



the pioneer

CHANDIGARH, MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

www.dailypioneer.com

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



KASHMIR UNDER ATTACK



FILE PHOTO/PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the second dastardly act of terror in the last two days, two non-local construction workers were killed and two others were injured by terrorists near Sonamarg in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday evening. This is also the second major incident of terrorist violence after the formation of the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir. According to preliminary reports, the terrorists opened fire on the camp housing labourers of a private company working on the construction of a tunnel in the Gund area in the Ganderbal district. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately. Both the workers were shot in the head. Their bodies were seen lying on the floor of the camp while panicked migrant workers

were seen taking videos. The workers who were targeted by the group of terrorists were part of the construction team working on the Z Morh tunnel, connecting Gaganer to Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The 6.412 km long Z-Morh tunnel, a flagship project, aims to ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Sonamarg and Kargil in Ladakh. A migrant worker, hailing from the Banka district of Bihar, was mercilessly killed by terrorists in the Wachi area of Shopian on Friday. He worked in the corn fields to earn his livelihood. Official sources claimed two labourers died on the spot while two others sustained injuries, they said, adding further details are awaited. Police and army have cordoned off the area to track down the footprints of the terrorists. Reacting to the news Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted a message on X

(earlier Twitter), "Very sad news of a dastardly & cowardly attack on non-local labourers at Gagangir in Sonamarg region. These people were working on a key infrastructure project in the area. 2 have been killed & 2-3 more have been injured in this militant attack. I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people & send my condolences to their loved ones". In February this year, two migrant workers hailing from Amritsar were targeted from a close range by unidentified terrorists in the Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar. A sikh carpenter identified as 31-year-old Amritpal Singh was killed on the spot while another person identified as Rohit Masih succumbed to his critical injuries the next day. In 2023, a total number of 14 civilians were killed in different incidents of terrorist-related violence while 31 were killed in 2022, 41 in 2021, 38 in 2020, and 44 in 2019 across J&K.



Hoax threats to airlines continue on Sunday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The menace of hoax bomb threat calls to airlines continued on Sunday, with more than 24 flights of IndiGo, Air India, Akasa Air and Vistara flights receiving fresh bomb threats messages. This affected both domestic and international flights, scaring air passengers in the festive season. Six flights each of IndiGo, Vistara and Air India received the threats. So far this week, more than 90 flights have received bomb threats and most of them have turned out to be hoaxes. The overall impact of these hoax threats has resulted in financial losses of up to Rs 100 crore for various airlines. IndiGo released a series of press statements sharing details of the bomb threat received by the flights. In its statement, IndiGo confirmed the airline is cognisant of a situation involving flight 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E133 (Pune to Jodhpur) and 6E112 operating (Goa to Ahmedabad). Security alerts were received for six Akasa Air flights - QP 1102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1378 (Delhi to Goa), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1406 (Delhi to Hyderabad), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai) and QP 1526 (Lucknow to Mumbai). Vistara said it got security threats for six flights - UK25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK146 (Bali to Delhi), UK116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK110 (Singapore to Pune) and UK107 (Mumbai to Singapore). "In line with the protocols, all relevant authorities were immediately notified, and security procedures, as directed by them, are being carried out," a Vistara spokesperson said in a statement.

Bomb blast shatters Delhi's Sunday slumber

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Shattered glass panes, showcases, signboards, frightened residents and heavy deployment of intra-department security forces marked a high stress Sunday in the National Capital. Delhi woke up to the shocking news of a 'bomb blast' near the renowned Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) school in Rohini Sector-14 on Sunday morning, when many had woken up early to begin rituals for Karwachauth, a festival celebrated by married women. While the school was closed for the weekend, the markets were to open as usual, especially sweet shops as the festive season has begun in the city. A quiet Sunday morning turned into a nightmare for the residents when they heard a loud blast around 7:45 am. The sound they recalled could be heard up to a kilometer away. The Prashant Vihar area where the blast occurred is densely populated and has residential buildings, schools, Rohini Court and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) complex. Pramod Chauhan, a security guard, who was on duty outside a jewelry shop right opposite of the school at the time of the blast, said that there was dense smoke for at least 10 minutes after a sudden loud noise was heard. "I was almost about to leave since my shift was over when the blast happened. I could not see anything for the next 10 minutes after the blast as there was thick white smoke all around. My heart started palpating very fast. The glass panes of the shops around were shattered, and cars that were parked near the school were also damaged," 52-year-old Chauhan said. He added that there was a "chemical-like smell" from the site, and that the police arrived about 20 minutes after the incident. The owner of the shop Vinod Kumar said that he incurred losses worth Rs 2 lakhs because of the blast. Ankit, a 25-year-old who lives near the CRPF school said the sound was so loud that it was heard for at least a kilometer away from the place.



National Security Guard (NSG) personnel conduct investigations at the site of the blast at Prashant Vihar, near the CRPF school in Rohini area of New Delhi on Sunday

According to police sources, the investigation may be transferred to the National Investigative Agency (NIA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday, after it sought a report from the Delhi Police on the matter. The Delhi Police has already submitted a preliminary report to the MHA. Police officials added that it seems to be a crude bomb made of ammonium nitrate and ammonium chloride. The usually bustling area which has markets and eateries was relatively quiet and many shops remained closed on Sunday. Residents also stayed in their homes. A frightened Kiran Sachdeva, a resident of the locality, described the blast as "an earthquake-like shock," that they felt in her house which was about 200-250 meters away from the site. A senior police official said, "On Sunday, at 07:47 am, a PCR call was received in which the caller informed that a blast with a lot of noise took

place near CRPF school Sector 14, Rohini. Local police reached the spot, where the school wall was found damaged with a foul smell. The glasses of a nearby shop and a car parked near the shop were found to be damaged." The place has been cordoned off and there is heavy deployment of officials from Crime team, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, bomb squad team, National Security Guard (NSG) team, National Investigative Agency (NIA) team, CRPF Team and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team visited the spot. "FSL and NSG teams conducted the inspection of spot and lifted samples. A case under section 326(g) (Mischievous injury, inundation, fire or explosive substance, etc) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 4 Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and 3 Explosives Act has been registered at Prashant Vihar police station.

Wayanad hills are alive, with the sound of politics



FILE PHOTO

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The stage is set for a battle royale from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency that sits atop the Western Ghats in Kerala which goes to the polls for a by-election on November 13. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announcing its candidate from the constituency late Saturday evening, the lineup of contestants is ready. Priyanka Gandhi, the super star of Indian National Congress, is making her electoral

debut from Wayanad, which fell vacant following the decision of her sibling Rahul Gandhi to retain the family fiefdom of Rae Bareilly from where he won the 2024 election with a brute majority. Rahul had retained the Wayanad constituency with a mammoth margin of 3,64,422 votes (59.69 per cent of total votes polled) and had literally decimated all his rival candidates. Though the voters in Wayanad were disappointed by his decision to quit the constituency, Rahul had

promised the electorate that a person who would be adored and admired by them would be fielded by the Congress and that is how Priyanka entered the scene. The fact that Priyanka is making her electoral debut from the constituency has brought Wayanad to the global political map. On Sunday, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee announced that Sonia Gandhi will hold a road show in Wayanad on Tuesday along with Priyanka and Rahul, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Sathyan Mokeri of the Communist Party of India (CPI) is the Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate from Wayanad. The BJP has fielded Navya Haridas, leader of the Mahila Morcha (the women's wing of the party) as its fighter. Haridas, an articulate and suave politician is a councillor of Kozhikode Municipal Corporation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others during the inauguration of various projects at the newly-constructed stadium at Sriga, in Varanasi, Sunday

PM Modi gives Diwali gifts to Varanasi, brickbats to Opposition

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a sizable Diwali gift worth over Rs 6,100 Crore to the people of Varanasi. As a third-term Member of Parliament from the constituency, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 23 development projects valued at Rs 6,611.18 crore. The PM inaugurated a range of public facilities, including those related to healthcare, education, sports, religion, tourism, employment, housing, and aviation. This included laying the foundation stone for the expansion of Varanasi Airport and the

construction of a new terminal. Additionally, he inaugurated the RJ Shankara Eye Hospital. He also launched a scathing attack on the Opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress, accusing them of stalling the nation's progress. The PM said that the BJP has been at the forefront of development, especially in honouring sportspersons. Addressing a large gathering at the Sriga Stadium, PM Modi criticised the Opposition, stating, "These people have consistently hindered the country's development. Even today, they create obstacles in developmental work."

BJP releases 99-strong Maharashtra list

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday retained 71 of its sitting MLAs, as it released its first list of 99 candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly polls that contained the names of its bigwigs like Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, state unit President Chandrashekhar Bawankule and as many as 13 women candidates. With the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) still to formalise its tie-up among its constituents and its own MahaYuti allies - the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar) having not released their lists of candidates yet, the BJP became the first major political party in Maharashtra to get off the blocks for the November 20 Assembly polls. The BJP, which heads the grand ruling alliance MahaYuti, is likely to contest anywhere from 155 to 160 seats out of the total 288 seats in the 2024 Assembly polls, as against 164 seats it had contested in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls. The BJP released its first list of



Devendra Fadnis and Chandrashekhar Bawankule

candidates in New Delhi on Sunday, after its central election committee cleared the names at a meeting held on October 16 in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Party president J P Nadda. As many as 71 sitting BJP MLAs out of the total 105 seats the party won in the 2019 State Assembly polls, figure in the first list of candidates. The list also contains the names of second-generation and third-generation leaders. A five-time MLA, Fadnis will contest from Nagpur South West, while State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, who is currently a MLC, would contest the Kamte seat.

Speaker Rahul Narwekar, who has presided over hearings of disqualification petitions filed in connection with the splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP, will contest from Colaba. Among other things, the BJP has fielded former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan's daughter Shreejaya Chavan from the family seat of Bhokar, former Union Minister Raosaheb Danve's Santosh Raosaheb Danve from Bhokardan, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg MP and former Chief Minister Narayan Rane's son Nitesh from Kankavli and late Congress Chief Minister Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar's grandson Sambhaji Patil Nilangekar from Nilanga.



Meri car, meri marzi ... vehicle owners cock a snook at the law

High Security Registration Plates are mandatory since 2022, yet violations continue

BY SAUMYA SHUKLA

Even though High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) were made mandatory by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) since 2022, a drive on the roads of the National Capital shows rampant violations of the same by many vehicles, be it cars, buses, auto-rickshaws or bikes, despite hefty challans of up to Rs 10,000 in force by the Delhi Police. A transport and traffic expert said that around 40 per cent of vehicles made prior to 2019, in Delhi, do not comply with the HSRP rule. The MoRTH had notified the HSRP in December 2018. The unique HSRP is linked electronically to the vehicle after its affixation, and comes embedded with a chromium-based Ashoka Chakra symbol in a blue-coloured hologram.

As per the guidelines of the Union Ministry, all motor vehicle owners must install an HSRP. All vehicles purchased after the year 2019 already have the HSRP installed. Mahesh Malhotra, Secretary of the Association of Registration Plate Manufacturers of India (ARPMI) revealed while there are guidelines to implement the same, real action is missing on the ground. "Under the Section 50 of CMVA (Central Motor Vehicles Act 1989), all vehicles after 1 April 2019 will be fitted with the HSRP at the time of the registration. With these provisions, all vehicles in Delhi after the said date have near 100 per cent compliance. However, vehicles prior to the date of order have not met with more than 40 per cent compliance," he stated, adding that although it is mandated by the law, the HSRP are also helpful



to the vehicle owners. One can easily distinguish between an ordinary number plate and an HSRP. Its distinctive design aids law enforcement in

tracking and identifying vehicles, reducing vehicle thefts and fraud. It is also impossible to make counterfeit plates, which enhances authenticity and

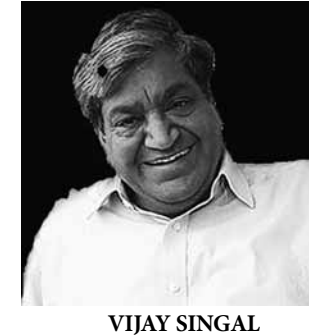
prevents fraudulent activities. Unlike conventional plates, the HSRPs are difficult to remove, alter, or tamper with. Their non-reusable and non-removable

locking system significantly reduces the risk of vehicle theft. However, due to the lack of strict implementation on the ground, many vehicles still have old

number plates affixed. The Delhi Traffic Police department stated, "As per order of MoRTH, HSRP plates are necessary for all vehicles-new and old-from 2022. Licence plates that are manufactured after April 2019 already have HSRP elements. After 2022, High Security Number Plates were compulsory to be obtained online or offline for cars that were bought before April 2019." However, despite the hefty fine of up to Rs 10,000 for the non-adherence of the same, the situation on the ground remains as such that those vehicles roam freely on the roads of Delhi without any fear of any challans. A traffic police source said that they avoid penalising such vehicles because the issue of licensing falls with the Delhi transport government and they have to lay down the guidelines properly to ensure action.

VOICE WITHIN VIJAY SINGAL

Ashtanga Yoga - The Eight Steps Towards Self-realisation



promiscuity; and from cravings for possessions beyond one's needs. These moral injunctions are basic rules of conduct which one must follow unconditionally, irrespective of his status in the society or the current circumstances. The second constituent of ashtanga yoga is niyamas (personal observances). These niyamas, the five observances, are shauch (cleanliness of the body and of the mind), santosh (the state of contentment, being happy with whatever one gets), tapa (austerity, self-control), swadhyay (self-study, always being aware of oneself); and Ishvara-pranidhan (love for and trust in God, surrender to a higher power). While the yamas have identified certain evils from which one must abstain, the niyama have specified certain ideals which should always be followed. These two aspects of the moral conduct put together, set out the standards of do's and don'ts adhering to which one can prepare himself for further progress on the path of spiritual growth. The third arm of ashtanga yoga is asana (physical posture to balance body and the mind). It has been stated that the asana should be steady and comfortable. When perfection in asana is gained, then stability and relaxation of the body are achieved effortlessly; and the mind remains ever absorbed in the thought of the infinite. Thereafter, one is no longer troubled by the dualities of sense-experience. When such a mastery of the body and of the mind is achieved, one rises above the feelings of pleasure and pain, honour and dishonour etc. Asana, thus, implies a healthy body and a joyous mind. Pranayama (conscious breathing techniques) has been declared to be the fourth branch of ashtanga yoga. Patanjali has advised that after mastering posture, one must practice control of prana (the life force) by regulating the incoming and outgoing flow, and also the retention of the breath. Practice of pranayama pierces the veil of ignorance that covers the inner light of the soul. Once the veil of ignorance is removed, the mind becomes fit for traversing the path of self-realisation further. The fifth limb of ashtanga yoga is pratyahara (withdrawal from the sensory distractions). When one restrains the senses away from the external cravings and turns them towards inner awareness, one obtains control over himself. Dharana (concentration) is the sixth limb of this eight-fold path of yoga. Focussing the attention on a single point or a particular object is called dharana. By it all the functions of the mind are aligned with each other and are brought to one central point. The goal of concentration is to quieten the mind and prepare it for meditation. The penultimate stage of yoga is called dhyana (meditation). It refers to continuous flow of thought-waves towards the object of concentration. To elaborate, when the concentration on an object is steadily sustained, dharana evolves into dhyana. In the state of meditation, the mind observes its own conduct. In other words, when the mind is established in the state of self-awareness, one witnesses his own thoughts, without being attached to them. Though seemingly alike, there is a subtle distinction between dharana and dhyana. Whereas in dharana one focuses on an object, in dhyana one becomes one with the object. Sense of separateness fades away in dhyana. While dharana silences the thought-waves, dhyana transcends the very thought process. The ultimate goal of all yogic practices is the attainment of samadhi (the state of complete absorption in the self). Therefore, it has been marked as the last (eighth limb) of ashtanga yoga. Samadhi is the state of union with the Divine. In such a state of being, the individual consciousness unites with the universal consciousness. The aspirant has a direct experience of his true nature. He attains liberation. Though the yogic practices prescribed by Patanjali are meant for the seekers of spiritual perfection, yet many of these are beneficial for everyone in their day-to-day life. By following the ethical ideals and undergoing the relevant spiritual practices, one can experience unshakable serenity of mind and long-lasting joy. To summarise, ashtanga yoga offers a holistic system of material growth and spiritual perfection which involves various practices such as ethical living, comfortable physical postures, breathing exercises, self-regulation, concentration and meditation. By following these methods dedicatedly, one can lead a balanced, enlightened, vigorous and joyful life.

Commission agent shot dead by armed assailants in Kurukshetra

his neck and chest. He was initially taken to a hospital and later shifted to a private hospital in Ambala, where he succumbed to his injuries, police said. Superintendent of Police Varun Singha said that a primary investigation suggests that the killing may have stemmed from an old rivalry. Further investigation in the matter is underway and efforts are on to nab the accused, he added. According to Police, two assailants broke the car's glass and one of them fired three shots at the victim, which hit

Agents Association Vinod Kansal said that there is an atmosphere of fear among the commission agents due to such incidents. He demanded that as long as the paddy procurement

season is going on in the grain market, the police should keep a Police Control Room vehicle stationed at the gate of the grain market at all times for the safety of the commission agents.

THE NAWANSHAHR COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD; NAWANSHAHR, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Pb.) | PIN-144514

PUBLIC NOTICE: Sukhdev Singh S/o Sh. Rajpal R/o Vill. Singhpura, Distt. Jind, declare that my Transfer Deed Vaska No. 3022 dated 23-12-2022 Registered as Sub Registrar Safidon, Jind has been lost on dated 16-10-2024 in Singhpura, Safidon, Jind. I want to obtain loan from SBI Urlana Kalan, if anybody find it please contact the Bank within 7 days.

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES DRAW TIME: 06:00 PM ONWARDS DRAW DATE: 20/10/2024

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE: I, Army No. 2673801N Om Prakash Verma son of Sh. Lila Dutt Verma resident of Dehun Chowk, Post Office Kuwarag, Tehsil Kandaghat, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh declare that in the Army Records my wife name is Manita Verma and the date of birth is entered as 15-05-1964, which is wrong. The correct date of birth of my wife is 15-04-1964. Meera Devi and Manita Verma are the names of the same woman. In future my wife should be known as Manita Verma alias Meera Devi. All concerned please note. I, Kamal Singh S/o Ram Pratap R/o village Rampur Jangi, Post Office Nanakpur, Pinjore, Tehsil Kalka, Panchkula, Haryana, Declare that in my father Ram Pratap army service records, wrongly mentioned my DOB 30-07-1976. but my correct DOB is 31-07-1976. Concern note. I, Swarn Kaur W/o Harbans Lal R/o W.No. 15 Baziarghar Basati Khanna Teh-Khanna (Ludhiana) declare that in some of my documents my name is written as Swarn Kaur and in some other documents my name is written as Swarn Kaur. Both the above two names Swarn Kaur & Swarn Kaur are of one and is the same person. I, R. Raja Lakshmi, Wife Of No 16112942a, Hav, T Lokesh Of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo Residing Of 4-2101 Oticheruvu, Greamspet, Durganagar Colony, Chittoor, Ctr Collectorate Distt. Chittoor State Andhra Pradesh Pin-517002 Declare That My Name T Raja Lakshmi Wrongly Written In My Husband Army Service Records But My Correct Name Is R Raja Lakshmi. I, hitherto known as Amrajit Kaur D/o Harbhajan Singh W/o Dalvir Singh R/o Village Pattar Kalan, Jalandhar, Punjab-144806, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amarjeet Kaur. I, hitherto known as Mukesh Kumar S/o Dharam Pal Sharma R/o H.No. 264, Sector-14, Hisar, Haryana-125001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mukesh Sharma. I, Gurnail Ram S/o Arjan Ram R/o Vill. Bahadurpur, Garh Padhana, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab-144518 have changed the name of my minor son Deepak aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Deepak Kumar. I, Shingara Ram S/o Atma Ram R/o Vill. Khojkipur, Po. Salala, Jalandhar-144102, Punjab have changed my name to Given name as Shingara and Surname as Ram. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name from Dharmvati Singh To Dharmvati. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name to Given name as Dharmvati and Surname as Kaur. I, Saroj Rani W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Biru Chak, Po. Sagran, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144205 changed my minor daughter name Gurseerat Kaur aged 10 years to Gurseerat as Given Name and Kaur as Surname. I, Santoshi Devi W/O No.15680919x, Hav Radheshyam Singh Rana R/O Village- Tharu Baghori, Tehsil- Sitarganj, District-Udhm Singh Nagar, State-Uttarakhand, I Have Changed My Name In My Husband's Army Record From Santoshi Devi To Santoshi Rana. I, Sandip Kumar S/o Suhil Kumar R/o H.No.214, Opp A One Dairy, Dalima Vihar, Rajpura, Distt, Patiala, have changed my name from Sandip Kumar to Sandeep Kumar. I, Uttam Kumar Dandapat F/O Service No. 18008381W Rank Nk Name Dipankar Dandapat R/O Maharajpur Panchkhuri, West Midnapore, West Bengal, 721150, have changed my Name from Uttam Dandapat To Uttam Kumar Dandapat. I, Purnima Bagdi F/o Service No. 18008744P Rank NK, Name Biswajit Bagdi R/o Kabilpur, Birbhum, West Bengal, 731132, have changed my DOB from 20.01.1966 To 18.11.1970. I, Chandan Bagdi F/o Service No. 18008744P Rank NK, Name Biswajit Bagdi R/o Kabilpur, Birbhum, West Bengal, 731132, have changed my DOB from 01.02.1964 To 10.04.1964. I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Karam Chand R/O 3951, Palledar Mohalla, Ward No. 29, Ambala Cantt, Distt. Ambala declare that my Name Sanjay Kumar & Sanjay Gandhi is one and the same person. I, Jatinder Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/O Bhinder Colony Samana, District Patiala, have changed my name from Jatinder to Jatinder Kaur. I, Rajinder Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/O Bhinder Colony Samana, District Patiala, have changed my name from Rajinder Virk to Rajinder Singh. I, Naresh Devi M/o Service No. 18016089W Rank SPR Name Randeep Singh R/o Vill Bagwala, P.O Khanpur, Brahmna, Distt. Panchkula, Jatwar (41), Ambala, have changed my Name from Naresh Rani To Naresh Devi. I, Naresh Devi M/o Service No. 18016089W Rank SPR Name Randeep Singh R/o Vill Bagwala, P.O Khanpur, Brahmna, Distt. Panchkula, Jatwar (41), Ambala, have changed my DOB from 06.04.1971 To 01.01.1972. I, Narinder Singh F/o Service No. 18016089W Rank SPR Name Randeep Singh R/o Vill Bagwala, P.O Khanpur, Brahmna, Distt. Panchkula, Jatwar (41), Ambala, have changed my DOB from 07.03.1968 To 01.01.1967. I, Narinder Singh F/o Service No. 18016089W Rank SPR Name Randeep Singh R/o Vill Bagwala, P.O Khanpur, Brahmna, Distt. Panchkula, Jatwar (41), Ambala, have changed my Name from Narinder Singh To Narinder Singh. I, Parvesh M/o Service No. 18016081K Rank SPR Name Rahul R/o 9, Village Manglai, Khuda Kalan (98), Ambala, Haryana 133104, have changed my DOB from 01.01.1978 To 05.12.1978. I, Parvesh M/o Service No. 18016081K Rank SPR Name Rahul R/o 9, Village Manglai, Khuda Kalan (98), Ambala, Haryana 133104, have changed my Name from Parvesh Rani To Parvesh. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name from Dharmvati Singh To Dharmvati. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name to Given name as Dharmvati and Surname as Kaur. I, Shiv Singh F/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name to Given name as Shiv Singh and Surname as Kaur. I, Saroj Rani W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Biru Chak, Po. Sagran, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144205 changed my minor daughter name Gurseerat Kaur aged 10 years to Gurseerat as Given Name and Kaur as Surname. I, Santoshi Devi W/O No.15680919x, Hav Radheshyam Singh Rana R/O Village- Tharu Baghori, Tehsil- Sitarganj, District-Udhm Singh Nagar, State-Uttarakhand, I Have Changed My Name In My Husband's Army Record From Santoshi Devi To Santoshi Rana. I, Sandip Kumar S/o Suhil Kumar R/o H.No.214, Opp A One Dairy, Dalima Vihar, Rajpura, Distt, Patiala, have changed my name from Sandip Kumar to Sandeep Kumar. I, Nancy W/O Parwinder Singh W/O No-269, Ward No-13, Sant Prem Singh Colony Miani Road Dasuya Have Changed My Name Nancy Multani. I, Poonam Bala C/o Sulvinder Sultan R/O H.No. 300 W.No. 11, Kaintnan Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Poonam Bala to Bala Poonam. Bala is my surname Concerned note. I, Kawajit Kaur C/o Krishan Kumar R/O H.No. 300, W.No. 11, Kaintnan Tehsil Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Kawajit Kaur to Kaur Kawajit. Kaur is my surname Concerned note. I, Gurbax Kaur W/o Darshan Singh R/O VPO Behalpur Tehsil Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that I Gurbaksh Kaur and Gurbax Kaur is one and the same person. Concerned note. I, Sudesh Pahal D/o Sh. Ram Kishan W/O Sh. Hawa Singh Pahal R/o H.No 299, Sector 23, Sonipat Haryana I have changed my name from Sudesh Pahal to Sunita Devi Pahal for all future purposes. I, Army No. 16120925p Rank Nk Name Haridev Prasad Sahu Of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/O 56 Apo, Pin-914003 Yol Cantt, Have Changed My Mother Name From Char Bai Sahu To Charbai & Date Of Birth 06.11.1963 To 01.01.1960. I, Rajadurai Is Father Of Army No. 16115711p Rank Hav Name Arul Raj R Of Unit 5 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo, Have Changed My Name From M Raja Durai To Rajadurai Vide Affidavit Notary Ferozeper. I, Jasiben L Chudasama Is Wife Of Army No. 16114371 Rank Nk Name Chudasama Lalit Somabhai Of Unit 5 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo, Declare That My True And Correct Date Of Birth Is 30.08.1990 As Per My Aadhaar Card & Pan Card, But On My Husband's Service Record My Date Of Birth Is Mentioned Is 11.02.1990, Which Is Wrong. I, Rajathi Is Mother Of Army No. 16115711p Rank Hav Name Arul Raj R Of Unit 5 Engr Regt C/O 56 Apo, Have Changed My Name From R Rajathi To Rajathi Due To Erroneous Mistake In My Son's Service Record. My True And Correct Date Of Birth Is 07.07.1961 As Per My Aadhaar Card & Pan Card, But On My Son's Service Record My Date Of Birth Is Mentioned Is 04.07.1961, Which Is Wrong. I, Shindu Mandu Ramesh Is Mother Of No. 15798135n, Hav, Shinde Amit Ramesh Unit Of 408 Gun Msl Regt. C/O 56 Apo Mathura Cantt, Residing Of Tel Bara-mat, Distt. Pune, (Mh) 412306 Have Changed My Name Shindu Mandu Ramesh To Mandanki Ramesh Shinde Vide Affidavit Dated 18 October 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeper. I, Ramesh Is Father Of No 15798135n, Hav, Shinde Amit Ramesh Unit Of 408 Gun Msl Regt. C/O 56 Apo Mathura Cantt Residing Of Ap Somesmeshwar Nagar, Tel Bara-mat, Distt. Pune, (Mh) 412306 Have Changed My Name Ramesh To Ramesh Shankarrao Shinde Vide Affidavit Dated 18 October 2024 Before At Notary Ferozeper. I, Shindu Mandu Ramesh Is Mother Of No. 15798135n, Hav, Shinde Amit Ramesh Unit Of 408 Gun Msl Regt. C/O 56 Apo Mathura Cantt, Residing Of Ap Somesmeshwar Nagar, Tel Bara-mat, Distt. Pune, (Mh) 412306 Declare That My Son Service Record In My D.O.B 03/07/1964 Wrongly, But Correct My D.O.B 02/06/1964.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Amrajit Kaur D/o Harbhajan Singh W/o Dalvir Singh R/o Village Pattar Kalan, Jalandhar, Punjab-144806, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amarjeet Kaur. I, hitherto known as Mukesh Kumar S/o Dharam Pal Sharma R/o H.No. 264, Sector-14, Hisar, Haryana-125001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mukesh Sharma. I, Gurnail Ram S/o Arjan Ram R/o Vill. Bahadurpur, Garh Padhana, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab-144518 have changed the name of my minor son Deepak aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Deepak Kumar. I, Shingara Ram S/o Atma Ram R/o Vill. Khojkipur, Po. Salala, Jalandhar-144102, Punjab have changed my name to Given name as Shingara and Surname as Ram. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name from Dharmvati Singh To Dharmvati. I, Dharmvati M/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name to Given name as Dharmvati and Surname as Kaur. I, Saroj Rani W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Biru Chak, Po. Sagran, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144205 changed my minor daughter name Gurseerat Kaur aged 10 years to Gurseerat as Given Name and Kaur as Surname. I, Santoshi Devi W/O No.15680919x, Hav Radheshyam Singh Rana R/O Village- Tharu Baghori, Tehsil- Sitarganj, District-Udhm Singh Nagar, State-Uttarakhand, I Have Changed My Name In My Husband's Army Record From Santoshi Devi To Santoshi Rana. I, Sandip Kumar S/o Suhil Kumar R/o H.No.214, Opp A One Dairy, Dalima Vihar, Rajpura, Distt, Patiala, have changed my name from Sandip Kumar to Sandeep Kumar. I, Shiv Singh F/o Service No. 15349806P Rank Hav Name Dharmendra Singh R/o Nagla Gharu, Phondar, Mathura, Fonder, U.P. 281123, have changed my name to Given name as Shiv Singh and Surname as Kaur. I, Saroj Rani W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Biru Chak, Po. Sagran, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144205 changed my minor daughter name Gurseerat Kaur aged 10 years to Gurseerat as Given Name and Kaur as Surname. I, Santoshi Devi W/O No.15680919x, Hav Radheshyam Singh Rana R/O Village- Tharu Baghori, Tehsil- Sitarganj, District-Udhm Singh Nagar, State-Uttarakhand, I Have Changed My Name In My Husband's Army Record From Santoshi Devi To Santoshi Rana. I, Sandip Kumar S/o Suhil Kumar R/o H.No.214, Opp A One Dairy, Dalima Vihar, Rajpura, Distt, Patiala, have changed my name from Sandip Kumar to Sandeep Kumar. 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Haryana officials asked to curtail stubble burning incidents

CHIEF SECRETARY ISSUES DIRECTIONS
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Secretary T V HS N Prasad on Sunday directed the state's deputy commissioners to ensure that stubble-burning incidents are "effectively" curtailed.

Prasad, who held a review meeting via video conferencing with the district deputy commissioners to discuss measures to prevent stubble burning across the state, emphasised strict adherence to the Supreme Court's orders on farm fires. According to an official statement, Kaithal's Deputy Commissioner Vivek Bharti said 11 FIRs have been registered against violators. He said strict action is being taken against those responsible for stubble burning.

Bharti also said that 123 cases of paddy crop residue burning have been reported in the district so far. Of these, 40 fire locations were not found, while in 63 cases, the burning of paddy crop residue was confirmed, and a fine of Rs 1.57 lakh was imposed. A few FIRs have also been registered recently against violators in some other districts, including Panipat and Yamunanagar, he said.

Nearly a month ago, Prasad, in another meeting with the deputy commissioners, directed to form of a four-member com-

mittee comprising a sub-divisional magistrate, a tehsildar and an agriculture development officer at the block level to identify hotspots and implement necessary measures to prevent stubble burning incidents. He said officers who performed their duty well would be duly honoured.

The chief secretary also highlighted the urgent need to raise awareness among farmers about the detrimental effects of burning paddy straw. The Supreme Court had on Wednesday pulled up the Punjab and Haryana governments over the non-prosecution of violators found guilty of stubble burning while summoning the state chief secretaries to appear before it on October 23 for an explanation. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih pointed out "complete insensitivity" on the part of both states, directing the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to take penal action against both the government officials for the failure to take action against the violators.

Stubble burning in Haryana and neighbouring Punjab contributes to air pollution in Delhi, especially during the post-harvest season in October and November. Paddy farmers set crop residue ablaze to clear their fields to sow wheat, a Rabi crop, as the window between harvesting and sowing is very

short.

Meanwhile, former chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda and Congress general secretary and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja demanded that the government fix MSP for stubble and buy it from farmers. Referring to recent directions of the Haryana agriculture department, Hooda slammed the state government for issuing directions to register FIRs against farmers found burning crop residue besides imposing restrictions on selling crops in mandis through the e-kharid portal for the next two seasons. He also slammed the directions of making a "red mark entry" in farm records of farmers found burning crop residue.

Describing the action taken by the government against farmers for burning stubble as condemnable, Hooda said the government should take back this "anti-farmer decision".

"Farmers take such steps under compulsion. Instead of imposing fines on farmers, filing FIRs against them and red-listing them, the government should work on a solution to this. Many things can be made by buying stubble, such as fuel, bio-thermocool, ethanol, bio-bitumen, pallets, pulp, fertiliser, bricks, and it can also be used for electricity production," Hooda said, in a statement. Hooda claimed that "stubble burning has a very small share in pollution".

"The real cause of pollution

is factories, vehicles and dust. Therefore, the government should dispose of the stubble or buy the stubble from the farmers. "At present, the machines that the government is talking about providing for the disposal of stubble are not proving to be effective. The number of machines is also very low. Especially small farmers are unable to use them," he said.

Machines have to be called in the field several times for a single task. First, different machines have to be called to cut the paddy residue, then to collect it and then to make bales, and after that, it also takes a long time to lift it, he said. "By then, the time for sowing the next crop is over. The government needs to pay attention to these practical aspects so that the real problem of the farmer can be understood," he noted.

In a separate statement, Selja on Sunday said the "first step taken by the BJP government in the state after taking the oath was against farmers". "Filing FIRs and imposing 'red entry' for stubble burning to prevent farmers from selling crops for the next two seasons is not only authoritarian but also a direct blow to the livelihood of small farmers. "Instead of punishing farmers struggling with financial difficulties, the government should provide a solution. Intimidating farmers will not solve the problem," the former Union minister said.

Samadhan shivirs to begin in Municipal Bodies from October 22: CM Saini



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday directed the concerned officials to hold "Samadhan Shivirs" in the municipal bodies starting October 22 to address public concerns.

While reviewing the various development projects in the State with the officials of the Urban Local Bodies and Development and Panchayats Department, Saini said that to address the concerns of the people, Samadhan shivirs will be organised in Municipal bodies across the State from October 22.

During these shivirs, all officers will be available in the office from 9 AM to 11 AM to address public concerns. For this, a complete outline will be prepared soon by convening another meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary.

At the meeting held, it was also decided that both Urban Local Bodies and Development and Panchayats Department

shall hold Samadhan Shivirs for property ID-related matters. Urban Local Bodies Department shall hold samadhan shivirs at all wards and ULB offices and Panchayat department shall hold samadhan shivirs at BDPO offices. The samadhan shivirs shall continue for a period of one month.

It was also decided that the Chief Minister will personally review development projects by convening a meeting with all Municipal Corporation Commissioners in Chandigarh on October 24 at 9 AM. District Municipal Commissioners, Joint Commissioners and Executive Officers of Municipal Bodies will also attend the meeting.

Saini also instructed officials to create a development action plan aligned with future needs, emphasizing the importance of listening to and promptly addressing the issues and needs of the public. He also reviewed the work of the Development and Panchayats Department and directed to expedite the stalled development projects of the department.

Five operatives of Bambiha-Kaushal gang held: Punjab Police



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police on Sunday said it has thwarted three possible target killings with the arrest of five key operatives of the Bambiha-Kaushal gang.

Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said the arrested have been identified as Jaspreet Singh alias Jassa of village Boparai Kalan in Jalandhar, Harshdeep Singh of village Garage Mehdoon in Hoshiarpur, Shekhar of village Muradpur in Tarntaran, Gagandeep Singh alias Ginni Bajwa of New Model House in Jalandhar and Amit Sahota of village Bambian Wal in Jalandhar.

Police also recovered nine weapons, including eight pistols and a revolver, along with 15 live cartridges from their possession. DGP Yadav said the accused were involved in multiple serious offenses, including extortion, murder and arms trafficking across several districts of Punjab.

Several cases have already been registered against these accused persons, he added. The DGP said further investigations are going on to uncover their broader network and establish both backward and forward linkages to dismantle the gang completely.

Sharing operation details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Jalandhar Swapan Sharma said following reliable inputs that members of Bambiha-Kaushal gang were planning a major criminal activity in the state, police put up a checkpoint at BSF Chowk and arrested three accused persons including Jaspreet Jassa, Harshdeep and Shekhar after recovering six weapons from their possession. He said later, two more operatives of the gang identified as Gagandeep Ginni and Amit Sahota were arrested from Naka near Bhargo Camp and three weapons have been recovered from their possession. Further investigations are on and more arrests are expected, he added.

AAP names candidates for Punjab bypolls

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday released a list of candidates for the November 13 bypolls to four assembly seats in Punjab, sharing the list on X. The bypolls to the four assembly seats were necessitated after MLAs representing them were elected to the Lok Sabha.

The AAP has fielded Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillion, who joined the party after quitting the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in August, from Gidderbaha. Once considered close to SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, Dhillion (57) had unsuccessfully contested elections from Gidderbaha seat on the party's tickets in 2017 and 2022 and served as chairman of Muktsar district planning board. Gidderbaha seat fell vacant after Congress MLA Amrinder Singh Raja Warring was elected to the Lok Sabha from Ludhiana early this year.

The AAP has named Ishank Chabbewal, a doctor and the son of AAP Hoshiarpur MP Raj Kumar Chabbewal, as its candidate from Chabbewal (SC) segment. The Chabbewal bypoll was necessitated after Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur.

Will remain in Congress till last breath, says Capt Ajay Yadav after withdrawing resignation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days after having rattled the Congress with his resignation, Ahirwal leader and former Haryana Congress minister Captain Ajay Singh Yadav took a U-turn and withdrew his resignation. After complaining of "shabby treatment" by the "high command" and quitting the Congress party, Yadav took a U-turn and said that he is a "Congressman by birth" and will remain so "till his last breath". Yadav said he was "prevailed upon" by his son and former MLA Chiranjeev Rao to "forget the past" and return to the party again.

"I am a congressman by birth and will remain a congressman till my last breath. I am especially indebted to my leader and mentor senior party leader Sonia Gandhi ji and can never think of hurting her feelings," he added.

Former MLA Chiranjeev Rao, who is the son of the former minister, faced defeat in Rewari during the recent Haryana Assembly elections. Yadav previously said that the grand old party needs to reflect on its poor performance in southern Haryana, particularly in areas like Gurugram, Rewari, Mahendragarh, and Faridabad, where it secured only one seat compared to the BJP's 10 seats.

Yadav joined the Congress

in 1988 and is known for his knack for speaking his mind, especially on issues like the reported prominence of Hooda and the neglect of other leaders in Haryana Congress.

In a flurry of posts on X, the former Haryana minister and national president of OBC Morcha of Congress expressed commitment to the Congress party that he had served for 38 years. "I worked with my leader late Rajiv Gandhi ji and Sonia Gandhi and cannot forget their affection towards me as our family have a long association of more than 70 years since 1952 my late father Rao Abhey Singh with the Nehru-Gandhi family," he said.

On Thursday, the former Haryana minister had resigned from the post as well as the primary membership of the party, citing "shabby" treatment after Sonia Gandhi left the post of Congress president. "This decision was hard. My family has had 70 years of association with Congress as my father late Rao Abhey Singh became MLA in 1952 and I continued with the family tradition. Now, I am now disillusioned with the party high command," he had said on Thursday announcing his resignation.

He also expressed disappointment that his contributions to the Other Backward Classes department had not been acknowledged by the

high command and that some harsh remarks pushed him into taking the decision to resign. "I was upset that my hard work done for the OBC department was not being appreciated by high command and some harsh words made me to take this drastic step but with a cool mind I decided to strengthen the Congress party, especially my mentor and leader Sonia Gandhi," he said in a following post on X.

CM Mann Must Compensate Rice Millers for Losses: Bajwa

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa has demanded that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann immediately compensate Punjab's rice millers, who are staring at losses estimated at Rs 6000 crore due to the government's gross mismanagement of the rice procurement crisis.

Bajwa condemned Mann's so-called "Plan B" for paddy milling as a "Plan Bluff," accusing the CM of attempting to mislead the public and drive a wedge between farmers and rice millers. In a recent meeting, rice millers revealed to Bajwa that CM Mann proposed transporting Punjab's paddy to distant states like West Bengal and Kerala for milling. Bajwa lambasted the proposal as absurd, both logistically and financially.

"Transporting paddy over such vast distances is economically unfeasible. Who would bear the cost of milling in those far-flung states when it's financially unviable? The nearest state capable of milling rice is Haryana, with around 1,500 shellers, and even they have no capacity to handle paddy from outside their own borders," Bajwa said. He accused Mann of abdicating his responsibility as the elected leader of Punjab and acting more like a "Maharaja of Satraj," issuing impractical orders rather than addressing the crisis head-on.

Instead of finding solutions to the very real issues that rice millers are grappling with, Mann is attempting to intimidate them and create unnecessary rifts with farmers through irresponsible and misleading statements," Bajwa remarked. The root of the current crisis, according to Bajwa, is Mann's reckless endorsement of the hybrid PR-126 paddy variety, which has resulted in significant losses for millers. The PR-126 variety yields only 62 kilograms of rice per quintal, in stark contrast to the 67 kilograms produced by traditional varieties.

New complex of Hamirpur Medical college to be completed by March 2026: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu visited a medical college in Hamirpur on Saturday and said that modern machines would soon be installed on the campus. He said that the state government is working towards filling up the posts of doctors and steps would be taken to overcome the shortage of paramedical staff in Dr. Radha Krishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur.

The Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction work of the medical college and issued necessary directives to the administration. He said that the target is to complete the construction of the medical college by March 31, 2026.

He said, "Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and other teachers had been posted in Hamirpur Medical College and efforts were being made to increase the seats in PG courses," Sukhu said. "Walk-in interviews would be conducted to fill up the vacant posts."

He further added that modern machines equipped with



world-class technology were being installed in the new campus of this medical college being built at a cost of more than Rs 400 crore in Jol Sappad near Hamirpur town and a facility of 292 beds would be available there for the patients.

The Cabinet had approved deployment of 150 staff nurses and additional nurses and paramedical staff would be deployed as per the requirement in the campus, he said. The doctors and nurses would be made available in Hamirpur Medical College as per international standards so that patients get good treatment

and doctors and other staff get a better working environment. In the second phase of the medical college construction, a 300-bedded medical block, state cancer hospital, super speciality and nursing college and other facilities for students and patients will be constructed, Sukhu said.

He stated that this medical college was sanctioned by the UPA-2 government on March 4, 2014, after his personal request to the then Union Health Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad. While the Union government has allocated only Rs. 180 crore for this project, the current state

government has already disbursed Rs. 240 crore. He added that the new campus would significantly enhance healthcare services by providing world-class facilities, state-of-the-art medical equipment and skilled doctors and paramedical staff, ensuring advanced healthcare for the people of the state.

RESULTS OF 6 POST CODES IN HIMACHAL TO BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE DIWALI: SUKHU

Chief Minister Sukhu has directed the Himachal Pradesh Rajya Chayan Ayog to announce the results for six pending post codes before Diwali. These include 295 posts for Post Code 939 (JOA IT), 82 posts for Post Code 903 (JOA IT), Copy Holder Post Code 982, Workshop Instructor Post Code 992, Psychologist Post Code 994, and Workshop Instructor Post Code 997.

In a meeting the Ayog officials, the CM emphasised the state government's commitment to providing transparent and merit-based employment opportunities to the youth in the gov-

ernment sector. "The announcement of results for these six pending post codes will be a Diwali gift from the state government to the youth of Himachal Pradesh seeking government jobs," he said.

Sukhu also said that the Cabinet Sub-Committee has permitted the declaration of results for 21 pending post codes, with results for Post Codes 817, 999 and 969 already announced. He directed officials to expedite the announcement process, stating that results for the six examinations would be declared before Diwali, while the results for the remaining 12 post codes are set for November. He said that the government has been consistently working for the welfare of its employees since day one.

"In its very first cabinet meeting, the government reinstated the Old Pension Scheme, benefiting 1.36 lakh government employees. Recently, the government has increased the dearness allowance by four percent, and all employees' salaries and pensions will be disbursed by October 28, ahead of Diwali," he added.

BRIEFS

STATEWIDE MASS IMMUNIZATION DRIVE AGAINST FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE FROM MONDAY IN PB

Chandigarh: The Punjab Government will commence a mass inoculation drive for livestock as a preventive measure against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) starting from October 21. A total of 816 teams have been formed to ensure the smooth and efficient execution of the vaccination drive. In a statement, Punjab Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian said a total of 65,47,800 doses of the FMD vaccine have been produced for the mass immunisation drive. He directed the department authorities to complete the vaccination drive by the end of November and emphasised that the vaccine would be administered free of cost to the entire livestock population of the state. Principal Secretary Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Rahul Bhandari, informed that the Animal Husbandry department has distributed the vaccine to all districts. Additionally, the Joint Director of NRDDL, Jalandhar, has been appointed as the nodal officer to ensure the efficient execution of the immunisation drives across the state. He mentioned that the Punjab Animal Husbandry Department has set up a control room at the state level, along with district-level control rooms at the offices of the Deputy Directors of the Animal Husbandry Department.

LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR BECOMES "INDIA'S BEST VINTAGE CO-ED BOARDING SCHOOL"

Chandigarh: The Lawrence School, Sanawar, founded in 1847, has been ranked Number One as India's Best Vintage Co-ed Boarding School by the EducationWorld on the release of India-Schools Ranking (EWISR) for the year 2024-25. The Headmaster, Himmat Singh Dhillion, received the award on behalf of the School during the award ceremony held in Gurgaon which was well attended by delegates of educational sector. Expressing happiness over the recognition, Dhillion said, "We are committed to uphold the rich legacy of Sanawar as this distinction has inspired the Team at Sanawar to go the extra mile. This recognition is once again an emphatic validation of our vision, mission and disposition in the world of education. I wish to thank Education World for this honour and extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of my team at Sanawar." The recognition bestowed upon the school added to the euphoria as it celebrated its 177th year of its foundation in the first week of October.

OFFICERS ON GROUND TO CHECK FARM FIRES IN MOHALI DISTRICT

Mohali: To curb farm fire incidents in Mohali district, Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain on Sunday said that the team of administrative officers has been asked to act promptly in case of occurrence of fire incidents with the help of fire tenders or other measures. Police have also been kept on alert to visit the field in no time, in case of resistance by the farmer, DC added. She said that Additional Deputy Commissioners (General and Development), and Sub Divisional Magistrates have been supervising the working of Nodal and Cluster officers daily by checking their presence in the field. SDMs have been visiting their villages daily to sensitize the farmers to the ill effects of stubble burning. She further said that checking is going on to list out the fire incidents, if it is related to Commission Agent, Namberdar, Panchayat Member, Lease Holders of Panchayat Land or Shamlat Land of villages, Employees of Government Departments, Boards, Corporations and autonomous bodies. If any of the above categories of the person had burnt paddy straw, immediate action should be taken against him.

EXCISE DEPTT RAIDS ON BARS; ISSUES CHALLAN FOR SERVING LIQUOR TO PERSONS BELOW THE AGE OF 25 YEARS

Mohali: To stop underage drinking, the Excise Department of Mohali district has launched an operation in which many bars and clubs were checked on Saturday night. For this purpose, various teams were constituted which raided several bars and clubs in Mohali and Zirakpur. Three bars/clubs violating the norms have been challaned. Assistant Excise Commissioner (Excise) Ashok Chahalotra said that in compliance with the strict directions issued by Additional Chief Secretary Excise, Punjab Vikas Pratap and Excise Commissioner Varun Roonjam, a special drive has been launched in Mohali district since last couple of days to curb the menace of underage drinking.

TRAFFIC POLICE IN GURUGRAM ISSUED RS 2.47 CRORE FINE AGAINST OVER 24,075 TRAFFIC VIOLATORS IN SEPTEMBER

Gurugram: The Traffic police in Gurugram have issued about Rs 2.47 crore fine against over 24,075 traffic violators in September for various offences. Traffic violations include wrong-side driving, helmet-less riding, wrong parking, jumping signals, underage driving, speeding, without a driving license, without a high-security number plate, using a mobile phone while driving, overloading, and driving without seat belts. Talking to reporters, Traffic police officials said it is quite worrying that people are openly flouting the traffic rules, as wrong-side driving can cost the lives of several pedestrians and other motorists. In the past few months, traffic police have conducted a special campaign against traffic violators to curb violations. DCP Traffic, Virender Vij, said that to curb traffic violations; the police have also started the process of the online challenging by-tech challenging system. "Under this project, more than 1500 CCTV cameras have been installed on the main roads, square intersections and red lights in Gurugram, which are being operated by the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) of the Police Headquarters," he said.

DEPUTY BANK MANAGER, AIDE ARRESTED FOR PROVIDING BANK ACCOUNTS TO CYBER CRIMINALS

Gurugram: A cyber crime police station team of the Gurugram police has arrested two accused, including a bank official of a government bank, for allegedly providing bank accounts for cybercriminals, the police said. Priyanshu Diwan, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cybercrime), said that the accused had been identified as Kanishk Vijay Vargiya and Ram Avtar, a native of Rajasthan. According to the police, a man filed a complaint at the Cyber Crime police station East in July 2024 that he was duped of Rs 24.6 lakh in the name of investing in the share market. During the probe, Inspector Naveen Kumar, Station House Officer of the said police station, arrested the suspects on Saturday for their alleged involvement in the crime from Rajasthan. During questioning, the accused revealed that Ram Avtar had been working as deputy manager in UCO Bank Mansarovar branch Rajasthan since 2016. "The bank account used in the crime was fraudulently opened by Ram Avtar and Kanishk in collusion on fake documents, the same bank account was made available by the accused to another accused for cyber fraud," Sandeep Kumar, a Gurugram police spokesperson, said.

PADDY LIFTING IN KOTKAPURA STARTED AFTER INTERVENTION OF SPEAKER SANDHWAN

Chandigarh/Kotkapura: Amid the ongoing strike by the Rice Millers Association of Punjab, farmers, laborers, and arhtiyas, a ray of hope emerged in Kotkapura as the Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kulkarni Singh Sandhwan made personal efforts to address the situation. Sandhwan personally assured the rice millers of his constituency that he is committed to fighting for their demands and will work towards delivering positive outcomes at the earliest. The rice millers in Kotkapura, having had a positive past experience with their MLA and Speaker, expressed relief. Sukhwinder Singh Dhaliwal, President of the Rice Millers Association Kotkapura, highlighted that Sh. Sandhwan had stood with them during difficult times last year, helping resolve issues related to rice storage and other trade-related matters. As a result of the Speaker's efforts and dedication, 41 out of 64 mills have now opted to sign agreements with the department. Over the last four days, a substantial quantity of paddy has been procured from the Kotkapura grain market, and the pace of lifting has been commendable. The Rice Millers Association of Kotkapura appreciates the Speaker's proactive approach and remains hopeful for a swift resolution to the ongoing concerns.

I have been accused of many things, I know what my parents go through: Salman Khan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be called his first public comments following the murder of his close friend and NCP leader Baba Siddique, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan said he has to handle quarrels between "Bigg Boss 18" contestants at a time when he is "going through" a certain phase in his life. Siddique, the former Maharashtra minister known for his starry iftar parties and Bollywood connections, was gunned down on October 12 outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's Mumbai office. According to police, Siddique may have been targeted by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi because of his proximity to Khan. On Saturday's Weekend Ka Vaar episode of "Bigg Boss 18", on which the actor serves as the host, Khan said he



wanted to give the popular reality series a miss. "Yaar, qasam khuda ki what all I am going through in my life and I have to come and handle this (arguments between housemates) I feel that I shouldn't have come here today. But you have to do what you have to do," Khan can

be seen saying as per several videos circulating on social media. "Mere par bhi bahut saare laanchan lagaye gaye hain (I have been accused of many things). I know what my parents go through," he added in another clip. It could not be immediately

confirmed whether this episode was filmed before or after Siddique's killing. Though Khan didn't share a post condoling Siddique's passing on social media, he visited the slain politician's Bandra residence last Sunday hours before his burial service. The Mumbai traffic police received a threat message demanding Rs 5 crore from the Bollywood actor, following which the Crime Branch began a probe an official said on Friday. A case was registered at Worli police under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for threat and extortion after the city's traffic control room received the message on its WhatsApp helpline on Thursday afternoon, he said. Khan had earlier received death threats from the Bishnoi gang whose members had also opened fire outside the actor's Bandra home in April.

Lucknow Police busts fake call centre, arrests 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A fake call centre has been busted here and 12 cyber fraudsters were arrested, police said on Sunday. On October 19, the surveillance team of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, East, and the police team of PGI police station, Lucknow, successfully apprehended 12 cyber fraudsters operating from a flat in Everest Enclave, Sector 18 of Vrindavan Yojana in Lucknow. The accused were arrested following a tip-off. During the raid, cops seized a substantial amount of electronic equipment, including 11 laptops, a Samsung tablet, two airfiber units, two routers, five headphones, two mice and 17 mobile phones. The cyber criminals employed a sophisticated technique to target foreign nationals, primarily from the United States and Canada. They would intentionally introduce errors or



bugs into the victims' laptops or computer systems, causing pop-up messages to appear. When the affected individuals attempted to resolve the issue, the fraudsters would contact them, posing as technical support agents, the statement said. Under the guise of troubleshooting the computer problems, the accused would

gain remote access to the victims' devices. They would then coerce the individuals into making payments, often in the form of cryptocurrency or gift cards, to supposedly resolve the non-existent issues. These fraudulent transactions resulted in significant financial losses for the victims, it said. A case has been registered

under sections 318 (4) (cheating), 319 (2) (cheating by personation), 316 (2) (criminal breach of trust), 338 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc.), 336(3) (forgery), 340(2) (forged document or electronic record and using it as genuine), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) and 111 (organised crime) of the BNS and the IT Act. The arrested accused persons have been identified as Chandan alias Ricky (Kanpur), Mohan Shyam Sharma (Bharatpur, Rajasthan), Utkarsh Gold Smith (Lucknow), Neeraj Kumar (Rae Bareilly), Karan Singh (Lucknow), Rituraj Gupta (Lucknow), Somnath Singh (Bahraich), Virat Kumar (Chandauli) and Ramjanak (Basti). Efforts are being made to ascertain the criminal history of all the accused persons, the statement said.

NCC launches inaugural sailing expedition on Indian rivers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a maiden initiative, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) is set to embark on its first-ever special sailing expedition, a flagship event leading up to the Republic Day Camp 2025. The expedition will involve 528 Naval Wing cadets from across India, sailing approximately 1,200 kms along the Ganges and Hooghly rivers through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, defence ministry said here on Sunday. Giving details, officials said the event, themed 'Bharatiya Nadiya - Sanskritiyon ki Janani', will be flagged off from Kanpur on Monday and conclude in Kolkata on December



20. The aim of this pioneering expedition is to celebrate India's rich maritime traditions while inspiring the youth towards adventure and a life of service in uniform. The cadets representing all State Directorates, will participate in this six-phase event. They will be accompanied by nearly 40 Associate NCC

Officers. The key phases of the expedition include Phase I: Kanpur to Prayagraj (260 KM), Phase II: Prayagraj to Varanasi (205 KM), Phase III: Varanasi to Buxar (150 KM), Phase IV: Buxar to Patna (150 KM), Phase V: Patna to Farakka (230 KM) and Phase VI: Farakka to Kolkata (205 KM). During the journey, cadets will engage with local NCC groups and contribute to the 'Swachh Bharat' initiative by cleaning riverbanks and reducing plastic waste. They will also perform 'Nukkad Natak' to promote India's rich cultural traditions and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

Cyclonic storm expected in Bay of Bengal by October 23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A cyclonic storm is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal by October 23, affecting the coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal, the IMD said on Sunday. An upper air cyclonic circulation over the Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours, a special weather bulletin said. The weather system is expected to move west-northwestwards direction, and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over east-



central Bay of Bengal, it said. "Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and

reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning,"

it added. Under its influence, the coastal region of Odisha and West Bengal is likely to receive heavy rainfall from October 23 to 25, the IMD said, advising fishermen to return to the shore by October 21. IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the system is likely to take the shape of a severe cyclonic storm. He said parts of Odisha are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall from October 23 onwards. "Some places in the coastal region may experience 20 cm rainfall on October 24-25. The intensity of the spell may also increase to 20 to 30 cm,

and above 30 at some places," he said. The IMD has not made any forecast on landfall location and intensity, he said. Light to moderate rainfall is also likely in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, the bulletin said. Squally wind with speed reaching 40-50 gusting to 60 kmph is very likely to commence from October 23 evening in Odisha-West Bengal coasts, and it would gradually increase to 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph from October 24 night to October 25 morning. The IMD said during that period, the sea conditions are likely to be rough.

TMC announces candidates for Bengal Assembly By-elections

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday announced its candidates' list for the November 13 Assembly by-elections to six seats in Bengal. While Sangita Roy Pradhan has been fielded from Sitai in Cooch Behar district, Jay Prakash Toppo has been given the party ticket from Madarihat in Alipurduar district. Down south Falguni Singhbabu and Sujoy Hazra have been fielded from Taldangra, and Medinipur in Bankura and West Midnapore districts. While Sanat Dey will contest from Naihati, Sk Rabiul Islam will fight from Haroa. Both the seats are in North 24 Parganas. The bypolls were necessitated due to resignations of sitting MLAs of the six segments following their victory in this year's Lok Sabha elections. While former rulers CPI(M) or the Congress were still to announce their candidates' list Opposition BJP was first to declare its list of contestants on



Saturday. The party has fielded Rahul Lohar and Dipak Kumar Roy from Madarihat and Sitai respectively. Both these seats are in North Bengal. Subhojit Roy has been fielded from Medinipur whereas Ananya Roy Chakraborty will contest from Taldangra seat. Rupak Mitra have been fielded from Naihati, whereas Bimal Das will contest from Haroa. Out of the six seats the BJP had won only Madarihat seat during the 2021 Assembly elections. Earlier TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said that despite the "disinformation campaign resorted to by the Left and other opposition parties in the garb of the doctors' movement the TMC will win all the six out of six seats in the by-elections." He also said that "the Left which is the main conspirator behind the movement will end up in the third place once again."

Indian Navy, Oman conduct successful naval exercise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy ship INS Trikand and Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, participated in the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr with the Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Seeb off Goa from October 13 to 18, navy said here on Sunday. Giving details, officials said the exercise was conducted in two phases: with harbour phase from October 13 to 15, followed by the sea phase. As part

of harbour activities, personnel from both Navies engaged in professional interactions, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and planning conferences. In addition, sports fixtures and social engagements were also held. During the sea phase of the exercise conducted from October 16 to 18, both ships carried out various evolutions, including gun firings at surface inflatable targets, close-range anti-aircraft firings, manoeuvres, and Replenishment at Sea

Approaches (RASAPS). The integral helicopter operated from INS Trikand and undertook cross-deck landings and vertical replenishment (VERTREP) with RNOV Al Seeb. Additionally, the Indian Navy's Dornier aircraft provided Over-the-Horizon Targeting (OTHT) data with the participating ships. To further enhance interoperability, Indian Navy Sea Riders embarked on RNOV Al Seeb for a day. The exercise helped strengthen interoperability and enhanced understanding of each other's best practices. The exercise was a resounding success, achieving its aims of enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and strengthening cohesion between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman. This exercise further reaffirms India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth with like-minded nations in the Indian Ocean Region.

Court to resume witness statements in WFI chief case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DELHI

A court here will resume on November 4 recording the statements of witnesses against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a criminal case filed against him by female wrestlers. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot posted the matter for further proceedings after recording the statement of one of the witnesses on October 19.

The court on May 21 framed the charges of sexual harassment and using force to outrage women's modesty against Singh. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader had pleaded not guilty before the court and claimed trial. The Magistrate had also framed the charge of criminal intimidation against Singh. The court had further framed the charge of criminal intimidation against co-accused and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar in the case.

Two arrested for duping investors in Gurugram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GURUGRAM

Police have arrested two people, including a bank employee, for allegedly duping people under the pretext of higher returns on investments in the stock market, officials said on Sunday. The accused were identified as Kanishk Vijayvargy and Ram Avtar, natives of Jaipur, police said. According to police, a man filed a complaint alleging that on July 23, he was cheated on Rs 24.60 lakh under the pretext of higher returns on investments in the stock market. Following this, an FIR was registered and an investigation was launched. The police arrested Vijayvargy and Avtra on Saturday from Gurugram. "During police interrogation, the accused revealed that Ram Avtar works as Deputy Manager in UCO bank's Mansarovar branch in Jaipur. He helped open a bank account in the name of Kanishk Vijayvargy.

BJP leader K Laxman accuses Telangana Government of ending reservation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader K Laxman on Sunday slammed the Congress Government in Telangana over certain amendments in the state public service examination rules, alleging that the move is a "conspiracy to end reservation" and demanding a rollback. The BJP OBC Morcha chairman also hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and demanded a response from him on the issue. A section of students has been protesting against the amendments brought in by the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy government in the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) examination rules notified earlier this year. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and BRS leaders on Saturday held protests in Hyderabad to express solidarity with aspirants of the TSPSC Group 1 services



who are seeking postponement of the Mains exam, even as the Telangana chief minister urged the students to appear for the test without any misconceptions. "Students are protesting against the conspiracy of the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana to end reservation in the recruitment of Group-1 officers in the state. The BJP extends its support to the stu-

dents," said Laxman. "I want a clear response from Rahul Gandhi on this. 'You are roaming around the country carrying the Constitution in hand, spreading misinformation on the issue of reservation and shedding tears for SC, ST and OBC, while your party's government is turning Telangana into a laboratory for ending reservation,'" the BJP leader, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, added.

Laxman demanded that the Telangana Government roll back the revised TSPSC examination rules and reschedule the recruitment test, which is slated to begin on Monday. Addressing an event in Telangana on Saturday evening, Revanth Reddy said Group 1 service appointments have not been made since the formation of Telangana in 2014. The Government released notification for the Group 1 exam in February this year by issuing GO 29 (which also deals with reservations) deciding to entertain 50 candidates for filling up each post, he noted. He found fault with the opposition parties for their demand to conduct the exam as per the 1:100 ratio even as the recruitment process was underway. Changing the rules halfway would lead to legal wrangles, the chief minister said as he asserted that his government is safeguarding the interests of SC, ST and BCs.

India seeks global expertise to modernise urban land records

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A two-day international workshop is being held here starting Monday, aiming to outline strategies needed to modernise urban land records across India as authorities grapple with challenges, including a lack of standardization, data security concerns, and the fragmented information across multiple agencies. Besides, issues like outdated infrastructure, resistance to change, and financial constraints which has further complicated the transition will also be deliberated threadbare at the workshop to be attended by experts from countries such as Singapore, South Korea, the UK, Spain, the Netherlands, the UAE, France, the USA, Japan, and Germany. One of the main agenda of the workshop on "Modern Technologies in Survey-Resurvey for Urban Land Records" to be inaugurated by



Union Minister of Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be showcasing of the best global practices in digital land records. Organised by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development, the workshop aligns with Budget announcements for 2024-25, which call for an IT-based system to improve property record administration and tax management through digitization and GIS mapping, said the official. This modernization is expected to enhance transparency, efficiency, and the financial

health of urban local bodies while reducing land-related disputes, he said talking about the need for adopting IT mechanism. The workshop will be attended by various stakeholders, including government officials, urban development secretaries from all states and union territories, international experts, and technology providers. Besides showcasing global best practices, innovative technological solutions, and facilitate pilot project planning for selected urban areas will also be presented at the event. Notable case studies will be drawn from various successful schemes, including AMRUT and SVAMITVA, Raipur Mapping, Guwahati Property Taxation, Jaipur Mapping, Haryana Space Applications Centre and Directorate General Defence Estates. The Ministry has been taking steps to modernise land records in all the 28 States and 8 Union Territories of the country under

Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), a Central Sector Scheme, since 2016, with 100 per cent funding by the Centre. With considerable experience in rural land records modernisation, the Department is now extending its focus to create and streamline urban land records. The initiative in respect of urban land records is based on the Budget Announcements 2024-25 in respect of establishment of an IT based system for property record administration, updating and tax administration by creating/streamlining urban land record by digitization and GIS mapping which will also facilitate improving the financial position of urban local bodies, said an official from the ministry. The IT based system for property record administration will enhance transparency and efficiency and support sustainable development and reduce land-related disputes, he added.

Junior doctors continue protests amid talks with Mamata Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Twenty four hours after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered a conditional offer for talks to the protesting junior doctors asking them to first withdraw the ongoing fast-unto-death before returning to the dialogue table, doctors on Sunday "decided to join the meeting but without ending the indefinite fast."

"Responding to the honourable Chief Minister's call for a talk the junior doctors' front has decided to go to Nabanna (State secretariat) for talks but without withdrawing the indefinite fast we would expect the administration to be positive towards the ten-point demands the doctors have placed before the Government," and "address the issue from a humanitarian angle considering the health of the doctors who have been fasting for the past 16 days," Dr Aniket one off the doctors who too was on a fast but had to be hospitalized later on said.

Earlier the Chief Minister called up the doctors and asked them to withdraw the fast. "I am in favour of humanity. I also want justice. But at the same time the treatment of the common people will have to be ensured. So I am again requesting you to withdraw the hunger-strike and



get back to work," she said adding "I can call you for a dialogue but only on Monday for 45 minutes but I will ask you to call off the fast and then join the meeting." Subsequently, State Chief Secretary Manoj Pant who visited the doctors' sit-in site along with Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty wrote "the Hon'ble chief minister hopes that this message will be received with the understanding that the junior doctors will immediately end the hunger strike in the interest of public health and well-being."

Emerging from a long general body meeting the doctors on Sunday evening said, "There can be no condition for talks refers to the doctors and the patients they cater to the lifting of the fast would depend upon the outcome of the talks," adding "we think it is very much within the

scope of the Government to end the impasse because we are not asking for moon we are asking for better safety security, facility for the doctors and patients including restrooms, washrooms, CCTV coverage, centralized referral system with real time monitoring and a fixed date for students' elections so as to stop entry of corrupt elements in the college administration via backdoor."

The doctors' movement started after the tragic rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9 which sparked a nation-wide outrage. The doctors immediately resorted to a cease work demanding justice for the victim doctor and improved facilities and safety measures, inside the government medical colleges and hos-

pitals. Meanwhile, despite the Chief Ministerial offer for talks the ruling Trinamool Congress continued to mount vehement attack on the junior doctors calling them "puppets in the hands of the CPI(M) and Maoists." TMC spokesperson Debangshu Bhattacharya attacked the doctors for allegedly impeding the health services. "These doctors are nothing but puppets in the hands of the CPI(M) or the Maoists because those who impede health services at the cost of common man's life are nothing but Maoists," he said.

Another senior leader Kunal Ghosh said that he would ask the administration to "note down the names of the doctors who are not working and take care of them adequately after the elections."

The TMC leaders' attack on the doctors came on a day when two incidents of rapes were reported from East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas sources said. While in the first case an alleged teacher was arrested for raping two school students in the second case a 60-year-old man was arrested for raping a 6-year-old minor, police said.

While first incident took place at Bhupatnagar the second one happened at Basanti sources said.

Omar Abdullah completes 21 km Kashmir Half Marathon

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After recording a historic victory in the recently concluded Assembly elections and taking the oath of office, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sunday hit another milestone after crossing the finish line by completing the 21 km long Kashmir Half Marathon in just over two hours.

Around 1700 runners from across the country & 12 foreign nations participated in the Kashmir Marathon. The marathon runners were cheered by a large number of sports enthusiasts along the route.

The prevailing weather conditions in the valley also boosted morale and aided marathon runners.

Bollywood actor and fitness freak Sunil Shetty along with Omar Abdullah flagged off the marathon from the Polo Ground stadium in Srinagar. Sharing his personal experience of completing the first half marathon Omar posted a message on X, "I'm so damn pleased with myself today. I completed the Kashmir Half Marathon - 21 KM at an average pace of 5 min 54 sec per KM. I've never run more than 13 KM in my life & that too only ever once. Today I just kept going, propelled by the enthusiasm of other amateur runners like myself".



Feeling elated Omar said, "The best part was running past my home with family & others out to cheer me on". He said I had no proper training, no running plan, no nutrition. Picked up a banana & a couple of 'khajoor' along the way. Abdullah also advised people to try running to beat stress. "You don't need drugs to feel good or beat stress. A good run, whether a kilometer or a marathon, is enough to clear the cobwebs & achieve a natural feeling of euphoria & enthusiasm. Try it, you won't regret it. Let's start running for a drug-free J&K," he posted.

Omar, who has been on a roll

ever since he won an emphatic victory in the Assembly polls said he thoroughly enjoyed the marathon and clicked lots of selfies and interacted with the journos who wanted to record a quick interview on the way. "It was such fun running with others. Lots of selfies & videos along the way. I even had a few requests for appointments and one or two job-related problems highlighted along the way. Let's not forget the enterprising journalists who tried to run alongside in the hope of grabbing an interview".

Interacting with the media Sunil Shetty said, "People want to come to Kashmir, and

an event like this gives a message to the entire world that people from all over the world are coming here to participate and it's a big thing. It's a paradise for the world. The event was organized by the Department of Tourism to show the world that the situation has improved in the valley. Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal said the whole idea is to promote Kashmir as a popular sports tourism destination. "We have attracted the best of the talent at the International and national level and professional athletes who actually run marathons across the country and the globe have participated in the event". Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the prize distribution ceremony after the run was completed by the athletes. Sinha congratulated all the winners & participants. "This successful mega event has put J&K on the world marathon map. Very soon we'll organise the Jammu Marathon on a similar scale. These signature running events will bring together runners from across the globe & encourage tourism", he added. Manoj Sinha said I'm truly grateful to PM Narendra Modi for the absolute transformation of J&K, which has made hosting of such international events possible.

Four arrested for stealing temple artefact in Kerala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Four people were taken into custody from Haryana for allegedly stealing a bronze vessel from the famed Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple here, Kerala police said on Sunday. The traditional vessel, called "uruli" in local parlance, was used for poojas and rituals at the ancient shrine known for its priceless treasures kept in secret vaults.

Fort police here confirmed that the accused were identified and taken into custody with the support of Haryana police but didn't divulge much detail. "One of the accused was a doctor having Australian citizenship. A group comprising him and two or three women had visited the shrine and offered prayers last week. The crime reportedly occurred on Thursday," a police officer said. As the vessel went missing, the temple authorities informed the police, who later identified the accused through a detailed examination of CCTV visuals, said police. They were later traced to Haryana, and with the support of the local police there, the accused were taken into custody. The accused are expected to be brought to the Kerala capital later in the day.

RSS launches outreach programme to boost BJP prospects in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the assembly polls in Maharashtra just a month away, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has launched an extensive outreach programme to shape public opinion in favour of the BJP-led alliance in the state. The RSS, which is the ideological fountainhead of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has started the move in coordination with all of its affiliates, sources said.

"Tolis (teams) have been formed across the state and they have started reaching out to people in their respective localities taking the message," a source told PTI. Each team is holding small group meetings with 5-10 people and also reaching out to families through their local network in 'mohallas' in their respective localities, the source said.

"In these meetings, they do not explicitly endorse the BJP but shape the people's opinion through intimate discussions around topics of national interest, Hindutva, good governance, development, public welfare and various local issues concerning the society," the source added.

Before the teams were formed,



the office bearers of the RSS and its affiliates held coordination meetings across all levels in the state to devise the strategy, the source said.

The move assumes significance as it comes following the BJP's victory in the just concluded Haryana assembly polls. Sources said the "drawing room meetings", held by the RSS in coordination with its affiliates across Haryana, were one of the key factors behind the BJP's electoral success in the state. Bucking anti-incumbency, the BJP secured its best-ever haul of 48 seats in the 90-member Haryana state assembly pulling off a hat-trick of wins in the state to retain power and halt the Congress' comeback attempt in the elections.

"Tolis of Sangh workers, formed

in Haryana, held over 1.25 lakh small group meetings across the state," another source told PTI. These meetings helped shape public opinion in Haryana by highlighting various issues including the erstwhile Congress government's "Jat-centric policies" under then Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the source said.

"They assuaged people's concerns over the Agnipath recruitment scheme. They also engaged with farmers and managed to sway their sentiments in favour of the BJP," the source said, adding "RSS stands out due to its embedded nature within the community, where its workers maintain long-term relationships and trust with people in their respective localities".

It is widely believed that a lack of enthusiasm among the RSS workers was one of the key factors behind the BJP's underwhelming performance in the Lok Sabha elections this year. BJP president JP Nadda's remarks during the parliamentary polls that his party needed RSS support in the beginning but over the years it became capable of running itself, is understood to be one of the reasons that demotivated Sangh workers in various states. According to sources, the RSS workers' "active participation" in

shaping a favourable public opinion in the run-up to assembly polls has injected optimism in the BJP rank and file with many in the party hoping that replication of the Haryana strategy may yield favourable results in Maharashtra as well. Although the RSS maintains that it does not directly engage in electoral politics, it has long been believed to be the BJP's hidden force in elections. Stakes are high for the BJP and its allies in Maharashtra assembly polls scheduled to be held in one phase on November 20 with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), looking to wrest power from the ruling coalition, riding high on their success in the Lok Sabha polls this year. The BJP suffered a setback in parliamentary elections in Maharashtra as its tally came down to nine from 23 it had won in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in the state. Its ally Shiv Sena, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, won seven seats. Another ally, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP bagged just one seat. The Congress tally went up to 13 from one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena won nine seats and Sharad Pawar-led NCP eight.

Kanchi Shankaracharya: NDA is 'Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Shankaracharya of Kanchi Shankar Vijayendra Saraswati Swami on Sunday said that God has blessed Narendra Modi and his government is 'NDA', which means "Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan". Addressing a function after the inauguration of RJ Sankara Eye Hospital in Varanasi, Shankaracharya said, "God has blessed Narendra Damodar Das Modi and his government is 'NDA' Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan (discipline of Narendra Damodar Das)". He said that the Government is doing beautiful work for the welfare of everyone as an ideal government in the world.

The eye hospital was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, who was present at the function. The Shankaracharya started his address in Sanskrit and said, "Today is an opportunity to see Netra Utsav and this is an important occasion of service. It started in Coimbatore and now the 17th hospital is starting. There are two hospitals in UP in Kanpur and Varanasi." "We have got good leaders, the person and personality are also important in the society, we need a virtuous leader, we need a leader who unites everyone," the Swami said. The Shankaracharya also praised the recent assembly elections in Kashmir and said that he had a long acquaintance with Modi.

Won't settle for less than 12 seats: RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

Expressing its disappointment with the JMM and Congress over seat-sharing for the Jharkhand assembly polls, the RJD on Sunday said it would not settle for less than 12 seats, but it will not sabotage the prospects of the INDIA bloc even if it goes solo. The JMM and Congress on Saturday announced that the two parties would contest 70 of the state's 81 assembly seats. "Less than 12-13 seats are not acceptable to us as the RJD has a strong hold on 18-20 seats. If we are asked to contest three-four seats, we are not ready to make any sacrifices," Rashtriya Janata Dal spokesman Manoj Kumar Jha said. "Our sole aim is to defeat BJP, we will not sabotage the INDIA bloc," he said. Jha, a Rajya Sabha MP, said even if the party decided to go solo in the elections, it would extend its support to INDIA bloc candidates on 60-62 seats. Last time, RJD had contested seven seats and won one seat. Its MLA Satyanand Bhokta is a minister in the Hemant Soren cabinet.

Health Minister Nadda defends AIIMS standards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid criticisms regarding staff shortages at the new AIIMS facilities in various States, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Sunday said that he would not allow any dilution in the standards of teaching and faculty at the institutions and would protect the brand. Presently, 22 AIIMS across the country under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana have been approved till date. Out of the 22 AIIMS, teaching and learning, research, and patient care services are being provided in 16 AIIMS, of which six are fully functional at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh. The others are at various stages of operationalisation. Addressing the BJMFCON 2024, a forum of doctors from Bihar and Jharkhand practising in Delhi and NCR, Nadda said that AIIMS-Delhi was set up in the 60s and it was only in the 80s that it became a brand name. "It takes 10 to 20 years for any institution to grow and function in full swing. I will not allow the dilution of the standards of AIIMS and will protect the brand name," he said. To address staffing challenges, he highlighted the significant



increase in the number of medical colleges over the past decade, which aims to boost the supply of trained healthcare professionals. No compromise will be made in the faculty recruitment, he added. Nadda said that the groundbreaking ceremony for AIIMS-Darbanga will soon be held, and the commissioning of AIIMS-Deoghar has been done with the recruitment of staff underway. "In the 2017 health policy, we tried to make it comprehensive and holistic. Earlier, the stress was on the curative aspect but now the focus is on preventive, promotive, curative palliative and rehabilitative aspects -- a holistic approach," he said. Nadda said that the facilities which were earlier called primary health care centres and

sub-centres have been converted into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. At present, there are 1.73 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and their quality assessment is being done digitally, he said. Under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, every district hospital offers free dialysis, he said and added that in the last 10 years, the number of medical colleges have been increased from 387 to 786 while 156 district hospitals have been converted into medical colleges. "Could you imagine a medical college in Purnia, Saharan, Samastipur, Siwan, and Buxar in Bihar and Dumka, Hazaribagh, Palamu, and Koderma in Jharkhand?" he said, adding that there is a plan to increase PG and MBBS seats by more than 75,000.

Assam CM welcomes SC judgement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday expressed a "mixed reaction of happiness and sorrow" regarding the Supreme Court judgment on the cut-off date of the Assam Accord. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function on Sunday, Sarma emphasised that the Assamese people will have to move forward through "struggles." "I don't know if this judgment is historic or not. The Government enacted the Assam Accord, so its stand in the court was that the cut-off date should be 1971. However, many people in Assam wished the cut-off date to be 1951," he said when asked for his comments on the judgment. In a majority verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who came to Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971. A five-judge Constitution Bench the Assam Accord was a political solution to the problem of

illegal migration. "I feel that this verdict establishes 1971 as the cut-off date, and my reaction is mixed. There is both happiness and sorrow in it. Therefore, I don't want to label it a historic judgment; it is simply a blend of both emotions. The Assamese community has to move forward with struggles like this," Sarma said without elaborating further in his first reaction after the judgment was delivered by the apex court. The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 after a six-year-long violent anti-foreigner movement. The pact stated, among other clauses, that names of all foreigners coming to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, would be detected and deleted from electoral rolls with steps taken to deport them. The majority verdict of the Constitutional Bench held that the cut-off date of March 25, 1971, for entry into Assam and granting citizenship is correct. Section 6A was inserted into the Citizenship Act in 1985 as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.

Health experts urge iodine deficiency awareness ahead of World Iodine Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of the World Iodine Day on Sunday, health experts flagged that India, like many developing nations, faces a significant public health challenge in the form of 'hidden hunger,' especially among growing children caused by deficiencies in crucial micronutrients such as iodine. Others are iron, folic acid, vitamin A, and zinc that can affect the development of children. However, "Iodine, in particular, is an essential micronutrient required for normal growth, thyroid function, and brain development," they said. Dr. Shikha Vardhan, Assistant Director General of the National Program for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, emphasized the need for a policy that balances salt reduction with adequate iodine supplementation for better health outcomes. She said that the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is revising the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program guidelines to ensure optimal iodine nutrition.

Dr Vardhan was speaking at a recent conference organized by Nutrition International, WHO India, Resolve to Save Lives, and Iodine Global Network, aimed to address the challenge of reducing salt intake while maintaining sufficient iodine nutrition. Iodine is vital for the production of thyroid hormones, which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development. The WHO recommends that dietary salt consumption be limited to less than 5 grams (or 2 grams of sodium) per person per day. However, recent data indicates that salt intake in India is nearly double this recommendation, contributing to hypertension, which currently affects around 220 million people in the country. Dr. Ashwini Anil Kumar Sirapanasetty, an Obstetrician and Gynecology Surgeon, noted that iodine deficiency during pregnancy can result in severe neurodevelopmental deficits, growth retardation, miscarriage, and stillbirth. Severe iodine deficiency can lead to cretinism, characterized by intellectual disability and physical and neurological abnormalities. Even less severe deficiencies in infants and

children can result in lowered intelligence. For instance, she said, in pregnant women, iodine deficiency of this magnitude can cause major neurodevelopmental deficits and growth retardation in the fetus as well as miscarriage and stillbirth. Chronic, severe iodine deficiency in utero causes cretinism, a condition characterized by intellectual disability, deaf mutism, motor spasticity, stunted growth, delayed sexual maturation, and other physical and neurological abnormalities, added Senior Consultant Gynecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon & Infertility Specialist. Iodine is an essential component of the thyroid hormones, thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development, as per a statement from the Health Ministry on Sunday. Deepika Bhan, President, Packaged Foods - India, Tata Consumer Products, added, "At Tata Salt, we remain dedicated to providing iodized salt with the right amount of iodine to help address the challenges of iodine deficiency."



FIRST COLUMN

THE ART OF SAYING NO

Setting boundaries allows employees to focus on high-value tasks and protects their well-being



SAKSHI SETHI

In the modern workplace, professionals are often expected to handle a variety of tasks and responsibilities, making it easy to become overwhelmed. While many employees adopt a yes-boss mentality to stay in good favour or advance their careers, the ability to say no can be just as important. Learning to decline certain requests, combined with the effective use of delegation, is the key to managing time, preserving mental well-being and ensuring tasks that are completed efficiently and effectively. Looking at today's fast-paced and highly competitive work environment, learning to say no can be one of the most valuable skills for any professional. While the workplace often rewards the individual with a can-do attitude but the ability to refuse certain tasks or requests is equally essential to maintain productivity, well-being and professional integrity. There is often an underlying fear of being seen as uncooperative, damaging relationships with colleagues, or missing out on future opportunities.

The result of this is an overloaded schedule, which can lead to decreased productivity, poor work quality and even burnout. It can negatively impact both the individual and the organisation, as overstretched employees may struggle to meet deadlines or produce substandard work. The ability to refuse is not just about rejecting requests rather it's about setting boundaries that protect one's time and energy, ensuring that the most important tasks get the attention they deserve. Saying no to unnecessary or low-priority tasks allows professionals to focus on higher-value work, leading to better outcomes, a stronger contribution to the organisation and helps prevent individuals to maintain focus on their core responsibilities.



Despite its clear benefits, saying a no is often easier said than done. Many employees find it difficult to refuse tasks due to cultural or organisational pressures that equate being helpful with taking on as much work as possible. Some even fear that saying no could label them as difficult or unwilling to be a team player, leading to missed promotions or opportunities.

Moreover, individuals often grapple with personal barriers to saying no. Perfectionism, fear of conflict or a desire to please others can make it hard to set boundaries resulting in employees worrying that a simple refusal to additional tasks reflects their inabilities or lack of dedication towards the job. But in reality, saying no in the workplace brings several important benefits, both for the individual and the organisation.

Effective delegation can offer a constructive alternative when refusing a task outright is not an option for it allows work to be distributed across a team, which can increase overall productivity, help build confidence and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the team. It even helps concentrate on strategic tasks and high-priority responsibilities that require their attention and most importantly demonstrates trust in the abilities of individuals, which can improve team morale and encourage a more collaborative working environment.

While learning to say no and delegating effectively are two critical skills for success in the workplace. Saying no helps protect time and energy for the most important tasks, while delegation allows leaders to distribute work more effectively and empower others. By mastering the art of saying no and delegating, professionals can not only manage their workloads but also foster a more efficient and empowered team.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Indian immigrants to Canada bear brunt of diplomatic row



K S TOMAR

The fallout threatens to disrupt visa processes, immigration pathways, and opportunities for Indian workers and students in Canada



The fallout of the current diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly in the wake of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations and expulsions of diplomats by both countries, could have significant consequences for Indian citizens working, studying, or planning to immigrate to Canada. Trudeau's Liberal Party has been facing declining support, and his minority government has been kept afloat by the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, a prominent Sikh politician.

The NDP's support base includes a significant portion of Canada's Sikh population, and Trudeau may be attempting to retain their support by taking a tough stance against India, which is perceived by some Sikhs in Canada as being hostile to their interests. The deteriorating relations between the two countries may affect several key areas:

Impact on Indian Workers in Canada: Indian Workforce in Canada: Indians form a significant part of Canada's skilled workforce, especially in sectors like IT, healthcare, engineering and finance. Over the years, Canada has become a top destination for experienced professionals from India due to its immigration-friendly policies. Visa and Work Permit Issues: While the immediate impact on Indian workers in Canada has been limited, any prolonged diplomatic standoff could lead to delays in the processing of work permits, visa renewals and permanent residency (PR) applications. The processing times might increase, and stricter scrutiny could be imposed.

Uncertainty for Future Migrants: Potential immigrants or those awaiting work permits may face hurdles in terms of visa approvals. If relations continue to sour, Canada might impose tighter immigration controls on Indian workers, which could hamper the flow of professionals into the country.

Impact on Indian Students in Canada: There is large Indian Student Population in Canada as it has become a major destination for Indian students, with nearly 320,000 Indian students enrolled in Canadian universities as of 2023. The country's world-class education system, relatively easier immigration pathways



THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MITIGATE THE FALLOUT IS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS MUST FIND COMMON GROUND AND WORK TOWARDS DE-ESCALATION. DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD PRIORITISE RESOLVING MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHILE PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF CITIZENS ON BOTH SIDES

post-graduation, and diverse work opportunities have made it attractive for Indian students.

Visa Delays: The current diplomatic tension may lead to delays in student visa approvals or increased scrutiny of applications. While there is no immediate indication that Indian students will face outright rejections, the uncertainty could cause stress and delays in admission procedures, particularly for new applicants. Post-Graduation Work Opportunities: Many Indian students stay in Canada after completing their studies under post-graduation work permits (PGWP) and eventually apply for permanent residency.

The growing tension could complicate this process, making it harder for students to transition smoothly from education to employment.

Impact on Immigration Pathways: Canada's Express Entry programme, which has been highly favourable for Indian professionals and students seeking permanent residency, might slow down or become more stringent if the diplomatic rift deepens.

There could be longer processing times, more rigorous background checks, and even potential policy changes affecting Indian applicants.

Family Reunification: Indian citizens who have family members in Canada and are in the process of family reunification (sponsorship programmes) could face delays in their applications due to the diplomatic standoff. **Trade and Bilateral Agreements:** Professional Mobility: If diplomatic tensions continue, professional exchanges, joint ventures, and corporate partnerships involving Indian and Canadian companies might slow down. This could reduce job opportunities for Indian professionals working for Canadian companies in sectors like IT, telecommuni-

cations, and consulting. Impact on New Immigration Streams: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which India and Canada had been discussing, could be put on hold.

This would affect initiatives meant to streamline immigration for Indian professionals and create pathways for smoother trade and employment relations.

Solutions to Mitigate the Fallout **Diplomatic Resolution:** The most effective way to mitigate the fallout is through diplomatic dialogue. Both governments must find common ground and work towards de-escalation. Diplomatic channels should prioritise resolving misunderstandings while protecting the interests of citizens on both sides.

Temporary Shift to Alternative Countries: While waiting for the situation to stabilise, students and professionals might consider alternative countries such as the UK, Australia, or Germany, which offer similar educational and work opportunities for Indian nationals.

Vote Bank Politics and the Sikh Community's Role in Canada: Canada has one of the largest Sikh populations outside of India, with an estimated 770,000 Sikhs, making up about 2 per cent of the total Canadian population.

Many of these Sikhs are concentrated in electoral districts in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. In some constituencies, Sikhs represent a significant voting bloc, which can influence election outcomes.

Upcoming Elections: With elections expected by 2025, Trudeau needs to consolidate his support among key communities. Given the current minority government status, he must rely on alliances, such as with the NDP, and maintain his standing in immigrant-rich constituencies, including those dominated by

Sikhs. His recent diplomatic actions appear designed to shore up this support by aligning himself with issues important to these groups.

The Sikh community has historically supported the Liberal Party, particularly under Trudeau. Many high-profile Sikh leaders, including ministers in his cabinet, are from this community.

Thus, maintaining their support is crucial for the Liberal Party's prospects in the next election. **Khalistan Issue:** While not all Sikhs in Canada support the Khalistan movement, those who do have formed influential advocacy groups that have pushed the issue into Canadian politics. Trudeau's overtures to this section of the electorate have been interpreted as efforts to protect his vote base, especially as his government faces increasing political pressure ahead of future elections.

Experts say that Trudeau may also be positioning himself as a defender of Canadian sovereignty by alleging foreign interference, a move that could resonate with voters concerned about national security.

This fits with broader concerns in the West about foreign interference in domestic politics, even though India has categorically denied the allegations.

India-Canada ties are indeed at their lowest ebb following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

This extreme diplomatic move, which has severely strained relations between the two countries, is seen as a combination of vote bank politics and Trudeau's handling of domestic pressures, especially in light of upcoming elections.

(Writer is a strategic columnist; views are personal)

India's strides towards the design and component ecosystem in telecom

The telecom sector is evolving from a service-led growth model to a robust manufacturing ecosystem

The telecommunications sector in India has grown to become the world's second-largest, contributing around 6.5 per cent to the nation's GDP and emerging as a key economic growth engine. While we take pride in this impressive growth, there is something even more exciting - the rise of the telecom manufacturing ecosystem. India's growth as a telecom equipment manufacturing destination can be attributed to the 'Make-in-India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives launched by the Government in recent years. The Production Linked Incentives (PLI), launched in 2020, and its subsequent amendments in 2022 to facilitate design-led manu-



S P KOCHHAR

facturing at an additional incentive rate with an allocated sum of Rs 4,000 crores also provided a major boost to telecom manufacturing in India. As per the latest update by the Ministry of Communications, sales of telecom equipment have surpassed the Rs 50,000 crore milestone under the PLI scheme, with exports at about Rs 10,500 crore. During this

period, India exported mobile phones worth Rs 1.28 lakh crores and with 300 million units produced, it has emerged as the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world.

On the telecom equipment front, India has become almost self-reliant in antennae, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and Customer Premises Equipment (CPE). As a result, India's status has turned from importing telecom equipment worth Rs 74,116.21 crore in FY 13-14 to exporting equipment worth over Rs 1.49 lakh crore in FY 23-24. Though we are still importing certain products, the gap between imports and exports has gone down significantly. Apart from fostering self-

reliance, indigenous manufacturing of telecom equipment also addresses the national security concerns associated with telecom imports.

Manufacturing has emerged as an important aspect of the telecom sector's contribution to the GDP through the creation of substantial employment opportunities across the value chain, from manufacturing to research and development.

So far, telecom manufacturing has created more than 17,800 direct jobs and several indirect jobs. The Indian telecom industry is likely to attract investments in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technologies; ensure efficiencies and create economies of scale, in turn, enhancing



exports and making India an integral part of the global value chain. Government's Push for 'Atmanirbhar' Under the government's 'Atmanirbhar Abhiyan', the Department of Telecom (DoT) aims to promote the ecosystem for research and development, transforming India into a glob-

al hub of technology development and telecom equipment manufacturing.

The Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the Government's ambitions to set up telecommunication equipment manufacturing zones as the country expects more inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi too emphasised the need for "Design in India, Design for the World", calling for indigenous design capabilities and urging the citizens to create products that cater to both domestic and international markets. The Government has further established several task forces to ensure the smooth functioning of the telecom ecosystem. These include initiatives for

creating a component ecosystem, developing telecom chips from design to production, training skilled workers and designers, aggregating the demand for manufacturing from different departments and allocating them to eligible manufacturers, and optimising the use of test beds for product testing and certification. Following the Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in telecom, the sector has attracted USD 39 billion in FDI for manufacturing, further boosting the momentum and solidifying India's role as a global telecom manufacturing hub.

Thanks to these concerted efforts, India has been able to bring down the trade deficit in telecom from Rs 68,000 crores to Rs 4,000 crores, over the last

five years.

Focus on design and creation of IP is crucial to fulfilling India's ambitions as a product nation as design elements add substantial value to products. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, DoT has sanctioned 17 companies under design-led manufacturing within the PLI scheme.

Further, global telecom equipment manufacturers like Cisco and Nokia have set up their manufacturing units in India, fostering world-class manufacturing prowess. These efforts, among others, emerge as a testament to the country's indigenous engineering and entrepreneurial capabilities, as well as manufacturing prowess.

(The writer is Director General, COAI; views are personal)

Israeli strikes on northern Gaza kill at least 87 people

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes on multiple homes in the northern Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said. It said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike on a Hamas target. Israel has been carrying out a large-scale operation in northern Gaza for the last two weeks, saying Hamas has regrouped there. Palestinian officials say hundreds of people have been killed and that the health sector in the north is on the verge of collapse. The United States is meanwhile investigating an unauthorised release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, according to three US officials. A fourth US official said the documents appear to be legitimate. The documents, attributed to the US Geospatial Intelligence Agency and

National Security Agency and marked top secret, indicate that Israel was moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct 1. The US officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly. The US is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown any renewed interest in such a deal, after months of negotiations sputtered to a halt in August. Iran supports Hamas and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where a year of escalating tensions boiled over into all-out war last month. Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon at the start of October. The Lebanese army said three of its soldiers were killed in an Israeli strike on their vehicle in southern Lebanon. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on Sunday's strike. Lebanon's army has

largely kept to the sidelines in the war between Israel and the Hezbollah. The military is a respected institution in Lebanon but is not powerful enough to impose its will on Hezbollah or defend the country from an Israeli invasion. On Saturday, a drone targeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house, causing no casualties. It wasn't clear if the house was hit. The military said Hezbollah fired around 160 projectiles into Israel on Sunday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Israel has meanwhile ramped up strikes on southern neighbourhoods of Beirut known as the Dahiyeh, a crowded residential area. Hezbollah has a strong presence there, but it is also home to large numbers of civilians and people unaffiliated with the militant group. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, has called civilian casualties in Lebanon "far too high" in the Israel-Hezbollah war and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut. Among the dead from the strikes in Beit Lahya

were two parents and their four children, and a woman, her son and her daughter-law and their four children, according to Raheem Kheder, a medic. He said the strike flattened a multi-story building and at least four neighbouring houses. The Israeli military said it used precise munitions against a Hamas target and rejected casualty figures published by the Hamas-run government's media office, which is separate from the Health Ministry. It said the area is an active war zone and that it is trying to avoid harming civilians. Mounir al-Bursh, director general of the Health Ministry, said the flood of wounded from the strikes compounded "an already catastrophic situation for the health care system" in northern Gaza, in a post on X. Doctors Without Borders, the international charity known by its French acronym MSF, called on Israeli forces "to immediately stop their attacks on hospitals in North Gaza" after the Health Ministry said Israeli troops had fired on two hospitals over the weekend. The military said it was oper-

US investigating unauthorised release of classified documents on Israel attack plans

Washington (AP): The US is investigating an unauthorised release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, three US officials told The Associated Press. A fourth US official said the documents appear to be legitimate. The documents are attributed to the US Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and note that Israel continues to move military assets in place to conduct a military strike in

response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the US, Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The documents, which are marked top secret, were posted online to Telegram and first reported by CNN and Axios. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. An emergency coordinator for MSF said, "When hospitals are attacked, their infrastructure destroyed, and the electricity cut off, the lives of patients and medical staff are under threat." Internet connectivity went down in northern Gaza late Saturday and had not yet been restored by midday Sunday, making it

difficult to gather information about the strikes and complicating rescue efforts. Israel has been carrying out a major operation in Jabaliya, also in northern Gaza, for the last two weeks. The military says it launched the operation against Hamas militants who had regrouped there. Over the course of the war, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to Jabaliya, a densely populated urban refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. The north has already suffered the heaviest destruction of the war, and has been encircled by Israeli forces since late last year, following the deadly Hamas' attack on Israel. Israel ordered the entire population of the northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, to evacuate to the south in the opening weeks of the war and reiterated those instructions earlier this month. Most of the population fled last year, but around 400,000 people are believed to have remained in the north. Palestinians who fled the north at the start of the war have not been allowed to return. On Oct 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 captives are still being held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people. **3 soldiers killed** The Lebanese army says three of its soldiers were killed in an Israeli strike on their vehicle in southern Lebanon. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on Sunday's strike. Lebanon's army has largely kept the sidelines in the war between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group. The military is a respected institution in Lebanon but is not powerful enough to impose its will on Hezbollah or defend the country from an Israeli invasion.

Trump kicks off Pennsylvania rally

AP ■ LATROBE

Donald Trump's campaign suggested he would begin previewing his closing argument Saturday night with Election Day barely two weeks away. But the former president kicked off his rally with a detailed story about Arnold Palmer, at one point even praising the late, legendary golfer's genitalia. Trump was campaigning in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where Palmer was born in 1929 and learned to golf from his father, who suffered from polio and was head pro and greenskeeper at the local country club. Politicians saluting Palmer in his hometown is nothing new. But

Trump spent 12 full minutes doing so at the top of his speech and even suggested how much more fun the night would be if Palmer, who died in 2016, could join him on stage. "Arnold Palmer was all man, and I say that in all due respect to women," Trump said. "This is a guy that was all man." Then he went even further. "When he took the showers with other pros, they came out of there. They said, Oh my God. That's unbelievable," Trump said with a laugh. "I had to say. We have women that are highly sophisticated here, but they used to look at Arnold as a man." Trump senior adviser Jason Miller told reporters before the

speech that Trump planned to preview his closing argument against Vice President Kamala Harris and "start to get into that framing." Candidates have traditionally used their final days on the campaign trail to sum up for the electorate why they deserve to win the White House. Trump eventually hit many of his favorite campaign themes but didn't offer much in the way of new framing of the race or why he should win it. He instead boasted of creating strong tax policies and a strong military during his first term in office. He slammed Harris as "crazy" and added a profanity. "You have to tell Kamala Harris that you've had enough, that you

called him amid Israel's ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza. "He said, it's incredible what's happened," Trump said of the Netanyahu call before moving to a criticism of President Joe Biden, saying that the Israeli prime minister "wouldn't listen to Biden." Trump praised the raucous crowd, which was outside and at an airport, but also made a point of suggesting that there was more conspicuous security around him following two assassination attempts, saying, "They give you a little extra security nowadays, you notice?" "I got more machine guns than I've ever seen — look at these guys," he said referring to security.

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No anti-China activities will be allowed on Nepal's territory: Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on Sunday that no anti-China activities will be allowed in the country, reaffirming the Himalayan nation's commitment to the 'One China' policy. Oli made the remarks in a meeting with a high-level Chinese delegation led by Chen Jining, a member of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee. The meeting took place at his official residence in Baluwatar, Kathmandu.

Reaffirming Nepal's commitment to the One China policy, Oli told the visiting delegation that no anti-China activities would be allowed to operate within Nepal's territory. China claims that the breakaway nation of Taiwan is part of it and makes it mandatory for all the countries having diplomatic ties with it to follow the 'One China' policy, which effectively states that Taiwan is part of China. During the meeting, Oli also expressed hopes for continued support from China for Nepal's economic development. Talks were also held about strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing collaboration between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) parties, according to the PM's secretary. Prime Minister's Chief Advisor Bishnu Prasad Rimal, CPM (UML) Secretary and Foreign Department Chief of CPN (UML) Raghubir Mahaseth, and China's Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song were among those present on the occasion.

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Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2024 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 30/09/2024 | | Quarter ended on 30/06/2024 | | Quarter ended on 30/09/2023 | | Year to date figures for year as on 30/09/2024 | | Year to date figures for the previous year ended 31/03/2024 | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|---------|---|---------|
| | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited |
| Revenue from operations | 3482.05 | 3157.03 | 2598.35 | 6639.08 | 4977.17 | 10,863.73 | | | | |
| Profit before tax | 1258.64 | 1181.30 | 1113.57 | 2439.94 | 2127.30 | 4586.70 | | | | |
| Profit after tax | 919.01 | 895.22 | 823.09 | 1814.22 | 1582.04 | 3415.96 | | | | |
| Total comprehensive income for the period | 915.30 | 879.37 | 818.16 | 1794.67 | 1575.34 | 3388.90 | | | | |
| Paid up equity share capital (Face value: Rs. 10 per share) | 1185.60 | 1185.60 | 1185.60 | 1185.60 | 1185.60 | 1185.60 | | | | |
| Total reserves (including non-controlling interests) | 2043.77 | 1809.94 | 638.80 | 2093.43 | 638.80 | 1197.62 | | | | |
| Earnings per equity share Basic and diluted | 7.75 | 7.55 | 6.94 | 15.30 | 13.34 | 28.81 | | | | |

Extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter & Half Year ended on September 30, 2024 (Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 30/09/2024 | | Quarter ended on 30/06/2024 | | Quarter ended on 30/09/2023 | | Year to date figures for year as on 30/09/2024 | | Year to date figures for the previous year ended 31/03/2024 | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|--|---------|---|---------|
| | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited | Audited |
| Revenue from operations | 3477.16 | 3146.33 | 2589.79 | 6623.49 | 4955.93 | 10807.34 | | | | |
| Profit before tax | 1260.77 | 1182.20 | 1113.56 | 2442.97 | 2121.51 | 4589.33 | | | | |
| Profit after tax | 921.79 | 896.20 | 825.72 | 1817.99 | 1580.67 | 3422.95 | | | | |
| Total comprehensive income for the period | 918.09 | 880.35 | 820.79 | 1798.43 | 1573.97 | 3412.81 | | | | |

1. The full format of the quarterly Un-audited financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and www.nseindia.com and also on the Company's website www.ksolves.com.

By order of the Board
Ratan Kumar Srivastava
Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mrs. Randhir Kaur Sidhu, wife of Mr. S. S. Sidhu, sub-lease and "GPA" holder and resident of C-23 Chirag Enclave, Greater Kailash, New Delhi-110048, have lost/misplaced the original documents pertaining to the property located at C-23 Chirag Enclave, New Delhi. The missing documents are as follows:

- Form D/Occupancy Certificate
- Sub-Lease Deed
- Saction Plan and Certificate.

An FIR (LR No. 2219052/2024) dated 19/10/2024 has been lodged regarding the loss of these documents. Any person(s) having any claim, right, interest, or objection regarding the said property, or anyone who may have found the aforementioned original documents, is hereby requested to contact me at 9810189211 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Alternatively, claims, objections, or information may be submitted in person or in writing to: Deputy Director (CS), Coop Society Branch, DDA, C-3 Block, 2nd Floor/Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023. Please note, any claims or objections received after the said period will not be entertained, and the process for obtaining certified copies of the documents will be initiated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publicly notified that the PLOT NO. 03B, BLOCK-B, SECTOR-55, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR (U.P.) has been allotted in the name of SH. RAMESHWAR PRASAD AGARWAL S/O LATE SHRI SURAJ NARAYAN AGRAWAL R/O P.O. DISTT. BEGU SARAI MAIN ROAD, BIHAR had sold the said property on the basis of GPA to the following person:-

A GPA was executed in favour of SMT. KRISHNA VERMA W/O SHRI KANHAIYA PRASAD VERMA R/o B-38, SECTOR-55, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR (U.P.) executed at Delhi vide Book No. IV, Volume No. 105, on Pages 169 to 170, at Document No. 30514 dated 12/07/1995 but Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of this notice, it is informed that the transfer of the above plot goes in favour of SH. PAWAN KUMAR GARG S/O SH. SHAMBHU DAYAL GARG & SMT. RENU GARG W/O SH. PAWAN KUMAR GARG both R/o A-1/151, 152, NEW KONDLI, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-3, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110096. If any one has/have any objection, he/she/they may submit his/her/their objection in the Residential Plots Department of NOIDA Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Residential portion of Plot area measuring 50 sq yds. i.e. 41.8 sq mtr. out of 100 sq. yds. falling in Khast No. 527, Sitated Village Jalpura, Pargana & Tehsil Dadrn, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP). (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Mukesh & Mrs. Shweta Begum (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said property from Mr. Mohd. Shakeel (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute owner of the said property and the said property is registered as Document No. 41676, Book No. 1, Vol No. 24950, pages 337-360 on 09.10.2023 (SRO-Dadrn) executed by Mr. Rashid Khan in his favour in favour of Mrs. Lalia Khatun. The purchaser has also informed that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property. The seller has further informed the purchaser that the following original document namely (1) Sale Deed registered as Document No. 18364 in Book No. I, Volume No. 4678, pages 291-300 of 12.09.2012, executed by Mr. Abdul Muntalib in favour of Mrs. Lalia Khatun, in respect of said property and forming part of the chain documents and hereinafter called the "said document" is not traceable and sent to have been lost. An FIR regarding loss of the said document has been lodged with Delhi Police Crime Branch vide LR No. 2216413/2024 dated 19.10.2024.

If the aforesaid original said document is found or has 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 in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after the 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 document shall be illegal and not binding on our client. The person doing so shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law.

SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR MIS INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT
O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)
ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI - 25,
Email-id: as-ce.asbip@assam.gov.in

No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/165/2024/15

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - QCBS METHOD)

Country : INDIA
Name of Project : ASSAM RESILIENT RURAL BRIDGES PROGRAM (ARRBP)
Loan No. : IBRD Loan No. 9632-IN
Assignment Title : Technical Audit Consultancy Services for Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP)
Reference No. : CE/EAP/ARRBP/TAC/NCB/14

The Government of Assam (GoA) has received financing from the World Bank, towards the cost of Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Consultancy Services ("the Services").

The consulting services ("the Services") detailed in the Terms of Reference (ToR), which will be available at website <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in>.

- The Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD, Assam now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
- The Short-listing Criteria are detailed in the REOI and may be downloaded from the website <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in>.
- The list of documents for submission online are mentioned in the REOI.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture or as Sub Consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The maximum number of JV partner is 2 (two). No key personnel of the Associated partner or sub-consultant shall be allowed

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method set out in the Consultant selection Guidelines of the World Bank.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e., 1000 Hrs. to 1700 Hrs.

Expressions of interest must be uploaded in the website <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 1400 Hrs. (IST) on **18.11.2024**.

Chief Engineer (EAP) PWRD
ARRTI Complex: Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-781025, Assam, India

Janasanyog/CF/1865/24/20-Oct-24

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-01/2024-25 Date-17.10.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BUILDING WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work : Construction of 4 nos. "E" type Quarter at Naktiguda of R.W.Division, Bhawanipatna for the year 2024-25.
- No of Works : 01 No.
- Location details : Kalahandi District
- Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
- Period of Completion : As per NIT.
- Cost of tender : Rs.10,000/- per set.
- Other details :

| Availability of tender for online bidding | Last date & time for seeking tender clarification | Date and time of opening of technical bid |
|---|---|---|
| From 24.10.2024 11.00 A.M. | To 07.11.2024 5.00 P.M. | 06.11.2024 08.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. |

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Entire Built up Ground Floor with its roof/terrace rights "said floor" Built up Portion of freshhold Property Bearing Municipal No. 3124, area measuring 165.96 sq.mtrs. Ward No. XII, Situated at Arya Pura, Mandi, Delhi-110007 (as per technical evaluation report Upper Ground Floor LHS Portion without roof rights, Arayapura, Subti Mandi, Ghanta Ghar, Delhi-110007). (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

Be it known to all that our clients, Mrs. Sheila & Mr. Nimra (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mr. Abhishek & Mr. Gaurav (hereinafter called the "seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that the said floor is registered as Document No. 3495, Book No. I, Volume No. 5690, Page No. 107-118, Registered on 28.03.2023 (SRO-I). The seller has further informed the purchaser that Mr. Vinod Bhatia owned the 1/2th share in the said property in terms of Sale Deeds dated 03/05/2007 registered as Document No. 3278 executed by Mr. Hans Raj in his favour in respect of his 1/4th share in the said property. Thus, Mr. Vinod Bhatia owned the 1/2 share in the said property and sold the said floor to Mr. Abhishek & Mr. Gaurav (the present seller). The seller has further informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

Any person including Bank's, Financial Institution's, relative's having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller in respect of the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall be deemed to be clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever

Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellectual Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

AP ■ CHISINAU

Moldovans have started casting ballots in two key votes Sunday that could determine whether the European Union candidate country, which neighbours Ukraine, remains on a pro-western path amid ongoing allegations that Russia has tried to undermine the electoral process.

Incumbent President Maia Sandu is the favourite to secure another term in office in a presidential race in which 11 candidates are running. Voters will also choose "yes" or "no" in a referendum on whether to enshrine its path toward the 27-nation EU.

Polls by WatchDog, a Chisinau-based think-tank show a clear majority of more than 50 per cent support the EU path. The referendum needs a one-third turnout to be valid.

Polling stations opened at 7 am (0400GMT) and are expected to close at 9 pm (1800GMT). If Sandu fails to win an outright majority on Sunday, a run-off will be held on November 3 which could pit her against Alexandr Stoiianog, a Russia-friendly former prosecutor general who is polling at around 10 per cent. The two pivotal ballots are held amid ongoing claims by Moldovan authorities that Moscow has intensified an alleged "hybrid war" campaign to destabilise the country and derail its EU path. The allegations include funding pro-Moscow opposition groups, spreading disinformation, meddling in local elections, and backing a major vote-buying scheme. US national security spokesman John Kirby echoed those concerns this week, saying in a statement that "Russia is working actively to undermine Moldova's election and its European integration". Moscow has repeatedly denied it is inter-

fering in Moldova. "In the last several months, Moscow has dedicated millions of dollars to influencing Moldova's presidential election," Kirby said. "We assess that this money has gone toward financing its preferred parties and spreading disinformation on social media in favour of their campaigns." In early October, Moldovan law enforcement said it had uncovered a massive vote-buying scheme orchestrated by Ilan Shor, an exiled pro-Russia oligarch who currently resides in Russia, which paid 15 million euros (USD 16.2 million) to undermine the two ballots. Shor, who was convicted in absentia last year to 15 years in jail on fraud and money laundering in the case of USD 1 billion that went missing from Moldovan banks in 2014, denied allegations, saying "the payments are legal" and cited a right to freedom of expression. Shor's populist Russia-friendly Shor Party was declared unconstitutional last year and banned. On Thursday, Moldovan authorities foiled another plot in which more than 100 young Moldovans received training in Moscow from private military groups on how to create civil unrest around the two votes. Some also attended "more advanced training in guerrilla camps" in Serbia and Bosnia, police said, and four people were detained for 30 days. A pro-Western government has been in power in Moldova since 2021, a year after Sandu won the presidency, and a parliamentary election will be held next year. Moldova, a former Soviet republic with a population of about 2.5 million, applied to join the EU in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and was granted candidate status that summer, alongside Ukraine. Brussels agreed in June to start membership negotiations.

Kyiv launches more than 100 drones over Russia

Missile strike in Ukraine injures 17

AP ■ KYIV
Russian air defences shot down more than 100 Ukrainian drones on Sunday over Russia's western regions, Moscow officials said, while 17 people were injured in the Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih in a ballistic missile attack.



Such large-scale aerial attacks are still relatively rare over Russia since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Russian Defence Ministry said 110 drones were destroyed in the overnight barrage against seven Russian regions. Many targeted Russia's border region of Kursk, where 43 drones were reportedly shot down. Social media footage appeared to show air defences at work over the city of Dzerzhinsk in the Nizhny Novgorod region, close to a factory producing explosives. Local Governor Gleb Nikitin wrote on social media Sunday that four firefighters were injured repelling a drone attack over the city's industrial zone, but did not give further details.

Meanwhile, the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces posted on Telegram that it targeted Dzerzhinsk's state-owned Sverdlov factory, which it said had been making chemical components for artillery ammunition and aerial bombs. It also said a drone sparked a fire at a military airfield in the Lipetsk region. The comments couldn't be independently verified by the Associated Press.

A similar attack at the end of September saw Russia's Ministry of Defense report the destruction of 125 drones across seven regions. In Ukraine's Kryvyi Rih, 17 people were injured after two Russian ballistic missiles hit the city late Saturday evening, officials said Sunday. The attack damaged homes and businesses, said local administration head Oleksandr Vilkul.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 49 drones and two Iskander-M ballistic missiles in total overnight. It said 31 of the drones were shot down over 12 regions, including the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, while another 13 disappeared from radar - suggesting they were knocked out by electronic defences.

In a statement on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched some 800 guided aerial bombs and more than 500 attack drones over Ukraine in the past week alone. "Every day, Russia strikes our cities and communities. It is deliberate terror from the enemy against our people," he said, renewing calls for continued air support from the country's allies. "United in defence, the world can stand against this targeted terror."

Subianto takes oath as Indonesia Prez

AP ■ JAKARTA
Prabowo Subianto was inaugurated Sunday as the eighth president of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, completing his journey from an ex-general accused of rights abuses during the dark days of Indonesia's military dictatorship to the presidential palace.

The former defence minister, who turned 73 on Thursday, was cheered through the streets by thousands of waving supporters after taking his oath on the Quran in front of lawmakers and foreign dignitaries. Banners and billboards filled the streets of the capital, Jakarta, where tens of thousands gathered for festivities. Wearing a blue Betawi traditional cloth and a dark baseball cap, Subianto stood up in the sunroof of a white van and waved, occasionally shaking people's hands, as his motorcade struggled to pass through the thousands of supporters calling his name and chanting "Good luck Prabowo-Gibran," filling the road leading from the parliament building to the presidential palace.

"I see a firm and patriotic figure in him," said Atalaric Eka Prayoga, 25. "That's a figure we need to lead Indonesia." Another resident, Silky Putri, said he hopes Subianto "can build Indonesia to be more advanced and improve the current gloomy economic situation". Subianto was a longtime rival of the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, who ran against him for the presidency twice and refused to accept his defeat on both occasions, in 2014 and 2019.

But Widodo appointed Subianto as defense chief after his reelection, paving the way for an alliance despite their rival political parties. During the campaign, Subianto ran as the popular outgoing president's heir, vowing to continue

signature policies like the construction of a multibillion-dollar new capital city and limits on exporting raw materials intended to boost domestic industry. Backed by Widodo, Subianto swept to a landslide victory in February's direct presidential election on promises of policy continuity. Subianto was sworn in with his new vice president, 37-year-old Surakarta ex-Mayor Gibran Rakabuming Raka. He chose Raka, who is Widodo's son, as his running mate, with Widodo favouring Subianto over the candidate of his own former party. The former rivals became tacit allies, even though Indonesian presidents don't typically endorse candidates. But how he'll govern the biggest economy in Southeast Asia — where nearly 90% of Indonesia's 282 million people are Muslims — remains uncertain after a campaign in which he made few concrete promises besides continuity with the popular former president.

After decades of dictatorship under President Suharto, Indonesia was convulsed by political, ethnic and religious unrest in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then, it has consolidated its democratic transition as the world's third-largest democracy, and is home to a rapidly expanding middle class. Subianto, who comes from one of the country's wealthiest families, is a sharp contrast to Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite. Subianto was a special forces commander until he was expelled by the army in 1998 over accusations that he played a role in the kidnappings and torture of activists and other abuses. He never faced trial and went into self-imposed exile in Jordan in 1998, although several of his underlings were tried and convicted. Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein was expected to attend Sunday's ceremony, but cancelled at the last minute because of escalating Middle East tensions, instead deciding to send Foreign Affairs Minister Nancy Nabouroua as his special envoy. Subianto and Abdullah met in person in June for talks in Amman on humanitarian assistance to people affected by the war in Gaza.

Subianto, who has never held elective office, will lead a massive, diverse archipelago nation whose economy has boomed amid strong global demand for its natural resources. But he'll have to contend with global economic distress and regional tensions in Asia, where territorial conflicts and the US-China rivalry loom large. Leaders and senior officials from more than 30 countries flew in to attend the ceremony, including Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and leaders of Southeast Asia countries.

Bangladesh SC reinstates Supreme Judicial Council

PTI ■ DHAKA
Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday reinstated the Supreme Judicial Council with authority to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, while upholding its previous ruling that declared the 16th constitutional amendment, which transferred the power of removing judges to parliament, as "illegal".

"The order was passed by a six-member bench of the Supreme Court's apex Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed," Supreme Court lawyer Ruhul Kuddus told reporters after the apex court announced its judgement. Kuddus, who was present in the hearing, said the ruling reinforced the original constitutional provisions. The verdict also meant scrapping of the 16th constitutional amendment, passed during deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime, giving the task of impeaching judges to Parliament instead of the Supreme Judicial Council comprising apex court judges. The 16th Amendment was passed in January 2014, relieving the Supreme Judicial Council of its authority of removing judges for incompe-

E-TENDER NOTICE

IIM Ranchi invites e-tender for eligible bidders for 'Providing Integrated Education Software Solution for Academic Programme Offices'. Last date for submission of the e-bids is 03:00 pm on 25.10.2024. No further extension will be given. For More details, please refer to our website www.iimranchi.ac.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt Kamlesh Kaur, resident of H-1/25, Gali No. 27, Rajapuri, New Delhi-110059 have disowned and debarred her son namely Abhishek from her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect due to his adamant nature and rebellious attitude. Any person dealing with him in any manner shall be doing so at their own risk, responsibility and consequence and my client who is not to be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that Smt Menka Kohli D/o Shri Chandan Kanwal Kohli is the Owner of R/o - 4436 Katra Raj Jee Street Paharganj New Delhi 110055. And The Original Builder Buyer Agreement Dated 25/01/2007. Executed by M/s Rajesh Projects Pvt Ltd in favour of Mrs. Menka Kohli has been lost. If anyone found this Original Document and have any objection Regarding this Document in respect of Unit No. B-301. Inform me one my given mob No. - 9911004142 Within 7 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson S/o. Peter Wilson & Mrs. Neelima Wilson W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson, both R/o - Flat No. 201, First Floor R.I.S, Plot No. 83 A & 84 A, Gali No. 37, J Block, Raja Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, has severed all their relations and have disowned their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson, from their all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson & his wife Mrs. Rebekha Wilson, if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk.

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General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson S/o. Peter Wilson & Mrs. Neelima Wilson W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson, both R/o - Flat No. 201, First Floor R.I.S, Plot No. 83 A & 84 A, Gali No. 37, J Block, Raja Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, has severed all their relations and have disowned their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson, from their all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson & his wife Mrs. Rebekha Wilson, if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

I, Dinesh Kumar R/o B-74/104 Brahmputra Enclave Siddharth Vihar Sector-10 Ghaziabad, UP declare that On dated 17/10/2024 time 7:15 pm H-318, B Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad My first Registry (Sale Deed) and other documents got lost somewhere, which after searching haven't found it yet, please inform me when you do. Mo. 9015709950 PD(865)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Haider Ali Ansari and his wife Nazra Akbari both R/o A-107, Gali No. 9, Om Nagar Meethapur Extn., Badarpur, PO: Badarpur District: South Delhi Delhi-110044 have disowned their son Mohd Dilshad from their all moveable-immovable properties and severed all relations with him due to his disobedience. My clients shall not be responsible for his any act.

LOST & FOUND

I, Mohd. Hashim, S/o Late Mohd Shauf Usmani, R/o 1544, First Floor, Kucha Dakhni Rai, Pataudi House, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 informs that I have lost my Original documents (Allotment Letter & Possession Letter) of property situated at Flat No.4C/3022, Sector 4, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201012. L.A.R. No. 2212892/2024 of FIR Date 18.10.2024. If anyone found please contact at the above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to that our client Mr. Manish Pahujia purchased/acquired Entire GP Portion without roof right, area measuring 98 sq. yds., i.e. 81.93 sq. mtrs., out of Khata No. 117, Part of Property No. 20, situated in the area of Village-Chandrawal alias Shahdara, in the abadi of Moti Ram Road, Nar Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032; purchased the same from MRS. MAMITA SHUKLA on the basis of Sale Deed dated 15.04.2021 bearing document no.2631, Book No. 01, Volume no.3636, on pages 51-61, dated 15.04.2021 and entered into mortgage with the financial assistance from SMFG India Credit Co., Ltd.; To comply the requirements of Bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/mortgage over the said property may inform us in writing the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, liens and Legal L.P. Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40048316

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Haider Ali Ansari and his wife Nazra Akbari both R/o A-107, Gali No. 9, Om Nagar Meethapur Extn., Badarpur, PO: Badarpur District: South Delhi Delhi-110044 have disowned their son Mohd Dilshad from their all moveable-immovable properties and severed all relations with him due to his disobedience. My clients shall not be responsible for his any act.

LOST & FOUND

I, Mohd. Hashim, S/o Late Mohd Shauf Usmani, R/o 1544, First Floor, Kucha Dakhni Rai, Pataudi House, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 informs that I have lost my Original documents (Allotment Letter & Possession Letter) of property situated at Flat No.4C/3022, Sector 4, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201012. L.A.R. No. 2212892/2024 of FIR Date 18.10.2024. If anyone found please contact at the above address.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Haider Ali Ansari and his wife Nazra Akbari both R/o A-107, Gali No. 9, Om Nagar Meethapur Extn., Badarpur, PO: Badarpur District: South Delhi Delhi-110044 have disowned their son Mohd Dilshad from their all moveable-immovable properties and severed all relations with him due to his disobedience. My clients shall not be responsible for his any act.

LOST & FOUND

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CNG price may go up on input supply cut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has slashed by up to 20 per cent the supplies of cheaper domestically produced natural gas to city retailers -- a move that may result in Rs 4-6 per kg hike in the price of CNG sold to automobiles, unless excise duty on the fuel is cut, sources said.

Natural gas pumped from below the ground and from under the seabed from sites ranging from the Arabian Sea to Bay of Bengal within India is the raw material that is turned into CNG for sale to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households.

Production from legacy fields, whose price is regulated by the government and which are used to feed city gas retailers, has been falling by up to 5 per cent annually due to natural decline that has set in. This has led to supply cuts to city gas retailers, four sources in know of the matter said.

While the input gas for piped cooking gas that households get is protected, the government has cut supply of raw material for CNG. Gas from legacy fields used to meet 90 per cent of the demand for CNG in May 2023 and has progressively fallen. The supply was cut to just 50.75 per cent of the CNG demand beginning October 16 from 67.74 per cent last month, they said.

City gas retailers are forced to buy imported and costlier liquefied natural gas (LNG) to make up for the shortfall, which will lead to a hike in CNG prices that varies from Rs 4-6/kg.

The gas from legacy fields is priced at USD 6.50 per million British thermal unit (mBtu) as against imported LNG that costs USD 11-12



per mBtu.

For now, the retailers have not raised CNG rates as they are engaged with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to find a solution, sources said.

One of the options is for the government to cut excise duty on CNG. Currently, the central government levies a 14 per cent excise duty on CNG, which translates into Rs 14-15 per kg. If this is cut, the retailers will not have to pass on the increased cost to consumers, they said.

CNG price hike is also a political issue since Maharashtra goes to the polls next month and elections are also due in Delhi soon. Delhi and Mumbai are among the biggest CNG markets in the country.

Sources said the gas supplies to city gas retailers had to be cut after the government decided to restore fuel to ONGC-promoted OpaL, petrochemical plant in Dahej, Gujarat.

The plant was originally allocated 4.12 million

standard cubic meters per day of domestically produced natural gas. However, the allocation for various reasons was cut to 1.95 mmscmd and during Covid was halved.

Lack of promised domestic gas was the main reason for OpaL running into losses, sources said, adding that the government has now approved a package to revive the unit. This package includes promoter Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) infusing additional Rs 10,501 crore as equity and the unit being made available domestically produced natural gas.

The Union Cabinet approved the allocation of 3.44 mmscmd of domestic gas -- mostly coming from new wells of ONGC. This led to lesser gas being available for city gas retailers.

Girish Kadam, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Corporate Ratings, Icrs Ltd, said, "The APM gas allocation has been reduced for the CGD sector by 20 per cent of

the current domestic gas consumption by the sector. The reduction in APM allocation will have to be replaced by more expensive HPHT gas or (imported) LNG, which will push the overall gas costs for the sector."

"To maintain contribution margins at existing levels, CNG prices will have to be increased about Rs 5-5.5 per kg.

Indraprastha Gas Ltd, which retails CNG in the national capital, and Mumbai-based Mahanagar Gas Ltd in regulatory filings stated that supplies of domestically produced gas, which was available at a capped rate half of the imported price, has been cut.

"The company gets domestic gas allocation for meeting the requirement of CNG sales volumes at the pricing fixed by the government (presently at USD 6.5 per million British thermal unit). Based on communication received by the company from GAIL

(India) Ltd (the nodal agency for domestic gas allocation), this is to inform that there has been a major reduction in domestic gas allocation to the company effective from October 16, 2024," IGL said in a filing.

The revised domestic gas allocation to IGL is about 21 per cent less than previous allocation, "which will have an adverse impact on profitability of the company", it said, adding that it is in discussions with key stakeholders to minimise the impact.

Separately, MGL said as per Policy Guideline dated August 10, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, domestically produced Administrative Price Mechanisms (APM) natural gas is to be allocated to city gas distribution (CGD) companies for priority segments, specifically domestic piped natural gas and CNG (transport).

The policy states that the supply of domestic gas to CGD entities will be made only up to the quantity available and allocated to GAIL (India) limited for these segments.

"...The company is exploring options of sourcing gas through domestically produced high pressure high temperature (HPHT) gas, new well/well intervention gas (NWG) from ONGC and benchmark-linked long-term gas contracts, so as to continue to provide gas to its customers with price stability," MGL added.

Adani Total Gas Ltd -- the other significant city gas retailer -- in its filing said the APM priced domestic gas allocation to the company has been reduced by about 16 per cent, effective October 16, 2024, compared to the earlier allocation.

India's bioeconomy hits \$150Billion, innovation key

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's biotechnology sector is witnessing remarkable growth, with the country's bioeconomy now valued at USD 150 billion but there is still significant untapped potential in innovation and product development, which could further elevate India's global standing in the sector, Dr Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director of the government's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), said.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the government that supports and promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and research in the sector.

In an interview with PTI, Kumar highlighted India's significant contributions to global healthcare, with 40 per cent of the world's generic medicines being supplied by Indian companies.

"We have enormous potential and capability, but when it comes to the value of our bioeconomy, we are ranked 14th globally. This is because much of the value stems from patented, innovative products -- an area where India still needs to improve," Kumar said.

"So that emphasis effort from the government and BIRAC side is to actually promote that which is why we will now be promoting innovations... That is why the biotech industry is concentrating on promoting new innovations and promoting and nurturing them," he said.

To address this gap, BIRAC is emphasising innovation and nurturing startups through various programmes designed to convert academic



research into marketable products.

"Our goal is to promote academic conversion into enterprise. Through initiatives like the Promoting Academic Conversion to Enterprise (PACE), we're helping scientists move their research out of labs and into the market," he said.

Since its formation in 2012, BIRAC has played a critical role in creating a biotech innovation ecosystem, he said.

Kumar shared that the number of biotech startups in India has grown exponentially from about 300 to over 8,000, with significant government support driving this expansion. Additionally, the bioeconomy has surged from USD 35 billion to USD 150 billion in just a decade.

A key achievement of BIRAC, Kumar said, has been the creation of bio-incubation centres across India, providing crucial infrastructure for startups to develop proof-of-concept products.

"Startups often face challenges in finding laboratory space. Our bio-incubation centres offer 'plug and play' laboratories, which have made it easier for startups to carry out their research and development," he added.

However, despite these advancements, India still lags in research and development (R&D) spending, investing

just 0.8 per cent of its GDP in R&D compared to developed nations like the US and China, which spend over 2 per cent.

Kumar stressed that increasing private-sector investment in R&D is essential for India to realise its potential as a global biotech leader.

"We are working on programmes that encourage industries to invest in R&D alongside government funding. For instance, our Biotech Industry Partnership Program requires co-funding from industry players," he said.

Kumar also acknowledged regulatory challenges faced by biotech startups but emphasised that BIRAC is working to alleviate these issues through regulatory advocacy and policy initiatives.

"Many startups face difficulties due to a lack of understanding of regulatory processes. We have created a Regulatory and Policy Advocacy Cell to guide startups and engage with regulatory bodies to ease these challenges," he noted.

Kumar said he is optimistic about India's biotech future. The government's commitment to increasing R&D investment through initiatives like the National Research Foundation and its efforts to align regulatory frameworks with global standards will be key drivers of future growth.

Mansukh Mandaviya to launch eShram-One Stop Solution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will launch 'eShram-One Stop Solution' for unorganised workers on Monday, the labour ministry said in a statement.

eShram-One Stop Solution will act as a mediator to ensure that unorganised workers have easy access to a variety of government schemes/programmes, it stated.

This initiative will help unorganised workers become aware of the schemes designed for them, it said.

According to the statement, in keeping with the vision of the recent Budget Announcement on developing eShram as a one-stop-solution for unorganised labour sector to have access to various social sector schemes, Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports will launch the 'eShram-One Stop Solution' on October 21.

eShram-One Stop Solution

aims to integrate information of beneficiaries of all social security and welfare schemes meant for unorganised workers in an effective manner through a single platform.

eShram as a one-stop-solution will help facilitate identification and implementation of the social security & welfare schemes for the unorganised worker and to help saturation of the schemes in the fast and effective manner.

Consequently, 12 schemes of different central ministries/departments have already been integrated/mapped with the eShram.

Since the launch of the e-Shram on August 26, 2021, over 30 crore unorganised workers have been enrolled and it has demonstrated widespread appeal among the unorganised labour.

This achievement underscores the social impact of the initiative and the government's commitment to support the nation's unorganised workers, it said.

India's solar imports may hit \$30 Billion by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 may push solar equipment import bill to about USD 30 billion per year and increase dependence on Chinese goods, think tank GTRI said in a report on Sunday.

It said developing a self-reliant solar manufacturing industry in India will require significant investment to create an integrated supply chain, especially in areas like polysilicon and wafer production.

Without this, India may continue to face high import costs and struggle to meet its renewable energy goals.

India installed 15 GW of solar capacity in 2023-24, raising the total to 90.8 GW by September, compared to just 2.8 GW in 2014, it said.

To meet the government's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, India needs to significantly ramp up installations to 65-70 GW each year, with over 80 per cent of this target expected to come from solar power, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

"This target seems ambitious,

particularly given India's reliance on imports, which could push solar import to USD 30 billion annually," it said.

In 2023-24, India imported USD 7 billion worth of solar equipment, with China supplying 62.6 per cent.

China controls 97 per cent of global polysilicon production and 80 per cent of solar module manufacturing, making it difficult for India or any country to compete due to lower prices from China.

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said while initiatives like the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost local manufacturing, impact is limited as it relies on large scale use of imported inputs.

The report said India's solar manufacturing industry is in early stages, with most projects relying on imported ready-to-use modules.

During the last fiscal year, ready-to-use solar modules' imports reached USD 4.4 billion. The country also imported solar cells worth USD 1.9 billion and USD 1 billion worth of other essential parts such as inverters, and cables, junction boxes, transformers, and other electrical components needed for solar installations.



"Local production is import-dependent and mainly focuses on the final two stages. 90 per cent of solar manufacturing in India involves assembling solar modules from imported cells with 15 per cent local value addition," it said.

It added that few Indian companies manufacture commercial scale solar cells from imported polysilicon or wafers that add 30-40 per cent value locally and no one produces solar cells from scratch-using silica sands.

"To cut down on imports, India needs to produce solar cells starting from silica refining, which involves costly and energy-intensive polysilicon production and requires advanced technology," Srivastava said.

He added that cheap imports disrupt local pricing and the country has to also locally produce aluminum frames, glass, and other materials, which will require strong R&D efforts and government support.

According to the report, China is India's largest supplier, providing USD 3.89 billion worth of solar cells and modules, which accounts for 62.6 per cent of total imports. It is followed by Vietnam (USD 1.02 billion -- 16.5 per cent), Malaysia (USD 549.8 million -- 8.9 per cent, and Thailand (USD 248.8 million -- 4 per cent).

To reduce dependency on Chinese imports, India imposed a 40 per cent customs duty on solar modules and a 25 per cent

duty on solar cells. However, imports from Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand are exempt from these tariffs under the India-ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA), provided they add at least 35 per cent value to the imported inputs used in their export products.

The think tank has suggested seven steps to boost domestic manufacturing and cut imports and that includes pushing investments in upstream solar production, from raw materials like silica sand to finished solar panels, reducing dependency on imported wafers, polysilicon, and cells.

There is also an urgent need to focus on building local production capacity for aluminum frames, glass, and other critical materials used in solar panel manufacturing.

It asked to expand the scope of initiatives like the PLI scheme to cover early-stage solar manufacturing and provide targeted subsidies to attract private investment; and create a skilled workforce capable of managing large-scale solar installations and manufacturing processes.

"India should partner with the US, the EU, and Japan to establish large-scale solar manufacturing facilities,

fostering an independent and resilient solar industry," Srivastava said, adding that the country's current import duties on solar modules and cells should be reassessed to ensure they promote local manufacturing without raising costs for consumers.

Further he said the global shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, led by the US, EU, Japan, and India, hinges heavily on solar power, which makes up 50-80 per cent of the renewable energy mix in most countries.

China now dominates over 80 per cent of global solar production and exports, controlling 97 per cent of the world's polysilicon supply. In 2023, China exported 227 GW of solar modules worth USD 39.5 billion and 38 GW of solar cells worth USD 4.2 billion, it said.

Producing solar panels involves six stages, from mining silica sand to assembling the final panel. Most countries import fully assembled solar modules, preferring this route over building domestic capacity.

Due to this dependence, it said the US, the EU, India, and Japan can consider establishing global-scale solar cell manufacturing facilities, starting from scratch.

Automobile exports from India rise 14 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile exports from India in the first six months of the current fiscal year rose 14 per cent year-on-year, led by gains in shipments of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers.

According to Siam data, the overall exports in the April-September period stood at 25,28,248 units, up 14 per cent as compared with 22,11,457 units in the year-ago period.

"Key markets like Latin America and Africa, which had slowed down for various reasons, have bounced back. This has been the main reason for exports coming back," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Shailesh Chandra said.

He was replying to a query on the reasons for the bouncing back of vehicle exports in the April-September period.

Various African nations and



other regions faced challenges due to devaluation of currencies. This impacted the vehicle shipments as the nations focussed on import of essential items.

Automobile exports declined 5.5 per cent in FY24 due to the monetary crisis in various overseas markets.

Overall exports stood at 45,00,492 units in the last fiscal year as compared with

47,61,299 units in FY23.

Total passenger vehicle shipments rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 3,76,679 units in the first half of the current fiscal year as against 3,36,754 units in the September quarter of FY24.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki led the vertical with shipments of 1,47,063 units, an increase of 12 per cent over 1,31,546

units in the year-ago period.

Hyundai Motor India exported 84,900 units, a drop of 1 per cent, as against 86,105 units in April-September period of the previous fiscal year.

Two-wheeler exports rose 16 per cent year-on-year to 19,59,145 units in the April-September period this fiscal year as compared with 16,85,907 units in the year-ago period.

Scooter shipments increased 19 per cent to 3,14,533 units while motorcycle exports rose 16 per cent to 1,64,1,804 units during the period under review.

Commercial vehicle exports rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 35,731 units in the first six months of the fiscal year.

Three-wheeler shipments, however, declined 1 per cent during the period to 1,53,199 units as compared with 1,55,154 units in the April-September period of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Mcap of most valued firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four of the top-10 most-valued firms together added Rs 81,151.31 crore in market valuation last week, with ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainers.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 156.61 points, or 0.19 per cent.

While HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, and the State Bank of India were the gainers, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffered a combined erosion of Rs 76,622.05 crore from their market valuation.

ICICI Bank added Rs 28,495.14 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 8,90,191.38 crore.

The valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 23,579.11 crore to Rs 12,82,848.30 crore.

State Bank of India's market

valuation climbed Rs 17,804.61 crore to Rs 7,31,773.56 crore and that of Bharti Airtel went up Rs 11,272.45 crore to Rs 9,71,707.61 crore.

On the other hand, the market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys slumped Rs 23,314.31 crore to Rs 7,80,126.10 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries declined Rs 16,645.39 crore to Rs 18,38,721.14 crore.

The mcap of Hindustan Unilever tumbled Rs 15,248.85 crore to Rs 6,38,066.75 crore and that of TCS diminished by Rs 10,402.01 crore to Rs 14,91,321.40 crore.

LIC's valuation went lower by Rs 8,760.12 crore to Rs 5,91,418.91 crore.

The mcap of ITC dipped Rs 2,251.37 crore to Rs 6,08,682.29 crore.

Reliance Industries continued to remain the most-valued domestic firm.

INBRIEF

KHALSA COLLEGE & SHAHZADA NAND COLLEGE WON CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

AMRITSAR: 'A' Zone Zonal Youth Festival of Amritsar district colleges affiliated to the Guru Nanak Dev University concluded in Dasmesh Auditorium of the University. In 'A' Division Khalsa College, Amritsar bagged the first position, Guru Nanak Dev University secured the second position.

BHAIRABI - SAIRANG RAILWAY PROJECT PROGRESSING TOWARDS COMPLETION

MALIGAON: Indian Railways is significantly contributing towards transforming North-eastern states by executing several new railway line projects. The Bhairabi-Sairang New Line Railway Project to connect the capital of the North-eastern state of Mizoram to the rest of the country is one such project which is at an advance stage of completion.

FINANZA 2024 CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD INVESTOR WEEK

AMRITSAR: The Dinerio Finance Club of University Business School of Guru Nanak Dev University organised FINANZA 2024, an inter-department Finance Fest in association with Career Launcher and Black Swan Stock Market Academy.



THE REVELATIONS OF

'THE LIVING PLANET' REPORT 2024'

With population as a threat in Asia including India and the Pacific, recorded 60% average decline in wildlife writes ABHI SINGHAL

World Wide Fund's 15th biennial edition of the 'The Living Planet Report 2024' (LPR) reveals that there has been a catastrophic 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish) populations over just 50 years (1970-2020). The Living Planet Report (LPR) is a study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.

There has been a strong decline seen, with the highest in the freshwater populations (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) populations. Declines in wildlife populations can act as an early warning indicator of increasing extinction risk and the potential loss of healthy ecosystems. When ecosystems are damaged, they can become more vulnerable to tipping points - being pushed beyond a critical threshold resulting in substantial and potentially irreversible change. There have been



...India is home to the largest population of wild tigers globally and the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018

India i.e. the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) between 1992 and 2002.

The research tells that despite a decline in many wildlife populations in India, some populations have stabilised and shown recovery, largely due to proactive government initiatives, effective habitat management, and robust scientific monitoring, combined with community engagement and public support. It found that India is home to the largest population of wild tigers globally and the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018. On being asked if with such circumstances, we still have a chance of conserving the endangered wildlife species, the LPR panel said that it depends a lot on the species and the status of the species. They have seen it with some species like with the rhinos, tigers and if the action comes on the right time, at the right scale, and if the species itself is a species which can biologically recover, then we will see that change. The efforts need to be increased, and also some bit of scientific monitoring of this population. Long term monitoring is required, because currently, most of the monitoring that is happening there, they're voluntary or NGO actions.

The LPR states that the only way to make progress on the global goals of halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 and addressing the drivers of climate change is by transforming our energy, food and finance systems. At the same time, we must scale-up effective and inclusive conservation action, taking account of the rights, needs and values of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) - approaches which benefit biodiversity, climate and human well-being at the same time - hold enormous potential.



six global potential tipping points, such as the dieback of the Amazon rainforest and the mass die-off of coral reefs, could create shockwaves far beyond the immediate area impacting food security and livelihoods.

Commenting on the effect of adverse climate, Kirsten Schuijt, Director General of WWF International said, "The linked crisis of nature loss and climate change are pushing wildlife and ecosystems beyond their limits, with dangerous global tipping points threatening to damage Earth's life-support systems and destabilize societies. The catastrophic consequences of losing some of our most precious ecosystems, like the Amazon rainforest and coral reefs, would be felt by people and nature around the world." The report also shows the alarming decline of the three vulture species in



DIABETIC RETINOPATHY: A SERIOUSLY OVERLOOKED DISEASE

Early screening can prevent vision loss in diabetic patients, says ABHI SINGHAL

There are over 101 million people affected with diabetes in India and the number is expected to grow to 225 million by 2030. Studies also predict that one in five adults will be diagnosed with diabetes in their working age in coming years. This has resulted in the simultaneous and sharp rise in the prevalence of diabetes-related preventable vision loss. Diabetes-related elevated blood sugar is the cause of diabetic retinopathy. Over time, high blood sugar levels can harm your retina, which is the portion of your eye that senses light and uses the optic nerve (located in the back of the eye) to transmit signals to your brain. All over the body, blood vessels are harmed by diabetes. One might notice changes in their vision, like trouble reading or seeing faraway objects as a symptom. In the later stage blood vessels in the retina begin to leak into the vitreous, the gel-like fluid that fills your eye, as the disease progresses.



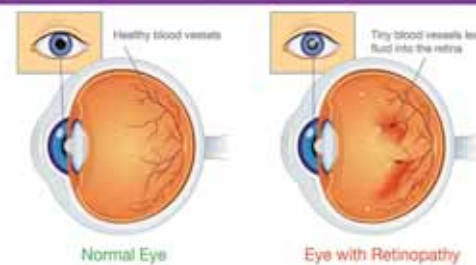
To combat this issue the Vitreo Retinal Society of India (VRSI) and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) have collaborated to formulate first-of-its-kind Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Guidelines. These guidelines from VRSI and RSSDI will help every physician and diabetologists in India to educate their patients regarding diabetic retinopathy. The Diabetic retinopathy screening guidelines for physicians in India: position statement by the Vitreo Retinal Society of India (VRSI) and the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI). The Type 1 diabetes mellitus should be given

initial eye examination recommended 5 years following diagnosis of type 1 diabetes mellitus. Type 2 diabetes mellitus should be recommended for initial eye examination at the time of diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The patients with pregnancy with diabetes mellitus the eye examination prior to conception and early during 1st trimester is recommended and follow-up should be individualised based on severity and recent changes in retinopathy.

"It is important to realise that earlier, diabetes was considered a disease of the elite, but it is no longer like that. It is equally affecting all stratas of the society. We are having an equal prevalence of diabetes, both in rural and urban settings of our country," said Dr. Manisha Agarwal, General Secretary, Vitreo Retinal Society of India. A diabetologist plays an important role in timely screening for diabetic retinopathy and referring to an ophthalmologist for its management.

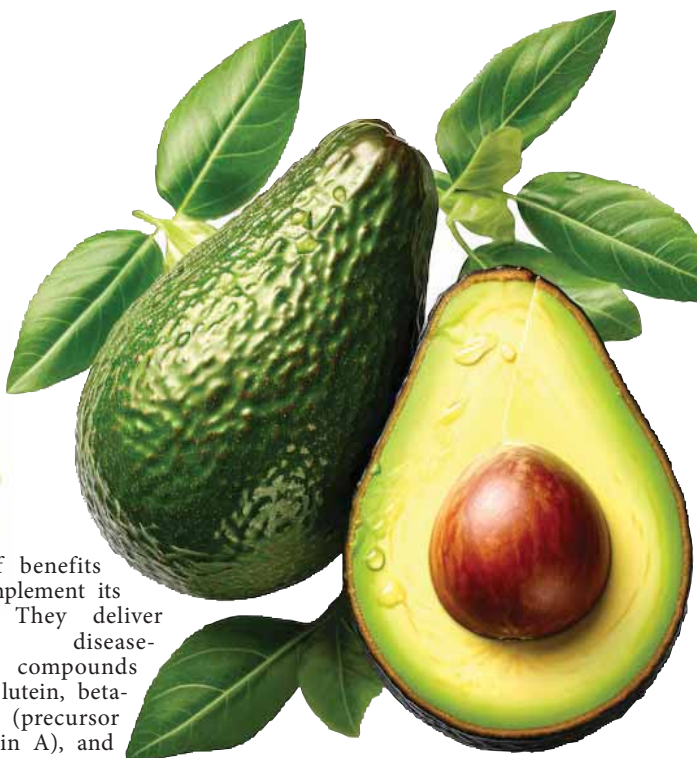
With the increasing prevalence of diabetes and the associated risk of diabetic retinopathy, early screening and timely interventions for the same are crucial. It's essential for individuals with diabetes to schedule regular eye exams and for healthcare providers to follow the VRSI and RSSDI guidelines. Together, we can prevent vision loss and improve the quality of life for millions of people in India.

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY



WHY AVOCADOS

Everything you need to know!



AVOCADOS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF 'GOOD FATS', AND ITS REGULAR CONSUMPTION IS LINKED TO LOWER LEVELS OF BAD (LDL) CHOLESTEROL. IT ALSO CONTAINS A LOT OF FIBRE, WHICH IS GOOD FOR DIGESTIVE HEALTH. AVOCADOS ALSO CONTAIN MINERALS SUCH CALCIUM, MAGNESIUM, AND SODIUM, ALL ESSENTIAL FOR THE HUMAN BODY'S HEALTH

a lot of benefits that complement its flavour. They deliver multiple disease-fighting compounds such as lutein, beta-carotene (precursor to vitamin A), and vitamin E. Results have shown that 1 serving of avocado has 114 calories, and is a rich source of several B vitamins (such as pantothenic acid) and vitamin K, with moderate contents of vitamin C, vitamin E, and potassium. Avocados are also a source of 'good fats', and its regular consumption is linked to lower levels of bad (LDL) cholesterol. It also contains a lot of fibre, which is good for digestive health. Avocados also contain minerals such calcium, magnesium, and sodium, all essential for the human body's health. It is also packed with antioxidants. The human heart needs special attention, and avocados are fortunately a fabulous heart-friendly fruit. They are loaded with health-promoting MUFA

(Monounsaturated fatty acids) that are great for our heart, and potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure, and even the elusive folate, which again is a wonderful heart health nutrient. Nutrient-rich avocado oil has a multitude of uses for salads or cooking and is also being used increasingly in cosmetics and soap products. The most common way to have it however remains as a nutritious addition to a meal. So next time instead of just eyeing this perfect blend of taste and health on other people's Instagram feeds, or at the supermarket, get them home and cook with them. Go on and make the most of avocado's health.

The author is a leading dietitian and holistic health consultant.



Natasha Moor in collaboration with Nykaa at her masterclass in New Delhi.

BY KAVITA DEVGAN

With the search for healthy foods picking up pace, it is no surprise that we are looking ever more intently at what we are eating. That search has taken us far and wide - and one of the emerging options is something that is quite flavourful as well! Some Indians are familiar with the trendy avocado toast and its nutty deliciousness, but the benefits of the avocado go well beyond. There is no doubt about the fact that avocados are delicious. But how much do we know about this fruit? Avocado (*Persea americana*) a native of South America, also known as alligator pear or avocado pear, is actually a large berry with a rather oily exterior containing a single large stone. Domesticated and harvested locally in Latin America for thousands of years, it comes in a number of variants that range in size, colour, and texture. The trees are native to the tropics, and are today cultivated across continents. What has led to the popularity of the fruit is its soft buttery texture combined with their unusual alluring taste. However, it also packs



Govt. of Haryana



“आज हमारी हर नीति, हर रणनीति- जन कल्याण से राष्ट्र कल्याण की है।
जन अभियान से राष्ट्र निर्माण की है।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Samadhan Shivirs in Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats

On-Spot Resolution for Grievances Related to Public-Welfare Services

Property ID

and for other grievances may contact
Municipal Corporation Office / Municipal
Council Office / Municipality Office

Svमितva

Office of the concerned Block and
Development Panchayat Officer to resolve
the grievances related to Svमितva

Samadhan Shivirs will be Organized Continuously for One Month

Date - Starts from October 22, 2024 | Time - 9 am to 11 am

**Mahra Haryana
Non-Stop Haryana**