on information. In this case, officials have released almost no details. The Foreign Ministry has

refused to comment, and in Vang Vieng, the small hospital where some of the victims are

to mixed drinks at disreputable bars as a cheaper alter native to ethanol, but can cause severe poisoning or death. It is also a byproduct of poorly distilled homebrew liquor, and could have found its way into bar drinks inadvertently.

Landlocked Laos is one of Southeast Asia's poorest nations and a popular tourist destination. Vang Vieng is particularly popular among backpackers seeking partying and adventure sports.

Neil Farmiloe, a New Zealander who owns the Kiwi Kitchen restaurant in town, said a lot of his customers were very worried about the incident.

"I think it's never happened before, so it is hopefully just a one-off incident," said Farmiloe, who has lived in Vang Vieng for 20 years. "It's very sad all around. I'm sure nobody intended to cause injury, but it's happened."

The two 19-year-old Australian women who have both now died fell ill on November 13 following a night out drinking with a group.

Decks cleared for Scholz to seek Australia rejects Musk's claim that Merkel says she felt sorrow at Trump's it plans to control access to internet second term as chancellor comeback, recalls 'non-handshake' the Greens, named Vice

AP 📕 BERLIN

Germany's popular defence minister has taken himself out of contention to become the country's next leader, clearing the way for Chancellor Olaf Scholz to seek a second term in an early election after a week of arguments that exposed deep divisions in his struggling party.Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said in a video Thursday night that he has informed the centre-left Social Democrats' leadership that he is "not available for a candidacy for the office of chancellor".

He said that "Olaf Scholz is a strong chancellor and he is the right candidate for chancellor".Pistorius' announcement

resolves the question of who will run in the election expect-ed on Feb 23, but a week of very public arguments is widely viewed as having damaged a party that was already far behind the main opposition centre-right Union bloc in polls.

far created space for persistent speculation that the party Rather than building momentum from Scholz's firing of his might instead choose Pistorius, finance minister two weeks who enjoys much higher popago, which put an end to his unpopular three-party coaliularity.On Monday, two inflution, party members have aired ential lawmakers said Scholz's public doubts about the chan-"current standing is strongly linked" with the failed coalicellor. The Social Democrats'

rivals have already determined who will lead their campaigns. The Union nominated Friedrich Merz as its challenger in September. Scholz's remaining coalition partners,

AP BERLIN Chancellor Robert Habeck to head their challenge on

Former German Chancellor "Sorrow" at Donald Trump's Sunday.While Scholz has made clear for months that he intends to run for a second term and his party's leadership had made return to power and recalls clear that it backed him, the that every meeting with him lack of a formal nomination so was "a competition: you or me." In an interview with German weekly Der Spiegel published Friday, Merkel said that Trump "is a challenge for the world, particularly for multilateralism."

"What awaits us now is really not easy," she said, because "the tion, which collapsed in a disstrongest economy in the world pute about how to revive stands behind this president" with the dollar as a dominant Germany's stagnant economy, currency. Merkel worked with and that they were hearing a lot for four American presidents while she was German chancellor.

She was in power throughout Trump's first term — easily the most tense period for German-US relations of her 16 years in office, which ended in late 2021. She recalled as "a typical scene" a famously awkward moment in the Oval Office when she first visited Trump at the White House in March 2017. Photographers shouted "hand-shake!" and Merkel quietly

asked Trump: "Do you want to have a handshake?" There was no response from Trump, who looked ahead with his hands clasped.

"I tried to coax him into a handshake for the photographers because I thought in my constructive way that maybe he hadn't noticed they wanted such

a picture," Merkel was quoted as saying. "But of course his refusal was calculation." The pair did shake hands at other points during the visit.

Asked what a German chancellor should know about dealing with Trump, Merkel said he was very curious and wanted details — "but only to read them for his own advantage, to find arguments that strengthen him and weaken others.""The more people there were in the room, the greater was his urge to be the winner," she added. "You can't chat with him. Every meeting is a competition: vou or me." Merkel said she felt "sorrow" at Trump's victory over Kamala Harris in the November 5 pres-Chalmers told reporters. idential election.

Melbourne (AP): An Australian Cabinet minister on Friday rejected X Corp owner Elon Musk's allegation that the government intended to control all Australians' access to the internet through legislation that would ban young children from social media. Treasurer Jim Chalmers said Musk's criticism was "unsurprising" after the government introduced to Parliament on Thursday legislation that would fine platforms including X up to 150 million Australian dollars (\$133 million) if they allow children under age 16 to hold social media accounts. "The idea that Elon Musk is not delighted with our steps to try and protect kids online is not an especially big surprise to us, nor does it trouble us greatly,"

The spat continues months of open hostility between the Australian government and the tech billionaire over regulators' efforts to reduce public harm from social media. Parliament could pass legislation as soon as next week that would oblige X, TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit and Instagram to ban young children from their platforms. The legislation introduced on Thursday will be debated by lawmakers in Parliament on

Monday. Musk responded to the legislation's introduction by posting on his platform, "Seems like a backdoor way to control access to the Internet by all Australians."

Asked if that was the government's intention, Chalmers replied, "Of course not."

money 10

rural

and

the

promotion of indigenous

natural seeds, BBSSL has been

established to produce, procure, and distribute quality

seeds under a single brand

through the network of

cooperatives. BBSSL will help

increase the production of

quality seeds in India through

To create a global identity for

products, NCEL has been

established as an umbrella

organization to facilitate

exports for the entire

cooperative sector of the

country. This committee will

promote cooperative efforts in

agriculture, horticulture, dairy,

poultry, livestock, fisheries, sugar, spices, organic products,

Cooperative institutions have

built a strong infrastructure in

the country. By better

coordination and utilization of

these resources, the collective

impact can be further

enhanced. To increase the

income of member farmers,

cooperatives will need to adopt

new strategies. These include

the use of advanced and

sources,

modern

improving

technologies,

operational

diversifying

and

fertilizers, and more.

cooperative

cooperatives.

domestic

collection.

certification.



Markets stage recovery; Sensex reclaims 79k level, Nifty surges

PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Frebounded sharply on Friday, with the Sensex climbing 2.54 per cent to reclaim the 79,000 level, driven by across-the-board rally and value buying at lower levels.

Strong buying by domestic institutional investors and a firm trend in the US markets also helped the indices, traders said.

The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11. During the day, it surged 2,062.4 points or 2.67 per cent to 79,218.19.

The NSE Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25. All the 30 Sensex firms ended

in the green. Hectic buying in blue chip

like counters



Industries, IT and teck shares boosted market sentiment. State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, ITC, Infosys, Larsen and Toubro, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance gained the most. blue chip The majority of the listed Reliance Adani group firms ended

Govt notifies telecom

access traffic data

cyber security rules, to

higher, bouncing back from the previous day's sharp fall after billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani was charged in the US for alleged bribery and fraud. Ambuja Cements surged 3.50 per cent, ACC jumped 3.17 per cent, Adani Enterprises climbed 2.16 per cent, Adani

Ports (2.05 per cent), Adani Total Gas (1.18 per cent) and NDTV (0.65 per cent) on the BSE.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,320.68 crore on Thursday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 4,200.16 crore, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the positive territory while Shanghai and

Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended higher on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude climbed 0.19 per cent to USD 74.37 a barrel.

On Thursday, the BSE benchmark tanked 422.59 points or 0.54 per cent to settle at 77,155.79 points. The Nifty slumped 168.60 points or 0.72 per cent to 23,349.90.

NTPC Green

Lannually is the largest milk producer in the world, contributing approximately one-fourth global Through of production. cooperatives, millions of small and marginal farmers have been united, creating a network of over 1.7 lakh dairy cooperative societies in the country and establishing massive plants with a processing capacity of 100 million liters of milk per day. This historic success is the result of seven decades of relentless hard work and

ndia which is producing 231 million tonnes of milk

efforts by cooperative institutions across the country. In India, dairy is not limited to milk production; it serves as a livelihood source for over 80 million families, empowers women, provides nutrition and financial security, and acts as a key driver of inclusive rural development.

The establishment of a separate and dedicated separate and dedicated Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in 2019, followed by the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021, reflects the Government of India's faith in the cooperative model and its potential to bring prosperity to the nation. This has advanced the vision of "Sehkar Se Samridhi" strengthening the cooperative movement in the couptry movement in the couperative Within a short span of three years, the ministry has initiated several significant measures for the holistic and inclusive development of the entire cooperative sector.

Dairy Cooperatives in India India has over 8 lakh cooperative societies operating across 29 different sectors, serving nearly 29 crore members. Among these, agriculture-related cooperatives, such as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy, and fisheries cooperatives, play a crucial role in providing rural communities with access to markets, credit, and technical services. These cooperatives facilitate the procurement of inputs and the marketing of products, ensuring that farmers get fair prices in the

marketplace. Today, India's dairv cooperative network comprises 23 state-level marketing federations and apex organizations, 268 district milk unions, and over 1.44 village-level active



Cooperative renaissance opens new

doors to development and prosperity

SHAH

dairy sector is comprised of women. These cooperatives provide women with unique opportunities for social and economic empowerment. They inspire women to build self-confidence, morale, and develop leadership skills. Today, women account for about 35% of the total membership of dairy cooperatives, with over 61 million women being active Additionally, members. around 48,000 women-specific dairy cooperatives are operational across the country. Similarly, Milk Producer Organizations (MPOs) also offer women opportunities for active participation. The cooperative dairy sector in India is evolving from "women's participation" to a dairy industry led by "women's londership"

leadership.' The primary goal is to strengthen the cooperative movement and take it to the grassroots level in order to realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sehkar Se Samridhi". Under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation has set the objective of establishing new PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies), dairy, and fisheries cooperatives in panchayats and villages where they currently do not exist. Additionally, the existing PACS, dairy, and fisheries cooperatives will be further empowered with the support of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), NDDB (National Dairy Development Board), and NFDB (National Fisheries Development Development Board).

To revive cooperatives, it was essential to transform grassroots-level cooperatives into prosperous business entities. It is crucial that all panchayats/villages come under the coverage of a millions of small and marginal farmer members to gain equal benefits from regional development and help in

lakh gram panchayats (GPs) in farmers the country. Around 1.6 lakh gram panchayats do not have a communities across the country PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Society), and nearly 2 The National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) lakh gram panchayats lack a dairy cooperative society. In aims to realize the potential of organic products and create a this regard, in February 2023, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of 2 lakh healthy agricultural ecosystem. Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) promotes the PACS, dairy, and fisheries production, processing, and distribution of high-quality cooperatives over the next five vears. To ensure timely seeds. Meanwhile, National implementation Cooperative Export Limited and monitoring of the plan, the Home and Cooperation (NCEL) works to enhance cooperative trade and promote Minister launched a Standard Indian products globally. NDDB is the main promoter of NCOL. The establishment of Operating Procedure (SOP)

guide. According to the plan, NABARD will establish approximately 70,000 new multi-purpose PACS (M-PACS), NDDB will form and NCOL aligns with the government's "Whole of the Government Approach," which involves collaboration strengthen around 1,03,000 with relevant ministries, dairy cooperative societies departments, and agencies. (DCS), and the National NCOL operates as a Fisheries Development Board comprehensive organization (NFDB) will establish (NFDB) will establish approximately 11,500 fisheries for procurement. testing, branding, processing, storage, and marketing of cooperative (FCS).Additionally, societies state governments will set up organic products. around 25,000 new M-PACS, Similarly, to improve crop yields and develop a system for the conservation and and dairy,

fisheries cooperatives. In the last six decades, through the collaborative efforts of NDDB and the state and central central governments, approximately 1.44 lakh active dairy cooperatives have been established across the country. Now, under the "White Revolution 2.0" initiative, there is a plan to form 1.03 lakh new multi-purpose dairy cooperative societies (M-DCS) and empower existing ones over the next five years. This will be a significant achievement and will take milk production and distribution in

the country to new heights. Multi-purpose PACS (M-PACS) are emerging as commercial hubs. By adopting new model bylaws, these societies are now conducting over 25 different business activities, including dairy. Three national-level multistate cooperatives have been established to link grassrootslevel cooperatives to national

and international value chains: 1. National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) 2. Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) 3. National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL) These initiatives represent a

efficiencies, revolutionary step in the history of India's cooperative income promoting partnerships. By movement. They aim to implementing these initiatives, connect local cooperatives cooperatives can explore new with broader markets, enhance possibilities and capable PACS/dairy/fisheries cooperative. This will enable new avenues for growth. By focusing on organic products, quality seeds, and exports, these cooperatives are positioned to bring achieving rural prosperity. cooperative enterprises into There are approximately 2.7

SANCHAR BHAWAN establish

PTI NEW DELHI

The government has notified the telecom cyber security rules, that aim to safeguard India's communication networks and services, through a host of measures including specified timelines for telcos to report agency authorised by it to security incidents and make collect data under these rules, disclosures.

The rules also empower the such data is shared, will place telecom cyber security). central government and its adequate safeguards to ensure



rules," it said. Under the rules, every telecom entity will be required to implement infrastructure and equipment for collection and provision of such data from designated points to enable its processing specified measures to ensure and storage," according to the rules framed under the new cyber security, including adopting a telecom cyber security policy (security safeguards, risk management The government and any approaches, actions, training, practices best as well as persons with whom

संचार भवन

and technologies, to enhance The policy it said shoul





PTI NEW DELHI

 $T_{(IPO)}^{\rm he\ initial\ public\ offering}$ Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of NTPC, got fully subscribed on the third day of the share sale on Friday.

The Rs 10,000-crore share received bids for sale 60,68,16,774 shares, as against 59,31,67,575 shares on offer, translating into 1.02 times subscription, as per NSE data. The portion for retail investors got subscribed 2.70 times. The quota for qualified institutional buyers fetched 75 per cent subscription, while the non-institutional investors part got subscribed 42 per cent.

NTPC Green Energy has mobilised Rs 3,960 crore from anchor investors akh

messages) from a telecom any unauthorised access, it ensuring cyber security. The rules clearly outline and prevention of security incidents among other telecom cyber security aspects. be required to adopt telecom obligations."...No person shall the policy should entail would include approaches, actions, training, network testing, and risk assessment.

"The central government, or network central government, may, for the purposes of protecting personation; transmitting any

authorised agency to seek that such data is stored and encompass telecom network traffic data and any other data maintained in strict testing including hardening, (other than the content of confidentiality and prevent

Telecom Act.

cyber security policy, that endanger telecom cyber would include security security by misuse of safeguards, risk management telecommunication equipment telecommunication identifier

and ensuring telecom cyber security, seek from a telecommunication entity, traffic data and any other data, other than the content of messages, in the form and manner as may be specified by the central government on the time being in force; or any other means which may have the portal; and direct a security risk on telecom cyber telecommunication entity to security," according to the

testing including hardening, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment, identification

or

telecommunication or

forensic analysis of security or incidents to ensure learnings any agency authorised by the telecommunication services from such incidents and further strengthening telecom cyber security. Telecom entities would be

required to appoint a Chief Telecommunication Security Officer, and report security incidents within six hours to the Centre along with "relevant details of the affected system including the description of such incident."

The initial share sale is entirely a fresh issuance of equity shares with no offer-for-sale (OFS) component. The issue has a price band of Rs 102-108 per share.

Proceeds from the IPO to the tune of Rs 7,500 crore will be une of KS 7,500 crore will be used to repay or prepay part or all of its subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's (NREL) outstanding loans and a portion will be utilised rapid action system to deal with security incidents including mitigation measures to limit the impact mitigation of such incidents; and and a portion will be utilised for general corporate purposes. NTPC Green Energy is a Maharatna, central public sector enterprise with a renewable energy portfolio, including solar and wind power assets. IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, HDFC Bank, IIFL Capital Services Ltd (formerly Capital Services Ltd (formerly known as IIFL Securities Ltd) and Nuvama Wealth Management are the bookrunning lead managers to the issue.

societies with approximately 1.72 crore members. This network collects around 660 lakh kilograms of milk daily and sells 440 lakh liters of milk

per day. In dairy cooperatives, nearly 70% of the workforce in the

strengthen their role in the economy.

(The author is the Chairman, NDDB, NCOL and NCDFI; Views are personal)

Zepto raises USD 350 mn in domestic funding

PTI NEW DELHI

Zepto on Friday announced USD 350 million fundraise in its latest round that the quick commerce company said marks the largest 100 per cent domestic fundraise within India's startup ecosystem. round included

The investments from Indian High Net worth Individuals (HNIs), family offices, and leading financial institutions.

It was led by Motilal Oswal's Private Wealth division.

fundraise The saw participation from several family offices and investors including Motilal Oswal AMC and Raamdeo Agarwal, the Taparia Family Office, the Mankind Pharma Family Office, the Cello Family Office, the Haldiram Snacks Family Office, the Sekhsaria economy is accelerating its shift toward domestically driven growth, Zepto said. Family Office, the Kalyan Family Office, the Happy Forgings Family Office, the

Mothers Recipe Family Office (Desai Brothers) and notable "When we started this venture, the risk appetite venture, the risk appetite among domestic investors was limited, especially to trust 18-year-olds with their money. We are humbled to have reached a place in L. individuals such as Abhishek Amitabh Bachchan and Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, among others. "This round reflected the have reached a place in India's growing commitment of Indian investors to back economic growth, where we have not only fostered that transformative startups," Zepto said. The funding trust but also spearheaded a fundraise of this magnitude, comes at a time when India's which will hopefully set a precedent for the startups that follow," Aadit Palicha, CEO and co-founder of Zepto said.

US allegations renew questions on governance at Adani firms: S&P

PTI NEW DELHI

The indictment of Adani Adani by US prosecutors could renew questions

including his nephew Sagar, with agreeing to pay about USD 265 million in bribes to Indian government officials to obtain favourable terms for a solar power supply contract. Adani Group has denied all charges, calling them "baseless", and said it would seek "all possible legal recourse".

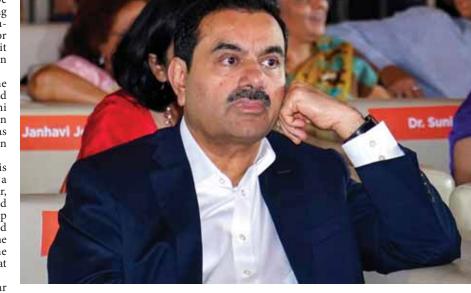
"The allegations could renew questions over the group's governance practices and

lenders -- which could be demonstrated by the lowering

Adani by US prosecutors spreads, S&P Ratings said in could renew questions over the ports-to-energy conglomerate's governance practices and damage its reputation, S&P Global Ratings said friday. Ratings said Friday. US prosecutors have charged Adani and seven others including his perbery S

independent of, but follows, a short-seller report last year, which hit equity and bond prices across the group although these had subsequently recovered. The group has denied the allegations and asserted that they are baseless.

The group needs regular access to both equity and debt markets given its large growth plans, in addition to its regular refinancing.



maturities," the rating agency said. "If allegations of illegal look at Adani entities as a group, and could set group limits on their exposure. This activities or misleading may affect the funding of statements prove true, we rated entities. We note that could assess the group's damage its reputation. We regular refinancing. will watch for any signs of "We believe domestic, as well weaker funding access or as some international banks concerns from existing and bond market investors,

CreditSights said refinancing for Adani Group's green energy business is the biggest likely to reduce or limit their group-wide exposure."

Concerns are most for Adani Green Energy Ltd "given it has the weakest liquidity and credit fundamentals," it said,

negative the credit outlook for multiple Adani Group entities on Friday, citing funding access and financing-cost concerns. "A US indictment of three board representatives of an unrated Adani group entity could affect investor confidence in other Adani group entities (because the founder is on the board of multiple entities within the

US prosecutors allege that Adani and others were involved in a USD 265 million bribery scheme that breached

the anti-bribery compliance

policy through misrepresentation to investors in an offshore bond. investors in an offshore bond. "In our view, this could further raise questions regarding the management and governance of various Adani group entities. The indictment is independent of, but follows, a short seller report that led to investigation by the Indian investigation by the Indian Supreme Court and India's capital market regulator," S&P said. Stating that because of the potential impact across the wider Adani Group, S&P said it has revised to negative the outlook on Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd (Adani Electricity) and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (Adani Ports). "We

also affirmed our 'BBB-' ratings on these entities." Project finance entity Adani Green Energy Ltd Restricted

Group 2 (AGEL RG2) is a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), the entity linked to the said.

allegations. "Although it is ring-fenced from the parent, we revised to negative the outlook on AGEL RG2 and affirmed our 'BB+' issue rating," the rating agency said. "The negative outlook on these entities indicates that, in our view, their cash flows could be materially affected if funding access weakens, their funding costs rise significantly, or the allegations are proven, in addition to our assessment of their governance and business profiles." S&P said it believes that if the

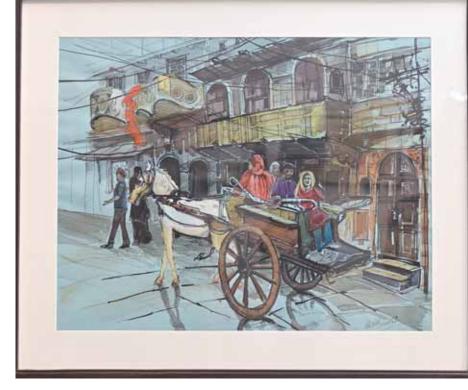
allegations are proven, it could have some bearing on the company's operations over time. "This could occur if there is a review of relationships with the government agencies that award concessions and licenses, or with offtakers and counterparties such as Solar Energy Corp of India (SECI), state distribution companies, and joint venture partners," it

pointing to short-term debt of about USD 2 billion, largely in the form of project loans, at the conglomerate's green energy unit. S&P Global Ratings revised to negative the credit outlook for

group), thereby potentially impairing their funding access and increasing their funding costs," S&P said.

[ART & CULTURE] vivacity





city that never fails to captivate. It holds within it a unique blend of history, culture and modernity. For those of us who call it home, the structures that define this city are more than just buildings; they are symbols of sesence of the city itself. Over forty-five our shared heritage and memories. paintings were displayed, each Soumen Dutta's latest exhibition, portraying the intricate details of Contours of Delhi, at Travancore Palace, offers an intimate portrayal of these very landmarks that breathe life into the capital."

The exhibition, inaugurated by Dr. Sanjeev Kishor Goutam, Director-General of the National Gallery of Modern Art, saw the participation of several distinguished guests, including Shri Sunit Tandon, Director of India Among the most striking works in the Habitat Centre and Bharatnatyam exhibition were those of Gole Market, architecture, but about making the

elhi, the heart of India, is a dancer Pratibha Prahlad. The presence of such prominent figures underscored the significance of the show.

What made this collection so remarkable was Dutta's ability to capture not only the grandeur of Delhi's iconic landmarks. Using pen and colours, Dutta brought to life the city's monuments, temples, gardens, bridges, mosques and dargas, offering a fresh perspective on these architectural marvels. His personal connection to each structure was evident, with his ability to highlight unique features and evoke memories of the past.

In "Contours of Delhi," Soumen Dutta brings the city's iconic architecture to life through his intricate sketches. From Mughal monuments to colonial-era buildings, his work offers a fresh perspective on Delhi's rich heritage, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

in the Northeast and ensuring that

its people have access to the

The festival also takes time to

recognise the achievements of

individuals from the Northeast, honouring those who have excelled

in sports, education, arts, and

entertainment. By highlighting

their success, the festival inspires

younger generations to dream big

and strive for greatness. These role

models show that the Northeast is a

hub of talent and innovation,

contributing to India's progress

Lastly, sustainability is a key focus

of the North East Festival. In a

world increasingly concerned with

environmental issues, the festival

sets an example by promoting eco-

friendly practices. From using

decorations to highlighting local,

organic produce, the festival

ensures that its celebrations are not

only about fun and enjoyment but

also responsible and conscious of

The North East Festival is more

than just an event. It is a

celebration of the region's culture,

people and potential. It provides a

platform for artistic expression,

supports local artisans and

promotes sustainable practices. By

bringing together people from all

walks of life, it creates a sense of

pride and shared identity. The

festival is a powerful reminder that,

despite our differences, we are all

part of a greater whole, and that

our strengthens the bonds that unite us

diversity

materials

for

across various fields.

sustainable

the environment.

celebrating

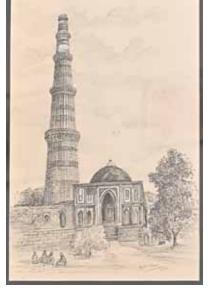
as a nation.

resources they need to thrive.

sketches felt like a living, breathing piece of Delhi's history. Dutta didn't just draw the buildings; he visited each one and captured its true spirit, visualising them from his own unique angle. His portrayal of Aakashvani Bhawan, for instance, showed pigeons fluttering around the building. These birds, much like the structure itself, have long served as messengers, connecting people across generations. *Dutta's* ability to combine the past with the present, through subtle details like this, demonstrated his exceptional skill. What stands out in *Dutta's* work is his attention to even the smallest details that make each structure so distinctive. It wasn't just about capturing the

Kota House, the Red Fort, Jama Masjid viewer feel as though they were and Lodhi Garden. Each of these standing in front of these buildings themselves. His sketches evoke a sense of nostalgia and familiarity for anyone who has walked these streets or visited these monuments. The artist's dedication was clear: he had visited every single location, allowing himself to fully connect with each place before translating it onto canvas.

For Dutta, Delhi is more than just a city; it is where he has spent most of his life. "Delhi is the heart of the country, and I have lived the majority of my life here. Every structure I encountered had its own unique aura, and it was this connection that I sought to depict in each of my sketches," he shares. His deep emotional bond with Delhi is clearly reflected in his work, making each piece feel personal and intimate.



As I walked through the exhibition, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of connection to the city. *Dutta's* art invites us to revisit these places, each betthe sentences of the sentences of the sentences. sketch a gentle reminder of the stories these structures have witnessed over the years. From the bustling streets of *Chandni Chowk* to the tranquil spaces of Lodhi Gardens, his work allows us to experience Delhi in a way that words alone cannot.

Contours of Delhi is a celebration of Delhi's identity, its rich history and the emotional ties we all share with its landmarks. Dutta's work beautifully captures the essence of these iconic city's enduring spirit.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMA

structures, offering a fresh, heartfelt perspective. His dedication to visiting each location and drawing from his personal experiences gives the collection a unique depth. For anyone with a connection to Delhi, this exhibition is a powerful reminder of the city's timeless charm.The exhibition *Contours of Delhi* offers a profound reminder of how art can capture the soul of a city, evoking nostalgia and a deep connection to its landmarks. As Dutta's sketches invite us to experience Delhi through his eyes, they also remind us of the timeless beauty that lies within every corner of

this city. "दिल्ली की गलियों में कुछ तो बात होगी, वरना इस शहर को हर कोई अपना क्यों कहता है?" (There must be something special about the lanes of Delhi, Otherwise, why would everyone call this city their own?) Indeed, Soumen Dutta's exhibition brings this very sentiment to life, offering a heartfelt tribute to the



Celebrating the Richness of Indian Culture Through Art

SHOWCASING NORTHEASTERN CRAFT

The North East Festival is an annual celebration of the rich cultural heritage, art and traditions of Northeast India, bringing together diverse communities and showcasing the region's unique crafts, music, and cuisine, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

ulture is the widening of " the mind and the spirit," said Jawaharlal Nehru, a quote that captures the very essence of the North East Festival. This annual event, now entering its 12th edition, is a vibrant example of how culture can bridge divides, creating a space where diverse traditions, local crafts, and contemporary art come together in a celebration of unity. The festival is not only a cultural display but also a powerful reminder of the diverse heritage of Northeastern *India* and its place in the broader cultural landscape of the nation.

The North East Festival expertly blends the traditional with the modern. The event showcases the diverse ethnic groups of the region through performances of folk dances, regional music, and exhibitions of local crafts. These cultural offerings offer a glimpse into the deep-rooted heritage of the Northeastern states. Alongside these traditional elements, the festival also embraces modern artistic expressions with vibrant performances, street contemporary music, dance battles, and digital art installations. This combination of old and new reflects the dynamic nature of the region, where heritage is celebrated while the future is eagerly welcomed.

At its heart, the North East Festival is a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, and entrepreneurs. It provides them with an opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience, bringing recognition to their skills and offering economic

Hand-woven opportunities. textiles, intricate bamboo crafts, and beautifully carved wooden items are just a few examples of the region's craft traditions. These artisans not only preserve ancient techniques but also innovate, ensuring their crafts remain relevant in the global marketplace. The festival thus supports the preservation of cultural heritage while simultaneously encouraging growth economic and sustainability in the region.

One of the unique aspects of the festival is its celebration of Northeastern cuisine. With a rich culinary tradition that varies from state to state, the food stalls at the event offer a wide variety of flavours. From Assam's spicy curries to Nagaland's smoked meats, from the sweet treats of Sikkim to the rice-based dishes of *Manipur*, the food at the festival is a reflection of the region's diversity. It is not just about taste but also about the stories each dish tells, stories of family traditions, local ingredients and ancestral knowledge passed down through generations. Sharing a meal at the festival becomes an act of cultural exchange, connecting people to the heart of the Northeast.

The North East Festival also plays an important role in shifting perceptions about the region. Historically, the Northeast has often been viewed as distant and separate from the mainstream. This festival challenges such misconceptions, creating an environment where the contributions of the Northeast to





PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

India's national identity can be celebrated. It brings people from all over the country together, providing a space where they can engage with the region's culture openly. By doing so, it reminds everyone that the Northeast is not a remote part of India, but an integral piece of the nation's cultural, social, and economic fabric.

In addition to celebrating culture, the North East Festival contributes to the region's development. It provides a platform for businessto-business (B2B) interactions, opening opportunities for collaboration and investment in areas such as tourism, technology, and regional products. The festival creates opportunities for growth by connecting entrepreneurs, local businesses, and potential investors, helping build a stronger economy

There is something magical

about the way art can capture the essence of a place, turning intangible traditions and experiences into vivid, enduring images. At the Bulgarian Embassy in New Delhi, the group exhibition Threads of Heritage unfolds this magic, presenting a rich display of works that reflect the depth and diversity of Indian culture. Organised by Lokayata Art Gallery, this exhibition invites viewers to experience India's heritage through the eyes of 27 artists, each talented unique contributing their perspective to the cultural dialogue.

From the moment you step into the space, the paintings draw you in, each one a vivid brushstroke of India's soul. The works on display, numbering more than 100, offer a journey through the country's traditions, landscapes, and customs, with both Indian and international artists showcasing their interpretations. Curated by Qazi M. Raghib, the exhibition is a blend of modernity and tradition, offering a fresh lens through which to appreciate India's cultural wealth.

A standout in this showcase is Golden Temple, Amritsar by Korean artist Katrina Jughwa Kim. Her oil on canvas captures the serene beauty of the *Golden* Temple, rendering it in such a way that the spiritual and historical significance of this sacred site is felt deeply. Kim's personal connection to India imbues her work with a tenderness that resonates with anyone who has ever been moved by the temple's quiet grandeur.

Alongside Kim's work, Amit Srivastava's Windkissed commands attention with its expressive use of acrylic and oil on canvas. The painting conjures the raw energy of nature, where wind and breath are almost tangible, swirling in vibrant motion across the canvas. Similarly, Ranjit Sarkar's The Echoes of Joy captures the

BY TEAM VIVA









celebratory spirit of Indian festivals, the energy and vibrancy of the colours echoing the joyful rhythms of the country's many celebrations.

The exhibition also honours the rich traditions of Indian art. Bhavna Pandey's A Cultural Heritage, a series of seven pieces painted on antique paper, delves into the symbolism of Indian The culture. delicate watercolours on aged paper offer a timeless connection to the past, while Archanaa Panda's Heritage Rhythms blends acrylic and oil to explore the fluidity and movement within Indian traditions.

Not all of the pieces are rooted in the past, some artists bring a modern twist to Indian themes. Indian Classical Dance, Digital Sketch, by Ananda Gupta, for example, uses mixed media to capture the very essence of life and its connection to nature. The layers of texture and colour speak of continuity, blending past and present in a harmonious dialogue.

Through works like these, Threads of Heritage becomes a celebration of India's dynamic identity, constantly evolving while remaining firmly anchored in its past. Artists such as Kamal Kishore, with Indian Culture, and Chandana Bhattacharjee, with Love in Nature, offer their own reflections on the intricate relationship between humans and the world around them. Whether through the bold oils of Indian Culture or the subtle mixed media of Love in Nature, both pieces illustrate the continuing relevance of traditional themes in today's world.

Ultimately, Threads of Heritage is not just an exhibition of beautiful paintings. It's an invitation to immerse oneself in India's everevolving cultural landscape, to see its history and traditions through new eyes. The show weaves together past and present, offering a rich and thoughtful exploration of how art can honour tradition while embracing the modern world.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



IPL 2025 Schedule: BCCI shares schedule for next three seasons

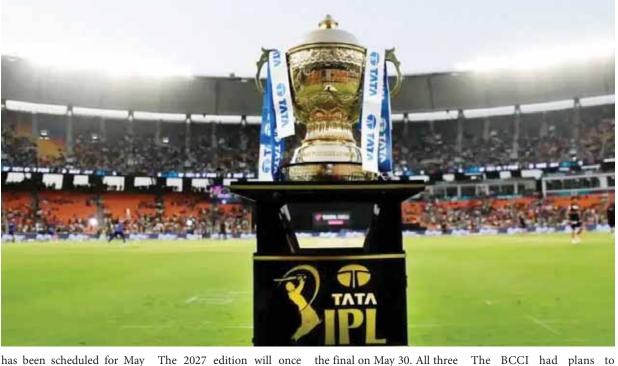
PTI NEW DELHI

N Premier League will be held from March 14 to May 25, the BCCI has told the IPL franchises while also setting aside similar widows for the event's 2026 and 2027 editions in an uncharacteristically elaborate

plan. The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indianborn American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and uncapped Mumbai-wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the twoday mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah from Sunday.

In its communication to the franchises, the Board has stated that the dates for the next three seasons are being shared at once to "assist the franchises in planning for the players' auction." The 2026 edition of the

tournament will start on has been scheduled for May March 15 and the grand finale



31.

again start on March 14 with finals will be held on Sundays. increase the number

matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent that the league's game count will increase. Archer did not feature in the IPL this year and his run in the 2023 edition was cut short by an elbow injury. Netravalkar was one of the breakout stars of the T20 World Cup in the USA earlier this year with impressive performances that were crucial to his side advancing to the Super 8s. The former India Under-19

player, who also turned up for Mumbai in Ranji Trophy, migrated to the USA to pursue computer engineering and is currently employed with Oracle.

His omission from the pruned auction list at the expense of another India-turned-US player Unmukt Chand had raised eyebrows as the latter was not a part of the American team in the T20

World Cup.



sports 12

Jannik Sinner leads Italy back to the Davis Cup semifinals

AP MALAGA

No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner won matches in singles and doubles to lead defending champion Italy to a 2-1 comeback victory over Argentina, earning a return trip to the Davis Cup semifinals.

"I'm here trying to do the best I can in the singles," Sinner

a can in the singles, Sinner said on Thursday. "If they put me on the court in doubles, I'll also try my best." On Saturday, Italy will face Australia in a rematch of last year's final, but this time it will only be for a chance to play for the championship. Australia eliminated the U.S. 2-1 earlier Thursday to reach the final four at the team competition for the third consecutive year.

The other semifinal, to be contested Friday, is the Netherlands against Germany. The Dutch got past Rafael Nadal and Spain in the quarterfinals earlier in the week, sending the 22-time Grand Slam champion into retirement. Italy fell behind 1-0 in the quarterfinals when Argentina's Francisco Cerúndolo defeated Lorenzo Musetti 6-4, 6-1 on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martina

Carpena in southern Spain. smash But then in stepped Sinner, whose season already Thompson then served out the victory, closing it with a includes two Grand Slam service winner before chesttrophies - at the Australian bumping Ebden. Open and U.S. Open — plus the title at the ATP Finals last The 21st-ranked Shelton made his Davis Cup debut weekend in Turin, Italy. First earlier Thursday in singles he overwhelmed Sebastián against 77th-ranked Thanasi Báez 6-2, 6-1. Then Sinner with 2021 teamed

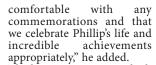
Kokkinakis, who emerged from a tight-as-can-be tiebreaker by saving four runner-up Matteo Berrettini in the match points and eventually

when

Cricket Australia to pay tribute to late Phillip Hughes on 10th death anniversary

PTI PERTH

Australia has Cricket planned a series of initiatives incredible to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of Phillip Hughes including a tribute before the start of the second Test between India and



The home association, which has produced a special documentary on him, will broadcast it ahead of the

Arsenal, Manchester City and Bayern advance to Women's Champions League quarterfinals

AP LONDON

Arsenal, Manchester City and Bayern Munich all advanced to the Women's Champions League quarterfinals with with two games to spare. Late substitute Lina Hurtig scored the winner in Arsenal's

1-0 victory over Juventus in London on Thursday. Khadija Shaw scored twice for City in a 2-1 win at Swedish club Hammarby. City stayed perfect in Group D with four victories and reached the last eight for the first time since 2021. Bayern Munich was held 1-1 at

Vålerenga in Norway and still earned a quarterfinal berth after Iuventus' loss. Arsenal, Bayern and City join Chelsea, Lyon and Real

Madrid in the quarterfinals. Two-time defending champion Barcelona routed Austrian champion St. Pölten 4-1. The Catalan club trails City by three points in their



loss of the season, 2-0 at Chelsea in the Women's Super League on Saturday. Still without injured star

Vivianne Miedema, Shaw took charge, proving her scoring instincts after half an hour. The forward scored from inside the penalty area with a deflected shot that flew over goalkeeper Anna Tamminen to frustrate more than 20,000 noisy fans at the Stockholm Arena in the Swedish capital.

from the edge of the area. and Harder Bavern contained</hl2>Bayern dominated possession but could not translate it into goals until the 75th minute. It had to relv on substitute Jovana Damnjanovic, who gave the visitors a late lead after connecting on a pass from Giulia Gwinn.

The Norwegians, who have retained their domestic title, equalized in the 88th on Elise

Hurtig came on with 10 minutes remaining and made her presence immediately felt with several headers.

She finally made the breakthrough with a minute remaining in regulation, tapping in from close range after Juventus' poor clearance of a low cross by Stina Blackstenius. Hurtig won the Italian title with Juventus in 2021 and 2022 before joining the

Gunners. Juventus seemed to learn a lesson from its 4-0 loss to Arsenal last week as its defense held firm till Hurtig's arrival. Putellas scores her 200th Barcelona goal</hl> minute span in the first half, Francisca Nazareth netted twice and 18-year-old Vicky Lopez scored once to put Barcelona in control. double was Nazareth's followed by Lopez hitting the third with a shot high into the net for her first Champions Wimbledon League goal

Davis Cup competition court before taking on Báez and stretching his streak to 22 sets won in a row. "In three minutes, he was perfectly comfortable on

court," Italy captain Filippo Volandri said. "He's a special one." Volandri swapped out his original doubles team, Simone Bolelli and Andrea

chance to practice on the

Vavassori, for Sinner and Berrettini, and the change paid dividends. Australia, the Davis Cup runner-up the last two years, advanced when Matt Ebden and Jordan Thompson beat the surprise, last-minute American pairing of Ben Shelton and Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-4 in that quarterfinal's deciding doubles match.

The Shelton-Paul substitution for Paris Olympics silver medalists Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram was announced about 15 minutes before the doubles match began. Ebden and John Peers beat Krajicek and Ram in the Summer Games final in August.

The Australians broke once in

each set of the doubles. In the

second, they stole one of

Shelton's service games on the

fourth break opportunity

Ebden's overhead

made it 5-4.

Oval scheduled from December 6-10.

CA will also honour the late Australian cricketer during the upcoming three Sheffield Shield games, as players will wear black armbands and flags will fly at half-mast.

played 26 Tests, Hughes lost his life just days before his 26th birthday in 2014 after being struck by a bouncer during a domestic match.

Representing South Australia, Hughes was hit on South an unprotected area below his left ear while attempting a hook shot against Sean Abbott at the SCG. Despite wearing a helmet, the impact proved fatal. "We understand this will be a

time of reflection for the many people who knew and admired Phillip Hughes," Cricket Australia (CA) CEO Nick Hockley said on Friday. "We wanted to ensure that the Hughes particularly,

Australia at the Adelaide second Test, as part of a twoweek commemoration

programme. A moment's silence will also be observed before play on day four of all matches. Batting on 63, Hughes collapsed before receiving mouth-to-mouth A promising left-hander who resuscitation and was subsequently taken to St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, where he underwent surgery and was placed in an induced coma.

Hughes, however, could not recover from the blow and died on November 27. The left-hander was viewed as one of the promising Australian cricketers as the team went through a Asia Cup title. transitional phase. India, who defeated arch-

In the Australia-India Adelaide Test that followed his death a decade ago, the southpaw was named as the home team's 13th player with 63 (the score he was batting at in his last match) seconds family, of applause observed ahead were of the game.

a press conference.

group and is in a strong position to advance.

PTI BENGALURU

Pool A fixture.

Bayern tops Group C with 10 points, Arsenal has nine followed by Juventus (3) and Vålerenga (1). Back to winning

Man City responded to its first

Ellen Wangerheim equalized soon after the interval from close range to rejuvenate the crowd but Shaw struck again to restore the lead just minutes later.

This time, she delivered a powerful right-footed finish Hurtig's night

Thorsnes' header following a corner. Pernille Harder, who found the back of the net five times for Bayern in the previous three games, could not do it again on Thursday and was substituted.

Alexia Putellas made it 4-0 in the second half, finishing a fast attack that tore apart the defense in Vienna. It was her 200th goal for Barcelona and the 100th the club scored in the Champions League's group stage.

deciding doubles match to win 6-4, 7-5 against Andres Molteni Maximo and Gonzalez. "He carried me today," Sinner

converting his seventh to win 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (14). No. 4 Taylor Fritz, the U.S.

Open runner-up, then pulled the Americans even with a far said about Berrettini. After more straightforward victory arriving late to Malaga from over No. 9 Ålex de Minaur, 6-Turin, Sinner did not get a 3, 6-4.

our campaign at the Men's

Junior Asia Cup. The energy

in the camp is fantastic, and

there is a strong sense of

India have so far won the

title in 2004, 2008 and 2015,

making them the most

successful side in the

tournament. For legendary

unity among the players."

Sreejesh-coached Indian colts depart for Oman to defend Junior Asia Cup title

Their last group stage match is against Korea on December 1. India need a top-two finish to secure a

Fresh from winning the bronze medal in the Sultan of Johor Cup, PR semifinal berth. Sreejesh-coached Indian colts on Friday departed for Pakistan, Bangladesh, Oman, and Muscat to defend the Junior

China constitute Pool B. Confident of a positive start, captain Amir Ali said they have prepared well and are rivals Pakistan 2-1 to lift the determined to reach the title last year for a record fourth time, will open their final.

Malaysia,

"We have been preparing rigorously and are ready to face the challenges ahead," Ali stated in a Hockey India release.

"We all understand the



skills on the big stage. Our this of and the focus is on giving our best tournament opportunity to showcase our from the very first match and

securing a strong position to motivated and eager to start our campaign at the Men's Vice-captain Rohit said the

whole team is motivated ahead of the campaign. The energy in the camp is fantastic, and there is a strong sense of unity among the players. Our recent performance at the Sultan of Johor Cup has given us confidence, and we're focused on building on that momentum. 'We are determined to work

perform to our full potential

Indian goalkeeper Sreejesh, this will be his second assignment as the coach. He began his stint with a hard, stay disciplined, and bronze medal victory at the Sultan of Johor Cup, beating in every match," Rohit said. "We are all feeling very New Zealand 2-2 (3-2) in a thrilling shootout.

I thought it was just a regulation wicket: Starc

campaign against Thailand on November 27 in their

They will next face Japan on

November 28 and Chinese

Taipei on November 30.

PTI 📕 PERTH

Australia's senior pacer Illingworth, Mitchell Starc on Friday overturned t played down the chatter around Îndia batter KL Rahul's contentious caught behind dismissal on the first day of the opening Test here, saying it was a "regulation wicket". Rahul's dismissal kicked up a

controversy with former players from both the countries questioning the third umpire's decision to overturn the onfield official's not out call. After on-field umpire Richard Kettleborough ruled in Rahul's favour following Australia's

appeal, the home team used

DRS to challenge the decision. Jaiswal, will resume on six not Third umpire Richard out alongside wicketkeeper however, Alex Carey, who is unbeaten on overturned the call despite not 19, on Saturday, with Australia having the benefit of a splitat 67/7 after India made 150 in their first innings. A staggering 17 wickets fell on screen view which would have given him a clearer picture of whether the Starc delivery

the opening day, a record on Australian soil, but the leading actually grazed the bat or the pacer believed batting is going snicko responded to a hit on the pads. "It got overturned obviously, to get easier in the second innings and they just need to

but I thought it was regulation, survive the new Kookaburra the sound it made, the timing of ball. it, I thought it was just a "I think there was a fair bit of regulation wicket," Starc said at

good bowling today. Obviously there was enough in the wicket Starc (2/14), who bagged the and it probably felt like it was a opening wicket of the series when he removed Yashasvi hardball wicket," Starc said.

little bit softer towards the the back end of that Indian innings, it probably didn't do as much. (There was) still enough there, but it didn't do as much as the brand new hardball.

"So I guess that's something for teams to take in the second innings.

"If you can get through the testing period, it does get slightly easier. That being said, the outfield is quite slow, so that probably made runs a bit hard to come by. That's probably the slowest outfield we've seen over in the west for a long time."

While Starc gave the first "When the ball started to get a breakthrough, his pace-bowling

proved to be more successful on the day, returning with excellent figures of 4/29 in 13 overs before the peerless Jasprit Bumrah (4/17 in 10 overs) yet displayed again his extraordinary skills. Starc is also not of the view that batting conditions were

importance

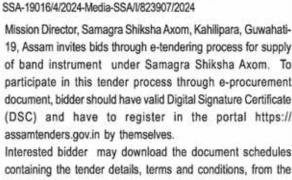
Australia. "How many ways can you skin a cat? Bowlers are allowed to bowl good balls," he said. "When there's a lot of runs, it's

like, 'Oh, the bowlers bowled badly. When there's wickets, the wickets are tough'. (But) you are allowed to bowl good balls and

colleague Josh Hazlewood maybe credit should go to both teams and bowlers.

"Sure, there's plenty in the wicket when you put it in the right area and it was hard work for batting, but as I said, you're allowed to bowl good balls and there were plenty of those

At stumps, Australia trailed by 83 runs thanks to the incredible comeback by the Bumrah-led Indian team, something that seemed improbable after they were all out for an under-par score and weeks after their unprecedented 0-3 drubbing to New Zealand at home. Starc said he was not surprised



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