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November's poll results will decide politicians festive mood

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the Election Commission's announcement of another round of Assembly elections in the crucial states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand, and bypolls to several Assemblies and Lok Sabha seats across the States, the decks are now cleared for Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi to plunge into active politics by contesting from Wayanad in Kerala on November 13. The election in Wayanad has been necessitated after Congress Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat for Rae Bareilly, the other seat he had won during the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year.

With Priyanka's potential entry into active politics, the Congress' first family will be looking to solidify its influence in the Parliament. Additionally, with Priyanka's presence in Wayanad, the party hopes to send a strategic message to the public, signalling the Congress's presence in both northern and southern regions.

Election Commission (EC) announced single phase Assembly polls in Maharashtra for on November 20, while Jharkhand to vote in two phases on November 13 and 20. The votes for both the polling states and bypolls will be counted on November 23. Keeping in view of the several upcoming festivals, including Diwali from October 29 to November 1, Chhath and Dev Deepawali on November 15,

Priyanka Gandhi will make LS debut from Wayanad



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

CEC punctures Exit Poll balloon

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said a huge distortion was created due to exit polls, and called for introspection by pollsters. The EC also questioned the practice of showing winning/losing trends five to ten minutes after the official beginning of counting at 8 am on election result days. "Showing winning/losing trends at 8.05 am or 8.10am, which is just five or ten minutes after the start of counting at 8 am is nonsense. Political parties felt there was a huge distortion due to exit polls. Need self-introspection by pollsters," Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Kumar also said exit polls create a huge distraction by raising expectations and it was a matter for self-introspection for the media, particularly electronic media. "We do not govern exit polls, but there is a need for self-introspection. What was the survey done, how did the result come and what is my responsibility if I did not match to that result, are there disclosures - all of these need to be seen," Kumar said, flanked by two Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu.

the dates were decided and this will allow voters, particularly those temporarily migrating for the festivals, ample time to return to their registered voting locations. The term of Maharashtra Assembly will end on November 26, while the term of Jharkhand Assembly will end on January 5, 2025. Maharashtra has 288 seats while Jharkhand has 81 seats. Bye-elections to 47 Assembly seats and the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat will be held on November 1. Announcing the schedules Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the date of issue of Gazette notification for the Maharashtra Assembly election is October 22, last date of filing nominations is October 29, the date for scrutiny of nominations will be October 30 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures

is November 4. "There are 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra while the number of eligible voters in Jharkhand is 2.6 crore," Kumar said. Expressing concern over urban apathy affecting voter turnout, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said that polling days in Maharashtra and Jharkhand have been kept mid-week so that more people vote. The EC has been flagging the issue of low polling in urban centres including those like Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, and has been taking a number of steps to increase voter awareness. In Maharashtra, turnouts in 62 of 64 urban Assembly constituencies were less than the state average in 2019, as was the case in Lok Sabha elections, he said, adding "We will have a special drive for urban areas". He said in the recent Haryana election, there were booths in the "poshest" areas where voting was less than 20 per cent. After the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir polls, the BJP hopes to make a return to power in Maharashtra, where it has an alliance with Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena. The Maharashtra election is expected to witness a two-way fight between the ruling Mahayuti Alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena-Eknath Shinde and NCP-Ajit Pawar and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, of the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP-Sharad Pawar and the Congress.



Omar to be CM today... Nayab's turn tomorrow

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fifty four-year-old Omar Abdullah is all set to take oath as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. His party, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference recorded a historic victory winning 42 Assembly seats in the maiden assembly elections held after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in 2019. This will be Omar Abdullah's second term in office. However, this time, he will be governing a Union Territory without the special status that Jammu and Kashmir once held. He remained Chief Minister from January 2009 till October 2014. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, where elaborate security and other arrangements have been made. The swearing-in ceremony is expected to witness several prominent leaders from the INDIA bloc, a coalition of opposition parties, in attendance. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Supriya Sule from the NCP have already reached Srinagar to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi are also expected to attend the oath ceremony. The National Conference has also extended invitations to the top brass of the DMK, Shiromani Akali Dal, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal, and D Raja. Meanwhile, speculations were rife about the list of probable members of the Council of Ministers. The NC is expected to induct a congress nominee in the council along with independent legislators from the Jammu region to balance the regional aspirations.



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The meeting of the Haryana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs to elect the State legislature party leader of the State will be held on Wednesday. Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the Chief Minister of Haryana in March is likely to be the CM choice. He was the BJP's chief ministerial face in the state Assembly polls, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are the central observers for the election of the state legislature party leader in Haryana. It is learnt that Shah and Yadav were named central observers after reports of rebellion by Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh and nine of his Ahirwadi loyalist MLAs. The minister, however, clarified that he was "solidly" behind the BJP. BJP experimented by naming one of the senior-most party members Union Minister Rajnath Singh to iron out the heavy factional differences in Rajasthan after the Assembly elections. The meeting, which will be held in Panchkula, will elect the state legislature party leader, Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli said. The state legislature party leader will be the next chief minister. On Tuesday, Saini held meetings with senior officers making preparations for the BJP's big event. Hectic lobbying for ministerial berths have been doing the rounds and names of probabilities shall be shared to shared party high command on Wednesday. The oath-taking ceremony of the new Haryana Cabinet will take place at Panchkula's Parade Ground in Sector 5 on Thursday and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend. The BJP secured a third term in the Assembly polls in Haryana, results of which were declared on October 8. It won 48 seats against the Congress' 37 in the 90-member Assembly in the state.

Delhi AQI dips to 'severe' category

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in certain parts of Delhi dipped to severe, a day after GRAP-1 rules kicked in with the national Capital's AQI falling under 'poor' category on Monday. The Anand Vihar pollution control monitoring centre recorded an AQI of 461 at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed. Amid the air becoming increasingly hazardous, Chief Minister Atishi announced that 99 teams will inspect private and government construction sites in Delhi to ensure compliance with dust mitigation measures. The average AQI for Delhi stands at 198 in the 'moderate' category at 4 pm, according to the CPCB. With GRAP Stage 1 implemented along with other related measures in the national Capital, the Delhi government convened a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The meeting was chaired by Atishi and included representatives from various departments such as the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC), Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the revenue department among others.

CM to leave for Haryana, Mumbai today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will leave on a tour of Haryana and Mumbai on Wednesday. On October 17, Majhi would attend the swearing-in of the Haryana Chief Minister in Chandigarh. In the afternoon, he would join a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the NDA-ruled States. After Chandigarh, the Chief Minister would attend a meeting of the chemicals and petroleum sector in Mumbai on October 18. Majhi would also attend an investors' meet on 'Make in Odisha' at the Hotel Oberoi on October 18 and 19.

Rape of Odia woman in Delhi Odisha Police IGP now in Delhi to review probe

OSCW chief writes to NCW, DCW

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Police's Crime against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW) Inspector General of Police (IGP) S Shyni reached Delhi on Tuesday to ascertain the progress of the probe into the rape of an Odia woman in the national capital. Shyni would also meet the victim at the AIIMS Delhi, where she is being treated, and enquire about her health condition. The nursing woman graduate from Odisha was

allegedly raped and later dumped in the Sarai Kale Khan area of Delhi. She was found in a semi-conscious state on October 11 and admitted to the AIIMS trauma care centre. However, the Delhi police are yet to arrest the culprits and her statement is yet to be recorded. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has asked Shyni to hold deliberations with the Delhi police regarding the probe to ensure justice for the victim. Majhi has also assured the Delhi Police that the Odisha Government would provide all support and fully cooperate with them to ensure proper investigation into the matter.

Earlier on Monday, Odisha DGP YB Khurania had spoken to the Delhi CP and enquired about the progress of the case. The Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) has also written to the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) requesting for ground-level investigation into the rape case. "This is a shameful incident. As the incident occurred in Delhi, the National Commission and Delhi Commission have a pivotal role to play in conducting the probe. I am personally looking into the matter to ensure justice for the victim," said OSCW Chairperson Minati Behera.

In State Ministers to be in charge of paddy procurement

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday, presiding over a paddy procurement meeting for the current Kharif season, directed the district Collectors to ensure that there are no irregularities or corruption in paddy procurement. Majhi said that for the first time, Rs 800 extra is given over the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy due to which there is huge enthusiasm among the farmers. To ensure complete transparency in the procurement, every minister would be given charge as observer of one or two districts. Besides, the ministers would visit the Mandis and interact with the farmers. More than 83 per cent of those who have registered are small farmers. So, the Collectors should ensure that they do not face any problems during the procurement process and awareness should be created for this. Katni and Chhatni should be totally stopped at the Mandis, said the Chief Minister. It was also discussed that enforcement squads should be formed to ensure that paddy from outside States does not come to Odisha. The roads connecting the neighbouring States would be monitored by CCTVs.



Weekly markets offer bargains, and traffic jams as a bonus!

Large carts piled with clothes, fruits, vegetables, household items, take up road space

BY ABHI SINGHAL

Festive season in Delhi is also shopping and gifting season, this in turn is a major factor that contributes to the severe traffic jams that are taking a toll on daily commuters. The glittering lights of the bustling streets bring little cheer to the stagnant long lines of traffic that make navigating the city a daunting experience, especially in the North-West areas, during evening hours. The traffic congestion in the North West Delhi starts intensifying at Britannia Chowk, a crucial crossroad connecting Punjabi Bagh, Netaji Subhash Palace and Rani Bagh. Commuters heading towards Rani Bagh from the crossroad, face long red lights due to excessive rush.

When travelling to the Shakurpur Basti Railway Station one will find sweet shops and small roadside markets in between. The condition becomes disastrous every Wednesday due to the 'Budhh Bazaar' (the ubiquitous Wednesday market) choking the two way road. Large heavy carts piled high with clothes, fruits, vegetables, household items, toys and more for sale take up road space. This leads to bumper-to-bumper traffic, exacerbated by many traffic signals on the road. The traffic situation is further complicated on Mahatma Gandhi Road, as major thoroughfares of car modification shops and fruit vendors occupy the sidewalks, leaving little space for vehicles to manoeuvre. The stretch from Shri Ram Mandir crossroads to Mahindra Park Red Light is a notorious bottleneck. The narrow



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

road bends towards Madhuban Chowk, creating a choke point that disrupts traffic flow for buses and other vehicles. Punjabi Zaika, a restaurant on the Mahindra Park crossroad seems to have earmarked its own parking in the service lane and the road itself. The main road is more difficult to travel on, due to the movement of DTC buses and crowded bus stands. The buses line up one behind the other, and this affects the complete stretch. Illegal parking along these routes adds to the chaos, affecting connectivity to Chandra Shekhar Azad Marg and M2K Rohini. Delhi's traffic woes are not new, the traffic but the festive season has made matters worse. "As soon as I leave home, I'm stuck in a jam. The whole of Delhi is gridlocked," Varun Singh, who was on his way to meet friends, said. Another

commuter, Sanyam, lamented, "What used to be a 10-minute ride now takes at least 30 minutes." Meanwhile Traffic volunteers, and police do what they can to manage the situation. "We took illegally parked vehicles and try to keep things moving, but during the festive season, it's nearly impossible to control," a traffic volunteer stationed at Ashok Vihar Circle, said. Another volunteer explained the challenge of this job, "khade hona asaan nhi hai, aur logo ko samjhana mushkil hai" (It is not easy to stand for so long and make people understand the traffic rules and curate the traffic.) As the peak office hours wear on, the congestion extends to other areas, with heavy traffic beginning at the Punjabi Bagh flyover, leaving Delhiites hoping for a smoother ride amidst the festivities.

Odisha to hold investors' conf in Mumbai on Oct 18, 19

Taskforce for mega steel plant in Keonjhar formed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha Government will hold a two-day investors' conference and road-show in Mumbai on October 18 and 19 aimed at attracting investments.

After Delhi, the State Government is holding such a programme in Mumbai where it will have discussions with the prospective investors. Informing about this, Industries Minister Sampad Charan Swain said, "Our Chief Minister will attend India Chem, a programme to be organised by the Central Government on October 18. The top chemical industries of our country will participate.

Chances are high that such industries may come to Paradip, Gopalpur and Dhamra." "On October 19, the heads of over 300 industries including garment, apparel, textile and renewable energy will participate in a programme. There will be a road-show as well. This apart, financial institutions and banking sectors have also been invited there to discuss how the financial institutions will

achieve a significant growth," he said. Regarding establishment of a mega steel plant in Keonjhar district, Swain said a taskforce under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary has been formed to speed up the process. "Acting on the Chief Minister's direction for the setting up a mega steel plant in Keonjhar, a taskforce under the chairmanship of the Chief

Secretary has been formed. It has been directed to earmark two locations for the proposed steel plant. Meanwhile, discussions with mega players in the steel sector are underway. The previous government had announced a mega steel plant; but on the ground, nothing happened. However, under this government, a mega steel plant will definitely come up in Keonjhar district," he added.

Baijayant BJP in-charge for Delhi polls

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
BJP president JP Nadda on Tuesday appointed Kendrapada MP Baijayant Panda as the party's in-charge for the Delhi Assembly elections. Panda is the national vice-president of the saffron party. Similarly, party MP Atul Garg has been appointed as the co-in-charge for Delhi polls. The national capital is set to



vote in February 2025. Notably, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is also an MP from Odisha's Sambalpur, was the BJP election in-charge for Haryana and helped the party score a hat trick, defying anti-

incumbency in the recently-concluded polls in the State. The BJP had performed exceptionally well in the last Lok Sabha polls in Odisha winning 20 of 21 seats. It also formed its maiden government in the State by bagging a majority with 74 seats in the Assembly polls while drawing curtains on the 24-year rule of Naveen Patnaik-led BJD.

Had quit BJD due to VK Pandian

A popular govt was dethroned due to him: Patasani

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Making a revelation regarding his decision to quit the BJD, former MP Prasanna Patasani on Tuesday stated that it was only due to VK Pandian that he had quit the party. He went on to add that it was Pandian for whom a



popular government was dethroned in Odisha. "All this hurts when a person like me who was a founding member quits the party. After quitting, I joined the BJP" said he. Patasani also threw weight behind the recent remarks made by BJD leader Amar

Satpathy, who stated that Naveen Patnaik should accept responsibility for the defeat in the 2024 elections. Patasani also questioned what happened to Pandian's announcement of retiring from active politics. There is still influence of Pandian in the BJD, he said. He added that the BJD cannot come to power again till Pandian is associated with the party. No comments from the BJD could be obtained over Patasani's remarks.

5th Odisha AI Conf joined by worldwide IT gurus

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
IT experts from across the globe participated in the Fifth Edition of the Odisha Artificial Intelligence Conference 2024 held recently. Hosted by California based voluntary organisation Odisha AI, the 32-hour-long convention was in hybrid mode on both online and offline platforms. The convention, having the theme entitled "Gen AI Now, What's Next?", witnessed the presence of hundreds of IT professionals, information scientists, research scholars, budding innovators and AI enthusiasts both at physical and virtual venues. The much sought after IT fiesta was declared open by Col Prof Aditya Parida from Sweden. The physical



locations of the conclave at Bengaluru, Chennai, California, Stockholm, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Brahmapur and Bhubaneswar unprecedented excitement among the participating young community members. The spectacular AI meet commenced with the

insightful audio-visual presentation by a talented team from Japan led by Anup Sahoo. This was followed by a brilliant talk on Angel Investing 101 delivered by noted investor Raj Mrutiny from the Bay Area of California. Shedding light on the history of bringing two

reputed science research institutes like NISER and IISER to Odisha, Prof Dr Chitta Baral appealed to youngsters to keep pushing for the digital advancement of the State. Dwelling on his critical innovation "InterConnect", Intel Senior Fellow and Co-GM of memory and IO scientist Dr Debendra Das Sharma elaborated on the crucial role of interconnects in achieving power efficient performance and ultimate success in AI era through properly navigating the environment of exponentially increasing demand of compute. Former president of Odisha Society of Americas Kuku Das advised the community members to use AI in a positive and

constructive manner for the betterment of the society. An AI wizard and MP from Jajpur Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera complemented the organisers for their sincere commitments towards popularisation of AI and pledged his firm support towards the noble initiative. Chairman NIST, Berhampur Dr Sukanta Kumar Mohapatra, Deputy VC of GEIT AVNL Sharma, Prof Banshidhar Majhi and founder of Sarvam AI Dr Pratyush Panda shared their expertise and visions regarding utilisation of AI to address social issues including the AI solutions in the space of Indic languages. Prof Jay Lee focussed on the fast-changing landscape of Industrial AI.

Upset over 'love failure' Youth jumps to death from 8th floor in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
A young engineer allegedly took his own life by jumping off the 8th floor of Chandrama Complex Apartment in Bhubaneswar. The deceased has been identified as Ronit Jena (23). According to delayed information, the incident took place in the early hours of Saturday. His family said he

recently broke up with his girlfriend and was upset over it, which might have prompted him to take the extreme step. "He returned from Brahmapur on Friday evening after taking an exam and later took his mother for Durga Puja pandal hopping. He had ice cream at night and then retired to his room. Next morning, some people knocked at our door to inform that he had jumped off

the building," his father told the media. He further stated that they later got to know about his affair with a woman from his friends. "She had taken a lot of money from him. Perhaps, he had even taken loan for it and was sacred to tell us about it. We suspect he was under tremendous stress because of it," he added. In a suicide note purportedly written by Ronit, he sought forgiveness from his parents.

Huge quantity of silver ornaments seized

During a ganja smuggling check in Sambalpur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR
Huge quantities of silver ornaments were seized from the secret chambers of a car which was intercepted by Excise Department officials on suspicion of smuggling of ganja in Sambalpur on Tuesday. As per initial reports, the Excise Department had launched an inspection drive after getting inputs regarding ganja smuggling. However, the officials stumbled upon huge quantities of silver ornaments which were hidden in the secret chambers of a car.



On the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Biju Expressway, mostly vehicles from outside Odisha were being checked. A car bearing a Maharashtra registration number was intercepted and the silver ornaments were recovered. Later, CT-GST enforcement officials were informed about the seizure of silver ornaments, which were being weighed. It was suspected that the quantity

of the silver ornaments would be over one quintal. The CT-GST Deputy Commissioner informed, "On getting information, we reached the spot and seized the silver ornaments. So far, we have detained three persons and they have produced some documents. Everything will be verified and appropriate action will be taken if there are some irregularities."

Training on deep sea minerals begins at IMMT

Joined by 15 international participants

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
An international training programme on deep sea minerals was officially launched on Monday at the CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), here. Director of CSIR-IMMT Dr Ramanuj Narayan inaugurated the programme, joined by Head of the Hydro and Electrometallurgy Department, CSIR-IMMT Dr

Kali Sanjay, Administrative Officer, CSIR-IMMT PK Dash along with esteemed participants and guests. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Narayan said that the CSIR-IMMT plays a crucial role in advancing metallurgical technologies for seabed minerals, in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. Fifteen international participants from countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, and Jamaica are attending the training, which will be conducted by scientists



from CSIR-IMMT. Representatives from the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and National Centre for Polar

and Ocean Research (NCPOR) are also part of the programme, which will run till October 26. Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India holds exploration contracts with the

International Seabed Authority (ISA) for 75,000 sq. km of Polymetallic Nodules and 10,000 sq. km of Polymetallic Sulphides in the Indian Ocean. This necessitates the development of advanced technological capabilities for sustainable extraction processes. The CSIR-IMMT is at the forefront of this initiative, focusing on PMN extraction and processing methodologies for PMS. Aligned with its commitments to the ISA, the CSIR-IMMT, in partnership with MoES, provides training to international candidates from developing nations.

Where will BJD's internal turmoil, leadership crisis lead it to?

AKSAHOO
The unexpected electoral defeat of the BJD to the BJP in Odisha in the Assembly elections held early this year has created a convulsion in the regional party. After dominating the State's political landscape for a little over 24 years, the BJD now faces both external challenges from the BJP and internal dissension that threatens to further weaken the party. Several aspects of this crisis are worth analysing, from the leadership struggles to the internal dynamics within the party. One of the most critical developments in the BJD is the emerging critique of Naveen Patnaik, the party's leader from its inception and former Chief Minister. Senior party leaders like Amar Prasad Satpathy, have openly blamed Patnaik for the party's electoral defeat. This marks a notable departure from the unwavering loyalty Patnaik once commanded as his leadership was closely

associated with the party's success for over two decades. Satpathy's remarks, calling for Patnaik to take responsibility for the defeat, reflect a growing frustration within the BJD's ranks. While Patnaik has often taken credit for the party's victories, Satpathy's insistence that Patnaik must now shoulder the blame for its failures highlights the shifting dynamics. This criticism is compounded by the perception that Patnaik's control over the party's internal functioning has waned, leading to organisational disarray. The influence of VK Pandian, a former bureaucrat and trusted aide to Patnaik, has emerged as a controversial topic within the party. Satpathy's remark that "we did not choose Pandian as our leader" indicates that there is unease over the extent of Pandian's position within the BJD. Many view him as the power behind the throne, exerting considerable control over both the



government and the party organisation. This dynamic has created tension as it undermines the leadership of elected party members, fuelling resentment and dissatisfaction. Pandian's behind-the-scenes role has become a focal point for internal criticism, as some party leaders seem to believe that his influence contributed to the party's disconnect from the grassroots. This has raised broader questions about who truly controls the BJD and whether Patnaik has ceded too much power to his aide, thereby weakening his own leadership. The public dissent expressed

by senior leaders such as Amar Satpathy and Sambit Routray reveals deep fissures within the party, threatening its cohesion at a time when unity is most needed. The resignation of Prakash Behera, another senior leader, adds to this sense of instability. Behera's departure, along with his pointed criticism of how the party is being run, suggests that dissatisfaction is widespread. His resignation following his loss in the last election points to a larger crisis in confidence among the party's members, many of whom feel disillusioned with the party's current state. This wave of internal dissent could have long-term implications for the BJD. If Patnaik cannot effectively address these concerns and restore order, the party risks a deeper erosion of its base. Further resignations and defections could follow, especially if the BJP continues to capitalise on the BJD's disarray. The BJD is at a crossroads as

it grapples with both internal and external challenges. The loss to the BJP marks a significant turning point in Odisha's political landscape as it not only ends the BJD's longstanding dominance but also signals a shift in voter sentiment. The party's future success will largely depend on how it responds to its current crisis. One potential path forward is for Patnaik to reassert his leadership by conducting a comprehensive review of the party's organisation and addressing the issues raised by senior leaders. As Satpathy suggested, systematic reviews and greater hands-on leadership are necessary if the party is to regain its footing. However, Patnaik's ability to navigate this internal dissent while reestablishing control over the party remains uncertain. The outcome of the leadership crisis will shape not only the future of the BJD but also the broader political

scenario of Odisha. If the party cannot resolve its internal issues, it risks further fragmentation, which would only benefit the BJP and other opposition forces. On the other hand, if Patnaik manages to unite the party and implement the necessary reforms, the BJD could potentially stage a comeback in future elections. The BJD's current turmoil reflects a larger story of a party struggling to adapt to changing political realities. Naveen Patnaik, once the undisputed leader of Odisha, now finds himself at the centre of criticism from within his own party. The growing dissent, coupled with influential figures like VK Pandian and resignations such as Behera's, paints a picture of a party in crisis. The coming months will be critical for the BJD as it seeks to regroup and redefine its leadership and organisational strategies. (The writer is senior journalist and political analyst based in Bhubaneswar)

As Best State, Odisha bags Nat'l Water Award

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Odisha has been selected as Best State and won the first prize in the National Water Awards announced by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Uttar Pradesh secured the second position and Gujarat and Puducherry jointly secured the third position. Each award winner will be conferred with a citation and a trophy as well as cash prizes in certain categories. Union Minister of Jal Shakti CR Patil announced the list of winners of 5th National Water Awards here on Monday. He announced the 38 winners, including joint winners, for the 5th National Water Awards, 2023 in nine categories, viz., Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best School or College, Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college) and Best Civil Society. The award ceremony will be held on October 22 at the

Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi with President Droupadi Murmu as the chief guest. Odisha has made exemplary strides in water conservation activities during the last few years. About 53,000 water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures and 10,800 reuse and recharge structures have been created as well as renovation of 11,000 of traditional water bodies, 68,700 watershed development and 21,000 waste water treatment plants have been completed. Renovation of about 1,800 km of drainage channel has resulted in retrieval of around 39,000 hectares of agricultural land from water logging. Over 90,900 ha of irrigated area have been transformed from conventional to micro irrigation of sprinkler and drip systems benefiting about 87,000 farmers. The Puri Municipality has been selected for second prize in best urban local body category while Khairbani Ashram School, Baisinga, Mayurbhanj district, will get the third prize in best school category.

In Keonjhar Bid to loot money from bank van fails

Security guard's head injured with iron rod attack

NARESH PATTANAYAK ■ KEONJHAR

An attempt to rob cash of about Rs 38 lakh by three armed miscreants foiled in the Joda police station area on Tuesday

afternoon. The miscreants snatched the gun from the security staff after injuring him and ran away leaving behind a fake gun. The incident took place near Kamargoda in Joda town.

Four employees were going to Jurudi with the cash in a van to fill the ATM counters of State Bank of India. When two em-



ployees went to collect cash from the Reliance Smart Point near Kamaroda, three people attempted to rob the money brandishing weapons. While taking money from the bank the van was proceeding towards Jurudi, the miscreants stopped the van, attacked the security guard and tried to rob the cash. They attacked the security guard,

Balaram Prusty, injuring his head. When the security guard interrupted them, they attacked him with an iron rod.

At this time, a crowd gathered there and the miscreants fled away.

Joda PS IIC Lokeshwar Sahu said, "All the cash is safe. A search operation was on by sealing the border areas."

In Keonjhar Man dies hit by 'drunk' constable's bike

NARESH PATTANAYAK ■ KEONJHAR

Tension prevailed near Banshuli on National Highway-49 in Keonjhar district when a motorbike driven by a police constable hit him on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Jagabandhu Maharana (55) of Dubaipenth village under the Patna police station in the district. Jagabandhu got down from a bus near Banshuli village under Turumunga police

station. Suddenly, a Bullet bike driven by Constables Biswaranjan Bhanjdeo of district police office hit him.

Locals alleged that Bhanjdeo was driving the bike in a drunken state. Jagabandhu was rushed to the District Headquarter Hospital, but he died during treatment.

Bolani police station Constable Purushottam Mahanta, who was the pillion rider in Bhanjdeo's bike, was also hospitalised.

After the accident, local people rushed to the spot and detained the constables for some time. However, a team of the Turumunga police station reached and rescued both the constables.

Turumunga police station IIC Dharmendra Kumar Santi said, "No one so far has been arrested. After inquiry, details about the incident will be clear. After postmortem, the body was handed over to the deceased's family members."

In Jajpur 2 motorcyclists die in accident

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Two motorcyclists were killed in a road accident at Rathia Chhack on National Highway-16 under the Dharmasala police station in Jajpur district on Tuesday after their bike collided with a truck.

Police seized both the



bodies and sent them to the Community Health

Centre (CHC) at Dharmasala. "We are investigating the case," said IIC of Dharmasala police station Tapan Nayak.

The accused driver of the truck has been booked under law for rash and negligent driving and causing death due to negligence. The truck has also been seized, added the police officer.

In Brahmapur Excise Constable hurt in attack by liquor mafia

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

An Excise Department Constable was critically injured in a brutal attack by members of a liquor mafia gang in Brahmapur of Ganjam district on Monday.

The injured constable was

identified as Sabyasachi Mishra.

The Town police have registered a case against five persons and detained one miscreant in this connection.

As per reports, some persons were selling illicit

liquor in a lane near Telephone Bhawan Square in Brahmapur. When Mishra was shooting its video with his mobile phone, as many as five to six miscreants chased and attacked him.

Mishra has suffered severe

injuries in his eyes in the attack.

Following the incident, other excise officials reached the spot immediately and seized the illicit liquor.

Subsequently, they lodged a complaint in the Town Police in this connection.

"Based on the complaint of the Excise Constable, we have registered a case and started an investigation into the incident. Necessary actions will be taken after the completion of the investigation," said a police official.

In Malkangiri Youth invited for 'drink', brutally killed

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

A youth was brutally killed after being allegedly invited for a drink at MV-8 village in Malkangiri district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Milan Majumdar, a driver by profession.

Milan's body was later found dumped at a playground near Manasa Colony village on Tuesday.

The exact motive behind the killing was yet to be ascertained. However, the deceased's family members said that a youth, identified as Bidhan from a neighbouring village, had called Milan who left home at around 7 pm.

It was suspected that the youth, Milan and some others consumed liquor together at a place. It is not clear whether Milan was killed by Bidhan with the help of his associates follow-

ing a dispute or whether there was involvement of someone else. Surprisingly, the suspect Bidhan's mobile phone is also switched off after the incident.

The entire family has been shattered as Milan was the only bread earner for the family. They are demanding a detailed investigation into the matter.

Police are suspecting that the murder took place following some altercation after liquor consumption.

In Nabarangpur Boy stabbed to death during idol immersion

Another injured; 1 detained

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

A minor boy was stabbed to death and another sustained critical injuries in a group clash during a Goddess Durga idol immersion procession in Nabarangpur town late on Monday night.

The deceased was

identified as Kiran Gadaba from Dandasi Sahi under the Town police station. The injured Tejab Harijan was admitted to the District Headquarter Hospital in a critical condition.

As per reports, a severe clash erupted between two groups during the immersion procession at around 12 am. Subsequently, the fight took a violent turn with one group attacking the other with sharp weapons.

In the process, Kiran was brutally stabbed and Tejab sustained critical injuries. Both were immediately rushed to hospital. However, Kiran succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. Tejab's condition is stated to be stable.

The cause behind the clash was yet to be ascertained. The Town police detained a person in connection with the case and were interrogating him after registering a case.

In Kalahandi 5 including 4 web scribes held for loot

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The Sadar police in Kalahandi district on Tuesday arrested five persons, including four web channel journalists, for their alleged involvement in the loot of Rs 2.55 lakh from a Kantabani-based businessman.

As per reports, the cash was allegedly looted from the businessman on October 2, 2024. The victim had subsequently lodged a complaint at the Sadar police station in

connection with the loot.

Later, carrying out a probe, the Saintala police first picked two persons while they tried to escape. Subsequently, four journalists of web channels were detained.

Sources said all four accused journalists were arrested after the investigation. They would be produced before court after their medical examinations. Meanwhile, police suspect the involvement of eight persons in the loot of cash from the businessman.

VFT honours newborn girls' mothers

Kanyaratna Sambardhana Utsav observed in 3 districts

BJAY MISHRA ■ ANGUL

The Vikash Foundation Trust (VFT), promoted by Dr Mridula Thakur Pradhan and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, celebrated Dussehra by hosting a special "Kanyaratna Sambardhana Utsav" and honoured the newborn girls in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur and Deogarh.

Chairperson of the Trust Dr Mridula Thakur Pradhan, along with other members of the organisation, visited Angul and Dhenkanal district hospitals and met the mothers, who



had delivered a girl child during the period of Navratri and felicitated them.

On its final day, in Angul, and Dhenkanal, the event celebrated the birth of newborn girls and honoured their mothers in the presence of Dhenkanal MP Rudranarayan Pany, MLAs Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Agasthi Behera,

Ashok Mohanty, Chairperson, Dhenkanal Municipality Jayanti Patra, local leaders and community members.

The "Kanyaratna Sambardhana Utsav" was also successfully conducted on October 12 at Sambalpur in the presence of local MLA Jaynarayan Mishra and senior officials like RDC Western

range, DM and CDMO of the district.

"The Kanyaratna Sambardhana Utsav is our way of recognizing the divine blessing of being gifted with a girl child and the invaluable contributions of mothers. By celebrating these young lives, we send a message that girls are a source of pride and deserve equal opportunities in society," said Trust chairperson Dr Pradhan.

The events saw active participation from local health workers and community leaders, who ensured the presence of the newborn girls and their mothers, adding to the success of the initiative. The program involved the felicitation of mothers, bringing attention to the value of girls and advocating for their protection and well-being.

In Rourkela Elephant calf mowed down by train

PNS ■ ROURKELA

In a tragic incident for animal lovers, an elephant calf was mowed down by a goods train in Sundargarh district on Monday evening.

The train reportedly hit a herd of elephants near Bondamunda of Rourkela causing the death of one of the pachyderms on the spot.

As per reports, local residents were in a state of panic after the herd of elephants entered the residential areas. While they were driving away the jumbo herd, the animals ran in the direction of the running goods train.

In the process, one of the elephants was hit by the train and was killed on the spot. Some other elephants sustained injuries.

Being informed, Forest Department officials and local police reached the spot and began an investigation into the incident.

Notably, trains passing through that line had been directed to slower than the normal speed following information about the presence of the elephants in the area. However, as per sources, the accident reportedly happened due to the high speed of the goods train.

Youth injured by elephant attack in Keonjhar

While coming close to a herd camping nearby

NARESH PATTANAYAK ■ KEONJHAR

A 25-year-old man was seriously injured in a tusker attack in Denua cashew field under Patna Range of Keonjhar district on Monday. The youth was identified as Akshay Kumar Naik, son of Raja Kishore Naik of Ankura village under Patna block.

Akshay sustained severe fracture injury in right leg and back. The Forest officials rescued him and took him to Patna community health centre and later shifted him to Keonjhar District Headquarter Hospital when his condition grew critical.

According to sources, a herd of 25 elephants was camping

in the cashew forest when Akshay and his friends went to see them. One tusker suddenly came out of the herd and picked him up with its trunk and slapped him on the ground. His leg bone was fractured while he received serious injury in his back, sources said. Later, forest officials patrolling nearby areas rushed to the spot and rescued him.

In Keonjhar district, there are thousands of elephants in different herds, moving all around the district. This has become a common sight and people enjoy the herd grazing, marching from one forest to another, crossing roads and bathing in ponds and rivers. Many a time, youth risk their lives to take selfies by going near them, despite several appeals by the Forest Department not to be close to the tuskers.

In Jagatsinghpur Bajrang Dal activists foil proselytisation bid

2 cases registered

KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Tension prevailed at Bilipada village under Sikharghat Panchayat in Naugaon block on Sunday following an incident of alleged religious conversion. Right-wing activists and members of the Bajrang Dal Naugaon unit overpowered as many as eight persons involved in the incident and handed them over to police.

According to Bajrang Dal's FIR lodged in Naugaon police station, one Prabhakar Jena from Bhubaneswar along with seven others on Sunday assembled at the residence of one Bibhuti Gochhayat, a resident of Bilipada village under



Naugaon block, where they prodded the innocent villagers to convert from being Hindus.

They distributed objectionable documents and spread hateful remarks against the Hindu religion and gods and goddesses. They provoked the villagers to stop going to temples.

Getting a tipoff about the covert operation, Bajrang Dal

activists rushed to the spot and detained the persons. They also informed the Naugaon police, who picked up all the persons along with objectionable leaflets and documents apparently distributed there, informed Bajrang Dal district president Suryakanta Nanda.

After registering a case under several sections of BNS against the accused persons,

they started a probe. Later, police set all accused persons free from the police station on PR bonds.

Meanwhile, Bibhuti Gochhayat, at whose residence the assembly took place, lodged an FIR in Naugaon police station informing that the right-wing activists and a few villagers allegedly barged into his house and ill-treated him along with a few of his friends uttering casteist remarks. Police registered a case and conducted an investigation, informed Naugaon police station IIC Sanghamitra Nayak. Senior cops have taken the matter seriously and visited Naugaon on Monday. SDPO, Jagatsinghpur has been entrusted to conduct a probe over the incident, IIC Nayak informed.

Plantation Irregularities Dy CM Singh Deo makes spot visit in Balangir

Miffed over ground reality

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Taking a serious note of alleged irregularities in tree plantations, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo trekked through a dense forest to verify the complaints himself.

After getting repeated complaints regarding corruption, the Deputy CM made a surprise visit to check on the tree plantations undertaken at Budharaja Hills under the Patnagarh forest range in Balangir district. He talked to the officials concerned and enquired with locals to find out the truth about the irregularities.



According to sources, lakhs of rupees were sanctioned by the Odisha Government for the afforestation programme in the Budharaja Hills. However, the money meant for tree plantation was allegedly swindled by the officials concerned.

Based on the complaint, the Deputy CM himself landed up in the forest to take stock of the situation. During the probe, Deo expressed concern over the irregularities in the tree plantation. He also expressed resentment about the appointment of a forester and di-

rected the ex-forester to be relieved immediately.

"There are serious irregularities in the afforestation programme. Hardly has any tree plantation been carried out. Moreover, while a new forester has been appointed, the former forester is yet to be relieved from duty," said the Deputy CM.

However, Balangir DFO Sudarshan Behera maintained that the Forest Department had indeed carried out the plantation programme without any lapse.

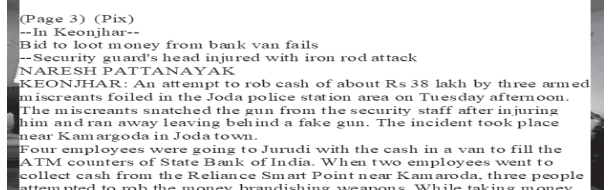
"Sir paid a surprise visit and we showed him all the tree plantations. We have planted trees and the allegations are baseless," Behera said.

Docu workshop held in college in Ganjam

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Shiksha College of Ankushpur in Ganjam district organised a documentary workshop here on Wednesday afternoon for the students. Interna-

tional award winning and film Director Krishna DK attended the workshop as the chief guest. A discussion was held on making documentary films and how students can improve their extracurricular activities. Many



(Page 3) (Pix) —In Keonjhar— Bid to loot money from bank van fails —Security guard's head injured with iron rod attack —NARESH PATTANAYAK —KEONJHAR: An attempt to rob cash of about Rs 38 lakh by three armed miscreants foiled in the Joda police station area on Tuesday afternoon. The miscreants snatched the gun from the security staff after injuring him and ran away leaving behind a fake gun. The incident took place near Kamargoda in Joda town. —Four employees were going to Jurudi with the cash in a van to fill the ATM counters of State Bank of India. When two employees went to collect cash from the Reliance Smart Point near Kamaroda, three people attempted to rob the money brandishing weapons. While taking money

national and international award-winning films were also screened to mark the event.

Director of the institute K Julirani Patra congratulated Krishna DK for providing useful tips and sharing information

with the participants. Krishna DK in his address said that the students have an important role to play in the development of the society and the development of art and culture in the current digital regime. Princi-

pal Manas Ranjan Satpathy in his address underscored the need of such workshops in educational institutions. It is a unique practice to augment the existing course curriculums with new co-curricular courses like,

documentary films, photography etc to strengthen the external knowledge and technical skills of the students for a better future, he said. More than 10 short films and documentaries were screened.

Supreme Court dismisses plea against Ex-CJI Gogoi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Annoyed over the allegations levelled by a litigant against former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea and ordered the security personnel to remove him from the courtroom. The litigant accused the former CJI following which a bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma asked the security personnel to escort him out of the courtroom. In an earlier hearing, the SC had asked the petitioner to remove the name of Justice Gogoi while leveling allegations for non-favourable judgment in a service case. Arun Ramchandra Hublikar filed a plea against his "illegal termination" from the service while seeking an in-house inquiry against the former CJI for dismissing a plea previously in the service dispute case.



On September 30, a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took a strong exception to the submissions seeking an inquiry against the former CJI and asked him to remove the judge's name from the list of parties.

On Tuesday, the bench was irked when the litigant took the name of the former CJI during the hearing. "We are going to impose a cost on you. Don't take the name of any judge. There is nothing in your case," the bench said.

The litigant, however, retorted, "How can you say that there is nothing in my case. How can it be said...It is injustice against me. At least, I should get justice before my death." The bench subsequently said it will dismiss the petition following

which the security personnel was directed to remove the litigant from the courtroom. The CJI-led bench had previously asked him to remove the name of the former CJI from the list of parties as a condition precedent to list his petition for the hearing. "How can you file a PIL with a judge as a respondent? There has to be some dignity. You cannot just say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was a former judge of the Supreme Court," the CJI had remarked. "He retired as the Chief Justice of India. You cannot say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge because you did not succeed before the bench. Sorry, we cannot tolerate this," the bench had said. After Hublikar assured deletion of the name of the former CJI from the list of parties, the CJI ordered listing of the petition which came up for hearing on Tuesday.

CEC promises strict measures against political violence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after NCP leader Baba Siddique was killed in Mumbai, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said the Election Commission will take a strict view on preventing violence, especially against political personalities, as the Model Code of Conduct comes into force in Maharashtra. Asked about concerns following Siddique's killing, especially as the poll panel is already dealing with the issue of urban apathy towards voting, the CEC said they will make it clear to police that violence of any sort should not take place. "After the MCC declaration, we will make it extremely clear to the police authorities in a particular state that you are mentioning that violence of any kind and a crime of this nature,



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/ The Pioneer

which has political overtones, would be absolutely a no-go area for the commission," Kumar said. "So far, we did not have a role. As the MCC comes into force, we will have a strict view on this. We will direct everyone that any kind of violence or crime, especially against any political person, should not happen," he added. "We ensured that it did not happen in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir. States after

states," the CEC said. Siddique (66), a former Maharashtra minister who joined the Aitav-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in February after quitting the Congress, was waylaid by three men at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office, and shot dead on Saturday night. The Maharashtra Assembly polls will be held in a single phase on November 20.

India secures deal for 31 US predator drones to enhance military readiness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a big boost to its defence preparedness, India on Tuesday inked a mega deal with the US to procure 31 Predator long-endurance drones from American defence major General Atomics under the foreign military sales route at a cost of nearly USD four billion to boost Indian military's combat prowess along the contested borders with China. The deal, signed in presence of top defence and strategic brass of India in the national capital, marks a significant upswing in military ties between the two countries. The procurement of the drones was finalised just weeks ahead of the US presidential elections. Last week, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement of the MQ-9B 'hunter killer' drones. The drones are being procured

at an estimated cost of around USD 4 billion, officials said. India is acquiring the drones primarily to crank up the surveillance apparatus of the armed forces, especially along the contested frontier with China. In June last year, the Defence Ministry approved the procurement of the MQ-9B Predator armed drones from the US under a government-to-government framework. The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul in July 2022. While the Navy will get 15 Sea Guardian drones, the Indian Air Force and the Army will each get eight Sky Guardian drones. The high-altitude long-endurance drones are capable of remaining airborne for over 35 hours and can carry four Hellfire missiles and around 450 kgs of bombs.

Cancer, Dementia heighten sepsis mortality risk: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Cancer and dementia are significant risk factors that elevate mortality rates among patients with sepsis in the emergency medical department, a study released on Tuesday has raised alarm. Sepsis is a critical condition arising when the body's immune system reacts excessively to an infection, leading to organ dysfunction. This extreme response damages the body's own tissues and organs, potentially resulting in shock, multiple organ failure, and even death if not promptly recognized and treated. The research team from Denmark found that age and heart disease are additional factors contributing to increased mortality risk in sepsis patients within two years. "We found that certain factors increased the risk of death after sepsis, including, not surprisingly, advanced age," said Dr. Finn E. Nielsen, a senior



scientist in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark. "Additionally, conditions such as dementia, heart disease, cancer, and previous hospitalisation with sepsis within the last six months before admission also elevated the risk of dying during a median follow-up period of two years," Nielsen said. In the paper, presented at the European Emergency Medicine Congress in Copenhagen, the team examined deaths over a long follow-up period in a prospective study of 714 adult patients admitted to the emergency department with sepsis

between October 2017 and the end of March 2018. The team found that after a median of two years, 361 (50.6 per cent) of the patients with sepsis had died from any cause, including sepsis. Older age increases the risk of death by 4 per cent for every additional year of age. Sepsis can affect anyone, but people who are older, very young, pregnant or have other health problems are at higher risk. Common signs of sepsis include fever, fast heart rate, rapid breathing, confusion and body pain. It can lead to septic shock, multiple organ failure and death.

Paramesh Sivamani appointed next Coast Guard Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

DG Paramesh Sivamani took over as the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) here on Tuesday. The Flag Officer, during his illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades, has served in various capacities in ashore and afloat appointments. He specialises in Navigation and Direction and his sea commands include all major vessels of ICG which include Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Samar' & Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vishwast'. The Flag Officer was at the helm of Coast Guard Region (East), Coast Guard Region (West), Coast Guard Commander Eastern Seaboard. DG Paramesh Sivamani was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in September 2022, and was subsequently posted at the Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi. He was given the additional charge of Director General Coast Guard in August 2024.



During the period, many significant operations and exercises were accomplished that includes the seizure of drugs/narcotic substances and gold worth crores of rupees, rescue of mariners during severe cyclonic storms, joint exercises with the Foreign Coast Guards, anti-poaching operations, humanitarian assistance during cyclones/natural calamities & Coastal Security exercises. The Flag Officer was conferred with the Tatrakshak Medal in 2014 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2019 for his illustrious service. He was also awarded the DG Coast Guard Commendation in 2012 and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (East) Commendation in 2009.



Exercise MALABAR 2024 sea phase begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Sea Phase of Exercise MALABAR 2024 commenced on Monday off the coast of Visakhapatnam, navy said here on Tuesday. Naval warships, embarked integral helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft from Australia, India, Japan and USA are now exercising in unison in the Bay of Bengal, demonstrating a high level of collaboration and operational synergy. As part of this phase, the participating navies will engage in a wide range of maritime warfare operations, covering the surface, sub-surface, and air warfare domains. These advanced and complex exercises are designed to enhance mutual understanding and coordination, with the aim of operating seamlessly as a Combined Task Force at sea. In sub-surface warfare exercises, Indian Naval submarines would be participating and combined drills of Special Forces from participating nations will also be featured in this phase. This Sea Phase will further strengthen interoperability between the participating nations and contribute towards enhancing regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. The sea phase will culminate on October 18 with the closing ceremony for MALABAR 2024.

Defence Minister lays foundation stone for VLF station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of providing secure and safe communication network for warships and submarines, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a new Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station of the Indian Navy at the Damagundam Reserve Forest site, Pudur Mandal in Vikarabad, Telangana. The facility, built at a cost of Rs 3,200 crore, will be spread across 2,900 acres. It will bolster the Indian Navy's operational readiness, ensuring effective command and control capabilities in challenging maritime environments. It will play a pivotal role in strengthening the Naval communication infrastructure, enabling reliable and secure transmission over long distances. Speaking on the occasion, he exuded confidence that the VLF station would expand the military capabilities of the



country, proving to be a boon to the Armed Forces. "Effective coordination between men and machines is becoming extremely important in view of the evolving methods of warfare. This VLF station is being built with the vision of securing our maritime interests. It will ensure secure and real-time communication between our ships & submarines with the command centres of the Armed Forces. A fool-proof communication proves to be a decisive factor between victory and defeat. Without real time communi-

cation, we cannot gain an edge despite having adequate equipment or manpower," Rajnath said. Further highlighting the significance of a strong communication system, the defence minister termed it as pivotal for coordination in any complex operation. He emphasised that a clear and secure communication channel not only helps in timely and effective decision making, but also an important medium to convey the orders of the command to the field formations and obtain the feedback. Rajnath added that if soldiers are fully informed in a battlefield or an operational environment, their morale and unity receive a major boost, enhancing both safety and strategy. The defence minister laid stress on the need to continuously empower the Indian Navy in view of the ever-growing global interest in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). "Our interest is spread across the Indo-Pacific

region. We have also emerged as the first responder and a preferred security partner in the IOR. If India has to secure its commercial and security interests and remain a strong deep sea force, it is necessary to possess state-of-the-art platforms/equipment and a strong communication system," he added. Allaying concerns about the impact of the project on the environment, Rajnath stated that all environmental conditions are being taken care of. It is being ensured that arrangements will be made for the rehabilitation of the affected people, if needed, at the time of construction, he added. In his address, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi stated that the project is set to herald a new chapter in Indian Navy's communication capabilities by ensuring a secure, robust, responsive, and reliable command, control and communication network across the oceans.

Opposition MPs write to Speaker for gross violation of parliamentary code of conduct

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on the "gross violation of parliamentary code of conduct" in the meeting of the joint committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by panel chairman Jagdambika Pal. The letter came a day after several opposition MPs boycotted a sitting of the committee over the submission of former Karnataka State Minorities Commission chairman Anwar Maniappady, who named several opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and K Rahman Khan, in the alleged embezzlement of Waqf properties. "The proceedings of the Committee were conducted in a biased and partisan manner by the Chairperson Shri



Jagdambika Pal," opposition members Gaurav Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain, Imran Masood (all Congress), A Raja and M M Abdulla (both DMK), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) and Kalyan Banerjee (TMC) said in the letter. The Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill had on Monday called Maniappady to hear his views on the draft legislation in the context of the Karnataka Waqf Scam Report of 2012. "The note contained no obser-

ations on the the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024. Instead, it was full of politically motivated allegations against leaders of the Karnataka Congress, including Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Honble Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha)," the letter said. The members said despite vehement protests by several committee members that Kharge occupies a constitutional position of high dignity and is not present in the meeting, the witness was allowed to speak by the chairperson. The opposition members also said that Pal refused to provide adequate time to the committee members to lodge their protests. "We request your immediate intervention in the matter, and expect you to remind the Chairperson of the Committee of his duty to be bipartisan and uphold parliamentary norms," the opposition members said.

Urgent action needed to combat Pediatric TB: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even as children under five account for over 10 per cent of all TB deaths globally, with India bearing a significant burden, a report has pointed out that only one of the 14 surveyed countries has fully aligned its tuberculosis (TB) policies with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, and among those that have, only four possess the necessary resources for effective implementation. The situation is particularly grave for young children, who are not receiving adequate diagnostic and treatment measures, according to the report from Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). The report pointed out that even among these nations, only four possess the necessary resources for effective imple-

mentation and emphasised the urgent need for countries to revise their national TB policies to improve care for affected children. Stijn Deborggraeve, Diagnostics Advisor at MSF's Access Campaign said, "TB is a curable disease, even in children. Yet we see a shocking delay in countries adopting effective solutions. Every moment of inaction leads to unnecessary child fatalities." As per the WHO data, 1.25 million children and adolescents contract TB annually, but a staggering half of them remain undiagnosed and untreated. The WHO's 2022 revised guidelines offer vital recommendations that could transform the landscape of pediatric TB care, including symptom-based diagnostic algorithms and shorter, more effective treatment regimens, as per the report.



Joseph Sesey, a Clinical Officer with MSF in Sierra Leone, highlighted the urgent impact of these guidelines, noting significant improvements in diagnosis and reduced mortality rates in children with TB. The

experts have called for immediate and decisive action on the part of governments, donors, and global health organizations to prevent further suffering and loss of life among the world's most vulnerable popu-

lation. "No child should endure the consequences of a preventable disease like TB," Sesey said. "We urge governments, donors, and global health organizations to act swiftly to ensure that no child suffers or dies from a preventable disease like TB," she said. The countries examined in the report include Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, and Uganda. India's target for eliminating tuberculosis (TB) is 2025, which is five years ahead of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of 2030. In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced India's commitment to eliminate the disease from India by 2025.

PM Modi announces national maritime heritage complex

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government's decision to build a national maritime heritage complex in Gujarat's Lothal, considered the world's oldest dockyard, is aimed at improving people's understanding of civilisational history. Lauding it as a remarkable development, he said in a post on LinkedIn titled 'Let's focus on tourism' that the new project will surely ignite enthusiasm among history buffs and tourists alike. Such an effort will boost the tourism economy, which, he said, he foresees as a major driver of growth in India. "When tourism rises, incomes across the board rise. I urge you all, leading and respected professionals, to explore new opportunities in the tourism sector and also share your ideas with me on the same.



This way, we will contribute to a stronger economy and at the same time, preserve our rich past for the coming generations. The complex will bring ancient Lothal back to life as a mini-replica of the dock city," the prime minister said. Modi noted that Lothal was once a vibrant melting pot of civilizations, ideas, and goods and that excavations have pointed to its role as an important maritime centre. He said that the docks, built thousands of years ago, highlight the "spirit of ingenuity our ancestors possessed." "Its advanced engineering and urban planning leave modern observers in awe, offering a

window into the brilliance of our past." In a swipe at previous governments, he added, "Regrettably, in the decades following independence, we allowed many aspects of our history and many of our historical sites to fall into neglect, with our rich past fading from memory. However, the last 10 years have seen a change in this trend." It is in this spirit that his government has decided to build a vibrant national maritime heritage complex, he said. "This will improve our understanding of civilizational history." "This new project will surely ignite enthusiasm among history buffs and tourists alike. The complex will bring ancient Lothal back to life as a mini-replica of the dock city. At the heart of this complex will stand an iconic lighthouse museum, soaring 77 metres high - set to be among the world's tallest of its kind.

Punjab gram panchayat elections: Polling concludes amid tight security arrangements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Polling to elect gram panchayat members concluded amid tight security arrangements in Punjab on Tuesday, officials said. Two incidents of firing were reported, they added. Voting for the posts of "sarpanch" and "panch" through ballots started at 8 am and concluded at 4 pm, the officials said, adding that a voter turnout of more than 45 per cent was recorded. The polling percentage is likely to go up once the data is compiled, they said. After the polling, the votes will be counted at the polling stations, the officials said. A firing incident was reported outside a polling booth in Sohan Sain Bhagat village in Tarn Taran district, leaving a

man injured. Mandeep Singh was rushed to a hospital where his condition was stated to be out of danger. A police official said a scuffle took place between two groups, adding that the matter is being investigated. Another firing incident was reported from Khudda village in Patiala district, leaving one person injured. A police official said 20-25 unidentified people arrived at a polling booth, allegedly manhandled the polling staff and took away a ballot box. Subsequently, they left the ballot box behind in a nearby field, the official said. Congress MP Dharamvira Gandhi, who visited the spot, demanded strict action in the matter. In Ballagan village in Amritsar, two groups clashed and pelted stones at each



other at a polling booth. At a polling booth in Lohke Khurd village in Ferozepur's Zira, an unidentified person tried to throw ink on a ballot box. An

official said the incident has been brought to the notice of senior officials for further action. Sub-Inspector Lakha Singh

(53), who was posted on election duty at Dhilwan village in Barnala district, passed away, a police official said. After he felt uneasy, he was taken to a

hospital where he died, the official added. Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, along with his son, cast his vote in Khudian village in Muktsar district while Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains exercised his franchise in Gambhirpur village in Anandpur Sahib. Talking to reporters, Bains appealed to people to turn their votes in order to elect those who would work for the development of the villages. The State Election Commission cancelled the polling in Dalla and Pona villages in Ludhiana's Jagraon subdivision due to certain technical reasons. The next date of polling in these villages would be announced later, the officials said. A total of 19,110 polling booths, including 1,187 marked as

hyper-sensitive, were set up for the election. The state has 13,225 gram panchayats. Polling for the posts of "sarpanch" was held in 9,398 gram panchayats. A total of 3,798 candidates were already elected unopposed for the posts of "sarpanch". Elderly people, women and youngsters were seen standing in queues outside several polling booths in the morning. The polls were held without the symbols of political parties as a consequence of the Punjab Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2024 passed by the Assembly last month. A total of 1.33 crore people were eligible to vote. There were 25,588 candidates in the fray for the posts of "sarpanch" and 80,598 nominees contested the polls for the posts of "panch", the offi-

cial said. Around 96,000 personnel were deputed on election duty. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann appealed to people on Monday to exercise their franchise. The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday dismissed a bunch of petitions filed against the panchayat polls. The pleas were filed on several grounds, including challenging the ward demarcation, delimitation, regarding grievances about poll symbols, extension of time for nominations and rejection of nomination papers. The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to stay the panchayat polls on grounds of alleged irregularities in the nomination process, saying there will be "chaos" if courts start staying elections on polling day.

It is election fever in Kerala as EC announces by-poll schedule

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Stage is set in Kerala for a S-battle royale between the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF as two assembly constituencies and the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency go to the by-elections on November 13. The assembly constituencies of Chelakkara and Palakkad fell vacant following the election of K Radhakrishnan (CPI-M) and Shaffi Parambil to Lok Sabha in the general election held in 2024 May. Both were members of the Kerala Legislature Assembly. Radhakrishnan was elected from Alathur Lok Sabha constituency defeating the sitting member Remya Haridas of the Indian National Congress by a margin of 20,111 votes. Shafi Parambil of the INC was elected to Lok Sabha from Vatakara Lok Sabha constituency trouncing K K Shailaja (CPI-M) by a huge margin of 1,14, 506 votes.



Rahul Gandhi was elected with a mammoth majority of more than 3.64 lakh votes (59.69 per cent) from Wayanad in the May 2024 Lok Sabha election. But he chose to retain the Rae Bareilly seat and resigned from Wayanad making the road clear for sister Priyanka Gandhi to contest the seat. Though the INC is yet to make any formal announce-

ment regarding the party candidate to be fielded from Wayanad, it is almost certain that Priyanka Gandhi would launch her electoral battle from the district atop the Western Ghats in Kerala. While the CPI-M is confident of retaining the Chelakkara assembly seat thanks to the good work done by Radhakrishnan, the Congress

is likely to field Remya Haridas, popularly known as the Malabar Princess from this reserved constituency. It is going to be a cakewalk for the Congress in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency as the party is well placed than what it was during the General Election in May. The fact that a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family is the candidate

has boosted the morale of the Congress cadre as well as that of its allies. The LDF may have to find out a new candidate this time as Annie Raja of the CPI who challenged Rahul Gandhi last time ended up as an also ran forfeiting her security deposit. Though K Surendran, the BJP's state president, claimed immediately after the dates of the by-poll was announced, that the NDA would win both the assembly constituencies, party insiders tell that even the former knows it well that the Hindutva brigade would make no change in the electoral scenes in Kerala. "At the best, the party may be able to finish third in the race," said a senior BJP leader. The suicide of Naveen Babu on Monday night, allegedly following public humiliation meted out to him by the District Panchayat President P P Divya of the CPI(M) is likely to derail the party's dreams of winning from Chelakkara,

Will contest Jharkhand Assembly polls in alliance with JMM: Congress

PNS ■ RANCHI

Congress on Tuesday said it will contest the Jharkhand assembly elections in alliance with the JMM, with a final decision on seat sharing expected soon. "We will contest elections with our alliance partners in the state. A final decision on the seat sharing will be done soon. We are confident of winning elections on the back of development works done by us," Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee president Keshav Mahto said. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) also expressed confidence that its alliance would be voted back to power. However, it raised concerns on how Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma knew that the election dates would be announced on Tuesday. "We are ready to contest elec-



tions, though the announcement was made a bit early. However, we would like to know how Sarma was aware that elections would be announced on Tuesday. This is a grave threat to democracy," JMM spokesperson Manoj Pandey said. Sarma, who is BJP's co-in-charge of assembly elections in Jharkhand, had said on Monday that the election dates would be announced on Tuesday. Reacting to the

JMM's allegations, the BJP claimed that the JMM was afraid of defeat in the upcoming elections. The BJP also mentioned that the seat-sharing arrangement among NDA partners for the assembly elections was "almost final," with the first list of candidates to be announced within 48 hours of the polls being declared. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the JMM-led alliance will contest all 81 seats.

By-polls in Uttar Pradesh: Political test for BJP amid internal discord

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh have garnered significant attention, especially considering the BJP's underwhelming performance in the recent general elections. Adding to the political intrigue are reports of internal discord within the state BJP unit, further intensifying the stakes of these by-polls. The by-polls will be held on nine seats against the vacant 10 seats as the election in the Milkipur assembly constituency in Ayodhya has been deferred due to impending court case. The by-elections will take place in Karhal, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan, and Sisamau. Of these ten seats, four are currently held by the Samajwadi Party (SP), while the RLD and Nishad Party each hold one seat, and the BJP controls the remaining three.

Polling in all these constituencies will be held on November 13 and results would be declared on November 23. In a bid to ensure a strong showing, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has deployed 16 senior ministers from his government to oversee the BJP's campaign efforts in these constituencies. "For the BJP, these by-elections present a crucial opportunity to consolidate its position in Uttar Pradesh, but they also pose challenges in maintaining smooth relations within the alliance, particularly with the Nishad Party. Negotiations over seat-sharing remain a point of contention, adding further pressure on the ruling coalition," political analyst Manoj Bhadra said. **Opposition strategy:** The Samajwadi Party, led by Akhilesh Yadav, has teamed up with the Congress for the by-elections. The SP has so far announced candidates in five constituencies, with specula-

tion suggesting that it may allocate two seats to Congress as part of their alliance. The Congress has asked for 5 seats. Despite discord over seat sharing the partnership between SP=Congress is seen as a strategic counterbalance to the BJP-led coalition. According to the SP's candidate list, Tej Pratap Yadav will contest from Karhal, a seat vacated by SP President Akhilesh Yadav after his Lok Sabha election victory from Kannauj. Naseem Solanki, wife of jailed SP leader Irfan Solanki, will contest from Sisamau in Kanpur. Other candidates include Mustafa Siddiqui from Phulpur (Prayagraj), Shobhavati Verma from Katehari, and Jyoti Bind from Majhwan. Shobhavati Verma, wife of SP MP Lalji Verma, was previously SP's MLA from Katehari. Ajit Prasad, the son of Faizabad (Ayodhya) MP Awadhesh Prasad, will contest from Milkipur. Jyoti Bind is the daughter of SP leader Ramesh Bind, who ran in the



2024 Lok Sabha elections from Mirzapur. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also announced its candidates for most of the constituencies, adding another dimension to the contest. With multiple parties vying for influence over key regions, the by-elections are emerging as a critical test of the evolving political dynamics in Uttar Pradesh. **Key Constituencies in Focus Karhal (Mainpuri):** The Karhal seat, situated in Mainpuri district, became

vacant after Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav resigned following his victory in the Lok Sabha elections from Kannauj. Historically, this constituency is considered a stronghold of the SP. Tej Pratap Singh Yadav, a member of the influential Yadav family, is will contest on SP's ticket. **Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar)** The Katehari seat was vacated by Lalji Verma after his victory in the Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha elections. The BJP faces a tough chal-

lenge here as the NDA needs to strengthen its standing with Nishad voters. Swatantra Deo Singh, Daya Shankar Mishra, and Sanjay Nishad are working on BJP's campaign in this region. Shobhavati Verma, wife of SP MP Lalji Verma, is SP candidate. **Majhawan (Mirzapur):** Majhawan's MLA, Vinod Kumar Bind, vacated his seat after winning the Bhadohi Lok Sabha election. The Nishad Party, led by Sanjay Nishad, is lobbying to contest this seat in the by-polls. The BJP has assigned ministers Anil Rajbhar, Ashish Patel, Ravindra Jaiswal, and Ramkesh Nishad to prepare the party's strategy in this constituency. Jyoti Bind is SP candidate from this constituency. **Phulpur (Prayagraj)** Praveen Singh Patel vacated Phulpur after his successful run for the Phulpur Lok Sabha seat. The Yogi government has tasked ministers Rakesh Sachan and Daya Shankar Singh with ensuring

a strong BJP performance in this seat. Mustafa Siddiqui is SP candidate from this constituency. BSP has given ticket to Shibran Paasi. **Kundarki (Moradabad):** Zia-Ur-Rahman Barq's resignation after winning the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat has left Kundarki open for contest. The BJP has deployed ministers Dharmpal Singh, JPS Rathore, Jaswant Saini, and Gulab Devi to lead their campaign in the area. **Khair (Aligarh)** Anoop Singh vacated the Khair seat to contest the Hathras Lok Sabha seat. With the RLD now part of the NDA, the BJP hopes to leverage the significant presence of Jat voters in this constituency. Lakshmi Narayan Choudhari and Sandeep Singh are leading the BJP's campaign efforts here. **Merrapur (Muzaffarnagar):** Chandan Chauhan of the RLD resigned from Merrapur to run in the Bijnor Lok Sabha seat, which he won. The BJP, which lost to

Chauhan in the 2022 Assembly elections, is keen to make gains here, with ministers Anil Kumar, Somendra Tomar, and K P Mallik tasked with preparations. BSP has fielded Shah Nazar from this seat. **Ghaziabad (Ghaziabad):** Atul Garg resigned from the Ghaziabad Assembly seat after being nominated for the Ghaziabad Lok Sabha seat. Ministers Sunil Sharma, Brijesh Singh, and Kapildev Agrawal have been entrusted with keeping voter engagement high for the BJP in this urban constituency. SP may give this seat to Congress. **Sisamau (Kanpur Nagar):** This seat was vacated after the disqualification of SP leader Hazi Irfan Solanki, following his sentencing in a legal case. BJP is looking to make inroads in this SP stronghold with local ministers overseeing preparations. Naseem Solanki, wife of jailed SP leader Irfan Solanki, will contest from Sisamau in Kanpur

SC bans civic police from hospitals, schools, police stations

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Supreme Court on Tuesday banned civic volunteers from the hospitals, schools and police stations and directed the Bengal Government to submit before it the details of recruitment process of civic volunteers, one of which is the prime accused in the August 9 rape and murder of an on duty lady doctor inside the seminar room of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. After acquiring a verbal data of the civic volunteers thus applied by the State Government the bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra which has been suo motu hearing the RG Kar case --- associated with its wider implications --- directed the Government to present through an affidavit the recruitment process of civic volunteers. "It is a nice process of conferring political patronage on unverified persons," the Supreme Court said seeking affidavit in 3 weeks after hearing that over 1,500

civic volunteers were working under its "Rattirer Sathi" scheme to secure the medical colleges and similar other facilities. The Court wondered whether the prime accused in the RGKMCH case too was a civic volunteer or not. The Court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to file additional status report in the next hearing after going through the one filed on Tuesday. The CBI apprised the Court about the chargesheet filed against Sanjoy Roy the prime accused in the Sealadh Court. Much in line with the Apex Court's order on the deployment of civic volunteers, the Election Commission of India too had shown its distrust for the "blue police" as they often are called in the State banning them from electoral process in the 2024 general elections. Incidentally the Bengal political opposition too had for long been complaining against the manner in which the civic volunteers are appointed and the way they are used by the Government to man security system, more so in vil-

lages and other remote areas. "These civic volunteers that had been introduced by the Left Front Government as Green Police to assist the traffic police is today used to perpetrate all kinds of crime including electoral rigging in the panchayat elections, extortion similar things," a senior BJP leader said. Meanwhile, the junior doctors once again attacked the State Government for telling lies before the Supreme Court on the implementation of the security infrastructure in medical colleges. "They told the Court that about 95% to 98 percent of the planned infrastructure and security upgrades across government hospitals in Bengal have been completed, excluding the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital but it is not true at all ... come to our colleges and we will show you what has been done ... let alone 95 percent they have not been able to complete 59 percent even ... they are all lying," said a junior doctor from Rampurhat Medical College.

Doctors' Droh Carnival contrasts Didi's Durga Carnival

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government suffered yet another judicial discomfiture with the Calcutta High on Tuesday throwing out an administrative order issued by the Kolkata Police prohibiting a public fête --- christened Droh Carnival organized by the senior doctors and a section of the civil society. The Droh Carnival or Carnival of Revolt --- coinciding with the much touted Durga Puja Carnival a pet scheme of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee involving a parade of Durga idols down the historic Red Road --- was called in support of a 10-point demand including the demand for justice for the victim of Kolkata doctor rape and murder case. "The Bench of Justice Ravi Kapoor has thrown out the imposition of Section 163 of the BNS --- formerly Section 144 of CrPc --- saying the prohibitive order is incongruous with the constitutional right to freedom ... the right to take out peaceful rallies and celebrations cannot



be abridged, the Court has iterated ... this order breaks and dissolves all the arrogance of this Government ... and if still they are not taking any lesson out of this and continue to act in an undemocratic manner then this means they are on their way out," said senior advocate and Rajya Sabha MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya. "The police had imposed Section 163 in anticipation of some mischief in the Durga Puja Carnival which is an yearly event attended among others by foreign dig-

nitaries ... this Carnival adds flavor to the Durga Pujas (which has been included in the world heritage list of the UNESCO ... if the High Court has in its wisdom thought that both the programmes can go side by side then so be it ... the Government will definitely abide by that," said senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh. The Bengal government has been holding the Durga Puja Carnival since 2016 --- much in line of the Independence Day Parade in Delhi --- to mark the culmination of the

State's biggest festival with about 100 Durga Puja committees participating in the fete parading down the Red Road Durga idols along with their respective themes. Earlier apprehending disturbance Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma in exercise of his magisterial powers issued an order that read "there is a strong possibility of people not being able to attend the Durga Puja Carnival. In view of this, Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) (Power to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) has been implemented for one day in the areas around Red Road." Moments after the High Court order thousands of people including doctors and the members of civil society playing drums and flutes and blowing conch shells, ululating and raising slogans of justice spilled on to the Rani Rashmoni Avenue barely two hundred meters away from the Durga Puja Carnival. "We have never heard of similar protest in history of India

post Independence ... perhaps it is first major such protest after the one in 1905-06 against the Partition of Bengal," said Dr Subarna Goswami one of the senior doctors leading the movement. Meanwhile, the indefinite fast held by the junior doctors at the Rani Rashmoni Avenue entered its 11th day on Tuesday with two more doctors joining the fast. "There is no need of imposing prohibitive orders and other such paraphernalia ... instead of that the Government should concede to the 10 point demand that includes foolproof security measures, removal of the Health Secretary, installation of CCTV cameras, restrooms for on duty doctors, centralized referral system with real time monitoring and last but not list giving a specific date for college elections so that the syndicate and mafia raj in the medical colleges which is the main source of all anomalies including the incidents of sexual harassment, rape etc," said Debashis Halder a junior doctor.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

souring relations

New Delhi dismisses the Canadian claims of Indian involvement in the Nijjar case as politically driven

The already tense relations between India and Canada have hit a new low, with both countries expelling each other's diplomats. New Delhi expelled six Canadian diplomats, including Acting High Commissioner Stewart Ross Wheeler after Ottawa's expulsion of 'targeted' Indian diplomats. These diplomats were allegedly involved in 'violent criminal activity in Canada.'



India on its part has expelled six Canadian diplomats to leave the country by October 19, 2024, and announced the withdrawal of its High Commissioner from Canada.

The root cause of the conflict lies in the ongoing issue of Sikh separatism and Canada's handling of the Khalistan movement. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistan supporter, was a Canadian citizen who had long advocated for an independent Sikh state.

India's national security. It is rather unfortunate that two friendly countries should snap diplomatic relations with each other. Justin Trudeau's electoral compulsions, with elections just a year away, could be behind his recent actions.

PICTALK



An oriental pied hornbill at Ponitora Wild Life Sanctuary, in Morigaon

The untold story of Captain Rameshwar Thapa's heroics



ASHOK K MEHTA

Capt Rameshwar Thapa, Nepal's first civilian pilot to command a Russian Mi17 helicopter, played a pivotal role during the country's Maoist insurgency

When you think of rotary wing aircraft in Nepal, some names will crop up: Tula Bahadur Thapa, Narain Singh Pun, Madan KC, all Army Colonels, but among civilians a pioneer is Capt Rameshwar Thapa, the first Russian Mi17 helicopter pilot who trained the then Royal Nepal Army on Mi17 and was later requisitioned by Security Forces during the Maoist People's War.



The humanitarian angle of saving lives and security posts at great personal risk. RT turns out to be a cat with nine lives having taken numerous hits and a life-threatening crash landing near Everest Base Camp.

King Gyanendra who had usurped power first in 2002 and done a coup in 2005, did not allow the RNA to aid or assist the police which suffered on account of it. He did not even allow PM GP Koirala to use it to break the siege of the Holleri post when 76 policemen were taken hostage.

Major encounters revive memories of fighting, their horror, ferocity and barbarity. Villages and towns have not forgotten



RT HAS NARRATED SEVERAL HUMAN INTEREST STORIES LIKE ONCE EVACUATING A FEMALE MAOIST WHO LATER BECAME A MINISTER AND MARRIED A FELLOW MAOIST MINISTER

the atrocities committed by both sides. RT has narrated several human interest stories like once evacuating a female Maoist who later became a minister and married a fellow Maoist minister.

His underground life at Oasis Hotel in Nepalgunj is cloak-and-dagger stuff. RT has not shied away from writing about RNA's November 2004 Pandaun, Kailali 'propaganda' attack under the lyricist Divisional Commander, Gen Rajendra Thapa.

daily titled 'Maobadi Paradise: Nirmal Nivas', which was Prince Gyanendra's residence. Having been as 'busy as a bee' in the People's War, as a 24X7 helicopter pilot, his life changed after violence ceased.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peacekeepers under attack



Just a week ago, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been banned from entering Israel, accusing him of "supporting" Hamas, Hezbollah,

Houthis and Iran. Now a new order has been issued from Tel Aviv, which says that all UN peacekeepers should be removed from Lebanon.

On the contrary, Israel has been continuously attacking the peacekeepers since last week. Dozens of peacekeepers have been injured so far. UNIFIL, a mission of about 9,500 soldiers of various nationalities, was created after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

started for Kavach in 2016. But it has been installed only in less than 1,500 km of tracks out of the total 70,000 km covered by the Indian Railways across the country.

That means this lifesaving device has so far been placed in only a little over 2 per cent of railway tracks in eight years after its field trials! An RTI reply says that of 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, 18,766-nearly 15 per cent - were vacant as of March 1 this year.

Sujit De | Kolkata

LAW AND ORDER CRISIS

Madam — The shooting of Baba Siddiqui could not have come at a worse time for the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, as elections to the assembly are just around the corner.

law and order in the state which is certainly going to be used as ammunition against the government in the electoral campaigning. There is no doubt this issue will resonate with the people of the state.

With the right connections, jails seem to have become a holiday resort with all facilities available, like cell phones and wi-fi. The assailants are said to be in the ages of 19-21, and another one is supposedly said to be a minor.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

The invisible battle for mental health in India

Mental health remains an afterthought in our healthcare narrative. The true healing encompasses both body and mind



KAVITA KABIRA

As a psychologist, I've seen how health in India isn't just a battle of the body—it's a struggle of the mind. Behind every disease is a person dealing with fear, frustration and, at times, loneliness.



In rural India, patients face challenges that go beyond medical diagnoses. I remember a man from a small village battling tuberculosis, but what weighed on him most wasn't just his illness—it was the isolation. He felt forgotten and cut off from the world because healthcare facilities were far away, and his family didn't know how to support him.

found. I think of Anjali, a young woman overwhelmed by anxiety. To the outside world, she seemed to have it all—a great job, a busy social life, and a bright future. But inside, she was spiralling. She hesitated for months before seeking help, afraid that admitting to her struggles would make her appear weak.

conditions—but the emotional weight people carry is often ignored. I've seen people suffer for years in silence, feeling their emotional pain isn't valid because it can't be measured like a physical illness. There's an urgent need for change. India's healthcare system mirrors this divide. In cities, private care offers options, but mental health services are still limited and expensive.

In rural areas, mental health is rarely even discussed. Socioeconomic barriers, especially for women, make it even harder to access mental health care. Women often put their health—both emotional and physical—on the back burner,

prioritising their families' needs over their own. One of my patients, a mother of two, delayed seeking help for her anxiety for years. She was exhausted, overwhelmed, and losing her sense of self.

This is a common story—too many women in India silently endure mental health struggles, dismissing their needs as unimportant, further isolating themselves in the process.

We need to change this narrative. Mental health is not a luxury or a sign of weakness. It is an integral part of overall well-being. We must make mental health care as important as physical health in our conversations and our healthcare system.

(The writer is Psychologist and founder - Kavita Kabira wellness clinic; views are personal)

RTI POWER FADES

Madam — It is really unfortunate that the RTI Act, which came into effect in 2005, promising a new era in transparency in government functioning, has almost died its own death, with the executive not showing any keenness to infuse a fresh life into it.

The proposed amendments were dropped due to widespread public defiance. In the administration and functioning of a democratic government, the right to access and seek information is a sine qua non for transparency, openness and accountability.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

RAILWAY SAFETY NEGLECTED

Madam — Gone are the days when a Railway minister used to apologise for a train accident and even tender his resignation for it. Now, it is too much to expect even an explanation for the snail's pace at which the Train Collision Avoidance System is being installed and the lack of manpower that makes even loco pilots do the extra shifts.

Madam — The shooting of Baba Siddiqui could not have come at a worse time for the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, as elections to the assembly are just around the corner.



FIRST COLUMN
CLEANLINESS AND SPIRITUALITY

The connection between a clean space and a peaceful mind is undeniable



RAVI VALLURI

When I recall our college days, particularly the hostel rooms, it takes me on a nostalgic trip. The days were full of fun and frolic, books scattered around, beer and rum bottles lying randomly, with cigarette butts strewn rather carelessly. The rooms were full of stench.

Most of the guys would ogle, there was no Google back then, at the girls. Posters of Pink Floyd, the Beatles, and Led Zeppelin populated the grubby and unwashed walls of the rooms. The politically inclined would paste large printed pictures of Che Guevara, Marx and Lenin among others, professing their ideological baggage unequivocally.

Some rooms were relatively cleaner and tidily kept. In our hail-fellow-well-met attitude we ended up ostracising such students. But they were our Gurus during examination times, much to their chagrin. A close friend had put up a poster which read: "Cleanliness is the sign of a sick mind." His room was particularly unclean and stained.

Cleanliness is both the abstract state of being clean and free from dirt, and the process of achieving and maintaining that state. However, to my mind cleanliness and spirituality are intertwined like Siamese twins. The human mind normally slips into a state of meditation and involuntarily has a spiritual experience at places which are relatively clean. Cleanliness is positively next to godliness.

India has of late embarked upon a major cleanliness drive where villages, bijou towns, cities, rivers, among others, places of historical importance and important religious places are being refurbished. This is indeed a positive statement made by the government. A gurdwara is the place of worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths and those who do not pro-



fess any faith too, are welcomed in Sikh gurdwaras. To me gurdwaras are among the cleanest spots in the country and it is a lesson in humility to observe how the devout keep it absolutely spick and span. The mind gravitates to the pristine spirit and listens to the soulful and mellifluous Gurubani being sung. The human mind, which is normally canonaded by innumerable thoughts, gradually settles down and is at rest and peace.

It would be interesting to mention that Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Darbar Sahib are informally referred to as the Golden Temple. Guru Ram Das constructed the Golden Temple in 1577. He was the fourth Guru in the pantheon of Sikh Gurus. A Sikh friend mentioned that a gurdwara is a community asset and serviced by unpaid and committed volunteers, those who perform seva from the kitchen to the shoe rack.

Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence, championed the cause of truth only as he could. His autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, like his life, documents every aspect where he does not dissemble anything. During my days of quotidian drinking, I drank heavily and remained inebriated. In that state of arrogance and hubris, I walked into the holy precincts of the Golden Temple carrying a packet of Wills Navy Cut. The act was certainly sacrilegious. For perpetrating this sinful act, I could have been trolled on social media. Today, I regret the mistake committed and apologise sincerely from the depths of my heart. I am sober today because of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and have given up drinking, smoking and eating non-vegetarian fare. The twisted personality in me is making amends and I hope those afflicted with these vices seek the grace of a Guru to extricate themselves from this cesspool of negativity and embark upon the voyage to discover the quintessential quality of cleanliness and spirituality.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Migration issue polarises Canada ahead of 2025 election

Canada is struggling to reconcile the benefits of foreign influx with stagnant wages, strained services and a housing crisis; analysis by AMAL CHANDRA and AJAY P KARUVALLY

Canada has recently cut down on international student permits and tightened eligibility for work permits in a bid to cut down on the number of temporary residents. As the federal election approaches in October 2025, immigration remains the most contentious issue in Canadian politics. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy — but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." Said Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a post on X. However, things are a little more complicated. Canada presents a unique case of population dynamics, with rapid growth despite record-low birth rates. Between 2023 and 2024, Canada's population surged by 3.2 per cent, outpacing even some African nations known for their high population growth. While the population is increasing rapidly, the total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.33 children per woman in 2022 was the lowest in Canadian history. Canada's population growth, despite a very low TFR, is a testament to the power of immigration. In 2023, 97.6 per cent of the growth in the Canadian population came through immigration.

This reliance on immigrants is a long-standing strategy to offset the country's ageing population. While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed population growth to just 0.4 per cent in 2021, immigration quickly rebounded, fuelling a rapid recovery in population growth. A significant portion of Canada's immigrants come from India, making up 10.8 per cent of all immigrants in 2023. The proportion of Indians among all the immigrant groups entering the country has increased from 9.6 per cent between 1991 and 2000, to 18.6 per cent between 2016 and 2021. Projections for the period between 2022 and 2026 suggest this trend will continue to accelerate.

Canada's Immigration Dilemma: Canada's immigration system comprises four main programs: economic, family, refugee, and temporary work. The first three lead to permanent residency, while temporary workers must follow specific pathways with quotas and criteria to attain permanent residency. The preferred route for international students is the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), which is issued to foreign students who have completed a diploma or degree at a Canadian institution. This permit allows them to qualify for permanent residency programs. While all immigration programs have grown, the 127 per cent surge in international student permits issued in 2023 compared to 2006 is particularly remarkable. A 2015 study showed that between 20 per cent and 27 per cent of international students transitioned to permanent residency within ten years of receiving their first study permit. This conversion rate is likely even higher in more recent years, reflecting the growing appeal of Canada as a destination for long-term settlement through the student migration route.

Economic Growth or Illusion? The influx of immigrants and their economic activity has fuelled Canada's GDP growth (1.8 per cent average from 2000 to 2023), but population growth is masking underlying economic challenges. The GDP per capita rate for the same period from 2000 to 2023 is only



CANADA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM COMPRISES FOUR MAIN PROGRAMS: ECONOMIC, FAMILY, REFUGEE, AND TEMPORARY WORK. THE FIRST THREE LEAD TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY, WHILE TEMPORARY WORKERS MUST FOLLOW SPECIFIC PATHWAYS WITH QUOTAS AND CRITERIA TO ATTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENCY

0.7 per cent, among the lowest in the G7. The Canadian economy and the living standards of its population have largely stagnated over the last decade.

While immigrants are contributing to economic growth, the GDP per capita rates are declining. Many new immigrants earn less than the national average, and there are doubts about their ability to achieve upward mobility as rapidly as past generations of immigrants, especially given that the majority are temporary residents.

The Government's Immigration Gamble: To course-correct a stagnating economy and compensate for poor growth rates, Canadian policymakers have made a bet on immigration. By letting in massive numbers of permanent and temporary residents, Canada has prioritised short-term growth, in hopes this can translate to a sustainable long-term growth strategy through the upward mobility of the recently introduced immigrant cohorts. While it may be too early to say this is not working, Canadian public opinion against immigration is at an all-time low. Many Canadians feel the rapid influx of immigrants is exacerbating critical issues like the housing shortage and the strain on social services, including healthcare and emergency response. Despite placing their hopes on immigration, the government has failed to make parallel investments in infrastructure to support both immigrants and the existing population.

Wages in Canada have struggled to keep pace with inflation and there is rising concern among Canadians that immigrants are

suppressing wages. Although evidence suggests that immigrants have little to no impact on the average wages of native workers, the perception of such effects tends to fuel stronger anti-immigration sentiments. Corporations, however, have capitalised on this dynamic, employing temporary workers, including international students, in low-wage, precarious jobs. The promise of permanent residency keeps them in the system, even when working conditions are poor.

For corporations, this represents a windfall of cheap labour. Coincidentally, working these low-paying jobs means the immigrants are unlikely to undergo the upward social mobility the government is hoping they would. Rising Hostility and Public Sentiment As frustrations over the government's immigration policies mount, this frustration is being increasingly manifested as resentment toward immigrants themselves. Public sentiment has noticeably shifted in recent years, with more Canadians expressing negative views toward international students and other immigrants. While this is hard to quantify and prove, public sentiment analysis using machine learning models on social media platforms like Reddit provides a useful indication.

We analysed all the comments under posts containing the word "international students" in the r/Canada subreddit (community) from 2010 to 2022. While the r/Canada subreddit is not in any way a reflection of Canadian society, it could be a fair representation of a microcosm of Canadian centrist views on immi-

gration. Till 2015, There was minimal discussion or negative sentiments related to international students (see figure below). Starting from around 2015, the number of negative comments saw a sharp rise. This trend peaks significantly after 2020, indicating a growing negative discourse, especially in recent years. The number of positive comments seems to plateaued after 2017. Although positive sentiment persists, sentiment analysis reveals a shift in public discourse toward increasingly negative views on the broader issue of international students in recent years.

Conclusion: A Broken System For many international students and temporary immigrants, these growing negative sentiments could lead to increased hostility and more barriers to integration. Instances of food bank usage, cultural misunderstandings, and economic struggles may further inflame these tensions. Canada's immigration system, which lacks a strategic vision, seems to benefit neither Canadian citizens nor immigrants.

Without meaningful reforms, only corporations exploiting cheap labour will see long-term gains, while social unrest and economic stagnation will continue to grow. The future of Canada's immigration policy hinges on the ability of the government and its citizens to address the current challenges and find a path forward that benefits all residents.

(Chandra is an author, policy analyst and columnist and Ajay P Karuvally is a Research Fellow at The International Institute of Migration and Development; views are personal)

The divisive legacy of British colonialism: A persistent threat to India's unity

Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity

The legacy of British colonialism in India remains a contentious issue, with far-reaching consequences that continue to impact the country's social fabric. In the contemporary context, this can be seen in the practice of politics by the opposition parties, particularly the Indian National Congress (INC).

The colonial era strategically exploited India's inherent social and cultural diversities, creating fault lines that persist today. These divisions, crafted to serve the interests of the British Empire, have become entrenched in India's societal landscape, posing a significant challenge to national unity. Post-1857, British authorities, scholars, and missionaries collaborated to divide Dalits, tribals and Muslims



SHIV PRAKASH

from the Hindu community. This agenda leveraged scholars and missionaries to separate Dalits and tribals through conversion and social manipulation, as detailed in Arun Shourie's seminal work, "Missionaries in India." By creating artificial distinctions and fueling social conflict, the British successfully fostered alliances and divisions that endured long after

independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted Congress's departure from its founding principles, embracing leftist ideologies instead. Modi cited Congress's original stance on issues like Swadeshi, Swavalamban, and Panchayat Raj, and Mahatma Gandhi's opposition to religious conversion and cow slaughter.

Gandhi's post-1920 emphasis on eradicating untouchability, casteism, alcoholism, and women's oppression, and promoting national unity, has given way to divisive rhetoric. Congress's current leadership, exemplified by Rahul Gandhi, has strayed from these ideals. Gandhi's recent US visit sparked controversy, as he claimed Sikhs face identity crises in India, despite no evi-

dence. His comments fueled separatist sentiments among Khalistani supporters, echoing the tactics employed by British colonialists.

Meanwhile, in Sikh communities, Max Arthur Macauliffe sowed seeds of separation, as detailed in Khushwant Singh's "The Sikh Gurus, Sacred Writings and Authors." These foreign interventions fabricated logic, distorted literature, and spread misinformation to execute their divide-and-rule policy.

Gandhi's stance resonates with the British-era concept that India is not a nation but a union of states. This contradicts the ancient Indian ethos, affirming India's nationhood. The Vedas proclaim, "Vayam Rashtra Jagryam Purahitah" (We are the guardians of the

nation). Even former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's wish to have his ashes immersed in the Ganges reflects his devotion to Mother India. The British exploited these divisions, nurturing enduring fault lines evident in the Direct Action orchestrated by the Muslim League, resulting in the brutal massacre of 16,000 Hindus in Calcutta alone.

Notable figures like Jaipal Singh Munda and Jogendra Nath Mandal eventually broke away from the Muslim League, recognising the sinister intentions. Mandal resigned from the Pakistan government and returned to India, highlighting the atrocities faced by Dalits and tribals.

Today, India must recognise and learn from this history,

acknowledging the artificial divisions created by British colonialism and guarding against similar tactics employed by contemporary forces seeking to exploit these fault lines for political gain. Citizens and political parties must remain vigilant, prioritising national unity over sectarian interests.

The 1946 Jharkhand, Chota Nagpur Pakistan Conference and Jogendra Nath Mandal's alliance with the Muslim League exemplified this strategy. British authorities fueled fears among Dalits and tribals, claiming the "Hindu Raj" would oppress them. This manipulation ignored the historical social cohesion and shared struggles of India's diverse communities.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision for

a unified India contrasts sharply with the divisive agenda of some contemporary politicians, who seek to resurrect the British-era fault lines. Gandhi's emphasis on eradicating social evils and promoting national unity has given way to identity politics and vote bank manipulation.

India's democratic fabric demands that citizens and leaders recognise and resist these divisive forces, promoting national unity and social cohesion. The country must acknowledge its complex history and address the lingering consequences of colonialism. By doing so, India can overcome the artificial divisions imposed upon it and forge a path toward true unity and progress.

Despite progress, India faces

significant challenges in overcoming the legacy of colonialism. Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity. The rise of social media has amplified divisive rhetoric, making it easier to spread misinformation and fuel tensions. The divisive legacy of British colonialism remains a pressing concern for India. By acknowledging this history and resisting divisive forces, India can build a more unified future. Citizens must prioritise national interests over sectarian agendas, and leaders must work toward inclusive governance.

(The writer is National Joint General Secretary, Organisation BJP; views are personal)

UN Security Council voices 'strong concern' for UN peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council expressed "strong concern" Monday as Israel has fired on and wounded UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region. It's the first statement by the UN's most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began last week, drawing international condemnation. UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move 5 kilometers (3 miles) north during its ground invasion in Lebanon. Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon across a UN-drawn boundary between the two countries. The sides have been clashing since the Iranian-backed militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza. Hamas' deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launched the war. The Security Council statement, issued after emergency closed consultations on Lebanon, did not name either Israel, Lebanon or Hezbollah. Read by Swiss U.N.

Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, the council's current president, it urges all parties "to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and UN premises." The 15-member Security Council has been deeply divided over the war in Gaza, with the United States defending its ally Israel as support for the Palestinians has grown among members and casualties have escalated. The Biden administration has become more critical of civilian deaths as well as the recent attacks on UNIFIL. US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters that "it's good that the council can speak with one voice on what's on the minds of all people around the world right now — and it's the situation in Lebanon." The council's statement sends a message to the Lebanese people "that the council cares, that the council is watching this issue and that the council today spoke with one voice," Wood said. Council members also expressed "deep concern" at civilian casualties and suffering, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the rising number of internally displaced people. More than 1,400 people in Lebanon, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, have been killed and 1.2 million displaced in the past month. Around 60 Israelis have been killed in Hezbollah strikes in the past year. Israel says it wants

to drive the militant group away from the border so some 60,000 displaced Israelis can return to their homes. The Security Council statement called on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law, which requires the protection of civilians. Council members also called for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war "and recognized the need for further practical measures to achieve that outcome." That resolution calls for the Lebanese army to deploy throughout the south and for all armed groups, including Hezbollah, to be disarmed — neither of which has happened in the past 18 years. Lacroix, the undersecretary-general for peace operations, told reporters after his closed briefing to the Security Council that five UNIFIL peacekeepers have been injured in recent days and that the UN has protested to Israel. Israel has indicated "investigations will be carried out regarding some of these incidents ... and we will see what comes out of this," he said. Israeli Army spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani asserted Sunday that Israel has tried to maintain constant contact with UNIFIL and that any instance of UN forces being harmed will be investigated at "the highest level."

North Korea blows up inter-Korean roads as tensions with South soar

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said North Korea blew up the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use on Tuesday, as the rivals are locked in rising animosities over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its capital, Pyongyang. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a brief statement that North Korea blew up parts of the roads on Tuesday. It said South Korea's military is bolstering its readiness and surveillance posture but gave no further details. The explosions came a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called a meeting with his top military and security officials. During the meeting, Kim described the alleged South Korean drone flights as the "enemy's serious provocation" and laid out unspecified tasks related to "immediate military action" and the operation of his "war deterrent" for defending the country's sovereignty, the North's state media reported earlier Tuesday. North Korea earlier put front-



line artillery and other army units on standby to launch strikes on South Korea, if drones from South Korea are found over North Korea again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish North Korea if the safety of its citizens is threatened. Destroying the roads would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea, formally cement it as his country's principal enemy and abandon the

North's decades-long objective to seek a peaceful Korean unification. During the previous era of inter-Korean detente in the 2000s, the two Koreas reconnected two road routes and two rail tracks across their heavily fortified border. But their operations later were suspended one by one as the Koreas wrangled over North Korea's nuclear programme and other issues. Last week, North Korea said it would permanently block its border with South Korea and build front-line defence structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korea and US forces. South Korea officials said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and laying mines along the border since earlier this year. They said North Korea has also planted mines and removed lamps along its sections of the inter-Korean roads and taken out ties on the northern side of the railroads.

Top leaders attend Iranian Revolutionary Guard general's funeral

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The funeral of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard general killed alongside Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah drew the largest crowd of top leaders in the paramilitary organisation together Tuesday for the first time since Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack on Israel. Rumours circulated for weeks

over the status of the head of the Guard's expeditionary army, Gen. Esmail Qaani, but the Quds Force leader was seen in a black bomber jacket wiping away tears early Tuesday morning at the body repatriation at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport. Meanwhile, Israeli strikes in the southern Gaza Strip killed at least 15 people overnight, including six children and two

women, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday. In northern Gaza, where Israel has been waging an air and ground campaign in Jabalya for more than a week, residents said families were still trapped in their homes and shelters. It's been more than a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians,

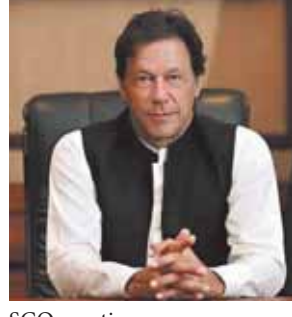
and abducting another 250. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people.

In solidarity with Hamas, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has exchanged cross-border fire with Israel almost daily for the past year. Israel escalated its campaign against the group in recent weeks. Meanwhile, a general in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard directly threatened the lives of Israelis during a funeral service in Tehran for a gen-

Imran's party calls off protest in Pak ahead of SCO summit

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's main opposition called off its protest on Tuesday as the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation begins here under tight security. The two-day meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in fields of economy, trade, environment and socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organisation. Pakistan assumed the rotating chair of the SCO CHG, the second highest forum within the SCO, for 2023-24 at the previous meeting, held in Bishkek in October 2023. The CHG meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Belarus Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, Kazakhstan Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers Cabinet Zhaparov Akyzbek, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are participating.



SCO meeting. However, the issue was resolved late Monday night when the PTI accepted assurance by the government that a doctor would be allowed to see Khan on Tuesday. "After long consideration and negotiations that went back and forth..., we decided to call off the protest," Khan's international spokesman Zulfiqar Bukhari said in a WhatsApp voice message. He also said that the PTI was also urged by its political allies and friendly embassies to postpone the protest. He, however, defended the right to protest on the occasion of an international event which he said was an international norm as all over the world protests are held on such occasions. Earlier, the government had warned to deal with any kind of protest with an iron hand. Elaborate security measures have been taken and about 10,000 police personnel deployed who have the support of paramilitary rangers and regular army troops. The government announced three-day official leave in the capital and neighbouring Rawalpindi to avoid unnecessary shelling during the conference. Section 144 has also been imposed in the twin cities to outlaw all gatherings.

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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 undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the "Act") in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, on behalf of PCHFL, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 11900001565 of Noida Branch) Brij Mohan (Borrower) Kamlesh Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 550711 / (₹ Five lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven Only) NPA (08-09-2024)	Flat No. 1004 10th Floor Tower A7, Type A, Sri Palm Homes Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121102
(LC No. 19600044446 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) Aakib Javed (Borrower) Gulnaz (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 949549.21 / (₹ Nine lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine Only and Twenty One Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Prop. No. 1241 Rhs Third Floor Kh No. 93 Gali No. 10, Govindpurji Kalkaji Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110019
(LC No. 25700001963 of Gorakhpur Branch) Arjun Nath Mishra (Borrower) Rajani Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 372340 / (₹ Three lakh Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Only) NPA (08-09-2024)	Part Of Gata No.640, Mauza- Abbu Saray (A. M. P), Ward- Sardar Bahadur Singh Pargana- Haveli Awadh Faizabad Faizabad Uttar Pradesh - 224001
(LC No. 13000000700 of Gurgaon Branch) Girish Nair (Borrower) Preethi Nair (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1021154.18 / (₹ Ten lakh Twenty One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four Only) NPA (14-08-2024)	Flat No- 49 Second Floor Delhi C2 Pocket 4 Sector 34 Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 25500002060 of Netai) Subhash Place Branch) Manoj Kumar (Borrower) Urmila Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1656465 / (₹ Sixteen lakh Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five Only) NPA (08-09-2024)	Property No. 1209-A, Third Floor (Lhs), With Roof Gali No.10, Govind Pur Kalkaji, Kh No- 93 New Delhi South West Delhi Delhi - 110074
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000839 of Noida Branch) Akhli Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Amaravati Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3805721.77 / (₹ Thirty Eight lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Only and Seventy Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	0822, 8th Floor, Fortune Mahagan Montage, Plot No.Gh-3, Dundaheera Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad-201016, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000495 of Noida Branch) Digambar Singh (Borrower) Bhawana Negi (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3898750.92 / (₹ Thirty Eight lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only and Ninety Two Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	0621, 6th Floor, Tower: Fortune, Mahagan Montage Crossing Republic, Plot No.4H-03, Dundaheera, Ghaziabad-201016, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000732 of Noida Branch) Harish Kumar Shukla (Borrower) Beena (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1634331.52 / (₹ Sixteen lakh Thirty Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Only and Fifty Two Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Flat No.1117, 11th Floor, Advantage tower, Mahagan Montage, GH 03, Dundaheera, Ghaziabad-201016, Uttar Pradesh.
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000489 of Noida Branch) Mukesh Kumar Singh (Borrower) Saloni (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3123945.28 / (₹ Thirty One lakh Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Only and Twenty Eight Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Plot 0720, 7th Floor, Tower: Fortune, mahagan montage, crossing public plot no GH-3, Dundaheera ghaziabad uttar pradesh 201016
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000504 of Noida Branch) Rajender Singh (Borrower) Radha (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3121648.08 / (₹ Thirty One lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Eight Only and Eight Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Unit 0620, 06th Floor, Tower Fortune tower mahagan montage, Crossing Republic plot no GH-03, Dundaheera Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201016
(LC No. M0123099 of Delhi Branch) Mahendra Bhakuni (Borrower) Purima Bhakuni (Co Borrower 1) (Mahakuni (Co Borrower 2)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3084620 / (₹ Thirty lakh Eighty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Only) NPA (03-2024)	Property No. Acket-7, 3rd Floor With Roof/Terrace Rights, Pocket-9, Near R of International school, Rohini, Delhi-110085
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000760 of Noida Branch) Shivam Srivastav (Borrower) Madhu srivastav (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1595583.08 / (₹ Fifteen lakh Ninety Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only and Eight Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Flat no 315, 3rd Floor, Advantage tower, Mahagan Montage, GH 03, Dundaheera Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201016
(LC No. PHHLNOI05000787 of Noida Branch) Shruti Roonpalwal (Borrower) Tarun Sareen (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1877411.16 / (₹ Twenty Eight lakh Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One Only and Sixteen Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	Flat no 1127, 11th Floor, Fortune tower, Mahagan Montage, GH 03, Dundaheera Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201016
(LC No. HLSA00007274 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Raj Kumar Yadav (Borrower) kavita yadav (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1695950.82 / (₹ Sixteen lakh Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Only and Eighty Two Paise) NPA (08-09-2024)	H/Flat No.C-56, 2nd Floor Gali No.78, Block-C Kharsa No.87/1 Arya Samaj Road Village Hastal Uttam Nagar New Delhi 110059
(LC No. HLSA00007274 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Raj Kumar Yadav (Borrower) kavita yadav (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3430126.36 / (₹ Three lakh Forty Three Thousand Sixteen Only and Twenty Six Paise) NPA (04-02-2024)	H/Flat No.C-56, 2nd Floor Gali No.78, Block-C Kharsa No.87/1 Arya Samaj Road Village Hastal Uttam Nagar New Delhi 110059
(LC No. 198PTM30974 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Gaurav Wahi (Borrower) Chetan Rai Wahi (Co Borrower 1) Jatni Wahi (Co Borrower 2) Pioneer Applications Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 3)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 2801830.49 / (₹ Twenty Eight lakh One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty One Only and Forty Nine Paise) NPA (05-03-2020)	H/Flat No. 36/1 Duplex, Madhav Kunj Apartment, Sector: Sector 09, Vihar New Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 198PTM30975 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Gaurav Wahi (Borrower) Chetan Rai Wahi (Co Borrower 1) Jatni Wahi (Co Borrower 2) Pioneer Applications Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 3)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 10380029.17 / (₹ One Crore Three lakh Eighty Thousand Twenty Nine Only and Seventeen Paise) NPA (05-03-2020)	H/Flat No.1002 Tower C Cosmos Express 99, Sector 99, Vihar Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 196DEL38013 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) Gobind Narayan Jha (Borrower) Sudha Jha (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 709844.31 / (₹ Seventy Five lakh Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Four Only and One Paise) NPA (04-01-2018)	H/Flat No. 1002 Tower C Cosmos Express 99, Sector 99, Vihar Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 28300001046 of Rohtak Branch) Gobind Narayan Jha (Borrower) Sudha Jha (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1242329.65 / (₹ Twelve lakh Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Only and Sixty Five Paise) NPA (30-04-2021)	Plot No. b-59 (old No.415), T/Back Side) Without Roof Rights, Gali No-8, Kh No-58/23/ 2 Vill-palraj Rai Nagar-2 New Delhi North West Delhi Delhi - 110077
(LC No. 26600001460 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Samsadd (Borrower) Bibi Mohifan (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 2438425.34 / (₹ Twenty Four lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Only and Sixty Five Paise) NPA (03-04-2021)	Property No- Wz-634, 2nd Floor, Kharsa No. 1575, Abadi Of Old Lal Dora Village-thar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018
(LC No. P0006595 of Delhi Branch) Devender Panwar (Borrower) Suman Lata (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 1224316.65 / (₹ Twelve lakh Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six Only and Sixty Five Paise) NPA (03-01-2023)	Property No. 94/3, Second And Third Floor With Roof Rights, Kharsa No. 798/508, Village Shahpur jat, New Delhi 110049
(LC No. 0140004135 of New Delhi Branch) Ravinder Sharma (Borrower) Sanjeev Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 3703155.28 / (₹ Thirty Seven lakh Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Only and Two Paise) NPA (30-01-2017)	Block-I Plot No-143 Sector-22 Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301
(LC No. 09200000401 of Rohini Branch) Rajneesh Bansal (Borrower) Chander Mohan Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 358303.18 / (₹ Three lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty One Only and Eighteen Paise) NPA (01-06-2018)	Plot No- Mm-94, Flat No- F-4, Lig First Floor (L H S Back Portion) D L F Ankur Vihar, Loni Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201009
(LC No. 0140003997 of New Delhi Branch) Ashish Kumar (Borrower) Kiran Mehta (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 453055.68 / (₹ Four lakh Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only and Eight Paise) NPA (09-12-2022)	C-4, Gali No 7 New Krishna Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110051
(LC No. 13000000405 of Gurgaon Branch) Naveen Kumar Gupta (Borrower) Sunita Bansal (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 2703548 / (₹ Twenty seven lakh Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Eight Only) NPA (04-01-2020)	Flat No 1206 Twelfth Floor Tower J Cosmos City 1 Sector 103 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. M0074273 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Ashish Kumar (Borrower) Geeta Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-09-2024 / ₹ 4839684 / (₹ Forty Eight lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only) NPA (03-08-2024)	Property No H2 106 Third Floor With Roof Rights With One Car Parking On Split Out Of Kharsa No 79 23 New Delhi Situated In The Area Of Village Palam Colony Known As Mahavir Enclave South West Delhi 110045

If the said Borrower fails to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 16 - 10 - 2024 Place: Delhi Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Re: Residential Plot No. A-547, area measuring 63 sq.yds., i.e. 52,674 sq.mtr., falling in Kharsa No. 300, Situated at Gali No. 16, Harsh Vihar, Phase-II, Village Grahampur alias Bhopura, Pargana Loni Tensi & Distt. Ghaziabad (UP) (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").
Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Uday Veer & Mrs. Raj Kumari (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said Property from Mr. Sunil (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the said Seller has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Sale Deed dated 08.07.2024. The said Sale deed is registered as per the details mentioned below. POA does viz. registered GPA, ATS and Will dated 29/08/1995 executed by Mr. Chandar in favour of Ms. Kalavati, in respect of the said property and forming part of the chain documents and hereinafter called the "said documents". The said documents are true and correct and have been verified and seem to have been lost. An FIR regarding loss of these said documents has been lodged by the seller with Delhi Police Crime Branch vide LR No.2201413/2024 dated 15.10.2024. If the aforesaid original said documents or any of them are/are found or have been found by any person, the same may be returned and delivered to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, institution is having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property, he/she/they may raise his/her/their objection/s, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after expiry of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, no objection shall be acceptable.
General Public may also take note that any deal or transaction done by anybody on the basis of the said documents or any of them shall be illegal and not binding on our client. The person doing so shall be liable to be prosecuted under the provisions of Section 489A of the Indian Penal Code.
SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Beinita Bedi is the owner of Upper Ground Floor/under roof rights built on Plot no. 238, area measuring 100 sq. yards, i.e. 20' x 45', out of Kharsa no. 76/5 situated in the area of village Kamalpur Majra, Burari, abadi known as C-Block, Main Road, Abadi Vihar, Delhi-110084. The said Property Deed dated 15.10.2024 as doc. No. 2024/19/12205 executed by Pratima Bedi and Rekha Bedi in favour of Beinita Bedi W/o/Mr. Anmol Bedin (respect of Said Property).
Beinita Bedi is in the process of mortgaging the said Floor with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) and surrogacy services. In this connection, this transaction shall be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this period shall not be considered by the lender with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.
If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Offices: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, e-mail: accounts@nlorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Harshit Sharma, Advocate, practicing at Ch.No.492,Patiala House Courts, New Delhi, on behalf of my client, Dr. Nidhi Sharma, Director of International Pride IVF & Research Centre, located at Plot No.19, Sector-11, Opp.Metro Station Sector-11,Dwarka, Sector-11, Delhi, hereby issue this public notice. It has come to the attention of my client that unauthorized individuals and entities are fraudulently using her name to offer IVF and surrogacy services. Dr. Nidhi Sharma is only responsible for the activities and services provided at her centre, International Pride IVF & Research Centre, which strictly adheres to all legal regulations and guidelines governing IVF and surrogacy procedure. S.Anyuse of Dr. Nidhi Sharma's name by any unauthorized individual or entity for such services is illegal and without her consent. This unauthorized use is damaging to her reputation and exposes her to potential legal complications. The public is strongly urged to verify the authenticity of any IVF and surrogacy services claimed to be offered under her name and to report any suspicious activities to the relevant authorities. My client expressly disclaims any responsibility for actions, services, or outcomes related to any other centres or individuals misusing her name. This notice serves to protect her legal rights, reputation, and professional standing. She will not be held liable for any consequences arising from such unauthorized activities.
HARSHIT SHARMA & ASSOCIATES CH.No.- 492,PATIALA HOUSE COURTS, NO-110001 Email:-harshitsharma00005@gmail.com

Form No. INC-26
(Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, NORTHERN REGION, DELHI
IN THE MATTER OF SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 13 OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND CLAUSE (A) OF SUB-RULE (5) OF RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014 AND
IN THE MATTER OF XPRESS MINDS EDUTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT C-208 YAMUNA APARTMENTS, ALAKNANDA, DELHI, INDIA, 110019, PETITIONER
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary General Meeting held on October 3rd, 2024 to enable the Company to change its Registered Office from "National Capital Territory Delhi" to "State of Maharashtra".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company with a copy of the application company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
C-208 Yamuna Apartments, Alaknanda, Delhi, India, 110019
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT XPRESS MINDS EDUTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
KUNAL SAVARKAR, DIRECTOR DIN: 01070409
DATE: 16 October 2024 | PLACE: Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client known to all that my client NAVRAJ SINGH RIVATI owner of the FIRST FLOOR PROPERTY NO.WZ-9A, PLOT NO. 10, AREA 113 SQ. YDS.KHARSRA NO-24/10, KRISHAN NAGAR ALIAS KRISHANA NAGAR, VILLAGE KESHAPUR DEHI and NAVRAJ SINGH RIVATI don't have original 1st Survivor Member Certificate of L. Harbans Kaur. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim/right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.
AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch.No. 760, Sector-16, Noida, Delhi-201301 Mobile :- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ajay Khandelwal, Research Analyst am going to surrender my SEBI registration certificate as a Research Analyst with SEBI registration number INH100009983 and BSE RA Enlistment Number 5597. If anyone has any grievances, they can lodge the grievances at scores.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, Yogita Sabharwal D/o Late Shri Brij Mohan Sabharwal r/o. H.No. A-148, UGF, Ashok Vihar, Phase-2, New Delhi, Mob. 9899429342, Email: yogitasabharwal11@gmail.com. The owner of MIG Flat No.8-B, 3rd Floor, Pocket-D-10, Sector 7 Rohini. The original papers i.e. Demand cum allotment letter, Possession letter, Site Possession Slip, NOC for Water and Electricity etc. executed by DDA of above said property has been lost. A F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 15/10/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact - Deputy Director (MIG Housing) D-Block, 3rd Floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that Shriharj Pandey S/o P. S. Pandey has R/O H. No. 351, Gal No.5, D Block Sangam vihar, Delhi-110082 applied for issuance of certified copy of Demand cum allotment letter in respect of EWS Flat No. 711, Block No. 5, Shivaji Marg, Delhi-110015. Allotted vide file no. E/488(26)/2018/00A/14/S.M. (Demand letter No. 1295/04, on dated-31/12/2018, 20/05/2019, & 24/11/2022). The original document i.e. Demand cum allotment letter of the said property has been lost online. FIR No. 18-2174428/2024 dated 03/10/24, has also been lodged in this effect in PS crime Branch. Any person(s) claiming any right in respect, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write or contact to D. Director (Janak) H. D-Block, 2nd floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Hence, you are requested to submit press clipping as per above format.
(SHRIHARJ PANDAY), Mob.-9911011457 Asstt. Director (Janak) H. DDA

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Sh. Vidya Sagar Jha s/o Sh. Jageswar Jha owner of Built up Plot Bearing no. 1-B, area measuring 64.38 sq.mts. out of Kharsa no.1264, Situated in Unincorporated Colony Saranaj Nagar East W.V.I 2 Block, PTL in the area of Village Kadi Pur, abadi known as Swaroop Nagar, East Village Libaspur, Delhi-110042.1 through Registered Conveyance Deed Dated 06.01.2024 executed by DDA-PM- UDAR CELL in favour of Late. Vidya Sagar Jha s/o Sh. Jageswar Jha vide Reg. No.7 at SR-VIE DELHI the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/ financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan. E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110052, Mobile No. 9811215181.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, Yogita Sabharwal D/o Late Shri Brij Mohan Sabharwal r/o. H.No. A-148, UGF, Ashok Vihar, Phase-2, New Delhi, Mob. 9899429342, Email: yogitasabharwal11@gmail.com. The owner of MIG Flat No.8-B, 3rd Floor, Pocket-D-10, Sector 7 Rohini. The original papers i.e. Demand cum allotment letter, Possession letter, Site Possession Slip, NOC for Water and Electricity etc. executed by DDA of above said property has been lost. A F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 15/10/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact - Deputy Director (MIG Housing) D-Block, 3rd Floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

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(SHRIHARJ PANDAY), Mob.-9911011457 Asstt. Director (Janak) H. DDA

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, Yogita Sabharwal D/o Late Shri Brij Mohan Sabharwal r/o. H.No. A-148, UGF, Ashok Vihar, Phase-2, New Delhi, Mob. 9899

Trump's economic plans would worsen inflation: Experts

AP ■ WASHINGTON

With characteristic bravado, Donald Trump has vowed that if voters return him to the White House, "inflation will vanish completely". It's a message tailored for Americans who are still exasperated by the jump in consumer prices that began 3 1/2 years ago.

plummeted since peaking at 9.1 per cent in 2022 and is nearly back to the Fed's 2 per cent target. Last month, the Peterson Institute for International Economics predicted that Trump's policies would drive consumer prices sharply higher two years into his second term. Peterson's analysis concluded that inflation, which would otherwise register 1.9 per cent in 2026, would instead jump to between 6 per cent and 9.3 per cent if Trump's economic proposals were adopted.

look virtually unchanged, even if she enjoyed a Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress. An unfettered Trump, by contrast, would leave prices higher by 1.1 percentage points in 2025 and 0.8 percentage points in 2026. Taxes on imports — tariffs — are Trump's go-to economic policy. He argues that tariffs protect American factory jobs from foreign competition and deliver a host of other benefits. While in office, Trump started a trade war with China, imposing high tariffs on most Chinese goods. He also raised import taxes on foreign steel and aluminum, washing machines and solar panels. He has grander plans for a second term: Trump wants to impose a 60 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods and a "universal" tariff of 10 per cent or 20 per cent on everything else that enters the United States.

taxing imported goods is absorbed by the foreign countries. The truth is that US importers pay the tariff — and then typically pass along that cost to consumers in the form of higher prices. Americans themselves end up bearing the cost. Kimberly Clousing and Mary Lovely of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump's proposed 60 per cent tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20 per cent tariff on everything else would, in combination, impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of USD 2,600 a year. The Trump campaign notes that US inflation remained low even as Trump aggressively imposed tariffs as president. But Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that the magnitude of Trump's current tariff proposals has vastly changed the calculations. "The Trump tariffs in 2018-19 didn't have as

large an impact as the tariffs were only just over USD 300 billion in mostly Chinese imports," he said. "The former president is now talking about tariffs on over USD 3 trillion in imported goods." And the inflationary backdrop was different during Trump's first term when the Fed worried that inflation was too low, not too high. Trump, who has invoked incendiary rhetoric about immigrants, has promised the "largest deportation operation" in US history. Many economists think the increased immigration over the past couple years helped tame inflation while avoiding a recession. The surge in foreign-born workers has made it easier for fill vacancies. That helps cool inflation by easing the pressure on employers to sharply raise pay and to pass on their higher labour costs by increasing prices. Net immigration — arrivals

minus departures — reached 3.3 million in 2023, more than triple what the government had expected. Employers needed the new arrivals. As the economy roared back from pandemic lockdowns, companies struggled to hire enough workers to keep up with customer orders. Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, the number of people in the United States who either have a job or are looking for one rose by nearly 8.5 million. Roughly 72 per cent of them were foreign born. Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating the economy. In the past, economists estimated that America's employers could add no more than 100,000 jobs a month without

igniting inflation. But when Edelberg and Watson factored in the immigration surge, they found that monthly job growth could reach 160,000 to 200,000 without exerting upward pressure on prices. Trump's mass deportations, if carried out, would change everything. The Peterson Institute calculates that the US inflation rate would be 3.5 percentage points higher in 2026 if Trump managed to deport all 8.3 million undocumented immigrant workers thought to be working in the United States. Trump alarmed many economists in August by saying he would seek to have "a say" in the Fed's interest rate decisions. The Fed is the government's chief inflation-fighter. It attacks high inflation by raising interest rates to restrain borrowing and spending, slow the economy and cool the rate of price increases.

Economic research has found that the Fed and other central banks can properly manage inflation only if they're kept independent of political pressure. That's because raising rates can cause economic pain — perhaps a recession — so it's anathema to politicians seeking reelection. As president, Trump frequently hounded Jerome Powell, the Fed chair he had chosen, to lower rates to try to juice the economy. For many economists, Trump's public pressure on Powell exceeded even the attempts that Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon made to push previous Fed chairs to keep rates low — moves that were widely blamed for helping spur the chronic inflation of the late 1960s and '70s. The Peterson Institute report found that upending the Fed's independence would increase inflation by 2 percentage points a year.

Southern Africa enduring worst hunger crisis in decades due to El Nino: UN

AP ■ CAPETOWN

Months of drought in southern Africa triggered by the El Nino weather phenomenon have had a devastating impact on more than 27 million people and caused the region's worst hunger crisis in decades, the United Nations' food agency said Tuesday. The World Food Programme warned it could become a "full-scale human catastrophe". Five countries — Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe — have declared national disasters over the drought and resultant hunger. The WFP estimates that about 21 million children in southern Africa are now malnourished as crops have failed. Tens of millions in the region rely on small-scale agriculture that is irrigated by rain for their food and to make money to buy provisions. Aid agencies warned of a potential disaster late last year as the naturally occurring El Nino led to below-

average rainfall across the region, while its impact has been exacerbated by warming temperatures linked to climate change. "This is the worst food crisis in decades," WFP spokesperson Tomson Phiri said. "October in southern Africa marks the start of the lean season, and each month is expected to be worse than the previous one until harvests next year in March and April. Crops have failed, livestock have perished and children are lucky to receive one meal per day." The five countries that declared drought-related disasters have pleaded for international aid, while Angola on the west coast of Africa and Mozambique on the east coast are also "severely affected", Phiri said, showing the extent to which the drought has swept across the region. "The situation is dire," Phiri said. He said the WFP needs around \$369 million to provide immediate help but has only received a fifth of that amid a shortfall in donations. The WFP has begun

helping with food assistance and other critical support at the request of various governments in the region, he said. Phiri said southern Africa's crisis came at a time of "soaring global needs," with humanitarian aid also desperately required in Gaza, Sudan and elsewhere. Other aid agencies have said the drought in southern Africa is especially harsh, with the United States aid agency, USAID, saying in June it was the most severe drought in 100 years during the January to March agricultural season, wiping out swathes of crops and food for millions. El Nino, a weather phenomenon which warms parts of the central Pacific, has different impacts on weather in different parts of the world. The latest El Nino formed in the middle of last year and ended in June. It was blamed, along with human-caused climate change and overall ocean warmth, for a wild 12 months of heat waves and extreme weather. In southern Africa, food

prices have risen sharply in many areas affected by the drought, increasing the hardship. The drought has also had other damaging effects. Zambia has lost much of its electricity and has been plunged into hours and sometimes days of blackouts because it relies heavily on hydroelectric power from the huge Kariba Dam. The water level of the dam is so low that it can hardly generate any power. Zimbabwe shares the dam and is also experiencing power outages. Authorities in Namibia and Zimbabwe have resorted to killing wildlife, including elephants, to provide meat for hungry people. Scientists say sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most vulnerable parts of the world to climate change because of a high dependency on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources. Millions of African livelihoods depend on the climate, while poor countries are unable to finance climate-resilience measures.

Saudi cartoonist sentenced to 23 years in prison

AP ■ DUBAI

A Saudi cartoonist who once drew for a Qatari newspaper as a yearslong diplomatic crisis engulfed Doha has been sentenced to 23 years in prison, an activist group says. The sentence for Mohammed al-Ghamdi marks the latest in a widening judicial crackdown on any perceived dissent in Saudi Arabia since the rise of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, now seen as the kingdom's day-to-day ruler in place of his 88-

year-old father King Salman. Saudi officials did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday from The Associated Press. Al-Ghamdi drew under the pen name Al-Hazza, with some of his cartoons poking fun at challenges during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, as well as touching occasionally on the politics of the Middle East. But political cartoons, like the content of Arabic-language newspapers in the Gulf states, must carefully thread the needle when discussing the region's autocratic

rulers even in the best of times. But al-Ghamdi had been working for the Qatari newspaper Lusail as a yearslong diplomatic boycott of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain began in 2017. That initially sparked a prison sentence for al-Ghamdi of six years from Saudi Arabia's Specialised Criminal Court over charges denied by the cartoonist including that his work allegedly insulted the kingdom. But in recent months, the case was reopened and al-Ghamdi

received an unappealable 23-year sentence, according to SANAD, a United Kingdom-based human rights organisation focused on Saudi Arabia. "This situation underscores the urgent need for international action to protect artistic freedom and human rights in Saudi Arabia," SANAD said. "Al-Ghamdi's case exemplifies the troubling climate in Saudi Arabia, where no one is truly safe; he became a target simply for being an artist, nothing else."

Trade deal with India remains 'priority', says UK minister

PTI ■ LONDON

A trade deal with India remains a "priority" for the UK, Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said during the Labour Party-led government's flagship International Investment Summit in London which coincided with the launch of a new Industrial Strategy green paper. "The Gulf and India are the priority. I think there are clear economic and commercial reasons why we should pursue those," Reynolds said at the Guildhall on Monday. "Trade and international investment lie at the heart of our plan to drive growth for the whole country. That's because we know the UK has so much potential as one of the largest, most open economies, a legal system that sets global standards, a regulatory environment with some of the strongest safeguards for investment and the greatest incentives for innovation. We benefit from a skilled and diverse workforce, supported by an immigration system that draws talent from around the globe," he said.

"Global investors should be in no doubt that under this new government, Britain is truly the best place to do business," added Reynolds. It came as DBT confirmed nearly 38,000 jobs are set to be created across the UK after a total of GBP 63 billion of investment was announced at the International Investment Summit.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF D.O.B

I, Tabassum Sitwat W/o. Syed Mohd. Sitwat, R/o. R-289/1, first floor, Sir Syed Road, Jogabai Extn, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have declared that my daughter's (Kashaf) date of birth in Dev Samaj Modern School records has been wrongly submitted as 26.10.2009 instead of 02.06.2010

PD(856)A CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ankita Kala W/o Madhur Dixit, R/o B-15 Sector-71 Noida Uttar Pradesh-201304, in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as Ankita, Passport No: W2503399 declare that Ankita Dixit & Ankita Kala both are one and same person. PD(857)C I, Madhur Dixit S/o Rajender Kumar Sharma, R/o B-15, Sector-71, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201304, in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as Madhur, Passport No: P6653086 declare that Madhur & Madhur Dixit both are one and same person. PD(858)C

SIGNAL AND TELECOM WORK E-Tender Notice No. N-2024-K-21; dated. 08-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SL No.1; Tender No. N-2024-K-21; Name of the work: Signal and telecom work for extension of short CSL lines into full CSL at Singhabad (SOB) station. Tender Value: ₹82,24,791.36; Earnest Money: ₹1,64,500.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 30-10-2024 in website http://www.ireps.gov.in

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 9646122185) Tender Enquiry No. 338/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) Dated: 14.10.2024 Dy CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 30 nos. 11kV Residual Voltage Transformers (RVTs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 14-10-2024 onwards. Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C-783/24

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc. (A)

1. 08/DGM(E/M)/Sr.M.(E/M)-IV/2024-25, Annual Operation and maintenance of Light & Facade Light installed at Underpass at Noida to Gr. Noida Expressway Noida. Cost Rs. 45.23 Lac

ENGINEERING WORKS AT MALIGAON Tender Notice No. : 31 of 2024, dttd. 09-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: DCESTMLG-22-2024; Name of Work & Location : At Nambari-Special repairs to staff quarters (95 units Type-II) in Goshala colony under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/Nambari. Tender Value: ₹ 1,96,37,300.96/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,48,200/-; Date & time of closing/opening of above tender at 13:00 hrs. on 04-11-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Engineer/Estate, Maligaon

AWARDING OF VINYL WRAPPING CONTRACT OVER TINSUKIA DIVISION E-Auction is invited for Awarding vinyl wrapping contract exterior surface at Mail/Rajdhani express trains over Tinsukia Division. Auction Catalogue No. ADVT-TRAIN-13. Lot Auction Start (All Lots): 11:00 hrs. on 01-11-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Category: Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face). Days : 1095.

RAIL DISPLAY NETWORK & COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT OVER TINSUKIA DIVISION E-Auction for Awarding of Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) over Tinsukia Division & Commercial Advertising contract LCD/LED TVs at Jorhat Town Railway Station has been invited. Auction Catalogue No. : TSK-RDN-2024-2. Auction Start (All Lots): 11:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee, Days : 1095; Seq No.: AA/1; Lot No./Category: ADVT-TSK-TSK-OSD-209-24-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital)); Description: Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Video Wall of (size 6' x 4') 33 stations at Nantilia, Titabar, Amguri, Selenghat, Nakachari, Golaghat, Bhalkuma, Baruabamungaon, Numaligarh Furkating, Kamarbandha Ali, Dulaijan, Naharkatia, Namrup, Borhat, Sapakethi, Bhojo, Lakwa, Simaluguri, Tinsukia, Makum, Digboi, Margherita, Ledo, Chabua, Panitola, Kowang, Dhamalgaon, Dikom, Lahowal, Chaukhowa, Moranhat, Sivasagar Town with scope of display of advertisements along with railway messages in 50:50 Time Slot / Space sharing; Seq No.: AA/2; Lot No./Category: ADVT-TSK-JTTN-OSD-159-24-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Digital)); Description: Commercial Advertising LCD/LED (7 Nos. of TVs) at Jorhat Town Railway Station. Auction Close Date/Time : At 11:40 hrs. on 28-10-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Maximum Auto Extensions: 10 Times. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in. DRM (C), Tinsukia

STORES E-PROCUREMENT E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/66/010/24-25 Dated: 09-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. Tender No. KT245453 Closing/Opening date: 31-10-2024 Brief Description: High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter system (HASSDAC) with dual track sensors (having in-built feature of trolley suppression) complete set as per RDSO specification RDSO/SPN/177/2012 (Ver.3) with latest amendment or specifications, complete set with redundancy consisting of dual hardware for each track section/block section like Evaluator/ Processors, Vital Relays, Track side unit with Detection point, complete assembly & fixing arrangement for each detection point, clamp deflectors for either side of each detection points & dual display Reset Box with auto resetting facility for each track section/ block section Consignee:- SSE/SIG/Kathiar, NFR Qty: 03 Set. Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In Case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders. Dy. CMM/New Jalpaiguri

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE IN RE: ALL THAT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE SAID LAND IDENTIFIED AS - KHASRA NO. 419, 420 & 430, VILLAGE SADARPUR, NEAR SECTOR 45, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR- 201301. The general public at large and anyone interested therein is hereby informed that our clients M/S 44 NOIDA INFRA TECH (FIVE) PRIVATE LIMITED are the sole bonafide and lawful owner having all associated perpetual rights, titles and interest in all the parts and parcel of lands presently identified as KHASRA NO. 419, 420 & 430, VILLAGE SADARPUR, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, 201301 and along-with all that is erected thereupon by virtue of duly Registered deeds of Conveyance since the year 2015. Entire valuable consideration in terms of the said conveyance deeds has been paid by our Clients to the Vendors. It has now come to notice of our Clients that the said Vendors misrepresenting themselves as the owners, acting unlawfully, dishonestly, without any subsisting rights or titles, or authority, whatsoever, and in connivance with certain other third parties are attempting to create certain third party rights and interests in the said property. Our clients have initiated all lawful and legal steps, both civil and criminal, as prescribed, to protect their rights and titles over the above said properties and as required before competent authorities/courts/tribunals. Any person or persons intending to deal with any part or whole of the said property, in any form or manner whatsoever, are hereby cautioned to immediately cease and desist from any such transaction, acts, or deeds, and not to proceed any further. Our Clients shall assume no liability towards any consequential losses qua the same, nor shall it create any lawful rights in favour of any third party, whomsoever, and the same shall be non-est and void ab initio. Any person or persons claiming or asserting any rights, titles, claims or interests of any nature, whatsoever, in relation to any part or whole of the said Property, are hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with authenticated documentary evidence not later than 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice, failing which it shall be presumed that any and all such claims have been waived in favour of our Clients and they shall stand extinguished forever. AAA Legal Advocates & Solicitors UGF 70-71 WTC- World Trade Centre, Babar Road New Delhi-110 001. Tel/Fax: 011-455 00077 & 455 00088 | Email: newdelhi@aaalegal.co

E-AUCTION FOR DISPLAY COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT E-auction for display commercial Advertising contract over Tinsukia Division. Details are as under : Auction Catalogue No.: ADVT-TSK-OOH-23; Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots) : 11:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024; Auction Close Date & Time : 13:20 hrs. on 30-10-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: 1095. Seq No. Lot No./Category Description AA/1 ADVT-TSK-DBRT-OH-8-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement 05 Railway colonies at Dibrugarh Town. AA/2 ADVT-TSK-DBRG-OH-216-23-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial Advertising Contract at Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, Digboi, Dulaijan, Simaluguri, Jorhat for a period of 03 years. AA/3 ADVT-TSK-DBRT-OH-4-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement of 59 LC gates from Dibrugarh to Tinsukia station section. AA/4 ADVT-TSK-GLGT-OH-7-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement of 14 LC Gates from Furkating Jn. to Mariani Jn. section. AA/5 ADVT-TSK-SLGR-OH-103-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Advertisement Commercial contract for display of 11 Nos of hoarding boards (Total area 2500sqft) located at Simaluguri Railway Colony. AA/6 ADVT-TSK-NTSK-OH-10-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement at New Tinsukia Colonies. AA/7 ADVT-TSK-DUG-OH-101-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Advertisement Commercial contract for display of 3 Nos of hoarding boards (Total area 2357sqft) located at Dulaijan Railway Colony. AA/8 ADVT-TSK-NHK-OH-102-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Advertisement Commercial contract for display of 3 Nos of hoarding boards (Total area 1840 sqft) located at Naharkatia Railway Colony. AA/9 ADVT-TSK-MJN-OH-5-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement of 18 LC gates from Makum to Dangri section. AA/10 ADVT-TSK-FKG-OH-6-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement of 40 LC gates from Tinsukia to Furkating section. AA/11 ADVT-TSK-DMGN-OH-145-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Advertisement Commercial contract at Bogibeel approach road ((Total area 1722.23sqft) located at Dhamalgaon - Tangani section. AA/12 ADVT-TSK-MXN-OH-9-22-1 (Advertising - Out of Home) Commercial advertisement at Mariani Railway Station. The press notification has already been updated in the IREPS website on 09-10-2024 through e-auction portal www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

PM Modi advocates ethical global digital framework

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a fervent pitch for framing of a global digital framework, with clear-cut dos and don'ts for ethical use of technology. Speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication Union - WTSA and India Mobile Congress here, he said just like the aviation sector, where the global community has framed a comprehensive framework, the digital world too needs rules and regulations. Global institutions, he said,



should come together to work out dos and don'ts. He went on to emphasise on ethical use of AI with security, dignity, equity being at the centre. Talking of India's experience, he said after the expeditious

roll out, 5G telecom services are now available in most places across the country and work on 6G has already begun. Giving out statistics, the Prime Minister said India has in the last decade become an exporter of mobile phones

from being an importer, and has laid an optic fibre network that is eight-time more than the distance between earth and the moon. India's digital vision that was unveiled in 2014 rests on four pillars making devices cheaper, connectivity reaching all concerns, affordable data and digital-first, he said. "We have made digital connectivity an effective tool for last-mile delivery," he said. Modi said India is willing to share its experience of successful building of digital public infrastructure with the rest of the world.

India poised to lead global 6G: Scindia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is resolved to lead the world in 6G, communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday, terming the telecom sector of the country as 'aggressive' and 'ambitious'. Scindia, speaking at the inauguration of India Mobile Congress and World Telecommunication Standardization (WTSA) 2024, said with the Bharat 6G Alliance, India hopes to contribute at least 10 per cent patents to 6G standardisation. "It is our belief and our commitment India followed the world in 4G, we marched with the world in 5G, but we shall lead the world in 6G," the minister asserted. With the fastest 5G rollout in India wherein 98 per cent of districts and 90 per cent of all villages were covered in a



span of just 21 months, Scindia said it is the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort of not just embracing, but bracing the country to become the first-mover in 6G technology. "It is noteworthy that the Indian Mobile Congress and the International 6G Symposium demonstrates both local and global advancements in 6G, and also design principles that will shape the future of telecom," he further said.

The recent changes to the Telecommunications Act 2023 have been designed in such a way so as to modernise India's telecom framework, drawing light upon hitherto unaddressed areas such as the high potential sector of satellite communications, addressing the challenges of the digital era, the most important being cyber security, Scindia said. "The telecom sector, much like other growth-critical sectors in India, is aggressive,

is ambitious, and its outlook in our journey from Amrit Kaal to Shatabdi Kaal is to lead the world," he said. India Mobile Congress (IMC) is an annual event organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). IMC 2024 will see participation from over 400 exhibitors, nearly 900 startups, and participation from 120+ countries. About 3,200 delegates from over 160 countries are part of the WTSA assembly. "We are confident that this (WTSA), along with the Indian Mobile Congress in its 8th edition. Will serve as a breeding ground for innovation, but also showcase India's impending but inevitable emergence as a global hub for telecommunications across the world," Scindia said.

Government planning development beyond elections: Vaishnav

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is laying the process of development which is 'beyond the cycle of elections' for India to be able to grow six to seven times the current level to become a developed nation by 2047, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Tuesday. Addressing a symposium by the Indian Foundation for Quality Management (IFQM), the Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, said one of the key elements of the government's goal of a developed nation is having "a very inclusive and harmonious society". For India to become a developed nation by 2047, the target for measurable parameters is "USD 18,000 per capita income



and USD 30 trillion nominal GDP", he said. "Today, we are just shy of USD 4 trillion nominal (GDP), just shy of about USD 3,000 nominal per capita.

It means we have a path where we need to grow about '6x' '7x' in the next 25 years," Vaishnav asserted. Sharing the government's approach to meet the

target, the minister said, "It needs a very strong foundation, a very carefully thought through strategy, meticulous execution, and laying the process of development, which is beyond the cycle of elections." He further said that the intent of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to build further on the foundation laid in the past ten years. "What we are going to do in these five years of Prime Minister Modi, his third term, will be beyond the cycle of elections will be beyond the cycle of business cycles," Vaishnav said. Taking a dig at the Opposition without naming anyone, he added it will be beyond "people who can, who have a lot of destructive mindsets. It's beyond the capability

of such destructive mindsets. That's the thought process." Elaborating on what the government meant by becoming a developed nation, the minister said, "First is a very inclusive and harmonious society. First and foremost is a very inclusive and harmonious society, a society which cares for everybody, a society which considers every section of the society as equally important and gives opportunities for everybody to come up." He further said, "The second big element of being a Viksit Bharat is to have the social, physical and digital infra place in place." The third, he said is meeting the measurable parameters of per capita income and GDP to meet the set targets.

Samsung workers call off strike, to return to work: TN govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over a month-long indefinite strike by the employees of Samsung India Electronics Ltd at its plant near here was called off on Tuesday and the workers have decided to resume work, the Tamil Nadu government said. The state government in a statement said the strike at the factory of the Korean electronics giant in Sriperumbudur has come to an end and all the workers would get back to work. Pressing for various demands, about 1,100 workers of the total 1,750 employees of Samsung India have been on strike since September 9, which includes wage revision, better work conditions, registration of the newly formed Samsung India Workers Union backed by



CITU by the labour department. The decision to call off the strike was taken at the conciliatory meeting which was held at the office of the Department of Labour Welfare here on Tuesday in which representatives from the Samsung India and the

striking workers took part. "All the striking workers will call off the agitation and return to work immediately. On returning to work the management will not victimise the workers for having participated in the protest," an official release said.

Coal India digitises fuel supply agreements process

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Tuesday said that it has started the online process of signing fuel supply pacts with its various clients including those in the power sector to ensure ease of business. With this move, CIL has discontinued with the earlier practice of physical submission of official papers, while bank guarantees and other required documents can be submitted through digital mode. "Coal India Ltd, in a first ever, introduced online signing of fuel supply agreements (FSA) for power as well as non-regulated sector customers participating under linkage based auctions," the company said in a statement. To ensure ease of business, CIL said, it has also cut down

the number of documents that were required to be submitted. "The online signing of FSAs for linkage auctions...Evades the cumbersome process of voluminous documents. It ushers in greater customer ease as they can conduct the entire process from their place of work without having to visit the coal companies," a senior executive of the company said. Previously, in case of any discrepancy in documents, customers had to visit the company to get them rectified. Now, this can be done online. CIL signs hundreds of FSAs annually necessitating maintenance of bulky documents. The electronic arrangement makes the upkeep much easier.



Since the documents are stored digitally, tracking the status of progress also gets simplified at supplier and customer ends. Among non-regulated sectors so far, nearly 700 FSAs have been formalised online for a total of about 19 million tonnes of coal supply. In case of power sector 262 FSAs have been signed digitally till now for a total quantity of around 24 MT. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

Corporate India to maintain 9.5 per cent salary increase in 2025: WTW survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Corporate India is expected to offer a salary hike of 9.5 per cent in 2025, similar to the 2024 actual salary increase, as companies are balancing optimism with caution, a report said on Tuesday. According to WTW's latest Salary Budget Planning Report, the median salary increase in India is forecasted to rise by 9.5 per cent in 2025, similar to the 2024 actual salary increase of 9.5 per cent. Salary increases in India continue to be the highest across the region. Markets such as Vietnam (7.6 per cent), Indonesia (6.5 per cent), the Philippines (5.6 per cent), China (5 per cent) and Thailand (5 per cent) are also projected to maintain a strong salary increase for next year. The Salary Budget Planning Report is compiled by WTW's Rewards Data Intelligence practice. The

survey was conducted in April and June 2024. Approximately 32,000 responses were received from companies across 168 countries worldwide. The survey had 709 participants from India. "While companies in India are optimistic about growth, they are balancing optimism with caution. The era of 'Great resignation' is behind us, both employers and employees are now seeking stability and the market sentiment is notably steadier," Rajul Mathur, Consulting Leader, Work and Rewards, WTW India said. In 2025, salary increases across industries such as the Pharmaceuticals (10 per cent), Manufacturing (9.9 per cent), Insurance (9.7 per cent), Captives and SSO sectors (9.7 per cent) and Retail (9.6 per cent) are likely to be above the general industry salary median, whereas software and



Business Services at 9 per cent are projected below the general industry median of 9.5 per cent. "India's captive sector is thriving, with a forecasted jump from around 1,500 captives in 2023 to 2,000 by 2025. As the home to nearly half of the world's global capability centres, the country's rich pool of skilled talent is driving innovation and boosting projected salary increases", Mathur added. In 2025, variable payouts are projected to remain consistent at 12.5 per cent, following 2024's 12.6 per cent. As organisations prioritise performance, they are assigning larger portions

of their variable pay budgets to top and above-average performers, ensuring talent is recognised and suitably rewarded. "Organisations are placing a stronger emphasis on performance-based pay differentiation. This trend sees top performers potentially earning salary increments three times that of average performers, while above-average performers are expected to receive about 1.2 times the increment of an average performer," Mathur said. In terms of hiring, almost 28 per cent of companies plan to add headcount in the next 12 months, while 68 per cent

companies plan to maintain their headcount in 2025 as compared to the previous year. With higher growth rates anticipated, India's voluntary attrition rate continues to be one of the highest in the region. However, it is observed that the voluntary attrition rates in India have reduced slightly from 11 per cent in 2023 to 10.8 per cent in 2024. In addition, around 46 per cent of companies in India expect that their salary increase budgets for 2025 will be similar to 2024, while 28 per cent said that the budgets are likely to be lower than projected. Concerns related to cost management, inflationary pressures, anticipated recession. A tighter labour market are the major factors influencing budget projections for 2025, the report said.

Government to verify air purifier claims amid pollution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday announced plans to conduct market surveillance to verify claims made by air purifier manufacturers, amid rising concerns about pollution in Delhi and other major cities. This move comes in response to Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday accusing some companies of making false assertions about their products. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, addressing a media briefing on Tuesday, stated, "We will try to see through market surveillance and check if the claims are correct or not." Khare also mentioned that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has taken note of the issue and will examine compliance with existing quality control orders on air filters. The announcement follows Joshi's remarks at a World Standards Day event, where



he expressed concern over misleading marketing tactics. "Air purifiers make such false claims. We see air purifiers and so much is written but nothing is there in it. There is just a fan in it, yet claims are still made," Joshi had said, highlighting the need for increased consumer awareness. The minister advocated for a collaborative approach involving the BIS, the consumer affairs ministry, and consumers to address the issue. This initiative comes at a time when rising pollution levels in Indian cities have led to increased public interest in air purifiers.

Soybean output reaches 126 lakh tonnes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Soybean production in the country has increased by about 6 per cent to nearly 126 lakh tonnes in the current kharif season due to favourable weather conditions, an organisation of the crop processors said on Tuesday. Its acreage remained almost the same as last season, the trade body said. During the last kharif season, the average productivity of soybean per hectare in the country was 1,002 kg, while this time it has increased to 1,063 kg. Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) Executive Director D N Pathak told PTI. "This time the distribution of monsoon rains in the major soybean producing areas of the country was good, which boosted the crop yield. The adoption of advanced methods of farming by cultivators and increased the crop yield," he said. After the sowing of soybean during the kharif season of 2023, there was a severe lack of moisture in the fields due to lack of rain for three weeks in the major soybean producing areas in August, as a result the crop productivity



fell, Pathak said. As per the SOPA's estimate, during the kharif season in the country this time, soybean was sown in 118.32 lakh hectares and its yield was 125.82 lakh tonnes. During the kharif season of 2023, soybean was sown in a total of 118.55 lakh hectares in the country and the yield of this oilseed crop was around 118.74 lakh tonnes, as per the association's data. This time in Madhya Pradesh, which is the largest soybean producer in the country, the crop was sown in about 52 lakh hectares and its production stood at the level of 55.40 lakh tonnes, according to the SOPA. In the current kharif season, soybean production is estimated to be 50.17 lakh

tonnes from 45 lakh hectares of area in Maharashtra, while the crop was sown in 11.13 lakh hectares in Rajasthan and its yield was around 10.53 lakh tonnes, as per the organisation. India imports about 60 per cent of its edible oil requirements. In such a situation, experts feel that to achieve the ambitious target of self-sufficiency in the production of edible oils, there is a need to increase the production of major oilseed crops like soybean in the country. The central government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of soybean for the marketing season 2024-25 to Rs 4,892 per quintal from Rs 4,600 per quintal in the last season.

ASSOCHAM, Savlon lead handwashing drive in NDMC schools

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to inculcate the importance of healthy habits among students and encourage widespread behaviour change in hygiene practices through handwashing, ASSOCHAM Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR), the social arm of ASSOCHAM, organised an awareness drive across New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) schools here on the occasion of 'Global Handwashing Day'. Supported by hygiene brand Savlon and covering nearly 28,000 students across 43 NDMC schools, AFCSR conducted the programme in a hub and spoke model in which a mega activity was organised at Atal Aadarsh Bengali Balika Vidyalaya, Gole Market and parallel activities were carried out in other NDMC schools. Speaking about the initiative, Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National CSR Council, said, "There is an old saying that good habits formed at a young age make



all the difference. I believe that on this global handwashing day, the youth have to understand, incorporate and disseminate information on the importance of handwashing. Every year about 1.8 million children under the age of 5 die from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia that are attributed to poor hand hygiene, and therefore, it is my firm conviction that the incorporation of this habit in our daily routine will go a long way in leading a healthy and productive life at an individual level, along with creating a high performing society that will increasingly

contribute towards nation building." Pramod Kumar, Academic Consultant, New Delhi Municipal Council, (NDMC), said, "Awareness and behaviour formation from an early age has a multiplying effect on the potential benefits and impact on human lives. Today's event not only highlights the importance of handwashing, it also delivers valuable lessons on the impact of personal hygiene on public health and betterment. Initiatives such as this will surely have a positive impact on the future of the children and also of the society in general."

Lakshya, Malvika make first-round exits at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

India's Lakshya Sen battled hard against China's Lu Guang Zu but ultimately lost in three games to make an early exit from the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. Lakshya, a 2021 World championship bronze medallist, squandered an opening game advantage, losing 21-12 19-21 14-21 to Lu in a men's singles opening round match which lasted 70 minutes.

Malvika Bansod, who had reached the quarterfinals at China Open, also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down to Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh 13-21 12-21 in women's singles. Panda sisters Rutaparna and Swetaparna also made a first-round exit after losing 18-21 22-24 against Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in women's doubles. Lakshya, competing in his second event since the Olympics, kept pace with his Chinese rival before pulling ahead at 8-8 to take an 11-9 advantage at the break. The Indian kept his nose ahead after resumption and jumped to 20-11 with a



seven-point burst to comfortably pocket the opening game. After the change of sides, Lakshya surged to 8-2 but Lu rallied to narrow the gap to 11-12. The Indian extended his lead to 16-11 but Lu's persistence paid off as he kept troubling Lakshya and reversed the situation, taking 19-18 lead. The Indian drew parity but Lu got the required two points to script a comeback. In the decider, Lu maintained his composure and pulled ahead to 14-9, while the Indian struggled to keep pace. In a jiffy, Lu seized six match points and sealed the victory when Lakshya went long.



Alex Ferguson to step down as club ambassador

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

Manchester United great Alex Ferguson will step down from his role as club ambassador at the end of the season, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the move has not been publicly announced. Ferguson will be 83 in December and the person said the ending of his ambassadorship was "amicable" and he would "always be welcome at Old Trafford."

Ferguson won 13 Premier League titles with United and is widely regarded as one of the finest managers in the history of soccer. He is United's most successful manager, having won 28 major trophies. He has been a club ambassador since retiring after leading United to its last league title in 2013. His imminent departure comes at a time when the club is undergoing major change following the partial buyout by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe in February.

United has undergone an extensive restructuring program following Ratcliffe's investment of \$1.3 billion for a 27.7% stake and implemented cost-saving initiatives that it said included staff redundancies of around 250 roles. United reported losses of 113.2 million pounds (\$148 million) in its latest accounts. Ferguson was hired by United in 1986 at a time when the club had long-since lost its place as the pre-eminent force in English soccer.

He ended its 26-year wait for the league title in 1993 and went on to dominate the Premier League era right up until his retirement when United was crowned champion with an 11-point lead over Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City. He also won two Champions League titles and an unprecedented treble of trophies in 1999 when leading United to victory in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. He has been a regular spectator at United games since his retirement, watching the team home and away during a time when the club has been in obvious decline on the field. Ratcliffe assumed control of United's soccer operations as part of his minority investment. The sporting side had previously been under the control of the majority owning American Glazer family. A new CEO, Omar Berrada, and sporting director, Dan Ashworth, have been installed, while key figures at Ratcliffe's Ineos Sport, Dave Brailsford and Jean-Claude Blanc, have been appointed to the board.

Udita attracts highest bid in first half of HIL women's auction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian defender Udita Duhan emerged as the costliest buy in the first half of the Hockey India League women's auction after she was acquired by Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 32 lakh here on Tuesday. Dutch star drag-flicker Yibbi Janssen was the second most expensive player and was bought by Odisha Warriors for Rs 29 lakh.

Indian players Lalremsiami (for Rs 25 lakh to Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers), Sunelita Toppo (for Rs 24 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers), and Sangita Kumari (for Rs 22 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers) attracted significant attention in the first half of the auction.

Several overseas players, including Belgium's Charlotte Englebert (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), Germany's Charlotte Staphenhorst (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), and Australia's Jocelyn Bartram (for Rs 15 lakh to Odisha Warriors) were the notable buys.

Veteran India striker Vandana Katariya fetched Rs 10.5 lakh from Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers.



India captain Salima Tete (Rs 20 lakh), Ishika Chaudhary (Rs 16 lakh) and Neha Goyal (Rs 10 lakh) were picked up by Odisha Warriors. Former India captain Savita (Rs 20 lakh), Sharmila Devi (Rs 10 lakh) and Nikki Pradhan (Rs 12 lakh) are some of the big Indian names bought by Soorma

Hockey Club. Delhi SG Pipers also picked up India internationals Navneet Kaur (Rs 19 lakh), young goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam (Rs 16 lakh) and Deepika (Rs 20 lakh). In the first half of the auction, all four franchises made strategic bids to build their core team.

I waited for many years for women's HIL: Rani Rampal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rani Rampal waited for the women's Hockey India League as a player for years but now that the league will finally see the light of the day, the former India captain will wear a different hat.

Rani, who captained India to a historic fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, will be the mentor and coach of Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana in the women's HIL which will make its debut later this year.

"Hockey is my passion and I played my entire career with that. It was always in my mind that I will definitely accept any opportunity to serve Indian hockey. Hockey was always on my mind," Rani said on the sidelines of the HIL women's auction here on Tuesday.

"I tried a lot to make a comeback in the national team but could not do so before the Paris Olympics. I had waited for many years for this women's league and when it started, it felt very good to be a part of the coaching staff and not as a player," said the 30-year-old Padma Shri awardee, who has scored 134 goals in 212 matches for India.

"Asked why she opted out of the



league as she had not officially announced her retirement yet, Rani said: "I am a female player and I have faced a lot of struggles. A player is always a player. The desire to play never ends."

"But sometimes you have to make a difficult decision and I decided to join the coaching staff.

"It is difficult to talk about retirement right now. Now I will face a new challenge in the league and after that I will take a final decision."

Rani admitted that India's failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics was a setback for women's hockey in the country, but said there is no point in thinking about the

Bangladesh coach Hathurusingha suspended



Chandika Hathurusingha



Phil Simmons

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has suspended men's team head coach Chandika Hathurusingha due to inappropriate conduct by him during last year's ODI World Cup in India. Hathurusingha, the former Sri Lanka all-rounder under whom Bangladesh recently endured a forgettable tour of

India where they were whitewashed in both the Test and T20I series, will be sacked and replaced by former West Indies player Phil Simmons. "According to ESPNcricinfo, Simmons, who was also an all-rounder and opened the batting for the West Indies in the early and mid 1990s, will be in charge of the Bangladesh team until next year's ICC Champions

Trophy. "Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha has been suspended following allegations he slapped a player at last year's ODI World Cup. His contract will be terminated after 48 hours of suspension, with Phil Simmons to take over until next year's Champions Trophy," the website said. "The BCB investigated an

allegation from a player that the coach had slapped him during the World Cup last year.

The contract of the 56-year-old Hathurusingha, who rejoined the Bangladesh team in February last year for a second stint with the Asian side, was to expire after the 2025 Champions Trophy.

'He will therefore not be present with the team for the upcoming two-match Test series at home against South Africa.

'He took the team to India on the back of a historic Test series sweep in Pakistan only to suffer an embarrassing 0-2 defeat in the two-Test series against Rohit Sharma's side and a 0-3 loss in the T20I series.

'His exit marks an underwhelming end to his brief stint as Bangladesh coach with debacles in the 2023 ODI World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Arsenal Women coach Jonas Eidevall quits less than a month into the new season

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal Women manager Jonas Eidevall quit on Tuesday, less than a month into the new season. The English team has won just one of its first four matches in the Women's Super League and lost its opening game in the Champions League group stage, 5-2 at Bayern Munich. Eidevall joined in June 2021 from FC Rosengard in his native Sweden and led Arsenal to two League Cup titles as well as the Champions League semifinals in the 2022-23 season. It was the first time in 10 years Arsenal reached that stage in Europe's top club competition. His last game in charge was a 2-1 home loss to Chelsea in the Super League on Saturday.

Arsenal said Eidevall



resigned with immediate effect. "We have great respect for the dedication and commitment he showed to our women's first team," Arsenal sporting director Edu Gaspar said of Eidevall, "and recognize the role he has played in the growth and

development of Arsenal Women." Assistant coach Renée Slegers will take charge of the team on an interim basis, starting with the home match against Valerenga in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Italy-Israel soccer match is held without incident despite security concerns

AP ■ UDINE

There were snipers on the roof of the stadium and a heavy police presence throughout the city of Udine for Italy's home match against Israel. In the end, both the game and an earlier pro-Palestine demonstration passed without incident as Italy beat Israel 4-1 in the Nations League.

Udine was on high alert, with the game being played against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East which has spread to Lebanon after more than a year-long war in Gaza. It was the first match Israel has played outside neutral Hungary this year. After the Israel-Hamas war

started on Oct. 7 last year, the national soccer team played in Kosovo and Andorra last November.

All Israel matches since then have been in Hungary, including last month's game against Belgium in the Nations League after the Belgian Football Association refused to host the game for security reasons.

"We are going to play this match with the hope of convincing ever more people of the wrongness of war," Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said.

"There are many Israelis who don't want it and we must convince ever more people that this is something that has to stop." When Spalletti's team played its "away" match against



Israel last month in Hungary, a group of about 50 Italy fans clad in all black turned their backs in apparent protest during Israel's national anthem.

There were boos from some fans in Udine when the Israeli anthem was played on Monday but the rest of the stadium tried to drown that out with loud applause - just as they had done when the Israel team was read out. At least one Palestinian flag was held up.

There was a highly visible group of around a dozen Israel fans and they loudly chanted their support. Fewer than 12,000 tickets were sold for Monday's match - less than half the capacity of the 25,000-seater Stadio Friuli - amid stringent

security measures, that also included armed military personnel on the roof of the stadium.

Areas around the stadium were blocked off 48 hours before kickoff and declared a "red zone," and only fans with tickets could pass through the tall metal barriers.

Supporters were strongly advised to arrive early because of rigorous checks. Hundreds of extra police officers were called up from surrounding areas.

Around 1,000 people took part in a pro-Palestine demonstration earlier in the city center. Among the placards, there were several posters calling on soccer's governing bodies to ban Israel.

1ST TEST: GILL, JAISWAL CONTINUE GOOD FORM; KOHLI, ROHIT EYE CONSISTENT RUN

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, the torchbearers of India's transition phase, will have to be the team's driving force in its quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand when the two sides square off in a three-Test series, beginning here on Wednesday.

deliveries from pacers, but a trace of the old failing still remains. In Chennai, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud troubled him with nip-backers before eventually grabbing his wicket.



runs in eight Tests at just over 35. Kohli, 53 runs shy of 9000 Test runs, has not made even a fifty in six innings this year, and while Rohit often perishes in his attempt to grab the momentum, his colleague offers a much more curious case.

Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra - the tribe which has been a thorn in his flesh in the past. It has been a while since these two stalwarts embossed their mark across a full series, and a nervy New Zealand could be their golden chance to do so.

Don't want to take undercooked Shami to Australia: Rohit

India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee showdown.

final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that. "To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series.



Rohit Sharma speaking at a press conference.

per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios and the doctors at NCA," he added.

to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us. "It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so much of cricket, and then suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted.

him enough time to recover and be 100 per cent fit. The physios, the trainers, the doctors have set a roadmap for him. "He is supposed to play a couple of (practice) games before he plays international cricket," he added.

New Zealand pacer Ben Sears ruled out of India tour due to knee injury

New Zealand right-arm pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the upcoming three-Test series against India due to a knee injury. The opening Test begins here on Tuesday. Sears's departure to India was delayed after he experienced pain in his left knee during New Zealand's recent tour of Sri Lanka.

medical consultations in hopes he could be cleared to play. "However, following the medical advice, the decision was made to rule him out of the series. A plan on the best course of treatment and rehabilitation for the injury will be advised in due course," New Zealand Cricket said.

Keeping Jasprit Bumrah quiet will go a long way in winning against India: Pat Cummins

Australia will have to find a way to keep Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah quiet if they are to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, reckoned captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday as they draw comfort from success in last two ICC finals against their fierce rivals.



"Alongside him, he has got some other guys who haven't played a lot over here in Australia (that) we haven't seen a lot of. We'll see how it goes," he added. Cummins said Australia will lean on happy memories of winning the last two ICC finals -- World Test Championship and ODI World Cup -- against Rohit Sharma's India.

are pretty organised, pretty well-planned. "Fortunately, over the last few years, we've had some success in the World Test Championship final and (in) a different format for the ODI World Cup. We'll be trying to lean on those memories. As I'm sure they're trying to remember some of the previous series over here as well," he said.

Official notice from the Government of Odisha regarding the procurement of Annual Maintenance works. Includes details on bid identification number, date, and contact information.

Invitation for Bids notice from the Superintendent Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division. Details include nature of work, bid cost, and availability of bid documents.

Latham looking forward to challenge of beating "well-rounded" India

New Zealand captain Tom Latham on Tuesday conceded that beating a "well-rounded" India would be an enormous task but said his team is ready to face the challenge over the course of a three-match Test series, beginning here from Wednesday.

presence of former captain Kane Williamson, who has been ruled out of the early part of this tour owing to a groin injury. "It's disappointing not to have Kane here. Fingers crossed he'll be ready as soon as possible. I think Youngie (Will Young) will play. He'll bat at three. He's batted all over the order. I guess it's his opportunity to put his hand up."

Procurement Notice from the Superintendent Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division. Details include bid identification number, date, and nature of work.

Invitation for Bids notice from the Superintendent Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division. Details include bid identification number, date, and nature of work.

State Pollution Control Board, Odisha notice regarding pollution-free Ganesh Puja. Includes guidelines for idol immersion and disposal of materials.