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11 SPORTS

Victory for Democracy

Hurrah for the BJP in Haryana Jammu and Kashmir speak up

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/
HARYANA

Quashing exit polls results that were unanimous in projecting a clean sweep by Congress, Haryana poll results presented a dramatic turnaround as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) scored a hat trick by winning 48 seats of the 90 members' Legislative Assembly. The party improved its performance by winning seven more seats than it had in the outgoing Assembly.

Congress won 37 seats, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) won two seats and Independents won three seats. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) have drawn a blank. The half-way mark is 46.

The BJP's astonishing performance will reinvigorate the ruling party cadres, and could deal a debilitating blow to the Congress looking for further ascendancy after its improved show in the Lok Sabha polls.

Among prominent candidates, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and his new party colleague Vinesh Phogat won, as did Independent candidate Savitri Jindal. The INLD's Abhay



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini greets supporters after winning the Assembly elections from Ladwa constituency, at Ladwa, in Kurukshetra district, Tuesday

A historic win: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the BJP's win in the Haryana Assembly polls as a victory of its politics of development and good governance, assuring people that the party will leave no stone unturned to

fulfil people's aspirations. Addressing the party workers at the party headquarters after the results of the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, PM Modi said that farmers in Haryana have given Congress a "befitting reply", and showed that they are with the country and with BJP.

"People of Haryana have scripted history by blossoming lotus. They have not only made the BJP win but gave the highest number of votes to the party," he said.

Singh Chautala lost, as did JJP's Dushyant Chautala, Haryana Assembly. Speaker and BJP's Gian Chand Gupta, Haryana Lokhit Party Gopal Kanda.

After the victory, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the BJP's hat-trick in the state where he took charge barely six months ago. "I want to thank 2.8 crore people of Haryana who have reposed faith in the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is the victory of Haryana's farmers, the poor, women, and youth. People have voted for PM Modi's work for Haryana. It is a historic victory.

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Staging a comeback with a thumping majority in his kitty, National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah is all set to become the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the month-long Assembly elections, held for the first time after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, 54-year-old Omar led the alliance partners to victory winning a clear majority of 48 seats in the 90-member house.

The NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah said the verdict was proof that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were against the abrogation of Article 370.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), despite winning the highest tally of 29 Assembly seats in its strong bastion of Jammu, is left stranded staring at the prospect of occupying the Opposition benches. Meanwhile, J&K BJP Chief Ravindra Raina lost his seat in the Nowshera Assembly segment. He was defeated by Surinder Choudhary of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference by a margin of over 7000 votes. The party won 10 out of 11



Supporters of Congress and National Conference (NC) celebrate as the Congress-NC alliance leads during the counting of votes of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, in Srinagar, Tuesday

Egg on the face of Exit pollsters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All exit polls went wrong once again as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set for a third term in Haryana where counting of votes for Assembly elections 2024 took place on Tuesday, giving the BJP a comfortable lead over its top competitor, the Indian National Congress (INC). This is not the first time exit polls have gone wrong. The Lok Sabha elections 2024, Chhattisgarh

assembly polls in 2023, Results of 2015 Bihar and Delhi Assembly Elections as well as Lok Sabha polls of 2004 and 2014 are examples of how exit polls predictions went wrong. Several exit polls had predicted a Congress victory in Haryana which recorded a voter turnout of 67.90 per cent. However, the BJP claimed it will return to power for a third consecutive term by winning 48 seats. This is a massive victory for the BJP in the state.

seats from Jammu district, five from Kathua, four each from Udhampur and Doda, three from Samba, two from Reasi, and one from Rajouri. The party, however, failed to open its account from Kashmir Valley. The party had campaigned aggressively promising a stable government with a 'Hindu' Chief Minister at the helm of affairs. The BJP's gamble to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Paharis in the region failed to improve its tally. All the candidates who joined the BJP failed to win any seat from the twin frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

NHA finally responds to nature's calls



The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari launching the 'Humsafar Policy' 2024 at The Ashok Hotel, in New Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has finally woken up to address a pressing need expressed by commuters who have nowhere to answer nature's call when commuting across the country's national highways and expressways network. The government by bringing in a policy for facilities such as clean toilets, baby care rooms etc.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday launched 'Humsafar Policy' which will see the introduction of facilities, such as clean toilets, baby care rooms, provisions for wheelchairs, EV charging stations, parking spaces, and dormitory services at fuel stations.

The policy will also offer a

convenient, safe, and enjoyable experience for highway users, while empowering entrepreneurs, generating jobs, and enhancing livelihoods for service providers, as per the statement. The Humsafar policy shall allow commuters access to standardised, well maintained and hygienic facilities. Commuters will be able to find details of relevant service providers near their location instantly on the Rajmarg Yatra app. Commuters will be empowered to rate the service provided and the facilities, along with being able to raise issues.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Gadkari said the Humsafar brand will become synonymous with utmost safety and comfort for travellers and drivers along the nation's world-class highway network. He also emphasised on the need to deliver high quality, standardised services across

the national highways. Gadkari said the Modi government remains fully committed to delivering top-notch amenities across our highway network, ensuring a fast and seamless travel experience for all.

These facilities shall provide multiple options of rest and refreshment for the highway commuters during their journey. Some of the facilities being developed at each WSA are fuel stations, food court / restaurants, dhabas, convenience stores, clean and hygienic toilet facilities, drinking water, first aid / medical room including child-care room, dedicated area for promoting local artisans, car bus/truck parking, drone landing facilities / helipad etc.

A senior National Highways Authority of India (NHA) official said the Central road making agency has planned to introduce Humsafar policy to onboard existing and upcoming service providers along the Highways/Expressways under the purview of MoRT&H to improve services for commuters by standardising the facilities provided. This will complement the Wayside Amenities being developed by NHA on National Highways. The policy aims to benefit all the three stakeholders namely Service Providers, NHA/MoRT&H and commuters, added the official.

Kolkata doctors resign en masse



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the condition of eight junior doctors sitting on indefinite fast entering the third day on Tuesday — and no offer of talks coming from the side of the State Government — the senior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital tendered mass resignation warning they would go for bigger struggle should State not respond positively.

To make matter worse the senior doctors of the senior doctors of Calcutta Medical College too threatened to follow in the footsteps of their RGKMCH colleagues if the Government did not respond within 24 hours. Earlier in the day, 15 senior doctors also joined their

junior counterparts in a symbolic hunger strike, further demonstrating the growing unrest within the hospital. "About fifty of us senior doctors today tendered mass resignation as a mark of solidarity with our junior colleagues because they are fighting for a just cause," said a senior doctor. The doctors' resignations came on a day when junior doctors of other medical colleges observed a symbolic fast on Tuesday in support of their colleagues in Kolkata.

Eight doctors from different medical colleges of Kolkata have been on an indefinite fast in support of their ten-point demand that includes a centralised referral system, security for all the medical staff inside the hospitals, ending of the threat syndicate and related malpractices that were rampant in most of the Government medical colleges and hospitals, basic amenities like rest rooms and washrooms for doctors, installation of CCTV cameras in all the Government hospitals, real-time monitoring of bed availability, and the establishment of task forces to ensure the proper functioning of essential facilities like CCTV cameras, on-call rooms, and washrooms, etc.

MITHUN: FROM FAME TO GLORY



President Droupadi Murmu presents the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty during the 70th National Film Award ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Tuesday

State staffs' gratuity hiked to Rs 20L

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday decided to enhance the gratuity limit of State Government employees from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

As per his decision, the government increase the Death-Cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG) benefit from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh retrospectively from January 1, 2024 for all regular State Government employees. Previously, various service associations of the State had requested the government for enhancement of the ceiling of DCRG admissible to the State Government employees.

Notably, the Central Government has enhanced the Retirement and Death Gratuity under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 for its employees with effect from January 1, 2024.

Subhadra Yojana 35L beneficiaries to get 2nd payment today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

More than one crore beneficiaries have enrolled in the Subhadra Yojana so far, informed Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida on Tuesday. She said that over 35 lakh women with NPCI clearance would get the second phase of the first instalment under the scheme on Wednesday.

"The Chief Minister will release the second-phase money of the first instalment under Subhadra Yojana to the accounts of the beneficiaries before 12 pm tomorrow. One crore women joining any government scheme within a half month is historic. Women are very much advanced



digitally. I extend my thanks to them," said Parida.

Notably, the Subhadra Yojana was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a special function in Bhubaneswar on his

birthday on September 17.

Under the scheme, the State Government will transfer Rs 10,000 per year to eligible women beneficiaries between the ages of 21 and 60.

Ahead of Durga Puja Police conduct flag march in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to instill a sense of security among residents and ensure peaceful Durga Puja celebrations, the Commissionerate police along with two companies of the BSF conducted a flag march in some sensitive areas of Bhubaneswar on Monday.

The flag march was conducted under the leadership of city DCP Pinak Mishra in Laxmisagar and Jharpara areas.

According to Mishra, the flag march was conducted to showcase the preparedness of police to meet any kind of eventuality to ensure the safety and security of people during the festivities. He also



warned antisocial elements of stern actions in case of any indiscipline activities. "We will ensure a sense of security to the people of Bhubaneswar during Durga Puja. We will also prevent any

kind of indiscipline activities. We are issuing a warning to the anti-social elements through this flag march that any kind of indiscipline activities by them will not be tolerated at all," said Mishra.

No CCTVs in 13 police stations in State yet

Inform Odisha Police to High Court

PNS ■ CUTTACK
Amidst the row over the alleged assault of an Army officer and his fiancée at the Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar, the Odisha Police on Tuesday informed the Orissa Court that 13 police

stations in the State don't have CCTV cameras yet. This information was shared by Odisha Police ADG Dayal Gangwar, who made a personal appearance in the High Court during a hearing of the Bharatpur case matter. The ADG informed that the process to instal CCTV cameras in the 13 police stations would be completed within the next 15 days. Similarly, the

Video Management System (VMS) would also be made operational within the same period. Through the VMS, the Superintendent of Police can monitor the CCTV footages of all police stations. During the previous hearing, the government had earlier informed that nearly 57 police stations in the State did not have CCTV cameras.

Apart from this, soon a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) would be issued for appropriate behaviour towards Army personnel at police stations, informed Gangwar, adding that efforts are on to prepare what modalities would be there in the procedure. The next hearing on the matter is scheduled to be held on November 12.

Durga Puja in Twin City

Massive police force deployment for security

38 platoons in BBSR, 64 in Cuttack

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a bid to ensure incidents-free Durga Puja celebrations in the Twin City of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, a massive deployment of police force would be undertaken, said Commissioner of Police

S Debadatta Singh on Tuesday. Singh said 38 platoons of force would be deployed in Bhubaneswar and 64 platoons in Cuttack. This would be in addition to the deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) like the BSF. Besides, around 200 officers of the Commissionerate police would oversee that all measures are implemented on the ground, Singh added.

Singh said that this time, the Commissionerate police has come up with a special strategy for traffic control and streamlining of vehicular and non-vehicular traffic, crime prevention, awareness about cybercrime and security. "Apart from proper traffic regulations, we will focus on checking street crimes like chain snatching and others. Focus will also be given on fire

and structural safety measures at Puja pandals in the two cities," said Singh. The Commissioner further said the Puja organisers have been asked to deploy fire extinguishers and take other measures. Not only Puja organisers, the general public should also abide by the regulations so that the festival is conducted in a smooth manner.

DA case PR&DW Dept senior official in Vig net



Raids conducted at 8 places

PNS ■ CUTTACK
The Vigilance police on Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids at eight places including the office and residence of Ramesh Chandra Jena, a senior official of the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR & DW) Department, on the charge of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. Multiple teams of the anti-corruption agency raided the properties of Jena and his relatives located in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Khordha. The Vigilance teams comprising eight DSPs, three Inspectors, 10 ASIs, and other supporting staffs carried out the raids on the strength of

search warrants issued by Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar. Till the last report came in, search operations were underway. Searches conducted at the following places:
1) Double-storied building at Kalinganagar, Bhubaneswar
2) Triple-storied building at Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar
3) House at Jena's native village Khuntia Banpur, Gadisagoda, dist- Puri
4) House of his relative at Tarimi, Kalupadaghat, Tangi, dist-Khordha
5) His Residential government quarter at Market Building, Bhubaneswar
6) His office chamber
7) House of his relative at Nirakarpur, dist-Khordha
8) House of another relative at Nirakarpur, dist-Khordha

OSUK is only registered Odisha society in UK

To celebrate Bali Yatra in November

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha Society of the United Kingdom (OSUK) has been registered as a Community Interest Company, marking a significant milestone in its 40-year history. This development enhances the OSUK's ability to serve the Odia diaspora in the UK. The key updates include a new Board of Directors, upcoming cultural events such as Bali Yatra on November 30, 2024 and plans for regional chapter expansion. For more than 40 years, the OSUK has played an essential role in preserving and promoting Odia culture and providing vital support during crises such as natural disasters



in Odisha. At a recent meeting, the OSUK emphasised the significance of its logo, which was registered as a trademark with the UK Intellectual Property Office this year. The organisation announced plans to enhance its digital platform to improve member accessibility and engagement. The OSUK's eight directors are Partha Sarathi Panda, Salil Kumar Das, Dr Prakash Kumar Dey, Dr Bibhuti

Bhusan Pattnayak, Sasmita Rajhansha, Pravat Mishra, Dipti Mohanty and Srikanta Kumar Padhi. The OSUK hosts a variety of events throughout the year including an annual convention featuring cultural performances, seminars and networking opportunities; workshops focused on Odia language, dance and music; and fundraising initiatives aimed at supporting educational and

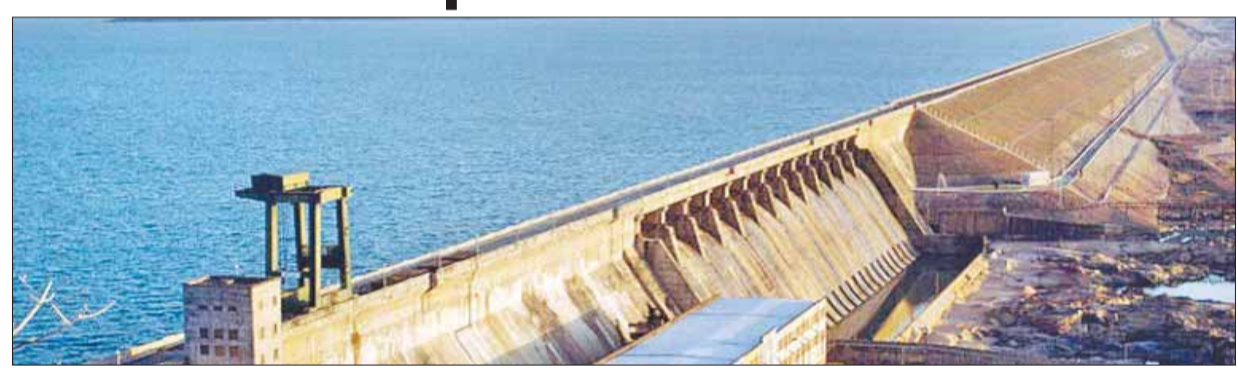
healthcare projects in Odisha. The OSUK collaborates with various organisations to strengthen the cultural ties between Odisha and the UK. An updated event calendar showcasing the programmes and community activities will be available on its website and social media platforms. The OSUK's official website is <http://osuk.org.uk> and social media platforms LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and Threads.

In Banki Complaint thrashed in coop society for alleging graft

PNS ■ CUTTACK
A complainant was allegedly thrashed for levelling corruption allegations against the members of the managing committee of a cooperative society under Banki block in Cuttack district on Monday. The victim was identified as Prabhakar Sahu, who lodged a complaint in this connection with the Banki police. As per reports, some members of the Ostia Cooperative Society, which is under the Central Cooperative Bank, had brought allegations of huge corruption in the society in the Chief Minister's grievance cell. Following the development, an investigation was under-

taken at the office of the Assistant Manager of the Cooperative Department. However, president of Ostia Cooperative Society Bharat Behera entered the office forcefully with more than 10 supporters. Subsequently, they thrashed a complainant Prabhakar. They also threw a chair at him. Prabhakar has sustained injuries in the process. "When I was complaining that my rice has not been procured, Bharat Behera and his supporters lost their cool and thrashed me," alleged Prabhakar. "When the inquiry was going on, Behera broke into the office and created disturbances," said inquiry officer Saroj Jena.

Rs 855 cr to be spent to renovate Hirakud Dam



Project to be completed in 4 years
PNS ■ SAMBALPUR
The irrigation system of Hirakud Dam over the Mahanadi river is all set to get a major facelift with the government planning to spend Rs 855 crore to renovate the canal system. The sum of money will be spent over the next four years with an aim to complete

the prestigious project by 2027-28. The Hirakud Dam, the longest earthen dam in the country, was built in 1957 with an aim to control floods, apart from power generation and irrigation. However, over the years, the canal system has turned out to be less efficient due to various problems. The canal irrigation system, which provided water to 1.59 lakh hectares land in Kharif season and 1.12 lakh hectares

land in Rabi season in districts of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir and Subarnapur, has now developed cracks and suffers from drainage and waterlogging problems, with complaints of water not reaching to farmlands coming from farmers. Amidst complaints by farmers, the Water Resources Department has announced the renovation of the project and ensure proper water supply to the tail-end of the canal

network. "One of the main goals of the renovation scheme is recovering the waterlogged cultivable land caused by seepage from the canal network. The renovation project would stabilize the siphon and aqueduct in the canal system," a Press release of the Waters Department said. With BJP focusing on strengthening its traditional base in western Odisha, it has chosen to redress the issues concerning the Hirakud Dam.

Saranghi joins as OPSC chief



PNS ■ CUTTACK
Former in-Charge DGP Arun Kumar Saranghi on Tuesday took charge as the new Chairman of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). Saranghi told reporters that it was a tough moment to shed the police uniform that he wore in the long service period of 33 years as it was his identity.

On his new role as OPSC Chairman, he said it is equally a challenging duty and he would try to perform it with dedication and bring transparency in the selection process. Saranghi advised job aspirants to remain vigilant especially whenever anybody approaches them saying that they would provide jobs in lieu of money.

BBSR's oldest colonial building slated for demolition

ANIL DHIR ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Dak Bungalow at Mahtab Road, the oldest colonial vestige of Bhubaneswar, is slated for demolition for the construction of a Kalyan Mandap. The Works Department Prachi Division has been allocated a sum of Rs 2.60 crore for the purpose and ground work has been started. The Dak Bungalow has an interesting history. Built sometime in the 1850s for the convenience of British officers, it was also the staging point for mail runners of the Imperial Mail Service. For years, it served as a makeshift court house for proceedings held by British officials. The many properties in Bhubaneswar's Old Town that were taken up by the gentry of

Bengal under the draconian Sunset Law were auctioned at this place. It was also used by the surveyors of the Great Indian Trigonometrical Survey held between 1840 and 1870. Bengal Nagpur Railways engineers too had used the place when the rail line was being laid. It is just 500 meters from the railway line to Puri. The modest two-room bungalow was set in a thickly wooded plot with a well and two outhouses for the Khansama and the Chowkidar. Now, just a single tamarind tree remains. The bungalow was renovated during the visit of Lord Curzon in 1899; it was from here that he went to the Curzon Tower to view the Lingaraj Temple. The place has been known as the



Dakabangala Chhak since ages. Old timers tell of the times when leopards would come and rest in the veranda. The bungalow was converted into a Settlement office and remained as the RI office

for years before a new adjoining building was made. This building, which has been witness to so much history and has survived the vicissitudes of time, lies neglected. Locals say the place is haunted with

strange paranormal happenings. Old timers recollect that there were two graves of Englishmen inside the compound; however no trace of them can be found. The INTACH has been per-

sistently writing to the government about the neglect to this historic structure. It had formed a team and inspected the abandoned place and submitted a report. The building was found to be structurally

intact; the thick walls and the wooden roof beams are undamaged; the building can be easily restored with some conservation efforts. Even the outhouses and the horse stable are in a restorable condition. The INTACH had suggested that the place was ideal for making a site museum and interpretation centre of the various artefacts of the Old Town. INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter convener Anil Dhir has unearthed many accounts of the Englishmen who had stayed here for months, convalescing from diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. Many physicians of Calcutta would recommend patients to go to Bhubaneswar and imbibe the therapeutic mineral waters of the well inside the Kedar Gouri temple complex. It was believed

that the water had curative and rejuvenating properties. A two-storied sanatorium had been made near the present day Ravi Talkies which too catered to the convalescing Britishers. Unfortunately, it was demolished ten years ago and a block of flats has come up at the place. During two different occasions in the last regime, it had been planned to demolish the structure, but the timely intervention of INTACH's State Chapter had stopped it. Dhir said that much mindless destruction of heritage had happened during the Ekamrakshetra beautification project. Whatever remains should be properly conserved. Even locals are against the project as the bungalow compound is the only open space left there.

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Scrap Chakdar dam project, cry Telkoi locals

NARESH PATTANAYAK
■ KEONJHAR

About 1,000 villagers of Telkoi block staged a huge rally in Keonjhar followed by demonstration in front of the collectorate in protest against the proposed Chakdar project in Telkoi.

The protest was organised by the Somakoi Chakdar Project Coordinating Committee, Telkoi under the leadership of its president Kailash Chandra Pradhan and coordinator Laxmidhar Pradhan. Leaders of different political parties like Congress, BJD and other organisations

joined and protested against the project.

The leaders said, "The project will not bring any benefit to Keonjhar district. So we demand to scrap it. We can't leave our homeland for the sake of an irrigation project from which only neighbouring Angul district will benefit."

It may be noted that the project work had been stopped 20 years ago in view of protests by the locals. However, financial allocation was made for the project by the new BJP government this year, triggering people's dissatisfaction again. In protest against this, Telkoi Bandh was held



several times and NH 49 was blocked earlier, the leaders said.

"We will intensify the agitation if the demand to scrap the project is not met," the agitators said and questioned as to how the project got approval without holding Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha.

They further alleged that a 402 feet dam will be built and there will be 390 feet of water, due to which many parts of Telkoi will be submerged.

"This project is being built to appease Angul district, which we oppose. Congress and BJD governments stopped the project in the interest of the people," they

slammed and questioned the CM as to why he approved the project knowing its repercussions in Telkoi and surrounding areas in Keonjhar district as the CM himself is a resident of Keonjhar.

Among others, former PCC presidents Niranjana Patnaik and Jaydev Jena, BJD Zilla Parishad member Ashish Chakraborty, PCC general secretary Aloy Mishra, secretary Sangram Das, leader Nirmal Nayak, former MLAs Subarna Nayak and Dhanurjay Sidhu, senior leader Krushnachandra Mohanty, former MP Yashwant Laguri and Er Binod Nayak were present.

Bhadrak forum to felicitate poet Mishra

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Basanta Muduli Smruti Sansad of Bhadrak which honours poets below the age of 50 will facilitate Dr Jnanee Debashish Mishra of Cuttack, a young poet for the year 2024.

Currently he is posted in Ravenshaw University and teaches students of Odia Department. With the creations of Prof Mishra, he has been enriching the Odia language and literature.

Born in 1985 in Nayagarh district, he has 10 books to his credits. The award giving function will be held on November 3 at Bhadrak, informed Sansad secretary Krushna



Kumar Mohanty.

Basanta Muduli, a young poet of Bhadrak, died in 1986 in a car mishap when he was just 31. He has authored over 500 poems in different languages. It is in memory of late Muduli that the Sansad was formed three decades ago and it has been felicitating poets across the State.

Kuna Dash appointed Shrekshetra Mitra

For tourism development in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

Kuna Dash, who was born in Puri and has chosen Japan as his workplace for 35 years, was appointed as Shrekshetra Mitra by district Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain on Saturday. Dash's role in popularizing the history, art, culture, language and education of the ancient city of Puri in



Japan is unique. Dash will work on how to increase the number of foreign and Indian tourists to Puri in the coming days.

In this regard, Dash said in addition to staying in Japan for many years, Puri and Odisha have continued to promote art and culture and tourism. The result has been highly respected by the Japanese government. Similarly, Japanese language, education, art and culture are being propagated in Puri. Free Japanese language and IT training is offered. After being successful

in this, many young people have got employment opportunities in big companies in Japan.

He informed that in the coming days, together with the district administration, efforts will be continued on the arrival of Japanese and foreign tourists in Puri and how to beautify the city of Puri by applying advanced Japanese technology. District level officials including Municipal Executive Officer Abhimanyu Behera were present.

DCBL felicitates cricketer Abhishek

A physically-challenged selected in Odisha Cricket Squad

PNS ■ RAJGANGPUR

The Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd. (DCBL) felicitated Abhishek Shukla, a young cricket sensation and employee of Dalmia Cement, for his remarkable achievements and selection in the Odisha Cricket Squad by the Odisha Cricket Association for Physically Challenged.



Abhishek, who hails from Rajgangpur, was born with an amputated left hand and has overcome his disability through sheer determination and passion for the sport. Over the years, he has represented India in multiple international tournaments, including the India vs Bangladesh Disabled Cricket Series, where he earned the Best Bowler award. His achievements have been fur-

ther recognised by the Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI), a BCCI-supported body. Abhishek is all set to represent Odisha in the upcoming National Cricket Tournament to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from October 15 to 26.

Executive Director, DCBL and Unit Head, Rajgangpur, Chetan Shrivastava felicitated Abhishek with a cheque for Rs 35,000 in the presence of Deputy Executive Director, DCBL, Unit HR Head, Dr Niladri Bhushan Parhi and the team from R&R of the company.

Dance, music, orchestra at 7th IPAF



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The programmes included Odishi dance by Padmashri Dr Aruna Mohanty, world music performance by VEDA Group; folk dance performance by children of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Rasulgarh, Odishi and Rajasthani folk dance performance by Swapnarani Sinha and Group; instrumental orchestra (Raga Rasa Ranga) by Srinibas Sathpathy and Group, apart from a special performance by disabled artists of Satyabhama Devi College of Hearing Impaired, Bhubaneswar.

The event aimed at bringing together artists performing traditional art forms and providing them a platform to perform a fusion of different art forms.

In Ganjam Girl immolates self over family dispute

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In an unfortunate incident, a girl committed suicide by setting herself on fire at Kukudakhandi in Ganjam district on Monday.

Though she was rescued by

local residents from the roadside while burning on flame and admitted to the MKCG Medical College Hospital in a serious condition, she succumbed to her serious burn injuries.

As per sources, the girl set

herself on fire by pouring kerosene following a family dispute. While she was burning on flame on the roadside near Kukudakhandi block office, some local residents rushed to her rescue. However, she sustained serious burn injuries in the process and passed away while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The Berhampur Sadar police detained the girl's father in this connection and his questioning was underway.

Man gets lifer for killing wife in Keonjhar

NARESH PATTANAYAK
■ KEONJHAR

Keonjhar District Sessions Judge Ashok Kumar Panda on Tuesday sentenced a person to life imprisonment for killing his wife in the district.

The court also directed the convict, identified as Dilip Bentkar (44) of

Gopinathpur Sahi of Raisuan village under Sadar block in the district, to pay a fine of Rs 5,000 and in default to undergo RI for one month more.

On the evening of January 6, 2021, Dilip suddenly got angry and beat up his wife Sabita over a domestic dispute. He killed her by hitting

her head with a brick. Police lodged a murder case after receiving a complaint from the deceased's brother Madhusudan Bentkar and arrested Dilip.

"Upon hearing the statements of 11 witnesses and examining the police investigation report, the court pronounced the sentence,"

said Public Prosecutor Pradeep Kumar Das.

Besides, the court directed the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) to provide financial assistance to the three children who are going through bad times after the death of their mother and the father being lodged in jail.

In Baleswar Youth gets 20-yr RI for kidnap, rape of minor

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Special Judge POC SO, Baleswar, Ranjan Kumar Sutar on Tuesday convicted a person for raping a minor girl in the district and sentenced him to undergo 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The court also ordered the convict, identified as Sukuar Singh (19) of village Madhupuria under Berhampur (Nilgiri) police station in the district, to pay a fine of Rs 6,000, in default of which he has to undergo another two years' RI.

Singh had sexually assaulted the 15-year-old girl after kidnapping her. The girl's parents alleged in their FIR lodged on April 7, 2024 that the accused had kidnapped their daughter when she had gone to witness an opera. He then took her to different places in Mayurbhanj district and raped her.

Police, after registering a case under the IPC and the POC SO Act, rescued the victim and arrested Singh. The court after examining 15 witnesses and 22 exhibits pronounced the verdict, said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda.

Corporate-media interface 'UAIL a cost-effective alumina producer'



PNS ■ RAYAGADA

The Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL) situated in the remote tribal hinterland of the Kashipur block held a dialogue with media fraternity of Rayagada here, where UAIL unit head Rabi Narayan Mishra said the company has established itself as a cost-effective alumina producer.

The refinery operates under a rigorous "zero discharge" policy, demonstrating a commitment to minimizing ecological impact and practicing environmental responsibility throughout its processes, he said.

UAIL's environmentally friendly management of red mud and fly ash sets a benchmark for efficient industrial

operations, Mishra said.

"In addition to its environmental initiatives, UAIL prioritizes corporate social responsibility (CSR), impacting over 200,000 lives annually. The company invests in local communities by fostering education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and infrastructure development," said Corporate Communications AVP Dr Bihudatta Mohapatra. Mohapatra emphasized corporate-media relationships to be a bit personal, proactive and prolonged.

"UAIL's operations feature a direct and eco-friendly logistics network that connects its mines to the refinery via a long-distance conveyor system, enhancing sustainability by reducing reliance on road transportation. This integra-

tion results in one of the world's lowest operational costs per tonne of alumina produced," Pitambar Behera, Manager, CSR & Media Relations said.

According to HR head Bijay Kumar, "In essence, UAIL exemplifies a comprehensive approach to sustainable business practices that combines economic efficiency, environmental consciousness, and social responsibility, positively impacting both society and the environment."

CSR Manager Swayam Sampurna Nanda moderated the event and proposed a vote of thanks. In what is called as the first ever corporate-media interface, many scribes of the district were present and gave their opinions on various issues.

Markandi beach cleaning drive by YSD

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A beach cleaning campaign was organised by volunteers of the Youth for Social Development (YSD) with the assistance of the Sarpanch, Samiti Members and other PRI representatives at Markandi Beach in Ganjam district on Saturday.

A large number of local community members and Red Cross students from Markandi Government High School participated in the event.

The objective of the campaign was to clean the beach area by removing glass,



plastic bottles, polythene, paper, and other waste materials to restore its beauty and aesthetic look, said Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty of YSD.

The Sarpanch and Samiti members, along with local youth and adolescents, provided valuable inputs and worked to promote the importance of maintaining cleanliness at the beach to attract the tourists.

The campaign was coordinated by programme coordinator at YSD Chandan Kumar Sahu.

Democracy revived in Jammu and Kashmir: Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said democracy has been revived in Jammu and Kashmir with the successful conduct of assembly election as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also said that the massive victory of the BJP in Haryana is a victory of the unwavering faith of farmers, poor, backward, soldiers and youth in the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



when the Congress made a mockery of democracy by openly rigging the elections. Democracy has now been revived in the same Kashmir valley," he said in a series of social media posts in Hindi. Shah said Prime Minister Modi had promised the people of the country that peaceful and fair elections will be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. "I am extremely happy that

for the first time since the advent of terrorism in the 1980s, the people of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed such a transparent and peaceful election and participated in the elections in large numbers. "I heartily congratulate the Election Commission, Jammu and Kashmir Administration, security forces and the people of Jammu and Kashmir for these

successful and historic elections," he said. The senior BJP leader said in Jammu and Kashmir, where under the Congress rule, there was only "reign of terror and democracy was being murdered every day," under the BJP rule, the great festival of democracy was celebrated with full pomp and gaiety. "People elected their representatives without any fear of terror and panic.

Heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for this unprecedented change," he said. The elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir assembly was held after 10 years and for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state. The three-phase polling was concluded on October 1 and the results were declared on Tuesday. Shah also said the people of "Veerbhoomi" Haryana have completely rejected the "negative and divisive politics" of Congress which "divides" people on the basis of caste and region. The people have chosen the 10 years track record of development and welfare of poor of BJP, he added. "Salute to the people of Veerbhoomi Haryana. This massive victory of the BJP in Haryana is a victory of the unwavering faith of farmers, the poor, the

backward, the soldiers and the youth in the BJP government led by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji," he wrote in a social media post in Hindi. The home minister said Haryana, the land of farmers and soldiers, has taught a lesson to those who go abroad and insult the country for their vote bank. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Haryana for giving BJP the opportunity to serve the state for the third consecutive time," he said. Shah said the BJP government at the Centre and in the state under the leadership of Modi will fulfil all aspirations and hopes of the people of the state. The BJP is set to return to power in Haryana for the third consecutive term with an absolute majority in the 90-member assembly. The polling was held on October five and results were declared on Tuesday.

India, Germany review defence ties



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Germany on Tuesday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties during telephonic talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Boris Pistorius. The two leaders also took stock of ongoing defence cooperation including exercises in the air and maritime domains, defence ministry said. The ministers also discussed ways to further strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience, it added. "They planned to meet in the near future to give concrete shape to the defence engagements and joint projects with an aim to transform defence as a key pillar of the India-Germany bilateral relationship," the ministry said. Rajnath also posted on social media about the talks. "Had a telephonic conversation with the German Federal Minister of Defence, Mr Boris Pistorius. We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation activities including the exercises in air and maritime domain. We also discussed ways and means to strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience," he wrote on the social media platform.

activities including exercises in the air and maritime domains," the ministry said in a statement. Rajnath and Pistorius discussed ways to further strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience, it added. "They planned to meet in the near future to give concrete shape to the defence engagements and joint projects with an aim to transform defence as a key pillar of the India-Germany bilateral relationship," the ministry said. Rajnath also posted on social media about the talks. "Had a telephonic conversation with the German Federal Minister of Defence, Mr Boris Pistorius. We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation activities including the exercises in air and maritime domain. We also discussed ways and means to strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience," he wrote on the social media platform.

Modi to visit Laos for ASEAN, East Asia summits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Laos on October 10 and 11 during which he will attend the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. Laos is the current chair of ASEAN. On the invitation of his Laos counterpart Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, the MEA said in a statement. During the visit, Modi will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit being hosted by Laos as the current chair of ASEAN, it said. Modi is also expected to hold



bilateral meetings on the margins of the two summits, according to the MEA. "India is marking a decade of the Act East Policy this year. Relations with ASEAN are a central pillar of the Act East Policy and our Indo-Pacific vision," the MEA said. The ASEAN-India Summit will review the progress of India-ASEAN relations through "our Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership" and chart the future direction of cooperation. "The East Asia Summit, a premier leaders-led forum that contributes to building an environment of strategic trust in the region, provides an opportunity for leaders of EAS Participating Countries, including India, to exchange views on issues of regional importance," the ministry said.

ED questions Azharuddin under PMLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned former Indian cricket team captain and Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association. ED recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament was first asked to depose before the agency on October 3 but he sought deferment of the notice and asked for a fresh date. The agency subsequently issued him fresh summons to appear on October 8. The probe is



related to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). The ED had conducted searches in connection with the irregularities in November last year. Azharuddin's role during his tenure as the HCA president is under the scanner of the agency, the sources had said. Following the registration of a case in connection with the alleged irregularities by

Telangana Police last year, he had said that the allegations levelled against him were "false" and "motivated" and it was "just a stunt" pulled by his rivals to ruin his reputation. The money laundering case stems from three FIRs and charge sheets filed by the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in connection with alleged criminal misappropriation of funds of the HCA to the tune of Rs 20 crore.

IAF should realign for present, future security needs: AP Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Tuesday highlighted the need for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to realign itself to meet the present and future requirements as the global security environment is in a state of constant flux. The ongoing conflicts have demonstrated the requirement to have a strong and capable Air Force. Therefore, there is a need for the IAF to be prepared to meet any contingency that challenges our national interest, he noted. After reviewing the Parade at the Air Force Station in Tambaram near Chennai on the occasion of 92nd Annual IAF Day celebrations, he said, "Adopting the latest technology along with innovative and out-of-the-box thinking will play a decisive role in today's multi-domain environment." Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Air Force

personnel for their courage and professionalism as he greeted them on the Air Force Day. The day is observed to mark the anniversary of the institution and to commemorate the sacrifices made by air warriors. Modi said in a social media post, "Air Force Day greetings to our brave air warriors. Our Air Force is admired for their courage and professionalism. Their role in protecting our nation is extremely commendable." (Potent, Powerful and Self-Reliant), IAF chief recalled that last year the Indian Air Force made a significant stride in strengthening operational capabilities, enhancing professionalism and adapting to ever-evolving challenging modern warfare. "The global security environment is in a state of constant flux. Ongoing conflicts have demonstrated the requirement to have a strong and capable air force. Therefore, there is a need for the Indian Air Force to be prepared to meet any contingency that challenges



our national interest," he said. Referring to the theme of this year's Annual Day, 'Bharatiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar' (Potent, Powerful and Self-Reliant), IAF chief said, "it perfectly describes our aspirations." "Over the years, we have become more empowered with better technology and achieved new levels of operational exploitation of our systems and weapons." He pointed out that the past year was very eventful and the Air Force proved its mettle on various fronts. In 2024, the IAF chief said, the Air Force expanded its participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises with Air Forces of friendly foreign countries.

"We also conducted the largest multi-national exercise Tarang Shakti on the Indian soil after a gap of 61 years with participation from Air Forces of more than 30 nations," he added. "We have been always the first responder in any calls of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief both within India and abroad. In the last one year, the Indian Air Force has been called upon to provide flood relief in many locations while fighting forest fires in some other," IAF chief said. The Indian Air Force beyond the borders, also played an important role in relief and evacuation from many countries, he added.

India recognised for eliminating Trachoma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has been recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating trachoma, an eye disease caused by a bacterial infection, as a public health problem, becoming the third country in the Southeast Asia region to achieve this milestone, following Nepal and Myanmar. Trachoma, which can cause infectious blindness, is linked to poor hygiene and inadequate water supply, spreading through contact with infected secretions or indirectly via flies. During a 'Public Health Awards' event at the Seventy Seventh Regional Committee Session, WHO officials highlighted the crucial roles played by India's government, ophthalmologists, and healthcare workers in effectively managing trachoma through surveillance, surgical services, and community hygiene initiatives. "India's success is due to the strong leadership of its government and the commitment of ophthalmologists and other



cadres of health-care workers. "They worked together with partners to ensure effective surveillance, diagnosis and management of active trachoma, provision of surgical services for trichiasis, and promotion of water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly facial cleanliness, among communities," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia. The WHO also felicitated Bhutan for achieving interim targets for cervical cancer elimination, Maldives and Sri Lanka for Hepatitis B control in children, Timor-Leste for eliminating lymphatic filariasis and six countries for achieving SDG and global targets for reducing under-

Government of Bhutan is driven by strong leadership, favourable health policies, organised health systems, well-defined country priorities, motivated health workforce, and efficient coordination by the Ministry of Health. Lauding Maldives and Sri Lanka for achieving hepatitis B control, the Regional Director said that preventing hepatitis B infection in children substantially reduces chronic infections and cases of liver cancer and cirrhosis in adulthood. Bhutan was also recognised for achieving the SDG and global 2030 targets of reducing under-5 mortality and stillbirth rates while Timor-Leste was awarded for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem. It is the fifth country in the Region to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand were felicitated for achieving the SDG and global targets for the reduction of under-5 mortality, neonatal mortality and stillbirth rates, the statement added. "The success of the Royal

Palliative care crisis: Only 4 per cent of needy patients in India receive support

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After his diagnosis, 79-year-old Raghav Sharma with advanced cancer was referred to a hospital with a palliative care unit, but due to a lack of trained staff and limited resources, he experienced long wait times and inadequate pain management. While his family tried to provide care at home, they struggled to manage his symptoms without professional guidance. Palliative care is a medical approach aimed at improving the quality of life with the compassionate support for individuals with serious illnesses like third or fourth stage of cancer. However, despite the

National Health Policy's inclusion of palliative care, Sharma's experience for care reflects the broader issue where only about 4% of the estimated 10 million people needing such care in India receive it. Dr Rajagopal, founder of Pallium India, which provides pain relief and palliative care for free, laments that despite its inclusion in the National Health Policy in 2017, the MBBS curriculum in 2019, and the BSc Nursing curriculum in 2021, there remains a significant gap in palliative care. "At least 10 million people in India require palliative care, yet only 4 per cent currently receive it," he said at an event recently.

Rajagopal noted that community volunteers are essential for advancing palliative care. Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and former ICMR head, emphasised that palliative care not only addresses the physical pain of patients but also considers the broader suffering experienced by both patients and their families. Ahead of the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on October 12, DS Negi, CEO, of Delhi-based Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCIRC) said, "Doctors and medical support staff face numerous challenges in providing comprehensive hospice and

palliative care. "Apart from the emotional resistance from family to forming support groups, the infrastructure in India is also lacking. There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between patient needs and healthcare provider practices to enhance the delivery of palliative care in India," added Negi. Doing its bit to create awareness about the importance of hospice and palliative care in the country, the RGCIRC organised a daylong event 'Hospice & Palliative Care Event 24' (HOPE'24) here recently. Discussing the need for advanced care planning (ACP) during the cancer treatment, Dr Kinshuki Jain, Head, Department of Pain

and Palliative care, RGCIRC said, "This is especially relevant for life-limiting illness eg- cancer where ACP may ensure that patients do not endure treatment that may not align with their wishes or quality of life preferences. "It's crucial to empower patients and their families to engage in these conversations early on, minimizing the occurrence of futile treatments." A recent study by doctors at AIIMS Jhajjar too has found that providing empathetic treatment to seriously ill patients can improve their quality of life. "It is an effective approach to treatment by establishing better connectivity with critically ill patients," it said.

PM Modi pays tribute to Ram Vilas Paswan on fourth death anniversary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to Lok Janshakti Party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, a prominent leader from the Dalit community, on his fourth death anniversary, praising him as an outstanding leader who was fully devoted to empowering the poor. He said in a social media post, "I pay homage to my very dear friend and one of India's tallest leaders, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji on his Punya Tithi. He was an outstanding leader, fully devoted to empowering the poor and dedicated to building a strong and



developed India." The prime minister said he was fortunate to have worked with Paswan so closely over the years. "I greatly miss his insights on several issues," he said. Paswan was a member of the Modi cabinet since 2014 till his death in 2020. A grassroots politician with a

keen sense of ground pulse, the Bihar leader worked in the Cabinet of different prime ministers representing rival parties and enjoyed good equation with leaders across the aisle. His son Chirag Paswan is now heading the LJP (Ram Vilas) and is a Cabinet minister.

Blame game in Congress after failure to come back to power in Haryana

Party high command should assess all reasons leading to disappointing results, identify people responsible: Kumari Selja

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

A blame game began in the Congress on Tuesday after it failed in its bid to come back to power in Haryana after 10 years, with senior party leader Kumari Selja saying the party high command should assess all reasons that led to the disappointing result and identify the people responsible. On the other hand alleging a conspiracy, the Congress said it would not accept the Haryana Assembly poll result as it raises "serious questions" about the integrity of the instruments of the democratic system. Congress gen-

eral secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Haryana result is a victory of manipulations, and subverting the will of people. He also alleged that it is a defeat of the transparent and democratic processes. The knives were out in the Congress even before the declaration of final results, as party veteran Kumari Selja, who had been sulking during the election which was effectively led by former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, said that "it will not be business as usual" and called for introspection. "The Haryana poll results are disappointing and I am pained at the disappointment of the Congress workers in



The state who have worked very hard and were looking forward to forming their government after 10 years. "It will not be business as usual in Haryana and I am sure the Congress high command would identify those who negated the efforts to

bring the party to power after 10 years," she told the media. The Sirsa Lok Sabha MP and former union minister said she was sure that the Congress high command would go into all aspects that led to such results and would identify the reasons and those responsible for bringing such results. "I'm sure the party will look into all aspects that led to such results in Haryana," Selja said. She referred to factors affecting the organisation like taking everyone along and ensuring coordination among all the leaders in the state. Ramesh claimed there were "serious issues" with the counting process and the

functioning of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) in around 14 constituencies and that Congress would take up the matter with the Election Commission soon. "Results in Haryana are totally unexpected and surprising. They go against ground reality and the sentiment of the people which was for change," Ramesh said at a press conference with Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera. "Under these circumstances, it is not possible for us to accept these results (in Haryana)... There are serious issues raised by our candidates which we will raise with the EC," Ramesh said.

"Victory has been snatched from us in Haryana... The results are against the sentiment of the people which was for change. The Congress has been made to lose in Haryana and the chapter is not closed," Ramesh said. On the Jammu and Kashmir results, Ramesh said the people have defeated the "mischievous designs" of the BJP to muster a majority somehow. "People have given a befitting reply to those who trampled upon J-K's respect by taking away its statehood. The NC-Congress government will make all efforts for the restoration of J-K's statehood," Ramesh said.

BJP intensifies preparations for UP by-elections, finalises panel of candidates

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

With by-elections on 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh on the horizon, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ramped up its election preparations. It has finalised a list comprising the names of 27 candidates for 9 seats. A crucial meeting of the BJP core committee took place in Lucknow, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The meeting, which included discussions on candidates for nine of the ten seats, resulted in the finalization of a panel comprising 27 names. This panel will now be sent to Delhi for approval, with the party's central leadership expected to make the final decision. Notably, it was decided to leave the Meerapur seat for the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), a BJP ally, while discussions continue over the Nishad Party's claim to seats in the by-elections. No decision has been made yet on whether Nishad Party



President Sanjay Nishad will be given a seat, raising doubts about his party's allocation. The high-level meeting, held at the Chief Minister's residence, lasted over an hour and included prominent BJP leaders such as Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP State President Bhupendra Chaudhary, and General Secretary (Organization) Dharampal. During the meeting, discussions centered around ticket claimants for the upcoming

by-elections, campaign strategies, and efforts to bolster coordination between the party and the government. In addition to candidate selection, other critical aspects of the by-election preparations, such as the membership campaign and leader visits, were also reviewed. It was decided that ongoing consultations between the Chief Minister and the State President will help shape the party's strategy moving forward. The meeting focused on nine constituencies: Milkpur,

Katehari, Majhawan, Pulpur, Khair, Kundarki, Sisamau, Karhal, and Ghaziabad, with the exception of Meerapur. The BJP's district committees had earlier forwarded a list of ten names for each of these seats. After deliberation, three names were shortlisted for each constituency, forming a panel to be sent to the central leadership for final approval. Interestingly, none of the names on the panel include Muslim candidates. With the by-election dates expected to be announced soon, the BJP is set to escalate its election campaign. Party leaders discussed campaign plans, including visits from senior figures and strategies for collecting ground-level feedback on each seat. A plan to improve coordination between the government and the organization was also discussed to ensure a smooth electoral process. Apart from election-related matters, the meeting also touched upon appointments to various government corporations, commissions, and

boards. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the party organization to finalize the list of names for the appointments and submit them for approval. However, the status of the seats sought by the Nishad Party remains uncertain. While it was confirmed that the Meerapur seat will go to RLD, the BJP has prepared panels for the Katehari and Majhawan seats, traditionally claimed by the Nishad Party. In the 2022 assembly elections, the Nishad Party contested both seats but only won Majhawan. Given the current dynamics, it remains unclear whether the Nishad Party will receive a seat allocation this time around. "The BJP's preparations for the upcoming by-elections indicate a comprehensive strategy to secure key constituencies and ensure a coordinated campaign effort. The final list of candidates is expected to shape the party's chances as the election draws near," BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhry said.

More voters used NOTA button in J and K than in Haryana: EC data

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

More voters in Jammu and Kashmir used the None of the above (NOTA) button against those in Haryana, latest Election Commission data shows. In elections to the 90-member Haryana assembly, out of over two crore electors, 67.90 per cent had exercised their franchise. Out of these, 0.38 per cent used the NOTA option on the voting machine. In the three-phased Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls to 90 seats, 63.88 per cent of the total electorate voted. Out of these, 1.48 per cent opted for the NOTA option. According to trends, not more than two per cent of the voters have opted for the NOTA option, indicating continued reluctance of electors in choosing the option. Introduced in 2013, the NOTA option on electronic voting machines has its own symbol — a ballot paper with a black cross across it.



After the Supreme Court order in September 2013, the Election Commission (EC) added the NOTA button on the EVMs as the last option on the voting panel. Before the apex court order, those not inclined to vote for any candidate had the option of filling what is popularly called form 49-O. But filling out the form at the polling station under Rule 49-O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, compromised the secrecy of the voter. The Supreme Court had, however, refused to direct the EC to hold fresh polls if the majority of the electorate exercised the NOTA option while voting.

Recently, former chief election commissioner O P Rawat had said, "In the present situation, NOTA has only symbolic significance and it cannot have an impact on the election result of any seat." "More than 50 per cent electors will have to once opt for NOTA in a seat to show the political community that they do not consider candidates with criminal background or other underserving ones worthy of their votes. Only after this, pressure on Parliament and the Election Commission will increase and they will have to think about changing laws to make NOTA effective on the election results," he had said.

Haryana Assembly poll trends show Congress headed for shock defeat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ecstasy turned into agony for the Congress on Tuesday as the celebratory mood at the AICC headquarters in the morning changed into a sombre environment by noon as the trends for the Haryana assembly elections came in showing that the party was headed for a shock defeat. As counting began, early trends showed that the Congress seemed on track to score a big win in the Haryana polls, as predicted also by exit polls. Party workers were seen bursting crackers and distributing 'jalebis' and 'laddoos' at the AICC headquarters at 24, Akbar Road. Drums reverberated at the grand old party's headquarters around 9AM when trends showed that it was racing ahead. However, post 10 AM, as the trends showed the BJP clawing its way back into the contest, the headquarters bore a sombre look with the 'dhols' and sweets disappearing from the scene. Congress leaders were seen giving media bytes at various places at the headquarters, arguing that the trends would change by 1 PM but it did not happen. The Congress canteen was bustling as usual but an air of disappointment was writ large on the faces of party leaders and workers. A canteen worker lamented that they had prepared special dishes such as 'pakoris' and 'puris' but there were hardly any takers due to the turn of events in the Haryana polls. Soon, the AICC headquarter bore a deserted look with only media personnel and a few party leaders hanging around. Some party workers were heard blaming EVMs for the loss, some blamed ticket distribution while others were reeling under the imminent 'shock defeat'. "We can't believe what has happened. There was so much anti-incumbency on the ground. This is a very surprising result," a party worker said. As votes were counted for



assembly elections held last month, it was a mixed bag for the Congress and the BJP - the saffron party headed for defeat in Jammu and Kashmir but bucked early morning trends to move ahead of the Congress in the nail biting Haryana contest. If the trends hold, the Congress may well have to settle for a loss in the heartland state and a 'second partner win' in the union territory. At 2PM, the ruling BJP had crossed the majority mark in the Haryana assembly and was leading or had won 47 seats, while the Congress was ahead or had won 38 seats, according to the trends available on the Election Commission website. Several exit polls had predicted a big Congress victory in Haryana. What started as buoyant result in Jammu and Kashmir also seemed headed for a disappointing turn in Jammu and Kashmir for the Congress as though its alliance with the National Conference seemed set for majority, the Mallikarjun Kharge-led party was leading or had won only six seats. The Congress also raised with the Election Commission the issue of an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results of Haryana elections on the poll watchdog's website and urged it to direct officials to update accurate figures so that "false news and malicious narratives" can be countered immediately. In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that between 9 and 11 am there was an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results on the EC's website.

Nothing on record to substantiate slowdown in update of Haryana poll results: EC tells Ramesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday told Congress leader Jairam Ramesh that there was nothing on record to substantiate his "ill-founded allegation" of slowdown in updating of Haryana poll results. The poll panel also dubbed his allegations as an attempt to "surreptitiously give credence to irresponsible, unfounded and uncorroborated mala fide narratives".

Earlier in the day, the Congress had raised with the Election Commission the issue of an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results of Haryana elections on the poll watchdog's website and urged it to direct officials to update accurate figures so that "false news and malicious narratives" can be countered immediately. In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Ramesh said between nine and 11 am, there



has been an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results on the EC's website. In its response, the poll authority said counting of votes is being carried out according to Rule 60 of Conduct of Election Rules at the designated counting centres and by the designated authorities following statutory and regulatory regime. The EC said the entire counting process in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir is unfolding in the presence of candidates, observers and micro-

observers as per rules. "There is nothing on record to substantiate your ill-founded allegation of slowdown in updating of results. Your memorandum also does not bring out any contrary facts as to the delay at any of the constituencies in Haryana or J-K," it told Ramesh. The EC underlined that approximately 25 rounds across all the constituencies are being updated every five minutes, which testifies dissemination of counting process in a speedy manner.

Haryana's political ripple: Congress loses bargaining power in UP post Haryana polls

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As political results unfold in Haryana, their ripple effects are likely to shape the future of political alliances in Uttar Pradesh (UP), particularly the dynamics between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP). Political analysts say that the outcome could weaken Congress's bargaining position in its alliance with SP, with direct implications for the upcoming by-elections for 10 crucial seats in UP. These by-elections will serve as a litmus test for the effectiveness of the opposition's INDIA alliance, raising questions about Congress's role and influence in the state. A senior Samajwadi Party leader told this reporter that the Haryana election results clearly indicate Congress is rapidly losing its base. The leader urged Congress to reconsider its rigid stance on seat-sharing and accept the offer made by the SP. "The reality is that Congress lacks strong candidates to contest elections," the leader said, adding, "Even in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress can claim it won, but in truth, it secured only 6 out of the 49 seats won by the alliance. A similar situation unfolded in Uttar Pradesh as well." According to political analyst Rajesh N Bajpayee, the Congress has historically struggled to make a signifi-



cant impact in UP. In the last state elections, Congress won just six seats, largely because it contested as an ally of SP. Without that partnership, Congress risks becoming a minor player in the state's political landscape. "The outcome in Haryana is pivotal because it reflects Congress's ability - or inability - to stand on its own. Failing to form Government, the Congress has now lost the bargaining power," feels political analyst. The upcoming by-elections in UP are not just a regional political contest; they hold national significance as a test for the opposition's INDIA alliance. Formed to counter the dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the alliance includes Congress, SP, and other regional parties. But the internal dynamics of this coalition are already strained by seat-sharing disputes, and the by-elections will test whether the alliance can present a united front.

Congress is reportedly eyeing five of the 10 seats in the upcoming by-elections, with a focus on Muslim-dominated constituencies. However, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav is inclined to grant Congress only two. This tug-of-war over seat allocation underlines Congress's diminishing leverage in UP, which is expected to decline further after the Haryana results. Yogi Adityanath's future tied to by-elections. The by-elections are also critical for Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whose future political trajectory hinges on the outcome. Having firmly positioned himself as a hardline Hindutva leader, Yogi faces the challenge of retaining his grip on power in the face of a rejuvenated opposition. A strong performance by the INDIA alliance could signal a shift in the political winds, putting pressure on the BJP Government in the lead-up to the 2024 general elections. Yogi's Government has faced criticism over issues like law and order, unemployment, and communal tensions. The by-elections will serve as a referendum on his governance, and a poor showing by the BJP could embolden the opposition. While Yogi retains strong support among the BJP base, cracks could emerge if the party fails to perform well, especially in the context of rising discontent among key voter groups.

Haryana Assembly poll outcome a blow to AAP as it fails to make its mark

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Assembly poll outcome has come as a blow to the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which hoped to make a mark in the elections. The party drew a blank so far with its senior vice president of the state unit Anurag Dhanda is among those set to suffer a big defeat. Dhanda, who contested from the Kalayat seat in the Kaithal district, was at the seventh position with Congress' Vikas Saharan leading by a margin of 13,419 votes. No AAP nominee was in the contest in any of the 90 assembly seats and it has managed only 1.79 per cent vote share. AAP, which has governments in Delhi and Punjab, did not have any electoral success in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year. AAP contested the assembly polls solo after talks with the Congress for stitching an alliance could not fructify. During his poll campaigns,

party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said that he had been released from jail three to four months back, his party would have formed its government in the state after the polls. "Whatever government is formed in Haryana, it will be formed with the support of the Aam Aadmi Party," he claimed. Kejriwal was released from Tihar jail on September 13 after he was granted bail by the Supreme Court in the CBI case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. He remained in jail for five months. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Kejriwal-led outfit, which was part of the INDIA bloc, contested in alliance with the Congress from the Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency. But its nominee Sushil Gupta, the party's state unit president and its 'best bet', lost to BJP's Naveen Jindal by around 29,000 votes. In Haryana where caste equations play a key role in the electoral success of a political party, AAP asked people to give it a chance in the assembly polls as they have

elected all major political parties one by one. The party projected Kejriwal as 'Haryana ka laal' (son of Haryana) and sought votes in his name. The party had announced several "guarantees", including free and round-the-clock electricity for domestic consumers, transformation of government schools and hospitals, free and good education, setting up of 'mohalla' clinics, and Rs 1,000 to women every month. Though AAP was trying its luck in the 2024 assembly polls, its past poll record shows its dismal performance in Haryana. In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, it had unsuccessfully contested all the 10 parliamentary seats in the state. In the 2019 parliamentary polls, AAP joined hands with the Jannayak Janta Party and fielded candidates from three seats -- Faridabad, Karnal and Ambala -- and they too lost. In 2019 assembly polls, AAP contested 46 assembly seats and failed to register victory.

Victory of struggle: Vinesh Phogat on maiden electoral win

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress candidate and wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Tuesday called her maiden electoral win from the Julana assembly seat in Haryana as "victory of struggle" and "victory of truth". Phogat defeated her nearest rival and BJP nominee



Yogesh Kumar by a margin of 6,015 votes, according to the Election Commission. Phogat polled 65,080 votes while BJP's Kumar secured 59,065 votes. Speaking to reporters after the poll outcome, 30-year-old Phogat said, "It is a victory of 'sangharh' (struggle) and victory of truth."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

One year of Gaza war

With no clear end in sight, the war in Gaza risks becoming a protracted conflict that destabilises the entire West Asia

As the Gaza war enters its second year, the devastation continues to deepen, turning a political and military confrontation into a full-blown humanitarian crisis. The conflict, which began as a violent flare-up between Israel and Palestinian militants, has now drawn in regional players like Lebanon and Iran, making the prospects for peace even more elusive. The war's impact has rippled across borders, leaving countless civilians trapped in a spiral of violence, displacement and suffering. One year into the war, Gaza's population bears the brunt of the ongoing violence. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, essential infrastructure is in ruins, and thousands of lives have been lost. With over two million people crammed into a strip of land roughly 140 square miles, Gaza was already grappling with poverty, unemployment and limited access to basic services. The war has exacerbated these challenges to catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, clean water is scarce and electricity is available for just a few hours a day. The United Nations has described the situation as a humanitarian disaster. Around half of Gaza's population is now displaced, living in overcrowded shelters or temporary camps, with limited access to aid. The ongoing blockade of the strip has further restricted the entry of essential supplies, worsening the plight of ordinary citizens. Children, in particular, are facing the harshest consequences, with many losing access to education and mental health support, which adds another layer to the enduring trauma of the war.



What began as a localised conflict between Israel and Hamas has now escalated into a broader regional confrontation, with Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's proxy forces becoming increasingly involved. Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon, has launched attacks on northern Israel, adding a new front to the war. This has drawn in Israeli forces, threatening to destabilise Lebanon, a country already grappling with its own internal crises. Iran's involvement, through its support of Hezbollah and various Palestinian factions, has further complicated the conflict. Tehran's backing of these groups is part of a broader regional strategy, aimed at countering Israeli and the US influence in the West Asia. As Iran's involvement grows, so does the risk of a wider regional war. The US and other global powers have expressed concern over the possibility of an all-out confrontation between Israel and Iran. Diplomatic efforts have been ineffective so far, with talks breaking down repeatedly. The involvement of Hezbollah and Iran signals that the war is no longer confined to Israel and Gaza but is part of a larger geopolitical struggle, further complicating any peace process. In Gaza, the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate unless there is an immediate intervention. The conflict has reached a point where military solutions alone cannot resolve the underlying issues. The time is running out, the UN must intervene to avert a crisis that could snowball into a regional catastrophe.

PICTALK



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a puja venue, in Nadia

Sports: A catalyst for social change and unity



SANTOSH KUMAR BISWAL

Sports have long transcended mere competition, emerging as a profound social force capable of uniting diverse communities and inspiring meaningful change

Nelson Mandela, a Black nationalist and the first Black president of South Africa, once asserted, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." This sentiment underscores the profound influence sports can have on society. Recently, Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, the first female athlete from her country to win an Olympic medal in shooting, echoed this sentiment, emphasising that one does not have to pursue conventional careers like medicine or engineering. She expressed that "sports life is a beautiful life," showcasing how sports can be a fulfilling and empowering path. The release of the Ga-Mashie Boxing Heritage photobook and video in Ghana highlights the socio-cultural dimensions of sports, suggesting that these occurrences should not be viewed in isolation but rather as part of a broader sociological and anthropological landscape. Throughout history, from ancient traditions to contemporary contexts, sports have blurred the lines between sociology and anthropology, influencing everything from local culture to global events.



Breaking Down Barriers Sports possess a unique ability to dismantle barriers related to race, gender and disability. Historically, they have served as a battleground for challenging exclusionary practices and promoting inclusivity. In ancient Greece, for instance, Spartan girls participated in physical training and competed in sports, an early testament to gender equality in athletics. Ghana, renowned for producing world-class boxers, has long viewed the sport as a symbol of hope and resilience. Racial integration in sports has often signified broader societal changes. A landmark moment in American history was Jackie Robinson's breaking of Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947. His courage in facing racial hostility while excelling on

the field not only inspired future generations of athletes but also set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement. **Catalyst for Social Change** Beyond unification, sports have historically acted as powerful catalysts for social change. Athletes often leverage their platforms to advocate for justice and equality, using their visibility to challenge societal norms and highlight injustices. The Paralympic Games, which began in 1960, have been instrumental in promoting inclusion and accessibility for athletes with disabilities. Sports icons like Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, and Billie Jean King have used their influence to push for racial and gender equality. Ali's refusal to be drafted into the Vietnam War due to his opposition to racial injustice is one of the most significant acts of protest in sports history. The 1968 Olympics in Mexico City became a global stage for protest when American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a Black Power salute during the medal ceremony, drawing attention to the struggles of African Americans and other marginalised groups. Moreover, sports diplomacy has been a strategy for nations to ease tensions. A notable example is the 1971 "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" between the United States and China, where a simple table tennis match opened the door to diplomatic relations between



THE 1971 'PING-PONG DIPLOMACY' BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE, WHERE A SIMPLE TABLE TENNIS MATCH OPENED THE DOORS TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS

the two superpowers. **Community Development** Sports play a crucial role in community development, especially in underserved areas. Youth sports programmes provide numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced social skills, and academic achievement. For many, these programmes serve as a safe haven, offering structure, mentorship, and opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable. At the community level, sports unite people around common goals. Local teams often foster a sense of pride and identity, bringing communities together to support their athletes. This sense of unity not only strengthens social bonds but also helps reduce crime rates and enhance community cohesion. **Cultural Dimensions of Sports** The sociological and anthropological impact of sports is undeniable. In India, for instance, sports reflect a complex interplay of caste, community, gender, and sexuality. Historical traditions such as 'Mallakhamb', an ancient Indian martial art that blends yoga and exercise, illustrate how sports can embody cultural heritage. Similarly, traditional games like 'Kabaddi' in Odisha and 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu showcase the socio-cultural significance of sports in various regions. Sports events and local traditions can serve as powerful

tools for social change, transforming communities and promoting inclusivity. The 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa is a prominent example, where sports helped bridge the divide between black and white South Africans during Mandela's presidency. **A Continuing Legacy** The stories of athletes who have championed justice, the communities transformed by sports initiatives, and the barriers dismantled through athletic achievement illustrate the transformative power of sports. The recent resurgence of movements like Black Lives Matter has reemphasised the social power of sports. Athletes across various leagues have taken stands against racial injustice, using actions like taking a knee during the national anthem to raise awareness. Major sports organisations have embraced these movements, reflecting a growing recognition of the role sports play in advancing social justice. As we look to the future, it is evident that sports will continue to be a powerful force for good, uniting people, inspiring change, and contributing to a better world. The power of sports to foster connection and advocate for justice is more important than ever. *(The writer is associate professor and head, Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS 'MAKE IN INDIA' JUST A SLOGAN

Madam — This refers to the write-up on Make in India (October 7). Make in India is more a slogan than a solution. This is because the investments made in the production sector come from FDIs, FII or FPIs which are basically known as butterfly capital that tend to fly away anytime for little more benefit offered elsewhere. They are coming in without any conditionality like increasing employment, exports, or tax income. China utilised the system of foreign capital coming into China by imposing conditions like employing the locals, ensuring exports, bringing in new technology, etc. With such conditions, the country could transform itself from Make in China to Made in China and is able to threaten even the most advanced economies. The Indian model is functioning under 'Ease of doing business' where land, power, tax benefits and cheap labour are offered with the least monitoring, control or regulatory system in vogue or muted. The example of Samsung is to explain this. The management is facing a prolonged strike by the workers on basic demands like a hike in wage and the right to form a union of their choice. The government is neither able to convince the management nor compel them to respect the law of the land. All under the fear of losing future investments. Therefore, Make in India is a slogan but not a solution, as even after some decades the country will have no scope under the present system to transform to Make in India.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

OBAMA BACKS KAMALA HARRIS

Madam — That former President of the United States (US), Barack Obama, is all set to undertake a 27-day campaign for Democratic Party presidential candidate Kamala Harris should be music to the latter's ears. Obama came to power in 2009 with high expectations, riding on the catchy "yes, we can" slogan, and

Antarctica turning green



Images of some regions of Antarctica's ice landscape turning green definitely ring as an alarm bell to the whole globe and give a grim message alerting mankind to watch where we are heading to. This dramatic transformation, with its icy landscape increasingly turning green, reveals that the rate of this change has accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent

years. Scientists and environmentalists say that this "greening" of the Antarctic Peninsula, highlights the urgent consequences of a warming period and the ten-fold rise underscores the significant impact of climate change. A study made between 1986 and 2021 by researchers has revealed that an increase in the vegetation cover across the Antarctic Peninsula has soared from less than one square kilometre to nearly 12 square kilometres within a period of 35 years, which according to the global clock is a short period. Global players, heads and the whole global community must come together and chalk out urgent measures to check this because if this is kept unchecked and ignored it will only end up in disaster resulting in an apocalypse. **M Pradyu | Kannur**

STAMPEDE AT AIR SHOW

Madam — Stampede is an expected incident in mass gatherings. The Air show at Marina Beach was a much-awaited event for the nation to inspire youth to be a part of the armed forces. Events like this must be planned meticulously by the state government to create an enthusiasm amongst the youth to be a part of the armed forces. Unfortunately, the stampede and deaths of five civilians during the show have left a void in the magnificent showcase of Indian Air Force power. Hopefully the venue, climatic condition and safety of the viewers are kept in mind while the state government plans such brilliant airshows. The magnitude of the event was such that the roaring Chennai shore saw the best of the showcase by the air warriors and the applause by the audience was one of immense enthusiasm. **Mythili Vinod | Secunderabad**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The rich heritage of Indian astrology and its global influences



PARAPPANANGADI U PANIKAR

Indian astrology, deeply rooted in the Vedic traditions, has a history that intertwines spirituality, mathematics and cosmic wisdom

Indian astrology has a long and rich history. It all starts with the Vedas. The Yaga rituals prescribed in the Rigveda demanded accuracy in all respects. The Yagasalai — the tent where the rituals are performed — had to be built with precise measurements. The means and methods to compute these measurements later evolved into Vastu or Indian architecture. The Yaga rituals were to begin at an auspicious time, when planetary positions aligned in a certain order.



Experts in the field, including Dr Ebenezer Burgess who translated the text to English, opine that Turamaya mentioned in the text is the great astronomer Ptolemy, and Romaka stands for Roman Egypt. Indian predictive astrology too has a strong bond with Greece. One of the very first texts on predictive astrology, which is still widely used by Indian astrologers, is the Yavana-Jataka, or the Greek Horoscopy, authored by Spujiddhvaja Yavaneswara. The word Yavana derives from Ionian, and broadly means Greece. Another text of the same lineage is the Vrudha-Yavana-Jataka, or the Great Greek Horoscopy. The ancient astrological texts often mention the Greek astrologers and astronomers with reverence and respect. Indian astrology made its mark through Varahamihira, who is considered as the fore-

most authority of ancient times. His text, the Horasastra is the most widely used astrological text. Varahamihira was a Maga-Brahmin, Priestly class of Hindus who worshipped Sun. It should be noted that his book on the lives of philosophers, Diogenes Laertius writes that the great Democritus learned from Magi-Priests. This could be the class of Varahamihira. It should be noted that Varahamihira was also a great mathematician and an astronomer who authored detailed treatises on these subjects. Indian kings and the elite class had their own team of astrologers, who advised them on the military strategies. Astrology was one of the chief components of Indian knowledge system and was metaphorically mentioned as the eye of the Veda. Under this branch, many subjects were developed including astronomy and mathematics. Later, when the Mughal invaders tried to attack this knowledge system in the northern part of India, the center of Indian intellectual debates and studies shifted to the south of India. Astrology to Mathematics thrived in south

India. At the south they developed their own system of horary astrology, a detailed method of predicting the future, and named it Ashtamangala Prashna. In the field of Mathematics, the great Madhava of Samgamagrama independently discovered Infinite Series for the Trigonometric Functions, which is known today as the "Madhava-Gregory-Leibniz Series." India and Indian Astrology contributed heavily towards the development of science — specifically in the fields of astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. We always appreciated and respected scholars from civilisations and cultures foreign to us. In the Veda, there is a line "Yatra Viswam Bhavatyeka Needam" which means, here the world becomes a single nest. In the arena of knowledge systems, we lived up to it. The world was a single and simple nest to us. Many birds, scholars and intellectuals, from many trees, many countries, resided in that nest harmoniously. *(The writer is a vedic scholar based in Kerala; views are personal)*



FIRST COLUMN NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF EXTREMES

Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The world we live in today is full of extremists who seek to exert control over humanity. Unfortunately, a large part of the population is now influenced by factions that adopt agitative approaches to fulfil their social, economic, political, or religious demands. They are termed extremists because they abandon moderation, resorting to over-activism, and in many cases, extreme violence. These groups are willing to go to any lengths to ensure their voices are heard and their demands met by the authorities. They disrupt public peace, and their activities reflect over-assertiveness, rigid attitudes, and a lack of appreciation for the views and interests of other communities or groups. In the process, what often gets sacrificed is any possibility of dialogue or mutual understanding, leading to a cycle of retaliation and resentment.

A closer look at society today reveals that, to some extent, we are all extremists in one way or another. Science and technology are racing toward their extremes. Trade, commerce, and consumerism have adopted a global, expansive form, becoming multinational and mega-scale. The world's largest corporations have achieved levels of influence and control that were once unimaginable. Corporate expansion and monopolistic behaviour continue to push the boundaries of ethics, often leaving smaller businesses struggling to survive.

Environmental pollution has reached disastrous proportions due to unchecked industrial expansion and the selfishness of a few. Entire ecosystems are being pushed to the brink, and climate change is now a pressing global crisis. A small number of individuals and corporations continue to profit at the expense of the planet's future. The increasing use of the internet is contributing to an overwhelming flood of information.



The rapid expansion of cities and transportation networks, have also brought their share of chaos. While these extremes might be seen as signs of development, they come with significant trade-offs, including the erosion of quality of life, mental well-being, and social cohesion. However, amidst all these extremes, the most concerning trend is the rise of anger, jealousy, hatred, violence, greed, and lust. These emotions are spinning out of control, leading to a breakdown in family structures and social harmony. Consumerism, commercialism, and materialism are shaping the very fabric of society, convincing people that their worth is tied to what they own rather than who they are. This pursuit of material success has left many spiritually impoverished, disconnected from their inner selves, and chasing superficial goals that do little to provide lasting fulfillment.

The current trends give us cause for concern, as we witness increasing divisions, social unrest, and the degradation of our environment. The question now becomes: how long can we continue down this path before we reach a breaking point? In such times, when self-control and moderation have all but vanished, and extremism has become the norm, we must learn how to restore our inner calm and balance. Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times. Meditation can help us return to a state of self-control, calmness, and equilibrium. It purifies the mind and quenches our deep thirst for peace. Through meditation and the cultivation of moral and spiritual values, individuals can learn to be fully engaged in life yet detached from material cravings. They can contribute to the world without succumbing to greed and excess, achieving a balance between material success and spiritual well-being. So, let us make yoga and meditation a daily practice, not just for physical health but to combat the extremism we face within ourselves and in the world around us. Only through this inner journey can we reclaim the purity and peace that seem so elusive in today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Ten years of Swachh Bharat: The road ahead



B K SINGH

From improved groundwater quality to managing solid and liquid waste, the mission's impact has been substantial, but the journey towards a cleaner India must continue



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in 2014. The mission has completed ten years and during this period 120 million families have been provided access to safe sanitation at their homes. The rural household latrines have transformed the lives of the masses, especially about human health and well-being. It has cut open defecation and UNICEF's report in 2018 indicates that there is a saving of 5.2 per cent of GDP in a year on this count. The other observed benefits are preventing pollution of groundwater, less infant mortality and better attendance for girl children in schools. Though nearly 4000 cities are certified to have maintained hygiene and cleanliness, the challenge for users and managers is to keep it all functional and used continuously.

The golden decade of Indian sanitation is being celebrated this year starting from 17th September 2024 (PM's birthday) to 2nd October 2024, Gandhi Jayanti. Let me examine in this piece as to what are the hits and misses of the mission and also indicate the possible roadmap for the future. Civic agencies and local bodies have done their bit for the success of the mission. The annual ranking of city corporations on this front has made them highly competitive. Cities like Indore, Mysuru and Lucknow and several others have secured high ranks, which has induced other city corporations to do more work for better ranks. The segregation of solid wastes into wet and dry has taken a big leap. The processing of urban wastes which used to be 18 per cent in 2014 has gone up to 80 per cent today. The management of solid waste disposal sites has remained a challenge. The generation of electricity and biofuel from dry wastes has not picked up as yet. However, use of the wet wastes to generate compost and biogas is relatively better performing. More innovation, use of technolo-



THE INTRODUCTION OF BIO-LATRINES IN TRAINS HAS BEEN QUITE A REVOLUTION. BEFORE 2014 TRAIN TRACKS EVEN ABETTING THE PLATFORMS USED TO BE FILLED WITH HUMAN EXCRETA, A REPULSIVE SITE THAT NO ONE LIKES TO LOOK AT. THIS HAS BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH WONDERFUL INNOVATION

gy and investment can be a game changer. The bigger problem is the management of nearly 220 million tonnes of waste in the landfills around many cities. Mountains of garbage at Ghazipur, Okhala, Bhalswa and Bandhwari in and around the national capital have been engaging the attention of governments, experts and Courts for quite some time, but no workable solution has been found. Liquid wastes are a more serious problem. The civic agencies allowing sewage to flow through open drains have to ensure that all such drains are concealed, lest the sewage mixes with the flood water and can find its way into urban water bodies. Further, the sewer lines carrying household sewage and the soak pits are to be periodically checked and repaired so that no leakage takes place and underground aquifers are not contaminated. A sewage treatment plant (STP) provided at the inlet point of a water body should be functional and no untreated sewage should be allowed to ingress into the water body without treatment. Local bodies and municipalities must ensure that individual houses do not connect their sewer line to stormwater drains, which often happens in thickly populated slums. The water flowing in stormwater drains ends up in the water body directly without going through any treatment. The mixing of sewage in the stormwater drains can be quite harmful and must be prevented at all costs. Bengaluru's city corporation used to generate 1400 Million litres per day (MLD) of sewage in 2005-06 and 2006-07, however, less than 400 MLD used to go through STP. Going through STP does not mean that

the said quantity was treated; often the managers of STP switched off power mischievously to save on cost. At present 1700 MLD sewage is generated, and nearly three-quarters of it goes through STP. The story in other metropolitan cities is similar. STP capacity has to be increased across the country to prevent the contamination of groundwater, which is otherwise the source of many water-borne diseases. Further, there should be stricter vigilance on the management so that these do not malfunction. Plastics and polythene have become the parts of our lives. It has its share of impacting our health and also that of wild animals and livestock. Especially single-use plastics are thrown haphazardly and find their way either into the mountain of garbage or into the water bodies. It is also directly consumed by livestock, wild animals as well as aquatic life, some of which suffocate and die. Imagine fishes feeding on it and our non-vegetarian friends relishing fishes. Microplastics are in all our blood and are a very big health hazard. The introduction of bio-latrines in trains has been quite a revolution. Before 2014 train tracks even abetting the platforms used to be filled with human excreta, a repulsive site that no one likes to look at. This has been overcome through wonderful innovation. However, as the trains pass through the outskirts of big cities, the dumps containing plastics and polythene are seen on either side. It is often very painful to watch. We need to make changes in our behaviour and ensure that the uses are brought to a minimum. We must honour the ban on single-use plastics imposed by the

central government. Education and awareness campaigns must be run this fortnight when we are celebrating the golden decade of Indian sanitation. Burning of debris is often found to be an easy method in the dry season to get rid of weeds and garbage. Punjab and Haryana farmers after harvesting the paddy are in the habit of burning the stubble to prepare the field for growing wheat. Unfortunately, the season of stubble burning coincides with a weather system that has practically no vertical circulation of air and oxides of nitrogen and carbon emitted during burning do not escape into the upper atmosphere resulting in smog all around big cities. This causes difficulties in breathing and is a serious health hazard for the citizens. Most aware citizens have been preventing any burning of weeds and garbage in their neighbourhood. This fortnight provides an opportunity to conduct many education and awareness campaigns. When plastics and polythene are burnt along with garbage and weeds, more obnoxious gases are emitted and it may be very difficult to stay around. All such emissions are greenhouse gases and find a place in the upper atmosphere when the weather pattern is favourable. Among these gases, carbon dioxide is a nonreactive compound and it stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. It accelerates the temperature rise. We are already facing adverse consequences in the warming world. We must bring changes in our behaviour. (The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

How shared decision-making and digital solutions are transforming healthcare

Digital innovations like the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission offer hope for improving communication and fostering patient autonomy in healthcare decisions

In the evolving landscape of healthcare, patient satisfaction and engagement as equal partners in their care journey have become pivotal. The quality of the patient experience—how well they feel cared for—greatly influences their perception of healthcare services. Many countries, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, have recognised this and introduced standards that emphasize active patient involvement to improve care outcomes. Shared decision-making (SDM) has gained significant global traction as a means to promote patient autonomy and foster truly patient-centered care.



SHUCHIN BAJAJ

process where patients and healthcare professionals work together to make informed decisions about treatment plans. This collaboration spans various aspects, from immediate treatment needs to long-term care plans, such as advance care planning. Healthcare providers play a crucial role in facilitating this process by offering clear information and supporting patient

deliberation, empowering individuals to make decisions based on their preferences, values, and informed consent. Engaging patients in the decision-making process is essential to improving healthcare outcomes and experiences. When patients are confident and well-informed, they are more likely to choose treatments that align with their personal beliefs and preferences. This also increases health literacy, leading to better long-term decisions and greater satisfaction. Active patient participation can result in faster recovery times, reduced anxiety, and improved adherence to treatment plans. Patients who are actively involved in their care tend to have better outcomes, including improved overall well-being and quick-

er recovery from illness or surgery. Moreover, patients who feel respected and valued in the decision-making process tend to develop stronger relationships with their healthcare providers. This trust benefits both the patient and the provider, often leading to better treatment outcomes and reducing the risk of medical litigation. In today's healthcare environment, where patient-centered care is increasingly prioritized, the active participation of patients is key to achieving meaningful and lasting improvements. From a business perspective, higher patient satisfaction can lead to more returning patients, better reviews, and an increase in foot traffic for healthcare providers.

Challenges of Patient Engagement in India: In India, the desire for more patient involvement in healthcare decisions is growing, but significant barriers remain. Many patients report feeling inadequately informed about treatment plans even after consenting to surgery, often seeking external sources of information. A study conducted at a tertiary hospital revealed that although all patients were aware of their diagnosis, less than one-third knew about the risks of their treatment or alternative options. Consequently, many sought answers outside their treating doctor, demonstrating a gap in communication between patients and providers. Patient involvement in treat-

ment decisions is largely limited to high-end healthcare institutions such as tertiary care centers, academic hospitals, or high-cost therapies. Overworked clinical staff in India often lack the time to engage patients meaningfully in the decision-making process. **Leveraging Digital Solutions for Better Patient Care:** Digital technologies offer significant hope for improving patient engagement. These innovations enhance patient deliberation, promote self-responsibility, and strengthen patient-provider interactions. For resource-limited, overburdened healthcare systems like India's, digital solutions can save clinicians' time while boosting patient engagement, making them especially suit-

able for low-resource environments. India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an interoperable ecosystem that engages all healthcare stakeholders, providing tools to promote patient autonomy and facilitate patient-centered care. The convergence of global discourse, national policies, rising patient demand for participation, and available digital solutions presents an excellent opportunity to mainstream this approach across India. One of the significant ways digital solutions enhance patient engagement is by providing patients with access to comprehensive health records. When patients have control over their health information,

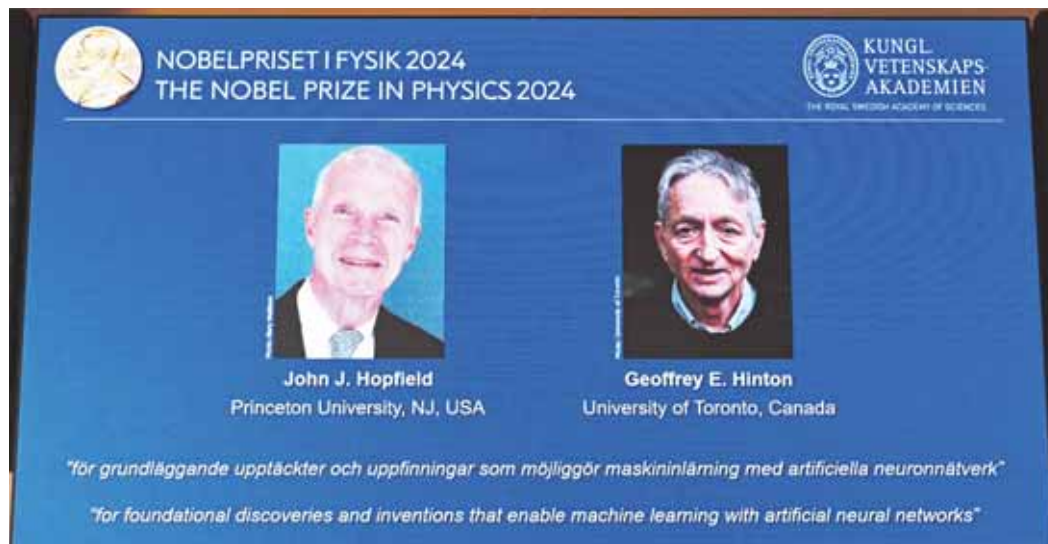
they can make better-informed decisions, improving their involvement in the care process. For clinicians, access to long-term records enables more personalized treatment options. Through the ABDM, patient records are linked by a unique 14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), ensuring that all health data—from diagnostics to treatment histories—are stored in one place. This enables providers to help patients make informed decisions based on accurate, comprehensive histories, while patients can participate actively by accessing their records at any time. (The writer is Founder & Director - Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services; views are personal)

2 scientists get Nobel for discoveries that enabled artificial intelligence

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Two pioneers of artificial intelligence – John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton – won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates “used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets.” She said that such networks have been used to advance research in physics and “have also become part of our daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and language translation.”



Hinton shares those concerns. He quit a role at Google so he could more freely speak about the dangers of the technology he helped create. On Tuesday, he said he was shocked at the honour.

on the phone. Hinton predicted that AI will end up having a “huge influence” on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care. “It would be comparable with the Industrial Revolution,” he said in the open call with reporters and the officials from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

their discovery of tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it. If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer.

UK sanctions Russia for use of ‘inhumane’ chemical weapons

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government has said new sanctions have been imposed against Russian troops involved in the use of “inhumane” chemical weapons on the battlefield in Ukraine, in flagrant disregard for the Chemical Weapons Convention and serious violation of international law.

Russia, Iran are behind ‘staggering’ rise in deadly plots: MI5 chief

AP ■ LONDON

Britain is facing a “staggering rise” in assassination attempts on UK soil by Russia and Iran, as the hostile states recruit criminals to “do their dirty work” for them, the head of the UK’s domestic intelligence agency said Tuesday.

and terror groups, McCallum said there also is a risk that Israel’s conflicts with Iran-backed militant groups — Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen — could trigger terror attacks in the UK.

The UK government imposed the sanctions on Tuesday. Among those sanctioned include the Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence (CBR) Troops of the Russian Armed Forces and its leader Igor Kirillov, responsible for helping deploy the “barbaric weapons”.

nowhere left to hide. We will continue to use sanctions to directly target and counter the Kremlin’s attempts to sow fear, division and disorder,” he said. The FCDO said Russian forces have openly admitted to using hazardous chemical weapons on the battlefield, with widespread use of riot control agents and multiple reports of the use of the toxic choking agent chloropicrin — first deployed on the battlefields of the First World War.

regime is clear: you cannot break international law without facing the consequences. We will not allow such blatant violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention and rules-based international order to go unpunished,” said UK Defence Secretary John Healey.

to deliver GBP 3 billion of military aid to Ukraine every year for “as long as they need.” “The UK’s military, financial, diplomatic and political support for Ukraine is iron-clad. We cannot and will not let aggressors like Putin succeed,” it added.

Vigils, protests around world mark anniversary of Hamas attack on Israel

AP ■ NEW YORK

Commemorations and protests unfolded across the world on Monday to mark the anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, an assault that sparked a war that has devastated the Hamas-ruled Gaza strip, fuelled bloodshed in other Mideast lands and stirred protests and divisions far away.

Jersey high school group viewed an exhibition about the Tribe of Nova music festival in Reim, Israel, where over 360 people were killed. “I feel like that really could have been me there,” said student Ellie Solomon.

across the US last spring, activists gathered again at colleges Monday. About 200 pro-Palestinian protesters chanted and held banners and flags at the University of California, Los Angeles, while a few other demonstrators held Israeli flags.



Public Library. Associated Press journalists saw several people being taken into police custody at various points in the march. Police said multiple arrests were made; no further information was immediately available.

In the Polish capital of Warsaw, the Jewish community paid tribute to Alex Dancyg, a Polish-born Holocaust educator who was abducted from the Nir Oz kibbutz on October 7. Israel believes he died in captivity.

India gives relief material to Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Indian Embassy here handed over the first consignment of emergency relief materials, including sleeping bags, blankets and tarpaulin sheets, to authorities in flood-struck Nepal, according to an official statement.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev enter the hall during a meeting of the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday.

Harris calls Trump ‘irresponsible’ for spreading misinformation about hurricane response

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday called former President Donald Trump “incredibly irresponsible” for spreading falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene’s destruction, offering especially sharp words as a new storm bears down on Florida with just weeks until Election Day.

Helene has killed more than 220 people in six states, and Category 5 Hurricane Milton is on a path toward Florida’s Gulf Coast. Trump has made a series of false claims in the wake of Helene, including saying incorrectly that the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to Republican disaster victims.

helping people get back on their feet and rebuild and have places to go.” “People are entitled to these resources, and it is critically important that people apply for the help that is there to support,” the vice president added.

lying.” Harris also criticised another high-profile Republican, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, suggesting he’s “playing political games” and engaging in “political gamesmanship” in Helene’s wake.

Abortion ban to stay in Texas as Supreme Court declines Biden’s appeal

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A court order that says hospitals cannot federally be required to provide pregnancy terminations when they violate a Texas abortion ban will stay for now, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

is at risk. The justices did not detail their reasoning for keeping in place a lower court order, and there were no publicly noted dissents. Texas had asked the justices to leave the order in place while the Biden administration had asked the justices to throw it out.

hospitals do. The Supreme Court decision comes weeks before a presidential election in which Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has put abortion at the centre of her campaign, attacking Republican challenger Donald Trump for appointing judges to the high court who overturned nationwide abortion rights in 2022.

Still, complaints of pregnant women in medical distress being turned away from emergency rooms in Texas and elsewhere have spiked as hospitals grapple with whether standard care could violate strict state laws against abortion. Several Texas women have lodged complaints against hospitals for not terminating their failing and dangerous pregnancies because of the state’s ban.

the state had an exception for the life, but not the health, of a woman. Texas said its case is different, however, because the law provides some exceptions if a pregnant patient’s health is at risk.

ing,” Hearron said. “Patients are going to continue to suffer.” Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California at Davis who has written extensively about abortion, said there remains much uncertainty for doctors in Texas, who could risk life in prison for performing abortions.

administration issued guidance saying hospitals still needed to provide abortions in emergency situations under a health care law that requires most hospitals to treat any patients in medical distress.

Texas sued over that guidance, arguing that hospitals cannot be required to provide abortions that would violate its ban. The 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the state, ruling in January that the administration had overstepped its authority.

Bangladesh-India ties should be 'very close' despite regime change: Yunus

PTI ■ DHAKA Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that Dhaka-Delhi relations should be "very close" despite the recent regime change in the country, asserting that it is in the interest of both countries.

dents in Bangladesh might have "disheartened" India and "they were not pleased with the changes." He did not mention the incidents. It will be difficult for us to move along without each other. It is only natural that we have close ties and good relations in every sphere," he said.

same time, strengthening SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). Yunus said Delhi must forge good relations with Bangladesh not because "we are forcing them" but because this was "necessary in their own interest" as well.

Lankan minister defends govt of arrival of Chinese military ship

PTI ■ COLOMBO Sri Lanka's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath on Tuesday defended the government's move to allow a Chinese military training ship to arrive in Colombo, saying the decision falls within the framework of the country's diplomatic engagements and such visits "pose no threat".

exchanges with other countries," said a statement. Herath, also the Cabinet Spokesman, said Sri Lanka maintains balanced diplomatic relations with all countries. He said the government's decision to allow the Chinese military training vessel to visit Sri Lanka falls within the framework of the country's diplomatic engagements.

Lanka. Herath's predecessor Ali Sabry in July said that Sri Lanka was to review the moratorium to decide if to continue with it or lift it. India had repeatedly raised concerns over several Chinese research vessels in the Sri Lankan waters.

between the two navies, crew members of the ship are set to participate in a series of programmes organized by the Sri Lanka Navy, according to an official statement. In addition, crew members of the ship will explore some of the tourist attractions of the country, during their stay in Colombo.

Six injured at Little India shophouses following blast

PTI ■ SINGAPORE Six people were injured on Tuesday following a partial collapse of two shophouses at Little India, a popular shopping arcade for Indian tourists, prompting neighbouring hotels to evacuate guests.

minor injuries, declined to go to the hospital. This is the first blast incident damaging property in the usually crowded area of the Little India precincts.

away from the affected site, evacuated around 60 of its guests, and they were allowed to return to their rooms only at 5 am. It was a similar case for the Arianna Hotel, which is located just next door to 84 Syed Alwi Road.

UPGRADATION OF GOODS YARD FACILITIES AT KATIHAH DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/GSU/17 of 2024 Dated: 04-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1. Brief Description of work: Adina: Upgradation of goods yard facilities like CCTV, lighting arrangement, circulating area development and drainage along with other ancillary works.

सर्विक संचयन सूचना

इस, मेसर्स सोनित फार्मिंग लिमिटेड, रजिस्टर्ड ऑफिस, सिट्टर फ्लोर, देविका टावर, 6 नेहरू प्लेस, नई दिल्ली-110019, द्वारा यह सूचना प्रकाशित जाता है कि जॉइंट कुमार, पुत्र श्री जॉइंट सिंह, निवासी सी-13/39, पी-3-6 प्रथम तल, मली संख्या 2, बौंदरा नगर, नई दिल्ली-110058, द्वारा अपने आरामस्थान प्रोजेक्ट देविका कम्प्लेक्स, राव नगर, गाँधीनगर में प्लॉट संख्या 1203, कम्प्लेक्स 3 कुछ कार्यालयों का यह कि कुछ नए पाठाना के बावजूद आपके द्वारा कोई भी भेजे गए कर्मी को नहीं किया गया है न ही कोई जवाब दिया गया है।

TRACK PROTECTION WORKS

Tender Notice No.-GMW-082024-MLG. Date: 04-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: GMW-082024-MLG. Name of work: Providing and Erecting Metal W-beam crash barrier safety fencing along the track in connection to stop cattle crossing.

S&T WORK

E-Tender No. SNT-31-LMG-2024-25; Dated: 05-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work & Place: Associate S&T work for provision of IP-based Integrated passenger Information system (IPIS) as per RDSO/SPN/TC/108/2019 with digital announcement system in connection with the renovation and re-development work in Agartala station (Phase-1).

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Ms. Ruchi Singh, Director, and Mr. Omprakash Singh, former General Manager - Operations, are no longer authorized to represent or act on behalf of Tesuto Labs Pvt. Ltd. in any capacity.

French govt faces no-trust vote

AP ■ PARIS The choice of Barnier as prime minister as they were not given a chance to form a minority government, despite securing the most seats at the National Assembly.

France's minority government is expected to survive a no-confidence vote on Tuesday in a test for new conservative Prime Minister Michel Barnier, forced to rely on the far right's goodwill to be able to stay in power.

It is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Sangeta Chaudhary and Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary had acquired First Floor, built on property bearing no. B-220, area measuring 440 Sq. yds., situated at Chitrangan Park New Delhi wide Reimbursement Deed Dt. 20/09/2024 executed by Mrs. Shreyasi Chaudhary, Mrs. Sangeta Chaudhary and Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary are the undisputed owners of the said property and said property is free from any charge/mortgage/encumbrance.

PUBLICATION FORM NO. 1 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Area of Jurisdiction, Part of Uttar Pradesh) DRC No. 615 OF 2019 Notice under Rule-2 of the IInd Schedule of Income Tax Act 1961, read with Section 29 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that M/s. Shrikant Verma through its proprietor Mr. Shrikant Verma had acquired Flat no. 301 on Ground Floor on Plot No. 1, Kharsa No. 692, at Village: Haldimani, Pargana & Tehsil Dadrli, Distt. Gauram Budh Nagar, U.P. vide Sale Deed Dt. 08.11.2023 executed by Mr. Yateendra Singh Kasana prop. of Adman Builders as attorney of Mrs. Rajni, Now M/s. Shrikant Verma through its prop. Mr. Shrikant Verma is the undisputed owner of the said property.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

THANKSGIVING Thank you holly spirit for all the blessings Celine. PD(837)C

CHANGE OF NAME I, Kamal Singh, S/o Shri Puran Singh, R/o Z-108, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, that I, have changed my name from Kamal to Kamal Singh for all future purposes. PD(938)C

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh) SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION O.A.No.882 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify that Mr Peeyush Tiwari S/o Mr Aakash Chandra Tiwari, R/o 601, Suryodag Apartment Bharlmatia, Chowk Tailbandh Rajpur C G, Bharlmatia Chowk, Raipur, Chattisgarh -492001, was working with Hardwyn India Ltd under the contract duly signed by him. He has loan liability of Rs 3,35,000/- which he has not paid back to the company and he ran away without any where abouts which is very unprofessional and unethical.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch

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Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created therefor along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT")

Table with 4 columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Code, Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date, PROPERTY ADDRESS

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHIEF ENGINEER DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2022-23

Tender Sale Date:- 09-10-2024 10:00 AM to Date 04-11-2024 upto 15:00 PM Pre Bid Meeting-22/10/2024, 15:00PM Bid Submission Start & End Date:- 09-10-2024 10:00 AM to Date 04-11-2024 upto 15:00 PM Technical Envelope Opening Date:- 05-11-2024 15:00 PM

Table with 7 columns: Tender No., Name of Department, Name of Work, Cost of Tender Document (Rs.), Estimated Cost (Rs.), EMD Amount Rs., Work Period, Concern Contact Person

A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender documents which is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in Sale & acceptance is available by online system only. Tender needs to be submit in two envelope format.

Advt No. 03/848 DT: 08/10/2024 REGISTRAR DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW

Tamil Nadu Government urges Samsung workers to resume work

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the agitating workers of the Samsung India Electronics factory near here to return to work immediately, considering the welfare of other employees and their families.

Minister for Industries TRB Rajaa, who held talks with the management and workers, separately over the last two days to resolve the issues, wondered if it was fair on the part of the employees to continue their protest just because they were unable to get Centre of Indian Trade Unions-backed Union registered by the labour department.

"We all know that the issue of union recognition is subjudice. We cannot discuss it now. The government is with you, Chief Minister M K Stalin is with you and considering all these factors, they should return to work immediately," Rajaa said while addressing reporters at the Secretariat.

Pressing for various demands including wage revision, better working conditions and recognition of the Union backed by CITU, about 1,100 employees of the total 1,750 workforce of Samsung India went on strike since



September 9 at Sriperumbudur near here.

Rajaa said that the employees have listed nearly 14 demands, which include better amenities at the factory. In response to this, the management promised to address it.

Noting that Chief Minister Stalin has always made well being of workers his top priority, Rajaa recalled that whenever companies were invited to set up shop in the state, he was keen to know about the number of jobs that would be created in the state.

"... When we have Chief Minister M K Stalin why

should they worry. They (employees) should return to work immediately," he said.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, Rajaa said he met Samsung India Electronics Ltd officials along with this cabinet colleague T M Anbarasan (MSME) and C V Ganesan (Labour) and held talks with the agitating workers, CITU officials and even those who are currently working at the Sriperumbudur plant.

"When we met the employees working at the factory, they expressed apprehension of losing their jobs because of the ongoing strike," he said.

With the extension of the strike, Rajaa said workers may tend to lose their salaries by continuing the agitation and keeping the forthcoming festive season and their families in mind, they should call off the strike and return to work immediately. "Most of the workers are newly married and some have just started their career. Some of them are already paid salaries ranging between Rs 30,000 to Rs 60,000," he said.

Meanwhile, Samsung India Electronics said the company on Monday signed an agreement with the workers committee of the factory in Chennai.

"Both parties agreed on collaborative efforts to make the Chennai factory a great place to work. We will engage with workmen directly to address the difficulties faced by them. We will also work with them for the development of the community in Chennai as a responsible company," a company spokesperson said in an update.

On the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to end the stir, Samsung said they are thankful to the authorities for their constant support. "We reiterate that we comply with all laws and regulations of the country," the spokesperson added.

SpiceJet to add ten new aircrafts by next month



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it will enhance its fleet by another 10 aircraft by next month with the first plane set to be inducted on October 10. Seven of these aircraft will be acquired on lease, while three previously grounded ones are being reintroduced, SpiceJet said in a release.

The Gurugram-headquartered airline has only 19 aircraft in operations while as many as 36 planes were on grounded as of October 8 according to the live aircraft fleet tracking website, Planespotters.net. The announcement comes on the back of SpiceJet securing Rs 3,000 crore fresh capital infusion through QIP late last month.

The airline will receive an additional Rs 736 crore from

a previous funding round, further bolstering its financial stability and growth trajectory.

SpiceJet said it has already signed agreements for the leased aircraft, with the full induction of all seven planes expected by November 15.

Two of these leased aircraft have already arrived in India and are scheduled for immediate induction, the airline said, adding that it will also operationalise its grounded planes in phases, with the first three set to re-enter service before the end of November.

"This addition (of 10 aircraft) is crucial as we continue to meet the growing demand for air travel while strengthening our operational capabilities," SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said.



Tea exports rise despite price decline

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea exports between January and July this year have touched 144.50 million kilograms, up by 23.79 per cent from the year-ago period, Tea Board said.

The country had shipped out 116.73 million kilograms in the corresponding period of the 2023 calendar year.

Unit price realisation, however, has declined to Rs 256.37 per kilogram during the first seven months of 2024 as against Rs 264.96 per kilogram in the previous corresponding period.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has approved a scheme for development and

promotion of the tea industry, involving an outlay of Rs 664.09 crore, a Tea Board official said.

The amount would be spent during the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission cycle from the 2023-24 financial year to 2025-26 under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme.

The approval covers major components such as plantation development and quality up gradation, promotion and market support, technological intervention, research and development and welfare and capacity-building measures.

BYD launches new electric MPV

eMAX 7 starts at ₹ 26.9 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese electric carmaker launched its latest product, the eMAX 7 in the Indian market. This Multi-Person Vehicle (MPV) that will replace the e6 in India. One of the vehicle's notable changes over the outgoing model is the integration of the 8-in-1 electric powertrain from BYD's highly acclaimed e-platform 3.0 and two seating options of 6 or 7 seats.

The vehicle comes in two variants, Superior and Premium, with 6- and 7-seater options for both. While the Superior variant comes with a battery pack of 71.8 kWh, the Premium variant packs a 55.4 kWh battery pack, returning 530 km and 420 km of range according to European testing standards. Prices for the vehicle start at 26.9 lakh and go up to 29.9 lakh.



The largest Chinese New Energy Vehicle (NEV) carmaker, BYD recently sold its 9 millionth vehicle worldwide and is on the cusp of reaching the 10 million mark. Rajeev Chauhan, Head of Electric Passenger Vehicles, BYD India, said, "The launch of the BYD eMAX 7 is testament to our unwavering commitment to innovation and sustainability. This electric MPV is not just a

vehicle; it's a revolution in how progressive families experience travel."

Currently, BYD sells only a limited range of products in India, the Atto 3, e6 and Seal alongside this new vehicle and has 27 showrooms across 23 cities in India. Plans by the Chinese carmaker to expand operations in India along with their partner Megha Engineering were halted by the government last year.

Top eight housing markets see annual sales dip in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales declined 5 per cent in the July-September quarter across the top eight cities due to a fall in new supply and sharp appreciation in prices, according to PropTiger.

Real estate brokerage platform PropTiger.Com, which is part of Australia's REA group that owns Housing.Com, on Tuesday, released its report 'Real Insight' on India's residential market.

A total of 96,544 units were sold in July-September, down 5 per cent from 1,01,221 units sold during the same period in 2023.

The number of new residential units launched in the top 8 markets fell 25 per cent to 91,863 units from 1,23,080 units.

PropTiger pointed out that a sharp increase in home prices, averaging a nearly 20 per cent increase across the top eight cities, impacted affordability. As per the data, housing sales rose only in Delhi-NCR and declined in the other seven



major cities. Delhi-NCR saw a 29 per cent growth in sales to 10,098 units during July-September from 7,800 units in the year-ago period.

However, the sales declined 9 per cent in Ahmedabad to 9,352 units from 10,305 units. Bengaluru witnessed an 11 per cent fall in sales to 11,160 units from 12,588 units.

Housing sales in Chennai dropped 8 per cent to 3,560 units from 3,874 units. Hyderabad registered a 19 per

cent decline in sales to 11,564 units from 14,191 units, while Kolkata saw a 22 per cent dip to 2,796 units from 3,607 units.

Sales of residential properties in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region dipped 1 per cent to 30,010 units from 30,299 units.

In Pune, the housing sales decreased 3 per cent to 18,004 units during July-September this year from 18,557 units in the year-ago period.

Vikas Wadhawan, CFO of REA India and Business Head of PropTiger.Com said, "The year-on-year decline in both sales and new launches reflects the market's response to rising prices."

He further added, "We are observing a healthy moderation in market activity, which is beneficial for end-users as it brings about sustainable growth. Over the last few quarters, prices have increased by 3 per cent to as much as 50 per cent in some prime localities of key markets, affecting immediate buying decisions."

However, Wadhawan expects buyers to gradually adjust to the new price realities. "With the festive season kicking off with Navratri, renewed buyer interest and a spike in sales activity are anticipated. The market frenzy has slowed, creating a more stable environment for end-users."

Developers, particularly in Hyderabad and Pune, have also recalibrated their supply strategies to align with shifting demand patterns.

Airtel identifies 51 million spam calls through AI

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Bharti Airtel through its AI-powered spam detection solution identified 51 million potential spam calls and 1.6 million spam SMSes in Rajasthan in the last 10 days since its launch, a company official said on Tuesday.

The solution alerts customers to malicious links received via SMS.

"For this, Airtel has built a centralised database of blacklisted URLs, and every SMS is scanned in real-time by a state-of-the-art AI algorithm to caution users from accidentally clicking on suspicious links," Marut Dilawari, Chief Executive Officer, Rajasthan, Bharti Airtel, said.

Further, he added that the system is a first-of-its-kind solution by a telecom service provider. The solution has been auto-activated at no cost for all Airtel customers.

Sunsilk campaigns on Kolkata's trams for Durga Puja



PNS ■ KOLKATA

Sunsilk launched a unique campaign in Kolkata, using the city's beloved trams not just as a mode of transportation, but as a celebration of beauty and tradition. From September 27th to October 2nd, the trams have been transformed into vibrant SunsilK showcases as part of the milestone #SunsilkShineTram activation, celebrating SunsilK's Super Shine Hair

Serum during Durga Puja. Kolkata's trams, an intrinsic part of the city's culture might not run for much longer, SunsilK, in a very unique way paid tribute to these historic symbols while highlighting the beauty and strength of women during Durga Puja. Much like the trams that have carried generations, SunsilK carries forward a tradition of care and beauty, blending modern needs with the city's deep-rooted culture.

Airtel-Nokia 'Green 5G' initiative to cut carbon emissions



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telco major Bharti Airtel and Finnish telecom and IT company Nokia on Tuesday said their collaboration to launch the 'Green 5G' initiative is aimed at improving energy efficiency on Airtel's mobile network and reduce its carbon emissions by 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually. The project will focus on enhancing energy efficiency across Airtel's extensive 4G/5G Radio Access Network (RAN) by leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning, as well as a suite of advanced software features and innovative solutions, a joint statement said.

"The comprehensive solution is expected to enhance energy efficiency during peak and off-peak

hours and is projected to reduce Airtel's carbon emissions by an estimated 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually," it said. The partnership will focus on 'zero-traffic, zero-watt operation', reducing the radio network's power consumption during periods of no traffic, thereby conserving power and optimising energy management.

"Nokia has committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2040. Our innovative technologies will not only enhance the overall performance of communications networks but also significantly help reduce their energy consumption, contributing to the energy efficiency targets of our customers," Tarun Chhabra, Head of Mobile Networks at Nokia,

India, said. Airtel and Nokia have also trialled advanced digital design tools to optimise cell configurations for lower transmitted power. This positively impacts the CO2 footprint and energy bills without compromising the network performance or user experience, the statement said. Bharti Airtel CTO Randeep Sekhon said the partnership will enable a significant reduction in carbon footprint and further Airtel's environmental objectives.

As part of its sustainability effort, Airtel has so far deployed solar-powered systems in around 25,000 sites up to now and substantially increased the renewable energy usage at its data centres, sourced 220,541 MWh through green power wheeling agreements.

India's potential to produce 8-10 million tonnes of sustainable aviation fuel by 2040: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has the potential to produce 8-10 million tonnes of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) by 2040, and investments worth USD 70-85 billion will be required to achieve the projected production, according to a report.

In the report released on Tuesday, leading consultancy Deloitte India said the 8-10 million tonnes production of SAF would surpass the country's estimated domestic demand of 4.5 million tonnes for a 15 per cent blending mandate in 2040 across all flights.

The expected scenario could also position India as a leading SAF exporter serving global markets. "Investments worth Rs 6-7 lakh crore (USD 70-85 billion) would be required to realise the projected SAF production capacity. It will give impetus to the aviation sector's decarbonisation efforts, reducing carbon emissions to 20-25 million tonnes annually," the report said.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, and efforts are going on to decarbonise the sector. According to the report, the projected capital investment of



Rs 6-7 lakh crore will also help create 1.1-1.4 million jobs across the value chain and reduce crude oil import bills by USD 5-7 billion annually. "Further, SAF production can boost farmers' income by 10-15 per cent by using agricultural residue as feedstock, providing a sustainable alternative to the current practice of burning crop waste," it added.

The country's estimated surplus of 230 million tonnes of agricultural residue will be a crucial resource for producing SAF. It will serve as a vital feedstock for ethanol (2G) production, a key component in the Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) technology pathway for SAF manufacturing. Ethanol (2G or second generation) is produced from other non-food feedstock apart from molasses.

At the same time, the report said, the ATJ route with ethanol (1G) produced from sugar and grain can provide an initial boost until the

technology fully matures. "Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Used Cooking Oil (UCO) will contribute to the overall potential. Alternate feedstock such as sweet sorghum, seaweed and industrial waste can give further impetus to SAF potential with technological maturity," it noted.

Prashanth Nutula, Partner at Deloitte India, said the drive to produce SAF is quickly becoming a reality globally and in India. With a 2-3 per cent share in the global ATF market, India is favourably positioned in the global aviation fuel market, including SAF. Moreover, India also emerges as a competitive geography due to its proximity to airline hubs in the Middle East and Europe and favourable cost structures. As a result, India is poised to play a pivotal role as global demand for SAF surges, Prashanth Nutula, Partner at Deloitte India, said.

HIL can transform Indian hockey's landscape, feels Salima Tete

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's team captain Salima Tete can't wait for the upcoming Hockey India League as she feels that the event will help shape the careers of young players and build a strong bench strength for the national team. The HIL is all set to return after seven years in December this year. The revamped league will feature the first standalone women's hockey league in the country that will run concurrently with the men's competition to be held from December 28 to February 1 at two venues Ranchi (women) and Rourkela (men). The men's event will feature eight teams, while the women's competition will comprise six sides. "I am very excited for HIL, it is restarting after seven years and with a women's league this time. The whole team has been discussing what a great opportunity this is for



us the last few days. We will get to mingle with players from different nationalities, play with them, play against them and improve as players," Salima said. "It will give youngsters who aren't a part of the senior

team a chance to see the daily routines of Indian players and foreign players up close. And being in a high-performance, professional environment early in their career will do wonders for their development. "I expect the HIL will be

beneficial for players who have been out of the team as well, giving them an opportunity to compete at the highest level and keep themselves sharp," she added. The women's league will conclude on January 26 next year in Ranchi, while the

men's final is slated for February 1 in Rourkela. The players' auction for the league will be held from October 13 to 15. Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars. Players will be divided into three slabs with base prices of Rs 10 lakh, Rs five lakh, and Rs 10 lakh each. "The auction is coming up soon and there is a buzz around the camp. Since it is the first edition, I would have liked nothing more than to play for the Ranchi team. Hopefully, one of the two remaining women's team is based out of there," said Salima. "It is going to be a great experience to play a full-fledged league nevertheless. It will be our first time playing for a completely new team, new coach, new teammates and I cannot wait for the Hockey India League to begin," she signed off.

Title holders India to open women's ACT campaign against Malaysia



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time champions India will open their title defence against Malaysia in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament beginning in Bihar on November 11. The tournament will feature six teams -- hosts and defending champions India, China, three-time winners Korea, two-time champions Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. According to the official schedule announced by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) on Tuesday, the tournament, to be played in

Rajgir, will conclude on November 20. India won the tournament in 2016 in Singapore before reclaiming the title in Ranchi last year. After Malaysia, the Indian women will take on Korea on November 12, followed by matches against Thailand (November 14), China (November 16) and Japan (November 17). The top four teams after the round robin format will qualify for the semifinals to be held on November 19, followed by the summit clash on November 20. "The Rajgir Hockey Stadium

stands as a symbol of the region's commitment to fostering world-class sports, and we are confident that it will provide an exceptional experience for players and fans," AHF president Dato Fumio Ogura said in a statement. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said it will be a historic occasion for the state of Bihar. "The newly constructed Rajgir Hockey Stadium will serve as the perfect stage for this prestigious tournament, and we are excited to see India defend their title against some of the best teams in Asia," he said.

Tsitsipas sets up Medvedev clash in Shanghai Masters

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Stefanos Tsitsipas' rivalry with Daniil Medvedev will add another chapter after the Greek player beat Alexandre Muller 6-3 7-5 at the Shanghai Masters here on Tuesday. The 12th-ranked Tsitsipas and the Russian former US Open champion will meet for a 14th time, and first in nearly a year. The fifth-ranked Medvedev has a commanding 9-4 lead in the head-to-head series, which has spilled over into a war of words off the court in the past. "I consider him someone that I respect on the tour, much more than I did before," Tsitsipas said. "We've had some heated things on the court in the past, but I think those things have resolved themselves over time, and we also had the time to speak about those things and have a common understanding of why these things happen. "What is missing is trying to get a good win under my belt, and that will redeem my efforts for so far of trying to get better. My whole goal is to get out there, play the best tennis that I can." Tsitsipas had to wait out a two-day rain delay to play his third-round match against Muller, but looked in complete control until losing his serve at 5-3 in the second set. Unperturbed, the Greek broke back to love to clinch the match and renew his six-year rivalry with Medvedev. No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton



put away Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3 6-4, firing eight aces and 24 winners to line up top seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round. Seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz also advanced with ease, beating Japan's Yosuke Watanuki 6-3 6-4, while Grigor Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, beat Alexei Popyrin 7-6(5) 6-3. Gael Monfils upset 15th-ranked Ugo Humbert 7-6(7) 2-6 6-1 in an all-French match-up. The 38-year-old Monfils, ranked 46th, is the second oldest player to reach the Shanghai fourth round in Shanghai, behind only Roger Federer (also 38) in 2019. "It's never easy to play Ugo, he's really aggressive, playing

fast off both wings and takes a lot of time from you," said Monfils, who plays second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz next. "Carlos is in a confident mood (having) just won a tournament (China Open), so that's going to be a tough one for sure." Also, Tomas Machac, who made the semifinals in Tokyo, eased past Australian Alexander Vukic 6-4 6-2 and next faces No. 13-ranked Tommy Paul in the third round. Later on Tuesday, four-time champion Novak Djokovic plays his third-round match against Flavio Cobolli, bidding to capture his 100th tour-level title. Third-ranked Alexander Zverev faces Tallon Griekspoor of the

Netherlands in a night match. Wuhan Open Katerina Siniakova had a comfortable 6-3 6-1 victory over Alexandra Eala of the Philippines to set up a second-round match against defending champion Aryna Sabalenka. Second-ranked Sabalenka, who won the title the last time it was played in 2019, needs only to make the quarterfinals at Wuhan to regain top spot in the rankings from Iga Swiatek, who withdrew from the women's Asian swing citing fatigue and personal reasons. Swiatek recently split with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski. Magda Linette of Poland routed No. 23-ranked Liudmila Samsonova 6-2 6-2, and Ekaterina Alexandrova beat former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin of the US 6-1 4-6 6-4. Other winners included Britain's Katie Boulter, American Amanda Anisimova, Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova and Romania's Jaqueline Cristian, who has Paris Olympics gold medalist Zheng Qinwen next. After snapping a 24-match losing streak at the China Open last week, Zhang Shuai's change of fortune turned in Wuhan as she lost to Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-4 6-4 in the first round. The top eight seeds, including Sabalenka and China Open champion Coco Gauff, received a first-round bye.

Young Indian sailors bag seven medals at Mussanah Race Week in Oman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian sailors dished out an impressive show, returning with a rich haul of seven medals, including one gold, four silver and two bronze at the Mussanah Race Week in Oman, an international regatta for youth sailors. India ruled the Optimist Girls U-15 category, with Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan and Kommaravelly Lahari securing the top-two spots. Shreya clinched the gold medal with a net score of 28 points. She put up strong performances, finishing second and third in her first and fifth races respectively. Across six races, her other finishes were ninth, sixth, eighth, and 24th in her final race, which was discarded as her worst result following the scoring system where the worst finish is dropped. Her overall score was 52 points, but after the discard her net score stood at 28, securing her the gold medal. Kommaravelly followed with a silver, finishing with 50 net points, while Singapore's Tong Xuan Ya claimed bronze. In the ILCA-4 U-16 category, India's Shashank Batham and Akshat Kumar Dohare claimed silver and bronze respectively. Shashank finished just two points behind Oman's Abdulatif Ziyad Al Qasim, who topped three of the seven races (second, third, and fourth) and won with 12 net points.



Shashank won two races (first and sixth) but finished ninth in the second race, which hurt his chances for gold. His worst race was discarded, leaving him with a total of 14 net points. Akshat secured bronze with a score of 29 net points after seven races. In the ILCA-4 girls U-16 category, India's Soumya Singh Patel and Shagun Jha took second and third places respectively. Soumya accumulated 39 net points, while Shagun finished with 49 points.

UAE's Marwa Al Hammadi claimed gold with 31.5 net points. In the ILCA-6 girls U-19 category, Maanya Reddy narrowly missed out on gold, finishing second with 74 net points, just behind the UAE's Camelia Al Qubaisi, who secured gold with 77 points. A total of 106 sailors from Oman, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Thailand, Singapore and India competed in the three-day annual age-group sailing event from October 4-7, which featured races in the Optimist boys and girls ILCA

4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and RS Venture classes. The Optimist Class is a one-design dinghy class for young sailors, typically aged 8-15, with a scoring system that drops the worst finish from a sailor's total points to calculate the net score. The ILCA (Laser) Class is a single-handed dinghy class featuring different rig sizes (ILCA-4, ILCA-6, ILCA-7) for different age groups, using a similar net point scoring format. It's popular for its competitiveness and Olympic status.

Reinforced Barcelona targets third straight Women's Champions League title

AP ■ MADRID

Barcelona will go for its third straight Women's Champions League title with a squad boosted by Poland star striker Ewa Pajor and with Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas on new contracts. The group stage begins on Tuesday and the Catalan side is trying to become only the second team after Lyon to win three straight titles or reach five straight finals. Barcelona beat Lyon in last season's final, when Ballon d'Or winners Bonmati and Putellas each scored. Both had their club contracts extended. Pajor, who joined from Wolfsburg, was the competition's top scorer in 2022-23 as the German club reached a final that it lost to Barcelona despite a goal by her. In her nine seasons with Wolfsburg, Pajor won 14 titles and scored 136 times despite a series of injuries. She was not able to win a Champions League even though she played in three finals and was part of a run to another.

Barcelona has also added Kika Nazareth from Portuguese club Benfica. Their first game is on Wednesday against Group D rival Manchester City in a rematch of the 2020-21 quarterfinals, where Barcelona triumphed after a 4-2 first-leg win and a 2-1 second-leg defeat in what was its only loss that campaign. Barcelona's squad also includes former City players Keira Walsh and Ellie Roebuck. "It's the first time I've been back to Manchester since I left," Walsh said on Monday. "I know I have a professional job to do and it won't be an easy game, but it will be nice to have all my friends and family in the stands." Lyon's firepower takes on Galatasaray. It could prove a busy night on Tuesday for Galatasaray's defense and goalkeeper Gamze Yaman. Group A opponent Lyon boasts the all-time top scorer in the Women's Champions League, Ada Hegerberg, who has two seasons of 50-plus goals during her 10-year spell



at the club. The Norway striker, who won the first women's Ballon d'Or, has 64 competition goals, while teammate Eugénie Le

Sommer, third on the all-time list, needs two to reach 50. They form the spine of the team with captain Wendie Renard, the Women's

Champions League record-holder for appearances with 116. Lyon has been in good scoring touch so far, netting

16 goals in its first three French league games, with American midfielder Lindsey Horan getting five and France striker Kadidiatou Diani scoring two. Lyon is the competition's record eight-time winner but last won the trophy in 2022. It was runner-up last season to Barcelona. The club hired a new coach in June, with Australian Joseph Montemurro replacing Frenchwoman Sonia Bompastor, who joined Chelsea. The contrast in experience between the sides is noticeable. Galatasaray's team was founded in 2011 and the senior team started only in 2021. Galatasaray will be making its competition debut after a qualifying run that included triumphs over former quarterfinalist Slavia Praha. It is the first Turkish team to get to the group stage. It won its first national title last season in only its third

campaign. Wolfsburg starts against Roma. Two-time champion Wolfsburg begins its Group A campaign on Tuesday at Italian champion Roma, which drew with the German club on its last visit two years ago. Both teams will want to make a good start with Lyon and Galatasaray the other group teams. Wolfsburg warmed up by routing Leipzig 5-0 in the Bundesliga on Friday, when Alexandra Popp set up three goals. Popp announced her international retirement last week, meaning her focus is fully on leading Wolfsburg to more honors. She is just two games away from becoming the second player to reach 100 Champions League appearances, after Wendie Renard. Wolfsburg is unbeaten in five away meetings against Italian sides, but Roma is unbeaten in 14 home games in all competitions. Chelsea without Hayes Life after Emma Hayes has started well for Chelsea.

Hayes left to take over the United States women's team in the offseason and carried on her winning ways by taking gold at the Paris Olympics. After 14 major titles, she left big shoes for her replacement Bompastor to fill, but it has been an impressive start for the former Lyon coach. Chelsea opened its Super League campaign by beating Aston Villa 1-0 followed by routing Crystal Palace 7-0. First up for the Blues in Group B is a home game on Tuesday with Real Madrid, which has made a perfect start in the Spanish league, winning five out of five to trail leader Barcelona on goal difference. Bayern's momentum One-time champion Arsenal faces a tough opening Group C match on Wednesday at two-time defending German champion Bayern, which has made a seven-game winning start to the season, including a 1-0 victory over Wolfsburg in the German Supercup. A 1-0 win over Cologne on Saturday stretched Bayern's unbeaten run in the Bundesliga to 44 games.

India look to fix batting woes, bolster NRR against Sri Lanka in Women's T20 WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

On a sticky wicket after a mixed start to the campaign, India will look to fix their batting woes to bolster their net run rate when they take on bottom-placed Sri Lanka in their third and penultimate Group A match of the T20 Women's World Cup here on Wednesday. It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far, having lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their tournament-opener and then scampering home in 18.5 overs against arch-rivals Pakistan while chasing a modest 105. India's main problem in the tournament so far is the performance of their batters, especially the explosive opening combination of Shafali Verma and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana.

While Shafali scored just 2 and 32 in the first two games, Mandhana also fared poorly managing 12 and 7 runs. And it's time the duo fires in unison to ease the pressure on the middle-order. To make matters worse for India, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored 15 and 29 retired hurt, is doubtful for the match against Sri Lanka after suffering a neck injury while batting against Pakistan. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh too need to step up with the bat and share the burden of responsibility. While medium pacer Arundhati Reddy sparked against Pakistan with the ball, returning with figures of 3/19, she would look for more support from the likes of fellow pace colleagues Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, who didn't play the previous game because of an injury.



The Indian team relies heavily on Deepti Sharma in the spin department but she hasn't quite managed to hit her strides in the tournament so far. Young off-spinner Shreyanka

Patil and leg-spinner Asha Sobhana have done a decent job, picking up a few wickets. The Indians will need to lift themselves in all departments of the game as in Australia a strong opponent awaits them

in their last group match. India will not only need to win but record a victory big enough against Sri Lanka to boost their Net Run Rate (NRR) before the do-or-die league game against defending

champions Australia on October 13. Sri Lanka might have lost both their opening matches, but the islanders won't be an easy opponent for India, especially after the win in the Asia Cup final in

August. India opener Shafali admitted that Sri Lanka are no longer only dependent on their skipper Chamari Athapaththu. "There was a time when Chamari was the one scoring most of the runs and taking wickets, but in the Asia Cup, her entire team performed well. They've improved a lot, which is why they won the cup," Shafali has said. "Chamari carries the pressure of being a key player, and it's inspiring to see how she handles it and performs for her country." India pacer Renuka also knows how important it is to dismiss the Sri Lankan skipper cheaply as she can take the game away in a flash with her audacious strokeplay. "Chamari Athapaththu is very interesting. She's the only one from Sri Lanka who takes the team to the other side. I try to get her out as soon as possible

because if she is set, she can take over the match. So I have a plan on how to get her out," Renuka has said. **Teams (From):** India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana Sajeevan Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hasini Perera, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Nilakshika Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (c), Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Kanachana, Inoshi Priyadarshani, Shashini Gimhani, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Sachini Nisansala, Udeshika Prabodhani, Inoka Ranaweera.

India's T20 marauders eye another big win; Bangladesh hope for turnaround



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An India so dominant that Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Suryakumar Yadav's men. The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors. Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that loves to intimidate on home turf. So, even with key players such as Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, and Jasprit Bumrah rested, India's remarkable depth in white-ball cricket shone through in a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the opening game in Gwalior. One man who made a strong statement of intent in that game on Sunday was Sanju Samson. Confirmed by Suryakumar as an opener for the series, Samson has been in and out of the national set up since his debut in 2015 and his lack of consistency has been a major contributing factor. In the series-opener in Gwalior, the keeper-batter, who usually comes in the middle order, revelled in his new role as opener and played some delightful strokes in his 19-ball 29, showcasing his ability to play freely in the powerplay. However, he couldn't convert his promising start, much like his opening partner Abhishek

Sharma, who showcased sheer power before running himself out. With first choice openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill rested for this series, both Samson and Sharma would be keen to prove they can go beyond mere cameos. The duo would look to seize this opportunity here and get a big score on Wednesday night in front of, what is likely to be a sellout crowd. The stakes are higher for the 29-year-old Samson, who is aiming to solidify his position as wicketkeeper in the absence of Pant. With the T20 World Cup still two years away, a series of consistent performances as both opener and wicketkeeper could make him a strong contender for future selections in the white-ball formats. The hosts are unlikely to tinker with their playing XI after everything went India's way in the opener. Debutant Mayank Yadav dazzled with his fiery pace, while fellow first-timer Nitish Kumar Reddy made a mark as a seam-bowling all-rounder, a rarity in Indian cricket. Arshdeep Singh capably led the pace attack and mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarty made a striking comeback after staying away from the national team for three years. He will be eyeing the spin all-rounder's spot left vacant by Ravindra Jadeja as will Washington Sundar. On the other hand, the tourists will have to regroup quickly if they want to fashion a turnaround and stay alive in the three-match

series. Bangladesh, who went with more or less than same side they fielded at the World Cup earlier this year, have the advantage of experience but the side has just not been able to crack the T20 format. "I wouldn't say we played badly. We are a better team than this. We haven't done well in this format for a long time, but I don't believe we are such a bad team," captain Najmul Hossain Shanto conceded in Gwalior. Batting continues to remain their weak link and it wasn't a surprise to see the side struggle against India's disciplined bowling attack. Senior players like Liton Das and Mahmudullah have to get their act together. The Bangladesh bowlers have the ability to spice up things but against India's formidable lineup, they would need plenty of runs on the board. **Squads:** India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravarty, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav. Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumar Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.

Jaiswal can play in any conditions, needs mental adjustment for Australia tour: Lara

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is equipped to "play in any conditions" but will need to make some mental adjustments for the upcoming tour of Australia, the legendary Brian Lara said here on Tuesday. Jaiswal has established himself as a vital cog in the Test side with 929 runs in only eight matches this year at 66.35, his two centuries and six fifties putting him as the leading run-scorer for India in 2024. "He has got the ability to play in any conditions. I saw him in the Caribbean. Obviously, the pitches in Australia are slightly different, but if you take that sort of strength that you have, you're going to play good cricket in any conditions. "I expect to see him do well," Lara told the media during the launch of the International Masters League. The West Indies great said Jaiswal will need to make some mental adjustments to continue his success Down



Under. "I think the adjustment is upstairs," said Lara, pointing towards his head when asked if the Indian opener will have to make any adjustments. "The adjustment is your ability to back your talent in whatever conditions. I say this with a pinch of salt because conditions in India have changed. "With the IPL you've got international players coming. You are feeding your players a different level of competition, which is great, so I don't think there's much that he has to do

technically," he added. "I just think, mentally, travelling away from home, playing against Australia on their shores is a different beast. But I believe that the Indian team that I've seen going to Australia over the last couple of occasions, are very capable of winning," he said. Lara picked Jaiswal and another southpaw Abhishek Sharma as the "two most exciting Indian batters" right now. "Jaiswal and Abhishek Sharma. First of all, they're left-handers. They're very young. They play

the game in a style, very attacking and very stylish," he said. "Of course the relationship I have had with them over the last couple of years has been very special. It's great to see them go from strength to strength," he added. Lara said having a "good plan" will be crucial for India's success in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will comprise five Tests for the first time. "You have got to have a plan. And your plan has to be something that when it comes to fruition, you get the success," he said. "When you're coming up against Australia, you've got to have a damn good plan, and you've got to be able to soak in pressure because they're going to apply a lot of pressure. "From an Indian scenario, they've got to play good cricket. They've got to believe in themselves and they've got to play each session at a time. They can't think way beyond that," he added. While the former West Indies

captain praised India's aggressive approach to force a result in the rain-hit Kanpur Test against Bangladesh to try and earn World Test Championship points, Lara said such an outcome is not possible every time. "(It was) not just (about) the points. It's a situation where India knows that they have the advantage in terms of being the better playing team against Bangladesh, and they've got to put themselves," he said. "They've got to give themselves the opportunity. I love the way that they went about it in such a short space of time to put Bangladesh under pressure. The performance by India with the bat was always to put Bangladesh under pressure. "Test cricket is about attrition. Not every single day you're going to have 2-3 days washed out. I want to see a lot of games going into the fourth and the fifth day. I want to see batters holding on, battling if they have to battle. Bowlers being as disciplined as possible."

Two years just flew by enjoying highs, lows of my game: Arshdeep

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

T20 World Cup-winner Arshdeep Singh doesn't like fretting over the future or dwelling on the past. The left-arm pacer prefers to embrace the present. The 25-year-old, who is leading the Indian pace attack in the ongoing three-match T20I series against Bangladesh, made his debut just two years ago but has already played 55 T20Is, including two World Cups. "I am enjoying my game and didn't even realise how these two years flew by. I just try and stay in the present, enjoy the highs and lows, that is my focus," Arshdeep said ahead of the second T20I against Bangladesh on Tuesday. "My life's mantra is to enjoy the present. Today is my rest day so I will enjoy my rest today. Kal ka Kal dekhenge (Will think about tomorrow when it comes). The T20 World Cup is two years away,



very far I don't think much about the future," he added when a question on his future was thrown his way. The Punjab pacer, who honed his red-ball skills in county cricket last season and put up a stellar display in

the Duleep Trophy recently, has been making a case for a maiden Test cap too but doesn't want to talk about that. "I want to do my best in all the formats wherever I get the opportunity," he said

Asked what difference he has felt in his white-ball skills since becoming an all-format player, Arshdeep said, "I enjoy that we can see how quickly you can adapt to the conditions, ground dimensions and format.

"It gives opportunity to the players to explore their skills. How he can take wickets in different ways, how to absorb pressure. "Playing in different formats teaches players a lot. In red ball, you get more overs to bowl, it teaches you patience, here (in T20s) you don't need patience, you have to think about what a batter can do." The hosts lead the series 1-0 and the second game is expected to be a high-scoring affair. In the five matches that the Arun Jaitley Stadium hosted in the IPL earlier this year, teams crossed the 200-run mark eight times. "We (Punjab Kings) didn't have a match here in the IPL this season but seeing the scores at this ground, I didn't feel like seeing the wicket. "We will come tomorrow and assess the conditions and make plans accordingly. The coach and captain will check the wicket and tell us the plan," Arshdeep said.

England off to brisk start after Agha century propels Pakistan to 556 in 1st test

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)

England chipped at Pakistan's massive 556, three-centuries total by reaching 96-1 at stumps on day two Tuesday of the first test. Pakistan started the day on 328-4 and was spearheaded by Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 104 and Saud Shakeel's 82. On a pitch which still looks good for batting with little help for fast bowlers or spinners, England raced at nearly five-runs-per-over as Zac Crawley smashed 11 fours in his unbeaten 64. Joe Root was not out on 32. England lost stand-in captain Ollie Pope without scoring in the second over to a stunning one-handed catch by a diving Aamer Jamal at midwicket off Naseem Shah. England trails Pakistan by

460 runs. Pope had to open the innings after Ben Duckett injured his left thumb while grabbing a sharp chest-high catch of No. 11 Abrar Ahmed in the slips that finally ended England's heat-sapping 5 1/2 sessions on the field at Multan Stadium. Whether Duckett bats was yet to be determined. England's Jack Leach took 3-160 and Shoaib Bashir 1-124 but Pakistan dominated both spinners. Brydon Carse's long wait for his first wicket in his debut test came on Tuesday, which he finished with 2-74. Gus Atkinson (2-99) and Chris Woakes (1-69) toiled without finding any reverse swing on the green square. England did well in the first session and allowed Pakistan only 69 runs with Carse breaking the resistance of nightwatchman Naseem,



who gloved a legside catch after scoring his test-best 33. Naseem denied England a breakthrough for 1 1/2 hours and braved a couple of blows. He got a knock on the back of his helmet when he

was struck hard by an Atkinson short ball and also received brief treatment when Carse struck the batter's right thumb off another short ball before round-the-wicket worked for

the right arm fast bowler. Leach had Mohammad Rizwan caught at mid-off for a 12-ball duck. Shakeel, who began the day on 35, showed plenty of resistance and raised his half-century with a

swept boundary off Bashir. Shakeel was undone by the off-spinner after lunch and feathered a low catch to Root in the slips. Agha took charge with meticulous drives and sweeps. His third test century followed tons by captain Shan Masood (151) and Abdullah Shafique (102) on day one. Agha gave Pakistan an ideal finish on the benign pitch. In the company of Shaheen Shah Afridi (26), Agha hit 10 boundaries and three sixes in his 119-ball knock to propel Pakistan past 550. England was scratchy late in Pakistan's innings as wicketkeeper Jamie Smith missed an easy stumping of Abrar, and Atkinson couldn't judge a catch over his shoulder before Root folded the innings.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RAIRANGPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
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A-394 'e'-Procurement Notice No.01 RID/2024-25

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| 1. Name of works | : Canal improvement work and Bank protection works as mentioned in the website. |
| 2. Total no. of works | : 20 nos (Twenty) only |
| 3. Amount put to tender | : Varies from 8.83 Lakh to 49.44Lakh |
| 4. Class of Contractor | : 'D', 'C' & 'B' |
| 5. Period of completion | : As mentioned against work. |
| 6. Other details as follows | : |
| (i) Procurement Officer | : Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur |
| (ii) Availability of Tender online for bidding | : 09.10.2024 from 10.00 Hours to 01.11.2024 up to 17.00 Hours. |
| (iii) Date, time and place of opening of Bid. | : On 02.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours in the Ofc the Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur. |
| (iv) Date of Transparent Lottery to be conducted (if required) | : On 08.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the Ofc the Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur. |

Further details can be seen from the 'e' Procurement Portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer
Rairangpur Irrigation Division
Rairangpur

OIPR-32349/11/0001/2425