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INSIDE

SPORTS

SHAMI'S ABSENCE BIG LOSS FOR INDIA, BUT WON'T UNDERESTIMATE RESERVE PACERS: MCDONALD



Yamuna froths, Delhi's taps run dry

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

More than half of the population in Delhi is currently facing disruption in the drinking water supply by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) due to presence of high level of ammonia and froth in Yamuna and curtailing of raw water supply from the upper Ganga canal. This disruption of water supply will continue till November 1. It is estimated that there has been a reduction of 200-225 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) due to

ammonia levels at the Chandrawal, Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi Water Treatment Plants. While officially, only Sonia Vihar WTP is working at 15 percent below its daily capacity of 140 MGD. DJB's overall average water production capacity is 990-1,000 million gallons per day (MGD), including from tubewells. Toxic foam accumulation in the Yamuna has forced the shutdown of the Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant, impacting potable water availability in south, north and east Delhi and New Delhi's Lutyens areas



including Jor Bagh, Lodhi Colony, Golf Links, Pandara Road, the High Court vicinity, East and West Kidwai Nagar, Tughlaq Crescent, Ravinder Nagar, Khan Market, Lodhi Estate, Akbar Road, Amrita Shergill Marg, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, Prithvi Raj Road, and Tees January Road, among others. The high ammonia levels, exceeding 1.5 ppm (parts per million), present a substantial treatment challenge, leading to a reduction in operational capacity by up to 30 per cent. The increasing ammonia level in the Yamuna has been a persistent

problem for Delhiites. Every winter season, people in Delhi have to endure scarcity of drinking water due to the elevated level of ammonia in the Yamuna. Normally, the Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar water treatment plants, which have a combined capacity of 250 million gallons per day (MGD) - 140 MGD from Sonia Vihar and 110 MGD from Bhagirathi - get their water from the Ganga. However, due to the annual maintenance and repair works being carried out by the UP Irrigation Department and UP Jal Nigam,

the Ganga water supply has been halted from October 21 onwards. Subsequently, Ganga water supply to these WTPs has been stopped. Due to high ammonia content i.e. above 1.5 ppm in raw water at River Yamuna, it is difficult to treat the Yamuna raw water. Hence, the production at Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar has been curtailed up to 30 percent of the capacity. Further, the production would depend entirely upon the quality of Raw water at River Yamuna and production from these plants shall vary accordingly.

There is no such thing as 'digital arrests': PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cautioned citizens about fraudsters indulging in the cyber crime of so-called 'digital arrests'. He urged people to adopt the mantra of 'stop, think and take action' when faced with such a scam, asserting that these steps will provide digital security to them. In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast, he said probe agencies are working with states to deal with the issue but added that awareness is essential in protecting oneself from this crime. During his broadcast, he also shared a conversation between a victim and a fraudster to highlight the cyber crime. "The fraudsters of digital arrest phone calls, at times, impersonate police, CBI, Narcotics; at times RBI... Using such various labels, they converse as fake officers with a lot of confidence. Many



listeners of 'Mann Ki Baat' have wished that we must discuss that," the PM said. "Let me tell you how these fraud gangs work. What is this dangerous game? It is very important for you to understand this," he said. Explaining the modus operandi of such fraudsters, he said they collect personal information as their first

move and then in their second move create an atmosphere of fear. "You went to Goa last month, didn't you? Your daughter studies in Delhi, right? They collect so much information about you that you will be surprised. The second move - create an atmosphere of fear... Uniform, Government office set-up, legal sections. They will scare you so much on the phone. In the midst of the conversation you will not be able to even think," the PM said. He added that the third move of such fraudsters is the pressure of time. "You have to decide now or else you will be arrested... These people create so much psychological pressure on the victim that one gets scared. People from every class and age group fall victim to digital arrest," he said, adding that people have lost lakhs of rupees earned through their hard work, out of sheer fear.

Bandra Terminus stampede leaves 10 injured

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 10 passengers were injured, two of whom severely, in a stampede that took place when scores of passengers rushed to board an unreserved compartment of the Gorakhpur-bound Antyodaya Express platform number-one of Bandra Terminus (BDTS) Railway Station in the small hours of Sunday. The incident took place at around 2.45 am, when the 22921 Antyodaya Express was slowly moving onto platform no 1 from the yard to head to Gorakhpur. A large number of passengers made headway into one of the unreserved compartments, leading to utter chaos and consequent stampede. "On 27.10.2024 at about 02.45 hrs, passenger train number 22921 Antyodaya Express was slowly being placed on platform number 01 from the BDTS yard, when some passengers present on the platform tried to board the moving train and 02 passengers fell and got injured," the Western Railway said in a statement issued here.



Police personnel, passengers and others at Bandra railway station after a stampede, in Mumbai, Sunday

Of the ten injured passengers, two severely passengers - identified as Noor Shaikh Mohammed (18) and Indrajit Sahani (19), who were initially rushed to the nearby Bhabha Hospital, have been shifted to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run KEM Hospital. "Both of them have suffered multiple injuries. Noor Mohammed is on Oxygen support. His condition is critical,"

an official from the BMC's disaster control room said. The authorities identified the remaining eight injured passengers as Shabir Abdul Rehman (40), Parmeshwar Sukhdar Gupta (28), Ravindra Harihar Chuma (30), Ramevak Ravindra Prasad Prajapati (29), Sanjay Tilakram Kangay (27), Divyanshu Yogendra Yadav (18), Mohammad Shareef Shaikh (25)

and Sameer Shaikh (22) Of them, five are undergoing treatment at the Bhabha Hospital, while three have been discharged from the hospital after treatment. A 51-second video clip shot minutes before the stampede showed a huge crowd of passengers waiting platform number one to board the train at the Bandra railway platform. As the train was moving onto the platform passengers surged and jostled with one another to board an unreserved compartment. What followed was a stampede. Some videos circulating on social media showed people running helter skelter and shouting. One of the videos showed a man with blood oozing out of his wounds, while another injured passenger lay next to him. One video showed a Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable carrying an injured passenger on his shoulder, while another personnel was seen taking a passenger to the hospital in a make-shift cloth stretcher.

Over 350 hoax bomb threat calls, only two arrests? Begging for a smartphone? Professionals are at it already!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hoax bomb callers have continued to target commercial flights and premium hotels across the country, causing significant financial losses and delays. At least 50 flights belonging to Akasa Air, IndiGo, and Vistara received bomb threats on Sunday. So far, more than 350 flights have received hoax bomb threats in the last 14 days. In some cases, the threats were issued to flights that had already been operated for the day or were not scheduled to operate. Besides, dozens of premium hotels in four states- West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh have also received threat messages in the past three days, prompting the security agencies to launch search operations. Most of the threats were issued through social media. In the backdrop of worrying trends of hoax threat messages to airlines, the government is taking support from international agencies, law enforcement wings and the Intelligence



FILE PHOTO/PTI

Bureau to prevent these fake threats. Intelligence sources said there is an attempt to hit the economy via the aviation sector and the hospitality sector during the festive season. Meanwhile, airlines and passengers remain in a state of uncertainty due to these hoax call messages. According to sources, IndiGo received threats for 18 flights and Vistara for 17 flights. Akasa Air received threats for 15 flights. At least two IndiGo flights were diverted

following threats. Its flight 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur) was diverted to Ahmedabad and 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam) was diverted to Mumbai. According to an IndiGo statement, the flights that received security-related alerts include 6E 11 (Delhi-Istanbul), 6E 92 (Jeddah-Mumbai), 6E 112 (Goa-Ahmedabad), 6E 125 (Bengaluru-Jharsuguda), 6E 127 (Amritsar-Ahmedabad) and 6E 135 (Kolkata-Pune). Among others flights targeted were 6E 149 (Hyderabad to

Bagdogra), 6E 173 (Delhi to Bengaluru), 6E 175 (Bengaluru to Delhi), 6E 197 (Raipur to Hyderabad), 6E 248 (Mumbai to Kolkata), 6E 277 (Ahmedabad-Lucknow), 6E 312 (Bengaluru to Kolkata), 6E 235 (Kolkata-Bengaluru) and 6E 74 (Riyadh-Mumbai). Akasa Air issued a statement, confirming in a brief that its Emergency Response Team is actively monitoring the situation and is in contact with security and regulatory authorities. "We are following all safety and security

procedures in coordination with local authorities, and the Akasa Air teams on ground are prepared to assist passengers to ensure their safety and comfort," read Akasa Air's statement posted on X. This has created a panic among air passengers amid the ongoing festive season. According to Akasa Air, on Sunday, a bomb threat was reported on a flight enroute from Bengaluru to Delhi via Gorakhpur, which was found to be a hoax after inspection. During a thorough inspection at the Gorakhpur airport, no suspicious item was found, Gorakhpur Airport director RK Parasher said. The flight landed in Gorakhpur at 1.33 pm and the door opened at 1.50 pm. The aircraft was carrying 174 passengers and three infants. The inspection of the aircraft and the passengers continued till 2.42 pm and the flight took off at 3.43 pm for Delhi, Parasher said. Ahead of the plane's arrival, the airport saw a high-security response, with police, Indian Air Force, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, fire brigade, and medical teams arriving on the site.



Initiated under the direction of Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, the survey aims to understand the backgrounds and living conditions of beggars with a focus on rehabilitation. Findings reveal that many of these individuals originate from nearby districts such as Barabanki, Sitapur, Hardoi, Rae Bareilly, Unnao, and Bahraich. Despite owning homes in their villages, many choose to live on the streets of Lucknow, adopting begging as a way of life. Women earn more from begging The survey found that women, particularly those who are pregnant or accompanied by young children, tend to earn the most from begging. Their

daily income can reach up to ₹3,000, while elderly people and children typically earn between ₹900 to ₹2,000 daily. Besides cash, these individuals often receive food, clothes, and other essentials from well-wishers. Reports suggest that certain groups encourage women to have multiple children, believing that pregnancy attracts more donations from the public. As a result, many female beggars have as many as eight or nine children. Based on these findings, officials estimate that with an average daily earning of ₹1,200 per beggar, residents of Lucknow collectively distribute over ₹63 lakh in alms each day.



BY SAUMYA SHUKLA

Shoppers splurging on clothes, gifts and other items ahead of Diwali, have been making a beeline to markets across the National Capital, the most popular ones include Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar in south Delhi. Lakhs arrive here as soon as the market opens around 11 am, and the footfalls continue till the closing time of 9 pm. Their cars, motorcycles, auto rickshaws, and taxis add a heavy load on the already busy roads leading to massive jams at all hours. There is also a possible threat to life in case a stampede like situation arises. The markets of Sarojini Nagar and Lajpat Nagar are bustling with shoppers coming to buy for the festivities ahead. However, with vehicles including cars, motorcycles and autos the spaces become cramped leaving restricted movement. It also leads to a potential threat to

Fumes, crowds, blaring horns, Diwali shopping is now a challenge

Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar get a footfall of thousands each day during the festive season

lives with stampede-like situations arising. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police has amped up their security for the festivities and also in light of a blast near a Central Reserves Police Forces (CRPF) public school in Rohini Sector 14. In Lajpat Nagar, one can see that there is no free flow of traffic as vehicles are parked on both sides of the road creating massive inconvenience to the public, despite a Delhi police booth right outside the market and heightened police patrolling. People also fear that in a case of emergency, ambulances wouldn't be available on time due to the jams and very limited space for the movement of vehicles. A frustrated shopper said, "Whole Lajpat Nagar is facing huge traffic. People have parked their cars and vehicles here and there on the roads which are completely filled leaving little space for any movement. Why is



Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

the Delhi Police not taking any action? What if there is any emergency, how can even an ambulance reach?" Another resident of the area claimed that selective restriction won't work in the area while she blamed the mismanagement of traffic as a reason for such congestion near the market area. "Restriction on all sorts of vehicular movements shall be a solution, not selective ones. As a person who has lived in Lajpat Nagar, I can vouch for the fact that this situation stems from unscientific parking and poor traffic management," she stated. Similar situations also exist in Sarojini Nagar even as several auto-rickshaws create a menace on the road. "There is a traffic jam created by autos at Sarojini Nagar market entry opposite to the post office in Vinay nagar. Delhi Police, please send some traffic personnel who can manage the situation. If such a situation persists at

the peak season, it can inevitably result in a scenario where people find it hard to move out despite an emergency," a commuter said. However, the Delhi Police told The Pioneer that the police have heightened its security and encroachments are also removed to make more space for the free flow of traffic as well as the shoppers to avoid any stampede like situation in the market. In Sarojini Nagar, a police officer said there 30 local police personnel, 24 paramilitary officers and five machans in light of the security situation ahead of festivities. "We have carried out anti-encroachment drives as well to provide more spaces on the road and police officers are stationed on all the five entry and exit points in the market. In case of a medical emergency, there is a fire tender and ambulance stationed as well," he added.

GUEST COLUMN / DR NIRAJ KUMAR SINGH AND Ms MONA

Climate Change to Climate Emergency: What Next?

We are living in the age of the Anthropocene, a geological epoch with a profound impact on Earth's systems...

highlight the urgent need for sustainable practices, conservation efforts and policies to mitigate further damage to the Earth's ecosystems.

USA and China are major contributors in this regard. Deforestation is another major contributor in the process of global warming and climate change.

greenhouse gas. Rice cultivation in South East Asia also contributes to methane emission adding more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

management, disposal of organic waste, landfills etc. also lead to production of methane due to decomposition of the organic matter.

India in particular, which houses one of the largest population of the world, we are still grappling with the basics of quality life and we have to do a lot in order to mitigate ill effects of industrialization, urbanization and climate change.

HP's Education Revolution: CM Sukhu unveils ambitious initiative

PNS ■ DHARAMPUR

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu on Sunday outlined a transformative vision for education in the State, emphasizing the dual goals of developing student potential and nurturing responsible citizenship.

abroad, marking a significant step towards educational equity.

To bolster local education, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of 493 libraries at the Gram Panchayat level in the first phase, aiming to provide quality reading material and foster a culture of learning in rural areas.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I, Simerpreet Singh Sethi S/o Baljeet Singh Sethi R/o W.No. 21 Mansa (Mansa) declare that my 10th Class certificate Roll No. 2178531 has been lost in Mansa dated 24-10-2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Rahul S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Sher Khpura (95), Karnal, Haryana- Pin-132001 declares that in my 10th and 12th Class Mark Sheet cum Certificate, the name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as Kuldeep and Santosh respectively.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Jagmohan Lal, Hill View Enclave Lower, Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my minor son Manav name to Maanuv Kumar Baalu.

I, Rajinder Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o VPO Cheema Kalan Tehsil and District Tarn Taran have declared that Rajinder is my Given name and Kaur is my Surname

I, Gagandeep Kaur W/o Lakhjot Singh R/o Vill: Ballowal Po. Mukandpur Teh-Banga (SBS Nagar) have changed my name Gagandeep and now Kaur is my surname.

I, Jaswinder Kumar S/o Chaman Lal R/o Vpo. Sarhal Mundi Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) have changed my name Jaswinder and now Kumar is my surname

I, Army No JC332129A Arjun Chaudhary of unit Headquarter Chief Engineer Pathankot Zone C/O 56 APO declared that in his service record his son name written as Swetabh Kumar. But correct name is Shwetabh and consider the correct name Shwetabh vide affidavit no IN-PB67787365711889W dt 5 Oct 2024.

I, Jeyamani Mohandas is mother of Army No. 16116210F, NK, Eswaran M of Unit18 Engineer Regt c/o 56 APO, resident of 42/4, Puthukalingam, Patti, Kattu Patti Post, Siluvathur via, Kambiliampatti, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, 624306 have changed my name from M Jayamani to Jeyamani Mohandas due to erroneous mistake in my son's service record. My true and correct date of birth is 07.08.1973 as per my Aadhaar Card & PAN card, but on my son's service record my date of birth is mentioned is 01.07.1970, which is wrong.

I, Army No. 16133842H Rank Spr Name Rahul R/o Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my mother name from Vijayakumari C Vide Affidavit Dated Notary Ferozepur.

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Gurchetan Singh R/o Vill: Padhri Kalan (Tarn Taran) have changed my name from Paramjeet Kaur to Parmjit Kaur.

I, Rajat Luthra S/o Ravi Chander Luthra R/o H.No.3153 Ganganagar Road Near Railway Gate Abohar Fazilka Pb-152116 have changed my name and shall after be known as Rajat Luthra.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Harkishan Singh R/o Basti Beed Sarkar Karian, Po. Sudh Singh Wala, Mallanwala Zira, Distt Ferozepur have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh.

I, Neha W/o Sunil Choudhary R/o 13 Dhawan Colony Ward No. 08 Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Neha Choudhary After Marriage.

I, Preety Jhamb W/o Karan Kumar R/o St.No.4 Guru Angad Nagar K K P Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Preety.

I, Karan Jhamb S/o Ashok Kumar R/o St.No.4 Guru Angad Nagar K K P Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Anita Rani.

I, Anita Rani Jhamb W/o Ashok Kumar R/o St.No.4 Guru Angad Nagar K K P Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Anita Rani.

I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Fateh Chand R/o # 592 Phase-I Harmilap Nagar Baltana, Zirakpur (Punjab) have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar Mehta.

I, Mukesh W/o Sukhvinder VPO Bhagal Tehsil Guhla, Kaithal, Haryana, have changed my name from Mukesh to Mukesh Rani.

I, Ashok Kumar Jhamb S/o Harnam Dass R/o St.No.4 Guru Angad Nagar K K P Road Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Ashok Kumar.

I, Rahul Tiwari S/o Pawan Tiwari R/o H.No.196, Sector-2, A, Mandi Gobindgarh, District Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab-147301 have changed the name of my minor daughter Priyali Tiwari aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as Anika Tiwari.

I, hitherto Known as Surlinder Singh S/o Ravel Singh R/o VPO. Bhatnura Lubana, Distt. Jalandhar-144201, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sandler Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Sanjay S/o Rajinder Prasad R/o H.No. 218/17, Ward No. 16-17, Mohalla. Lahori Gate, Kapurthala-144601, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjay Sharma.

I, Vishal S/o Sonu R/o Indara Colony, Village Dhina, Distt. Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed my name from Vishal to Vishal Farmahe.

I, Ramandeep S/o Satish Kumar R/o H.No. 25, Dhina, Jalandhar-II, Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed my name from Ramandeep to Ramandeep Kumar.

I, Som Nath S/o Parkash Chand R/o Mohalla Bagichi, VPO. Jamsher Khas, Jalandhar-II, Jalandhar-144020, Punjab have changed my name from Som Nath to Somnath Sathota.

I, Kamaljit Kaur W/o Harpinder Singh R/o VPO. Chaheru, Tehsil Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala-144402, Punjab have changed my name from Kamaljit Kaur to Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Kuldeep Raj R/o H.No.122, Satnam Nagar, Basti Danishmandan, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Given name as Sunil & Surname as Kumar.

I, Hardeep S/o Hari Ram R/o VPO. Rurka Khurd, P.S. Gorayra, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144409, Punjab, India have changed my name from Hardeep to Hardeep Chouhan. (Surname as Chouhan)

I, Afizudeen S/o Buna R/o Gali No. 2, Behind Swastik Ribbons, Baba Colony, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Hafijuddin for all future purposes.

I, Tabasum W/o Hafijuddin R/o Gali No. 2, Behind Swastik Ribbons, Baba Colony, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Tabassum khan for all future purposes.

I, Vinay Kumar Jain s/o pawan Kumar Jain r/o h.no.G-2/3 Eldeco Estate Panipat declare change my name from Vinay Kumar to Vinay Kumar Jain and in future my name is Vinay Kumar Jain

I, Amarjeet W/o Harvinder Singh R/o H.No. 135, Arjun Nagar, Jalandhar-144009, Punjab have changed my name from Amarjeet to Paramjeet Kaur.

I, Rajinder Singh S/o Ram Bhaj R/O Village Riwar Jagir Tehsil Guhla District Kaithal Haryana have changed my name from Rajender Singh to Rajinder Singh.

I, Joginder Singh s/o Santokh Singh R/O Village Haripur District Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143531 have changed my name from Joginder Singh to Joginder Singh Kahlon. Concerned note.

I Divyansh S/o Mahinder Pal R/o 178, Ohri Gate, Kacha Kot, Near Mahant Gurudwara, Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Divyansh to Divyansh Slaria. Concerned Note.

I, Dinesh Kumar s/o Asha ram, r/o Ward No. 5, Gandhi colony, Tehsil Samalkha, District Panipat, have changed my name Dinesh kuhar.

I, Navjot Singh S/o Santokh Singh R/O Village Raimajra, Postoffice Nalvi, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Navjot Singh to Navjot (Given Name) to Singh (surname).

I, Droupati Devi Mother of Narender Singh Munola resident of Village- Tehasil Ward Didihat, Post- Didihat, Tehsil-Didihat, District-Pithoragarh, State- Uttarakhand, Pin-262551, have changed my name from Droupati Devi to Droupati Devi Vidha affidavit No.IN-PB74524878730608W dated 27 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Padama Devi Mother of Deepak Bora resident of Village- Kanchula, Post-DhauChhina, Tehsil-Almora, District-Almora, State- Uttarakhand, Pin-263624, have changed my name from Padma Devi to Padama Devi Vidha affidavit No.IN-PB74524738210871W dated 27 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Shankar Singh Father of Sundar Singh Jeena resident of Village- Chopra, Post- Seolkote, Tehsil-Nainital, District- Nainital, State-Uttarakhand, Pin-263127, have changed my name from Shankar Singh Jeena to Shankar Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74524795418942W dated 27 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Har Singh Father of Narender Singh Munola resident of Village- Tehasil Ward Didihat, Post- Didihat, Tehsil-Didihat, District-Pithoragarh, State- Uttarakhand, Pin-262551, have changed my name from Har Singh Munola to Har Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB74525056135882W dated 27 Oct 2024 before notary public Pathankot.

I, Har Singh S/o Kuldeep Raj R/o H.No.122, Satnam Nagar, Basti Danishmandan, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name to Given name as Sunil & Surname as Kumar.

I, Hardeep S/o Hari Ram R/o VPO. Rurka Khurd, P.S. Gorayra, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar-144409, Punjab, India have changed my name from Hardeep to Hardeep Chouhan. (Surname as Chouhan)

I, Afizudeen S/o Buna R/o Gali No. 2, Behind Swastik Ribbons, Baba Colony, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Hafijuddin for all future purposes.

I, Tabasum W/o Hafijuddin R/o Gali No. 2, Behind Swastik Ribbons, Baba Colony, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Tabassum khan for all future purposes.

I, Vinay Kumar Jain s/o pawan Kumar Jain r/o h.no.G-2/3 Eldeco Estate Panipat declare change my name from Vinay Kumar to Vinay Kumar Jain and in future my name is Vinay Kumar Jain

I, Amarjeet W/o Harvinder Singh R/o H.No. 135, Arjun Nagar, Jalandhar-144009, Punjab have changed my name from Amarjeet to Paramjeet Kaur.

Disclaimer: The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisement (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The Paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the content on their own.

Sukhu creates history becoming first CM to stay overnight at Dodra Kwar

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In a historic first, Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu stayed overnight in the remote and rugged Dodra Kwar, known locally as the 'Kala Pani' of Shimla district, due to its isolation and challenging terrain.

Sukhu creates history becoming first CM to stay overnight at Dodra Kwar

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In a historic first, Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu stayed overnight in the remote and rugged Dodra Kwar, known locally as the 'Kala Pani' of Shimla district, due to its isolation and challenging terrain.

Table with lottery results: DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES. Results for MRP Rs 10/- Per Ticket. Includes prize amounts and winning numbers.

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank. Circle Office Kapurthala. Notice for arrears of rent of lockers at our branches.

THE TELESOS EMPLOYEES COOP HOUSE BUILDING FIRST SOCIETY LTD., SECTOR 50-C, CHANDIGARH. PUBLIC NOTICE regarding information of General Public and all concerned that Renu Puri W/o Sh. Romesh Chopra is the Owner and R/o House No. 2271, Category B, First Floor, Telesos Society, Sector 50-C, Chandigarh.

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank. CIRCLE OFFICE - SIRSA (Solitaire Tower, First Floor, Barnala Road, Sirsa- 125055). PREMISES REQUIRED FOR ATM SITES. Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed premises having Carpet Area of 80 sq ft to 100 sq ft on lease/rental basis.

BJP delegation urges Punjab Governor to address paddy procurement issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

A delegation of Punjab BJP leaders on Sunday met Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and submitted a memorandum alleging inefficiency on part of the AAP government in the state for "tardy" paddy lifting. The delegation urged the governor to intervene and ensure the complete lifting of paddy from mandis as a "gift" to the farmers of the state so that they can "celebrate Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas with their families".

The memorandum said, "Due to inefficiency on the part of the Punjab government, even after 26 days of official commencement of paddy procurement, the Punjab government has failed to lift most of the paddy from the mandis across the state."

Paddy procurement for Kharif Marketing Season 2024-25 commenced in Punjab from October one, according to the BJP delegation that included Avinash Rai Khanna, Preet Kaur, Harjit Singh Grewal, Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, Vijay Sampla, Vineet Joshi and Fateh Jang Bajwa.

"Before the commencement of the season, in the last week of September, Punjab government got Rs 44,000



crore for the purchase of paddy on MSP from the central government," the memorandum said.

The BJP's memorandum further alleged that the Punjab government has miserably failed to make all the necessary arrangements on time to ensure the smooth purchase of paddy: be it the purchase of gunny bags, tarpaulin or notification of custom milling policy or notification of FRK (fortified rice kernels) milling policy or awarding of labour contracts or transportation contracts, etc.

The state government has also failed to ensure proper

drinking water, toilet facilities, and compulsory medical facilities at mandis, the memorandum said.

The biggest failure of the government is its inability to enter into an agreement with 5,500 rice millers for the indefinite period to protest the "tardy" paddy procurement and lifting and other issues.

Protests were held at Badarukhan on Sangrur-Bathinda highway in Sangrur, Dagra on Moga-Ferozepur highway in Moga, Satali Phul on Gurdaspur-Tanda highway in Gurdaspur and Batala railway station, farmers said.

great inconvenience to the people of Punjab during the festive season," it said.

Notably, farmers under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Saturday held road blockades at a few places in Punjab for an indefinite period to protest the "tardy" paddy procurement and lifting and other issues.

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Seeking the governor's intervention to end the "tardy" paddy procurement, the BJP delegation's memorandum said, "We request your good self to intervene and ensure the complete lifting of paddy from mandis and gift farmers of Punjab happiness to celebrate the Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas with their families."

The BJP urged the governor to ask the Punjab government to take all steps to ensure proper supply of DAP and urea for the next sowing season "as this is the next impending disaster Punjab will face".

Notably, paddy lifting from mandis (wholesale markets) in Punjab has been hit after the state rice millers refused to mill the paddy till their demands were met.

Rice millers have expressed concern over the out-turn ratio (post-milling yield) of the PR-126 variety and other hybrid varieties, claiming that it will cause them huge losses.

BJP leader and former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh had on Friday lashed out at Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the "tardy" paddy procurement in the state, alleging the latter "turned his back on the farmers" facing hardships in the mandis.

Karhal by-election: intense rivalry between political kin

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW



The Karhal assembly seat in Mainpuri, known for its complex political dynamics, is witnessing a fierce contest this by-election season. The battle has garnered significant attention, as the sons-in-law of two political stalwarts are going head-to-head in this high-stakes election.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has fielded Tej Pratap Yadav, the son-in-law of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. In response, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has chosen Anuj Yadav, the son-in-law of the late Mulayam Singh Yadav, SP founder and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, as its candidate. This adds a unique twist to the by-election, as both candidates have close familial ties to the legacy of the SP.

Since the formation of the Samajwadi Party, Karhal has remained a stronghold for the party, except for a brief period in 2002 when Sobran Singh Yadav won the seat as a BJP candidate. He later joined the SP and successfully represented Karhal three times in subsequent elections.

In the 2022 assembly elections, SP President Akhilesh Yadav chose to contest from Karhal, securing a victory over BJP candidate and Union Minister Dr. S.P. Singh Baghel. After Akhilesh's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Kannauj, he vacated the Karhal seat, necessitating the

acknowledged the family ties during his campaign visit to Barnahal on October 25. Referring to Anuj's BJP candidacy, Akhilesh remarked, "When BJP couldn't find any other strategy, they fielded our relative."

The political narrative is further complicated by past family tensions. After Anuj Yadav joined the BJP in 2019, his brother-in-law, MP Dharmendra Yadav, severed ties with him, publicly stating that he would not maintain relations with any BJP leader. However, Akhilesh's recent acceptance of Anuj as a relative has added a twist to the dynamics.

The relationship between the two candidates goes beyond mere rivalry. Anuj Yadav's wife, Sandhya Yadav, is Tej Pratap Yadav's aunt, making Anuj and Tej Pratap nephew and uncle. Yet, despite these familial ties, both candidates have emphasized that party loyalty supersedes family connections in this electoral contest.

The Karhal by-election has become a battle not just for political victory but also for the legacy and prestige of two powerful political families. The result will have significant implications for both the SP and BJP, influencing their strategies in the region and potentially impacting the political landscape of Uttar Pradesh. With the entire state watching closely, this contest promises to be one of the most intriguing by-elections in recent times.

Hina Shahab and son rejoin RJD ahead of bihar assembly polls



PTI ■ PATNA

Former RJD MP Mohd Shahabuddin's wife Hina Shahab, who had contested the recent Lok Sabha polls as an Independent candidate from Bihar's Siwan, on Sunday joined the party along with her son Osama Shahab.

Party supremo Lalu Prasad's heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav welcomed them and described Shahabuddin as "a founding member" of the RJD.

Yadav claimed that induction of the late leader's family members will "help us in our fight against communal forces represented by BJP and RSS".

Both, Hina and her son, joined the RJD at 10 Circular Road, the official residence of former Bihar CM Rabri Devi, in the state capital.

Lalu Prasad, Yadav and several other senior leaders of the party were present on the occasion. Prasad said, "Late Shahabuddin's family was always part of the RJD. They have come closer and will further strengthen the party."

Arguably, the most dreaded gangster-turned-politician of Bihar, Shahabuddin, had remained unbeaten in his stronghold of Siwan until his conviction in a murder case in 2007, which led to his disqualification.

Shahabuddin died in 2021 in

Delhi's Tihar jail where he was serving a life sentence. Hina unsuccessfully contested the Siwan seat on RJD tickets several times.

She contested elections on an RJD ticket in 2019 for the last time and after that, her relations with the party soured.

It was widely believed that she was being given a wide berth by Yadav who was keen on giving an image makeover to the party which had faced accusations of patronising "babubalis".

Yadav is understood to have been forced to do a rethink after the recent Lok Sabha polls, in which the RJD performed below par, winning only four seats, despite his spirited campaign that saw the young leader addressing over 200 rallies.

Moreover, in Siwan, Hina finished runner-up, losing to JD(U)'s Vijay Lakshmi Kushwaha by less than one lakh votes, while RJD candidate Awadh Bihari Chaudhary, a former assembly Speaker, finished a distant third, barely avoiding forfeiture of deposit.

The move also underscores RJD's "anxieties", ahead of the Bihar assembly polls due next year, with its junior allies like the Congress and the Left having notched up much better strike rates in the Lok Sabha elections, a political analyst said.

Ayodhya's grand Deepotsav festival begins tomorrow

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As the four-day Deepotsav festival commences tomorrow in Ayodhya, the city is poised to host a grand celebration blending spirituality, tradition, and culture. This year's Deepotsav carries special significance, being the first in the presence of Ramlala, adding a profound spiritual dimension to the festivities.

A spectacular display awaits with the lighting of 25 lakh lamps across Ayodhya, aiming to set a new record and envelop the city in a dazzling glow. On October 30, Ramkatha Park will be the center of cultural activities, featuring the Ramlila from

Uttarakhand alongside performances by artists from six countries, including Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Indonesia, celebrating the global resonance of the Ramayana.

The festival will also include a mesmerizing Hanuman Chalisa dance drama, performed on the main stage, offering a spiritual experience for the attendees.

The lineup at Ramkatha Park on October 30 features performances by Ranjana Nev from Saharanpur, who will present a dance-based narrative of the Ramayana, and Preeti Singh from Agra, known as "Preeti Ke Parindey", who will bring her unique Hanuman Chalisa



dance drama to life. Maitreya Pahari and his

Delhi-based team will present "Shri Ramcharitmanas Nari

Shakti," celebrating the strength of women in Ramayanic tales. Additionally, Aparna Yadav from Lucknow will sing devotional bhajans, adding a melodic touch to the Deepotsav celebrations. These cultural events will begin at 7 pm, blending devotion and artistic expression.

From October 28 to 30, a grand Shobha Yatra procession will take place, led by 11 Ramilila groups under the Culture Department's guidance, featuring the Shri Maruti Nandan Hanuman Adarsh Ramilila Mandal and other prominent troupes. Folk artist groups will also participate, showcasing unique performances,

including Awadhi folk, Mayur dance from Mathura, and Vantangiya dance from Gorakhpur.

The Yogi government has prepared 10 major stages across Ayodhya to host this cultural spectacle, with venues including Guptar Ghat, Badi Devkali, Rama Ghat, Bharatkund, and Ram Katha Park. Performances will run from 5 pm to 9 pm daily, ensuring that each corner of Ayodhya resonates with the spirit of the festival.

The Agnihotri brothers, famous for their devotional performances, will take the stage at Ram Ghat, while artists from every district of Uttar Pradesh will contribute to making this Deepotsav a truly statewide celebration.

Udhayanidhi Stalin breaks DMK tradition with deepavali greetings

PTI ■ CHENNAI



In a rare departure from the DMK's traditions, party leader and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has extended his Deepavali greetings to those "who have faith," remarks that drew sarcastic response from opposition BJP.

The BJP has been targeting the DMK for not wishing people on Hindu festivals, including Deepavali and Vinayaka Chaturthi.

DMK leaders including its late president and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi have not greeted people on Deepavali, in line

with their rationalist beliefs. However, at a party event here on Saturday, while extending his greetings to supporters for the party's platinum jubilee celebrations, Udhayanidhi also greeted people for "Deepa oli thirunaa" much to

the surprise of many. "I extend my greetings on our (DMK) platinum jubilee celebrations; Deepa oli thirunaa greetings to those having belief and celebrating it," he said.

Deepa oli thirunaa roughly translates to the Day of the Light of lamp.

While Deepavali in the north signifies the return of Lord Rama and Sita Devi to Ayodhya from exile, in south the festival marks the victory of Lord Krishna and his consort Sathyabhama over the demon king Narakasura.

TN BJP leader Narayanan Thirupathi took a swipe at Udhayanidhi.

In a cryptic post on 'X,' he

referred to the deputy CM's comments and said, "for those who don't have belief, greetings to live like Narakasura."

Further, in a veiled attack on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Udhayanidhi said he is "allergic" to the very word "Dravidam," and thinks it can be finished off by not taking its name.

The Governor also had a problem with the name "Nobodu," he claimed. "Nobody can even touch Dravidam. Tamil Nadu will remain Tamil Nadu. As long as our black and red (DMK) flag and the DMK workers are there, none can even touch Tamil Nadu and Dravidam," the deputy CM asserted.

Cocaine seized in police raid on BRS leader's brother-in-law farmhouse

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ HYDERABAD

Police raided a farmhouse allegedly belonging to a senior BRS leader's brother-in-law and booked one person, who tested positive for cocaine at the party organised there. Leaders of the ruling Congress in Telangana on Sunday said the farmhouse was held at the farm of Raj Pakala, brother-in-law of the BRS leader, and demanded a thorough investigation over the matter.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that the

Congress Government in Telangana is just "pretending" to enforce the law but is actually "protecting the BRS bigwigs." According to police, following input that a party was going on at the farmhouse in Janwada, with "drugs and liquor unauthorisedly", a team of Cyberabad Police and Excise officials raided the place on the intervening night of October 26 and 27 and found 21 men and 14 women participants.

All the male participants were subjected to drug tests and one person in the gathering tested positive for cocaine and a case under relevant sections

of the NDPS Act was registered, said police officials. During the raid, police found foreign liquor beyond the permitted quantity and that no permission was taken for the event. Pakala hosted the event and since he did not obtain an Excise license, a case was registered against him under relevant sections of the Excise Act by the Excise Task Force besides another case was booked against him under the Telangana Gaming Act, police said. Asked about ownership of the farmhouse, they said it appears that it belongs to him (Raj Pakala) but the ownership details have to be

verified, the official said. An Excise official told the media that the party was organised without event permission and foreign liquor was also found. Seven foreign and 10 Indian liquor bottles were found besides other gaming related items, police said, adding further investigation was on.

BJP leader Sanjay Kumar in a post on 'X' said "The raid at Janwada farmhouse is merely tip of the iceberg. Congress govt should not dilute the case - by giving a predictable statements. It's becoming obvious that Congress and BRS are playing a 'give and take' game, protecting each other's interests."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Clouds of doom

As the US push for de-escalation, the risk of a multi-front war looms large, threatening to destabilise West Asia

The recent Israeli airstrikes on Iran and the subsequent retaliatory measures have intensified the long-standing conflict between the two nations, raising fears of a broader war in West Asia. The airstrikes, which targeted Iranian military installations and reportedly resulted in the deaths of four Iranian soldiers, were framed as a response to Iranian aggression. Iran's ally, Hezbollah, quickly reacted with rocket salvos targeting residential areas in northern Israel, signalling the potential for the conflict to spread. The current episode of hostilities began after Israeli warplanes allegedly used Iraqi airspace to conduct strikes on military and radar installations in Tehran. These actions were framed by Israel as necessary measures to neutralise threats posed by Iran and its regional proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran has condemned the strikes as a violation of its sovereignty, insisting on its right to retaliate. As expected the United States has firmly backed Israel, reiterating its "ironclad" support and cautioning Iran against further retaliation. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, expressing concern about the potential for the violence to escalate uncontrollably.



The conflict's spillover into Lebanon, where Hezbollah's rocket attacks targeted northern Israel, highlights the interconnected nature of West Asia politics. Hezbollah, a powerful militia with close ties to Tehran, represents Iran's most prominent proxy in the region. Its involvement indicates that the conflict could easily escalate beyond a bilateral confrontation between Israel and Iran, drawing in other state and non-state actors. The conflict's potential to involve additional countries is significant. Lebanon, already grappling with a fragile political and economic situation, could become a battlefield, destabilising the broader Levant. Similarly, Iraq's alleged involvement in providing airspace for Israeli operations could trigger responses from Shia militias in the country. Besides, Iran's network of proxies, including militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, could engage in coordinated retaliatory strikes against Israel or the US interests in the region. This would complicate efforts to contain the conflict and could lead to an asymmetric, multi-front war. It goes without saying that diplomatic efforts are urgently needed to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. One country that could convince Israel for ceasefire is the US. It could leverage its influence over Israel and its regional allies to push for restraint, while simultaneously deterring Iranian retaliation through diplomatic channels. In fact even the US does not want the war to spill over. Direct communication between Washington and Tehran could prevent misunderstandings that might trigger further escalation. Besides, international neutral actors such as India, Russia, or regional mediators like Oman could facilitate backchannel negotiations aimed at establishing a ceasefire. The war must be stopped at any cost now else it could be a free-for-all, making it precursor to the World War III.

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PICTALK



People buy decorative items at a market ahead of the Diwali festival, in Amritsar

Every year, an estimated 4.2 million deaths are linked to ambient air pollution worldwide, as nearly 91 per cent of the global population resides in areas where air quality exceeds the safe limits set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). In Asia's largest metropolitan regions, rapid urbanisation, unchecked industrialisation, population growth, and the surge in automobiles and construction activities have exacerbated air pollution levels, posing severe health risks. Delhi, one of the most polluted cities in the world, exemplifies this crisis, with its air quality frequently plummeting to hazardous levels, especially during the winter months, making it a focal point in the battle against air pollution in the region. On the morning of October 19, 2024, the Air Quality Index (AQI) reached concerning levels in various parts of the Capital City, particularly in Anand Vihar and Akshardham, where it climbed to 334, placing it in the "very poor" category. The worsening air quality in Delhi can be attributed to several key factors. First, as easterly winds set in, dust pollution across the National Capital Region (NCR) has become a primary cause of the declining AQI. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a series of measures aimed at addressing Delhi's air pollution, was implemented on October 15 as the situation began to worsen. These measures include frequent cleaning of roads and restrictions on diesel generators. However, despite these efforts, the problem continues to escalate. One of the most significant contributors to Delhi's declining air quality is stubble burning in neighbouring states, primarily Punjab and Haryana. The Early Warning System (EWS) for Delhi predicts that the contribution of stubble burning to the city's pollution levels is expected to increase significantly over a few weeks. The seasonal practice of burning crop residue adds large amounts of particulate matter (PM2.5) to the air, exacerbating the already poor conditions in the city. As air quality continues to worsen, there are reports of residents

Come winter, Delhi chokes again

Despite the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan, including stricter dust control and bans on open burning, smog continues to blanket the city



RAJDEEP PATHAK



complaining of increasing health issues. Many are experiencing respiratory problems, including difficulty breathing, coughing, and throat irritation. According to media reports, the smog and particulate matter have caused inflammation of the airways and irritation in the eyes. These symptoms are consistent with high levels of pollution, which contribute to various respiratory illnesses to the extent that doctors have been receiving patients with skin issues too. Moreover, ENT specialists have noted a surge in cases involving nasal irritation, throat inflammation, and persistent dry coughs. These symptoms are affecting children and adults too with complaints of inflammation, and gastrointestinal problems, such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and dyspepsia, which have also been linked to pollution. In this regard, 'climate change' is another factor worsening this situation in Delhi. With changing weather patterns, temperature inversions at regular intervals, and extreme weather conditions even during summer and winter, in this season, pollutants become trapped near the ground, creating a layer of smog. Delhi's minimum temperature of 19.2 degrees Celsius, slightly above the sea-



THE WORSENING AIR QUALITY IN DELHI CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL KEY FACTORS. FIRST, AS EASTERLY WINDS SET IN, DUST POLLUTION ACROSS THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION HAS BECOME A PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE DECLINING AQI

sonal average, contributes to these conditions. Moreover, climate change also aggravates the effects of vehicular emissions by reducing the frequency of rainfall, which would otherwise help to clear particulate matter from the air. The government has taken several measures to curb the rising pollution, including implementing the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions - which include different stages I-IV - besides imposing fines for open burning. Additionally, authorities have been tasked with identifying local sources contributing to the worsening air quality. To tackle the immediate crises that have engulfed the Capital City, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan, in response to air quality data and weather forecasts provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), with a series of stringent measures, aimed at mitigating air pollution. Key restrictions include enhanced dust control protocols at construction sites, improved waste management practices, and rigorous checks

on polluting vehicles and industrial emissions, particularly from power plants and brick kilns. Additionally, open waste burning and the use of diesel generators are prohibited, along with a ban on coal and firewood in eateries. Construction and demolition activities exceeding 500 square meters face severe limitations, and diesel/petrol vehicles older than 10-15 years, as well as the use of firecrackers, are banned until January 1, 2025. Not only this, traffic management is also prioritised, with increased deployment of police in congested areas to reduce vehicular idling, while visibly polluting vehicles face strict penalties and possible impoundment. These measures form part of a broader strategy to curtail air pollution and improve public health. The situation is also a stark reminder of the need for collective action to address the underlying causes of air pollution, including vehicular emissions, waste burning, and industrial activities, in addition to climate mitigation efforts. What authorities must also look at is the underutilisation of the 'smog tower', which was introduced as a major intervention. (The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRICS PRIORITISES DEVELOPMENT

Madam — The power of diplomacy is writ large in the recently concluded bilateral meeting between India and China on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia. It also broke some ice ever since the deadly clash in 2020. However, notwithstanding a new deal settled on the disengagement of troops, both remain deeply suspicious of each other. That BRICS has a greater relevance in a multipolar and multidimensional context at a time when the world faces multiple challenges like the ongoing wars, economic uncertainty, climate change, terrorism, east-west and north-south divide as the forum reflects the Global South's deeper concerns, with many more countries queuing up to join or partner with the grouping. The first ever attendance of new member countries like the UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran opposing the unilateral sanctions by the west on other nations underscores their challenges confronting them and encourages them to unite for a fairer international order. Another case in point is the creation of the New Development Bank, which has emerged as a significant platform for the needs of such countries. Greater use of local currency finds mention in the Kazan declaration rather than supporting a yuan anchored BRICS against the U.S. dollar. India favours greater use of local currencies for cross border payment system. Increasing use of UPI, which has been adopted by many countries including the UAE acts as a bulwark against the west. The development of the global south remains the top priority of the BRICS Summit in contrast to portraying the grouping as only a gang up against the US-led west. Other initiatives include start-up forums, workforce skilling initiatives, and digital public infrastructure providing low-cost solutions for developing countries. Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

IMPROVE RURAL HEALTHCARE

Madam — There should be the government's special focus on public health, particularly in tribal areas in this season. The

Glaciers are melting fast



The rapid melting of all 900 glaciers in Uttarakhand, along with 9,575 others across the Himalayas, has reached a critical level due to global warming. Alarming factors like deforestation, black carbon deposits, and greenhouse gas emissions are accelerating this decline, leading to water scarcity, impacting hydropower generation,

and threatening the extinction of many aquatic species. To protect our nation and environment from these apocalyptic consequences, immediate and decisive action is essential. According to the Global Forest Watch report, "From 2001-2023, Uttarakhand lost 20.7 thousand hectares of tree cover, representing 0.89% of the global total." This tree loss is unacceptable, and measures like afforestation, preserving green areas around glaciers, and strengthening forest protection are crucial. Furthermore, it is imperative to establish research and development projects to study and preserve glaciers and to limit black carbon emissions. Acting now is essential to safeguarding our natural resources and the future of our environment. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

KIWIS WINS PUNE TEST

Madam — Kudos to the Kiwis for their marvellous victory at the Pune Test and a series win since 1955 on Indian soil for the first time. Bowlers winning matches has been proven again when Kiwis Mitchell Santner put India off the backfoot in the Pune test. Chasing a target of 359 to win the test, the only batter who played with intent was Jaiswal and, in the end, there was some resistance from Ravindra Jadeja, but it was not good enough. The Indian top order can't rest on the old laurels of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, and both of them failed to deliver. Full credit goes to Washington Sundar and Ashwin for fighting despite the fact that this was the most humiliating defeat for India while beaten in our own backyard very convincingly by the Kiwis. It's high time for the head coach Gautam Gambhir to realise that this team calls for a revamp and to bring in those who are hungry for runs and wickets. AP Thiruvadi | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Leveraging folklores to educate the new generation

The ancient art of storytelling remains a vital medium for teaching values and fostering cultural understanding



BIJU DHARAMAPALAN

Folklores, the traditional stories, myths, and legends passed down through generations, have long been a source of fascination, serving as much more than mere entertainment. Folklores often centre on ordinary people who face adversity yet find ways to overcome it, reflecting everyday life's common struggles and aspirations. This relatability comforts those who feel isolated in their struggles, showing that they are not alone and that their challenges are shared across time and place. One of folklore's most significant aspects is its inherent simplicity, which makes it a powerful tool for education across generations. Folklores are often crafted to be relatable, encapsulating moral lessons or practical wisdom in a format accessible to children and adults alike. This accessibility makes folklore an effective educational medium, especially in regions where formal education might be limited. Through memorable characters, narratives, and



moral lessons or practical wisdom in a format accessible to children and adults alike. This accessibility makes folklore an effective educational medium, especially in regions where formal education might be limited. Through memorable characters, narratives, and

Panchatantra and Jataka Tales have transcended regions, becoming staples of Indian storytelling that educate on universal values while highlighting India's unique cultural tapestry. Indian folklore frequently addresses social issues, challenging established norms and encouraging reflection on societal practices. For instance, the folktales of Tenali Rama, the witty advisor in the Vijayanagara Empire, often question the elite's excesses and promote justice for the common man. Similarly, Birbal, a wise minister in the Mughal court, features in numerous tales that promote intellectual equality. These stories teach Indians to value wit, intelligence, and fairness, subtly questioning the authority of those in power. By embedding reformist ideas within entertaining narratives, Indian folklores provide a soft yet powerful critique of societal hierarchies, encouraging progressive thinking. Many Indian folklore emphasize the bond between humans and

nature, imparting lessons on environmental stewardship that resonate with India's agrarian roots. Stories about sacred rivers, protective spirits, or revered animals highlight the belief that natural entities are to be respected and cared for. These tales often highlight shared human experiences, bridging cultural gaps and fostering a sense of collective identity. Folklore serves as a reservoir of collective wisdom, transcending time and geography to educate and reform society. Its remarkable ability to touch hearts, prompt reflection, and inspire action makes it indispensable in both formal and informal education. In an era dominated by digital technology, folklore may seem antiquated, yet its relevance has only deepened. Modern storytellers, educators, and social reformers can adapt folklore for contemporary audiences, harnessing its emotive power to foster empathy and awareness. (The writer, is the Dean, academic affairs, at Garden City University, views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

UNLOCKING THE DIVINE ENERGIE

According to yogic traditions, each day is linked to a specific shakti and Diwali happens to be a special day



ASHWININI GURUJI

The universe operates under the influence of various shaktis (divine energies). As one advances in yogic practice (sadhana), these energies can be experienced directly. Each of the 365 days is associated with a specific shakti, which is why maintaining discipline and consistent daily practice in yoga is crucial. Missing even a single day can disrupt the connection with that day's shakti, potentially setting back the entire year's sadhana. In the cosmos, every element is interconnected, so when one aspect is neglected, it affects everything—our body, the Earth, and even other planets and stars. Each shakti is associated with a day, but accessing these energies does not require rituals. In yogic and tantric traditions, sadhana alone is the key to connecting with shakti. Understanding the form (swarup) of each shakti is essential. While every form has a specific name, names are revealed only after the body is prepared through particular sadhanas. At a basic level, when you meditate (dhyana) with your guru, you may see different forms manifesting in them, such as the sun or the moon. Have you ever wondered what these forms signify?

Many practitioners have reported seeing the sun during meditation. What makes the sun so significant? If you observe the sun at sunrise or sunset while focusing on the Manipura chakra (navel centre) and chanting the mantra "Ram," you will notice a glow emerging in your body. Within a month, you may begin to look noticeably different. However, a word of caution—any yogic practice should be undertaken under the guidance of a guru who can adapt it to your capacity. Similarly, the moon is a fascinating energy source. It merely reflects the sun's light, yet it can influence tides and even the Earth's surface during a full moon. Have



you ever considered what makes the moon special? On full moon nights, animals may behave aggressively, and incidents of accidents and conflicts tend to rise. These are just basic observations that hint at something deeper about these celestial forms. Understanding their true nature requires direct experience, which is attainable through the proper practice of Sanatan Kriya. The moon may appear calm and peaceful, but it is actually more volatile than the sun. When you observe the moon under a guru's guidance, you can perceive the mantras embedded within its form. Some shaktis are not directly visible and can only be accessed through other shaktis. These experiences form the foundation of yoga. Without direct experience, yoga remains incomplete. Nature, with all its wonders—from flowers of various colors to the sky above—contains the hidden forms of shaktis. If you observe these elements without blinking, under the guidance of a guru, you may find that your physical and mental imbalances begin to dissipate. However, discipline (niyam) is essential. The practice must be continuous, and disruptions will occur if one lacks the capacity for the shakti or does not have a guru to guide them. Everything around us contains the essence of shakti, and these energies are easily accessible. When one becomes steady and focused on a particular shakti, it starts to follow them, empowering their life. The nine days leading up to Diwali hold special significance because of the congregation of specific shaktis during this period. Our ancestors advised observing celibacy (brahmacharya) during these days to strengthen the body and prepare it to receive these energies. During this time, keep your mind centred within yourself, as the sadhana performed during these nine days is equivalent to months of practice. As Diwali approaches, especially on Amavasya (the new moon night), when we light diyas, it is an opportune time for shakti sadhana. Even a layperson who is not an experienced practitioner can perceive the swarup of shakti by sitting with closed eyes in meditation. With a pure heart, one can experience these divine energies without any elaborate rituals. Let this Diwali be a time to connect with the powerful shaktis, embracing their presence to enrich your spiritual journey.

(The writer is a spiritual guru; views are personal)

Rising import reliance amid regulatory challenge



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite Government efforts to boost domestic production, policy constraints and pricing caps continue to stifle the energy sector's growth



According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG), during the first six months of the current financial year (FY) September 2024, India's consumption of natural gas (NG) increased by almost 12 per cent to 36.850 billion metric standard cubic meters (bmscm) over the corresponding period last FY. However, the import of NG (it is imported in a liquefied form commonly known as LNG) increased by 23 per cent to 18.975 bmscm during this period. Taken as a proportion of consumption, imports were 51.5 per cent during April-September 2024 up from 46.8 per cent during April-September 2023.

The country's production of NG registered a marginal increase of around 2 per cent during April-September 2024. The State-owned major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation or ONGC (it contributes about 84 per cent of total domestic output) produced 9.407 bmscm of NG during this period, which was 4 per cent less than during the same period of last FY. However, Oil India Limited (it has 8 per cent share) produced 4 per cent more NG at 1.577 bmscm during this period. The share of production in consumption was 48.5 per cent. Delivering the 75th Independence Day address on 15th August 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy. He had then wished the share of NG in the total energy mix to go up from subsisting around 6 per cent to 15 per cent. Pertinently, even to comply with the 6 per cent share, India had to import more than 50 per cent of its NG requirement.

The position hasn't changed even today. Increasing the share of NG in the total energy mix to 15 per cent would require its consumption to increase from its current annual of 73.689 bmscm to 184.222 bmscm (73.689x2.5). The current consumption includes domestic production of 35.739 bmscm. If domestic production stagnates at the current level (in sync with the trend of the last few years) then, to achieve the 15 per cent target, the import of LNG will have to be 148.483 bmscm (184.222-35.739) which means India's import dependence will have to increase to over 80 per cent. The above calculation assumes no



THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR A 'PREDICTABLE' AND 'ATTRACTIVE' POLICY ENVIRONMENT TO GIVE A FILLIP TO THE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF NG

increase in total energy consumption. But, it is increasing at a rapid pace. The country's power demand alone is projected to grow at a compound annual rate of 7 per cent during the next five years (as per an estimate by the Central Electricity Authority or CEA).

In that scenario, compliance with the 15 per cent target for NG would mean still higher reliance on imports. What is coming in the way of increasing production? Natural resource endowment is not a problem. India has 26 sedimentary basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.4 million sq km that could be searched for hydrocarbon resources. However, only six of the SBs are under commercial exploitation; these too are sub-optimally utilised. Hydrocarbon exploration is a highly capital-intensive and technology-intensive business involving a long gestation period. It is risky, especially when drilling in deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature (D/UD/HP/HT) fields in offshore areas such as the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.

However, these areas offer maximum promise in terms of reserves. Multinational companies (MNCs) such as ExxonMobil, Chevron, Total etc. which have the technology and resources can be enthused to take long-term bets in the Indian hydrocarbon sector provided the government offers them an opportunity to earn an attractive return on their investment in a 'sustained' basis.

This, in turn, requires that their efforts in the discovery and development of NG fields don't face regulatory hurdles and that they can sell the gas 'freely' at a 'remunerative' price. Modi - The government has made a lot of efforts to remove regulatory hurdles. Until recently, of 1.73 million sq km SB area lying offshore, 0.69 million sq km was a 'No go' area, courtesy of security reasons.

The Centre has released almost all of this for exploration and produc-

tion (E&P) activity. Now, it is granting lease rights over the entire economic life of the allotted fields (this could extend up to 30 years, even beyond depending on the available reserves) instead of the extant system of short tenure with extensions.

It has also made amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act to enable prompt access to forest areas for exploration of hydrocarbon resources. Under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), also known as the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) launched in 2017, E&P firms are allowed to pick up a block of their choice unlike the earlier New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) wherein they had to accept what the government offered. Besides, under OALP, an operator gets a composite license to search for hydrocarbon in whatever form viz NG, 'shale gas', CBM (coal bed methane) etc. For long, E&P efforts were hamstrung by cumbersome procedures, multiple approvals and bureaucratic red tape. Approvals were needed at every stage.

As many as 37 procedures were required to be followed by a firm-awarded block under NELP. Team Modi has substantially liberalised and de-bureaucratized approvals by providing for self-certification of documents and pre-approved clearance of blocks. While the above helps, without freedom of marketing and the ability to secure a good price, E&P firms won't get enthused. Of the domestic gas, around two-thirds of supplies (mostly from so-called 'legacy fields' given on nomination to ONGC and OIL and from fields given under NELP), the Centre has full control over 'to whom' the supplies will be made and at 'what price'. From April 1, 2023, based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee, this price expressed on a per million British thermal units (Btu) basis is arrived at by taking 10 per cent

of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket in the preceding month and notified every month. The price thus calculated is subject to a ceiling of US\$ 6.50 per mBtu which makes the formula redundant.

Now, the bureaucrats have come up with a 20 per cent premium on supplies by ONGC and OIL only from the so-called 'new wells' or 'well interventions'.

If their intent is to give a good price why put a cap in the first place? Moreover, which fields get the benefit of 'new wells' or 'interventions', will also be solely at their discretion. Even the pricing of the remaining one-third of domestic NG supplied from the so-called deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin off the Andhra Pradesh coast fall in this category) isn't free from 'control' discretion and 'arbitrariness'. Technically though, the firms can go for competitive bidding to determine the price for such supplies (referred to as a 'premium' price), this too is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels including fuel oil, naphtha, and LNG. There is an urgent need for a 'predictable' and 'attractive' policy environment to give a fillip to the exploration and production of NG. The Kirit Parikh committee was conscious of this when it recommended de-regulating difficult gas fields' prices by January 1, 2026, and the price on supplies from legacy fields by January 1, 2027. The government should implement these recommendations. Meanwhile, it should prepare the ground for giving subsidies directly to major users such as fertilizers, power, CNG, PNG etc instead of creating distortions in the supply chain by controlling the price of basic inputs such as NG.

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

Ayurveda Day 2024: Celebrating innovations for global health and wellness

This year's celebration aims to highlight the transformative potential of Ayurveda in addressing modern health challenges

Over the last decade, the Ayush sector has undergone a significant transformation, largely due to the initiatives led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This revolution in traditional Indian medicine has created new opportunities for various stakeholders, including industry professionals, traders, and healthcare practitioners. Since its establishment in 2014, the Ministry of Ayush has successfully integrated Ayush into mainstream healthcare, driving innovation, research, and gaining global recognition. The ministry's strategic focus encompasses public health, technology, education, globalisation, and quality control, ensuring that Ayush products and services are safe and of high quality.



RAJESH KOTECHEA

This comprehensive approach aligns with the goals of universal health coverage and sustainability, contributing to the sector's growth, increased public awareness, and a rising demand for Ayush healthcare systems worldwide.

Ayurveda Day is celebrated on the occasion of Dhanteras to honor Lord Dhanvantari, the deity revered as the physician

of the gods and the God of Ayurveda. This year, Ayurveda Day will be observed on October 29, 2024, with a renewed focus on the theme "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health." Since the Ministry of Ayush initiated Ayurveda Day in 2016, the event has expanded into a global celebration. The emphasis this year is on showcasing Ayurveda's potential to improve global health through innovative practices and natural treatment methods.

Ayurveda's core strength lies in its holistic approach to health, which emphasizes prevention, health promotion, and natural healing. With the growing global demand for integrative healthcare solutions, Ayurveda is gaining recognition as a viable and sustainable alterna-

tive. Recent advancements, supported by scientific research, have increased the global reach and acceptance of Ayurvedic practices. One of the most notable contributions of Ayurveda to modern healthcare is the innovative use of herbal medicine. It is reported that over 95% of Ayurvedic interventions are based on herbal treatments, utilizing the healing properties of nature. As scientific research continues to validate the effectiveness of Ayurvedic herbs and therapies, the demand for these natural solutions is rapidly increasing worldwide. The rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer has highlighted the need for natural, preventive healthcare solutions.



Ayurved, with its focus on holistic well-being, offers a unique approach to managing these conditions. Additionally, the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance requires alternative treatment methods, and Ayurvedic remedies, rooted in herbal medicine, present sustainable options. As climate change exacerbates health risks,

Ayurveda's emphasis on lifestyle management, mental health, and care for the elderly provides resilient solutions for vulnerable populations. Moreover, as societies face challenges like nutritional disorders and mental health crises, Ayurveda's approach to balancing the body and mind becomes increasingly relevant. Ayurveda is not a static system; it evolves continually through ongoing research and innovation. Recent advancements in fields such as genome sequencing and nanotechnology have revealed parallels with traditional Ayurvedic concepts like Prakriti (body constitution) and Bhasma (herbal-mineral formulations). These modern innovations help bridge the gap between traditional practices and contemporary

healthcare, making Ayurvedic treatments more accessible and scientifically validated. Ayurveda as a proactive health strategy that can boost immunity, mental clarity, and overall well-being. The alignment of Ayurvedic innovations with the SDGs and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) underscores its potential to provide accessible, affordable, and inclusive healthcare. The 2024 Ayurveda Day will mark several important milestones that reflect the growth and integration of Ayurveda into mainstream healthcare. The Ministry of Ayush is accelerating this progress through the construction of Phase II of the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi and the establishment of six new Centers of Excellence to promote innova-

tion and research in traditional medicine. Plans to develop the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh aim to enhance the promotion of holistic health practices. The celebrations for Ayurveda Day 2024 will include a variety of engaging activities, such as creative exhibitions, Ayurveda quizzes, medical camps, and Prakriti Parikshan (body constitution analysis). Initiatives like "Ayurveda in My Kitchen" and "Ayurveda in My Vatika" will emphasise the practical application of Ayurvedic principles in daily life.

(The writer is Secretary Ministry of Ayush; views are personal)

Apparent truck attack on bus stop near Mossad HQ in Israel wounds dozens

AP ■ TEL AVIV
A truck rammed into a bus stop near the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, wounding 35 people, according to first responders. Israeli police described it as an attack and said the assailant was an Arab citizen of Israel. The ramming occurred near the headquarters of Israel's Mossad spy agency. In the city of Ramat Hasharon, northeast of Tel Aviv, the truck slammed into a bus at a stop as Israelis were returning to work after a weeklong holiday, leaving some people stuck under the vehicles. In addition to being near the Mossad headquarters and a military base, the bus stop is also close to a central highway junction. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said six of the wounded were in serious condition. Asi Aharoni, an Israeli police spokesperson, told reporters that the attacker had been "neutralised," without saying if the assailant was dead. Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group praised the suspected attack but did not claim it.

'Israeli strikes kill 22 in northern Gaza'

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH
Israeli strikes on northern Gaza have killed at least 22 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said Sunday, as its offensive in the hard-hit and isolated north entered a third week and aid groups described a humanitarian catastrophe. In a separate development, a truck rammed into a bus stop near Tel Aviv, injuring dozens of people, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service. The circumstances were not immediately clear, but Palestinians have carried out dozens of vehicle-ramming attacks over the years. The Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service said that 11 women and two children were among those killed in the strikes late Saturday on several homes and buildings in the northern town of Beit Lahiya. It said another 15 people were wounded and that the death toll could rise. It listed the names of those killed, who mostly came from three families. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike on militants in a structure in Beit Lahiya and took steps to avoid harming civilians. It disputed what it said were "numbers published by the media," without elaborating or providing evidence for its own account. Israel is still carrying out daily strikes across Gaza, even as it wages an air and ground war with the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. Two people were wounded after an explosive drone launched from Lebanon slammed into a building in an industrial area of northern Israel, authorities said. An Israeli airstrike on a southern neighbourhood of Beirut set flames and smoke climbing into the air. On Saturday, Israeli warplanes attacked military targets in Iran — which backs both the Hamas and Hezbollah — in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack earlier this month. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Sunday that Israel's attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for retaliation. His remarks are the latest suggesting Iran is carefully weighing its response to the attack. "It is up to the authorities to determine how to convey the power and will of the Iranian people to the Israeli regime and to take actions that serve the interests of this nation and country," said Khamenei, who has the final say over all major decisions in Iran. The cascading conflicts have raised fears of an all-out regional war pitting Israel and the United States against Iran and its militant proxies, which also include the Houthi rebels in Yemen and armed groups in Syria and Iraq. Red Cross describes 'horrific circumstances' in northern Gaza Israel has been waging a massive air and ground offensive in northern Gaza since October 6, after saying that Hamas militants had regrouped there. Hundreds of people have been killed and tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled to Gaza City in the latest wave of displacement in the yearlong war. Israel says its strikes on Gaza only target militants, and it blames Hamas for civilian casualties because the militants fight in densely populated areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children. Aid groups have warned of a catastrophic situation in northern Gaza, which was the first target of Israel's ground offensive and had already suffered the heaviest destruction of the war. Israel has severely limited the entry of basic humanitarian aid in recent weeks, and the three remaining hospitals in the north — one of which was raided over the weekend — say they have been overwhelmed by waves of wounded people. The International Committee of the Red Cross on Saturday said that ongoing Israeli evacuation orders and restrictions on the entry of essential supplies to the north had left the civilian population in "horrific circumstances." "Many civilians are currently unable to move, trapped by fighting, destruction or physical constraint and now lack access to even basic medical care," it said. Hospitals reeled after Israeli raid detains dozens of medics Israeli troops raided the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the north on Friday, detaining dozens of medical staff and causing heavy damage, according to the Health Ministry. Footage circulated online showing the courtyard bulldozed and the wards ransacked. Israeli troops withdrew on Saturday. The head of the World Health Organisation said 44 male staff members were detained at the hospital. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said only female staff, the hospital director and one male doctor were left to care for almost 200 patients. Among those detained and taken away was Dr. Mohamed Obeid, head of the orthopedics department at nearby Al-Awda Hospital, according to Al-Awda Hospital. His whereabouts are unknown. Throughout the yearlong Israel-Hamas war, Israeli forces have stormed and bombed a number of hospitals including the strip's largest medical facility, Shifa Hospital. Israel accuses Hamas of using medical facilities across Gaza for military purposes, allegations denied by hospital staff, who say the raids have recklessly endangered sick and wounded civilians. The war began when Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's border wall and stormed into southern Israel in a surprise attack on October 7, 2023.

EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 28.10.2024 to 30.10.2024 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accommodation, Stoppages. Contains train schedules for Monday, 28.10.2024.

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 29.10.2024 (TUESDAY)

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accommodation, Stoppages. Contains train schedules for Tuesday, 29.10.2024.

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 30.10.2024 (WEDNESDAY)

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accommodation, Stoppages. Contains train schedules for Wednesday, 30.10.2024.

During the Rail journey never travel with inflammable objects like Crackers, Petrol, Kerosene, Gas Cylinder etc. For any kind of information, such as seat availability and time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

NORTHERN RAILWAY logo and contact information: visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

LOST & FOUND LOST ALLOTMENT LETTER OF FLAT NO. 1505, TOWER 6, EMAAR PALM GARDEN, SECTOR-83, GURGAON-122004

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Vinod Kumar is claiming to be owner of Residential Property bearing No. 24, area measuring 56 sq. yds., out of Rect. No. 38, Killa No. 13, situated at abadi Sarojini Park, Shastri Nagar, in the area of Village Kuruli Khos, Tilga Shikhar, Delhi-110031 vide G.P.A. ATS & Will dated 26.08.1996, executed by Mr. Khushal Chand. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the property to a person who wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property. If any body has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/pledge and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Kumaree Dhanamti who claimed to be owners and in possession of the Plot on area measuring 299 Sq. Yds. Khirsa no.487, Situated Viji Chok, Merlika, Patarganj, Patarganj & Toshi Dadi Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 17/09/2024, Doc No. 49408. Now Mrs. Kumaree Dhanamti is Selling said property to Anil Kumar and same approached to Bank of India for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Bandhan Bank Ltd is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be considered to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan to the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof. For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-66, LGF Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1, New Delhi-48

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the Public at large that Smt. Ramesh Jhingon W/o. Late Sh. P.N. Jhingon (Alias Pran Nath Jhingon) is the Title Holder in the undivided share of the property known as Freehold Property Bearing Flat No. A-52, Retreat Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., Plot No. 20, I.P. Extension, Patarganj, New Delhi-110092 (admeasuring 83.60 sq. mtrs., herinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Conveyance Deed dated 7th March, 2018 duly registered as Regn. No.2814, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 6951, pp. 111-113 on 07/03/2018 in the Office of the Sub Registrar-VII, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi (Smt. Ramesh Jhingon is described as a Mutatee therein). The Schedule Property was originally allotted by the Society to Sh. P.N. Jhingon and consequent to his death on 13/08/2010, on the basis of submission of original Relinquishment Deed dated 29/08/2017 (Regn. No. 4305), the Delhi Development Authority mutated the Schedule Property in favour of Smt. Ramesh Jhingon. That Late Sh. P.N. Jhingon did not leave behind any other Legal Heirs except Smt. Ramesh Jhingon (Wife), Sh. Somesh Nath Jhingon (Son), Smt. Shikha Jhingon (Daughter) and Sh. Shalinder Jhingon (Son). Further, the original documents w.r.t. the Schedule Property i.e. (i) Confirmation of Draw of Lots Letter, (ii) Physical Possession Letter dated 21.03.1992 and (iii) Mutation Letter issued by D.D.A. in the name of Smt. Ramesh Jhingon have all been lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 27.10.2024 bearing LR No. 2248541/2024 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUF(s) etc. having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/misplaced/untraceable original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., may come forward with supporting documents to be delivered to the undersigned within 30 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and as waived and the Title Holder shall continue to sell the Schedule Property, as is currently intended. Joti Kashyap, Advocate Address: Chamber No. 8, Block-E, Karkardooma Court, New Delhi-110032. Contact No. +91 99176 26467

Immigration: A key issue in US election campaign

PTI ■ ATLANTA
With just nine days left for Election Day, immigration remained one of the contentious issues in the US presidential campaign, with many immigrants, including from India and other South Asian nations, fearing a backlash if Republican hopeful Donald Trump wins the poll. In his campaign speeches, Trump promised a radical shift to tighten Washington's immigration policy and vowed to carry out the "largest" domestic deportation operation in American history of undocumented immigrants and review the existing refugee programmes if he is re-elected. The Republican leader has even vowed to end birthright citizenship for the children of immigrants living in the US illegally, triggering concerns among various diaspora communities, including from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Various pro-immigration advocacy groups have criticised Trump over his rhetoric on immigration, saying the discontinuation of birthright citizenship is legally questionable as it is enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution. On her part, Vice President Kamala Harris has underlined the need for curtailing illegal immigration and that the US immigration system is broken and requires legislative measures to fix it. At a recent campaign rally, Trump accused Harris of bringing in "migrant gangs and illegal alien criminals" into the US, adding that "her policy of importing migrant gangs is a crime against our country." "This is a very sensitive issue and we are worried about the possible fallout of Trump's victory," said Mohammad Iqbal, a Bangladesh-origin green card holder living in Atlanta for over a decade. "Trump's policy is creating panic among various migrant societies and that is why they are supporting Vice President Kamala Harris," he noted. Vasudev Patel, general secretary of the Federation of Indian-Americans in Georgia, said the Republican leader is looking at welcoming "educated" and "peaceful" people to the US. A survey report by Pew Research has found that the supporters of Trump and Harris differ on mass deportations but favour border security. Nearly nine-in-ten Trump supporters (88 per cent) favour mass deportations of immigrants living in the country illegally, it said. In contrast, only 27 per cent of Harris supporters favour mass deportations while 72 per cent oppose it, the survey found. More than a third of Trump supporters (37 per cent) favour allowing undocumented immigrants to live and work in the US if they are married to an American citizen, compared with 80 per cent of Harris supporters who say the same, Pew Research found. About half of Trump supporters (49 per cent) support admitting more civilian refugees who are escaping war or violence, but a majority of Harris supporters (85 per cent) say the same, it said. Latanya, a student from Michigan, said immigration is a major issue in the election and she was upset with Trump over his policy on the matter. "I think, Harris is a much better choice than Trump in the election," she added. The US presidential race remained very tight with both Harris and Trump locked in a dead heat for the popular votes in most swing states. The final nationwide CNN poll found this week that 47 per cent of likely voters support Harris and an equal 47 would endorse Trump in the elections. In the final New York Times/Siena College national poll from October 20 to 23, the two aspirants are tied at 48 per cent. The remaining four per cent are yet to decide on their preference. A separate poll conducted by the Financial Times and the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business showed that 44 per cent of respondents trust Trump to handle the economy as opposed to 43 per cent for Harris.



DELHI'S AIR POLLUTION CRISIS

LASTING SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH AND GREENERY

Keep the windows closed, avoiding indoor burning of wood, and using a wet mop for cleaning can reduce dust exposure in this high AQI writes **GUFRAAN BEIG**

With the air quality in the national capital already in the "poor" category ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government has swung into action, coinciding with the Centre's directive to implement GRAP Stage 1 and other related initiatives. City residents are bracing themselves for, yet another long winter of air pollution and the health hazards it causes. Air Quality Index (AQI) is a measure of the quantum of harmful particles, fumes, chemicals, and oxides in the air. It gauges levels on a scale from 0 to 500 and plays a crucial role in understanding the scale of the air pollution crisis. While the AQI under 50 is ideal and under 100 is liveable, once it crosses this level, it progressively indicates that the air we breathe is getting more harmful. AQI levels (100-200) can lead to eye and throat irritation, while higher levels can have several serious health impacts. During the winter months, Delhi's AQI levels become hazardous, exceeding 200 resulting in prolonged exposure to unhealthy levels of PM2.5. Several medical studies show that such exposure can lead to a range of serious health issues, including reduced lung function and development, cancer, premature mortality, cardiovascular symptoms such as unusual chest pain, and hematological abnormalities like anemia, leukemia, thrombocytosis, and venous thromboembolism. To mitigate exposure, people are advised to limit outdoor activities, especially in the early morning and after sunset to

TO MITIGATE EXPOSURE, PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO LIMIT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, IN THE EARLY MORNING AND AFTER SUNSET. TO AVOID HEAVY EXERTION OPT FOR SHORT WALKS, AVOID JOGGING, AND TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS. IF UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS ARISE, SUCH AS COUGHING OR CHEST DISCOMFORT, STOP ALL ACTIVITIES

avoid heavy exertion. You can opt for short walks, avoid jogging, and take frequent breaks. If unusual symptoms arise, such as coughing or chest discomfort, stop all activities. Keeping windows closed, avoiding indoor burning of wood or candles, and using wet mopping for cleaning can further reduce dust exposure. N95 or P100 masks may provide some protection when outside. Also, the reality is that the transportation sector is growing rapidly, fuelled by increased vehicle ownership and the need to modernise outdated engine technology. The Government is proactively promoting electric mobility, recognising its immense potential to transform air quality. While it can upscale its efforts with more

incentives and better infrastructure, citizens must also collaborate in this transition by embracing EVs more actively and making them their primary mode of personal transport. With the Delhi Metro and Delhi Transport Corporation already committed to using zero emission electric power trains for their trains and buses, it's time for residents of the Capital too to follow their lead and make a stronger collective effort to eliminate dangerous exhaust pollutants, significantly improving air quality and public health. We must create a cleaner and healthier future for Delhi residents. Controlling tailpipe emissions is critical for this. Mandating vehicle electrification, curtailing emissions from vehicles running on petrol and diesel, and retiring highly polluting older models where the emissions can't be reduced must be considered. While this will not be easy, the time for action is now or it may get too late. Concerns about the environmental impact of increased electricity demand for EVs will be addressed by transitioning to renewable energy sources. As India makes more strides in this direction, the growth of clean energy can mitigate the reliance on coal, ultimately benefiting the environment.

The author is a chair professor of NIAS, IISc-Campus, Bengaluru and Founder, SAFAR.

ARE WE ON THE PATH TO END AIDS BY 2030?



BY SHOBHA SHUKLA

The reality is a mix of yes and no while the facts shared in the latest report by UNAIDS reveal that as a world we are not already on the path, they do show that we can be there if world leaders take bold actions ensuring that the HIV response has the resources it needs. Progress made in the past decade notwithstanding, there is still a huge gap between the targets set up to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The UNAIDS report- 'The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads'- shows that globally, of the 39.9 million people living with HIV, nearly 25% (9.3 million), are not receiving life-saving treatment, including 660,000 children living with HIV. Globally, 4,000 young women and girls will become infected with HIV every week in 2022.

DEVELOP NEW HIV PREVENTION OPTIONS AND DELIVER THEM EQUITABLY

"We have to fill the product introduction gap - accelerate time to regulatory approvals of product introduction to impact; demand creation and programme platforms for prevention; and differentiated and integrated service delivery for people. We must also fill the product development gap - long acting and event driven; user-friendly and developed with users; dual purpose and multi-purpose methods must be our top priority," says Mitchell Warren, Executive Director of AVAC. PrEP is one of the new HIV prevention options for HIV-negative people who can reduce the risk of HIV acquisition by taking an antiretroviral medication and the latest addition is the long acting injectable lenacapavir that has been found to be highly effective in preventing HIV in cisgender women as well as in gay, bisexual and transgender people.

CHOICE MATTERS ON MULTIPLE LEVELS

Studies have proved that expanding testing and treating and then introducing PrEP has lowered the incidence of HIV in communities that had access to it. In Warren's opinion, "We should not forget that biomedical products- whether for prevention or for treatment- exist in behavioural and structural contexts. None of these methods can help if we do not address access and equity. While we develop biomedical products around the pathogen-around the HIV virus- we need to design the programmes around the people. That is what matters and that is how you get to impact.

ROLLOUT OF NEW TOOLS

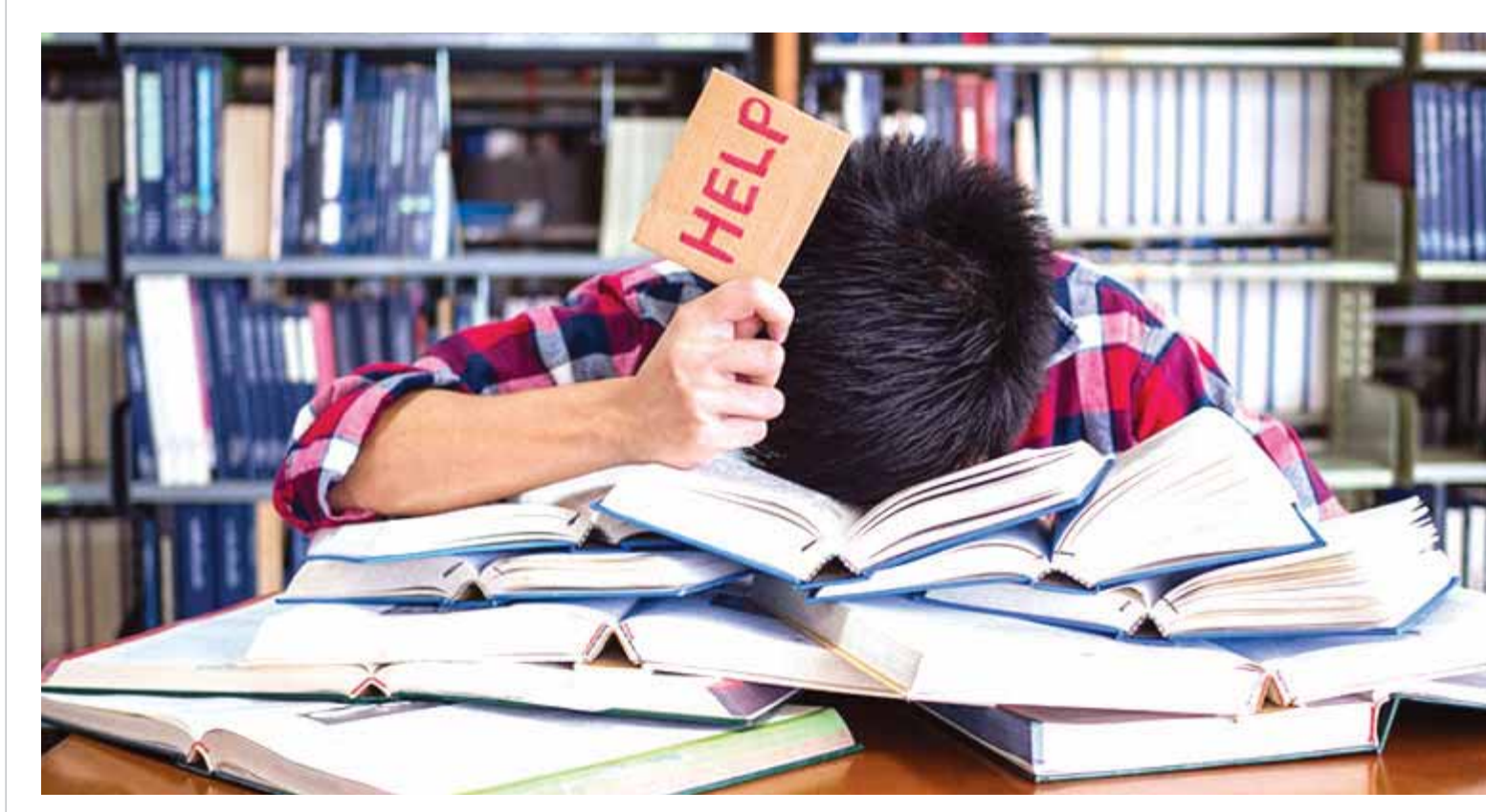
The deadly delays between developing path breaking health technologies and benefiting those for whom these were developed must end. We have to ensure vaccines convert into vaccinations of the 'last person in queue' first - without any delay. Same holds true for the full range of disease prevention, diagnostics, and treatments we have today. The 5th HIVR4P Conference to be convened in Lima, Peru will bring together around 1500 participants including representatives of key and affected populations in the HIV response to advance scientific knowledge, and enhance scientific and community collaborations to address the challenges and opportunities in HIV prevention. *The author is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS (Citizen News Service)*

IMPACTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Effect of Improper Sleep, Mental Health on Students' Performance

BY ARCHANA PADHYE

As an educator, one tends to observe that sleep patterns are strongly linked to psychological well-being and academic performance. In today's fast-paced society, students are always undergoing pressure to maintain their social life, balance extracurricular activities, and be academically fit. Unfortunately, sleep is the most crucial component that is sometimes forgotten. In this article we will look at the connections between healthy sleep patterns, mental wellbeing, and academic success and discuss ways to support our students' general wellbeing. **The Role of Sleep in Academic Success** Rest is necessary for cognitive and emotional regulation. While asleep, the brain processes information learned during the day through consolidation of learning and memory. Thus, students learn better and pay better attention, leading to higher levels of academic performance when they are well rested. On the other hand, sleep deprivation leads to lack of focus and irritability. It can be much tougher for students to sit in class and complete tasks in hand when they are sleep deprived. Sleep timings can vary by age, when it comes to students. **Mental Health and Its Impact on Learning** Mental wellbeing contributes much to students' academic performance. Stress, anxiety, and even depression are increasing in school-going children. It



isn't self induced, it is normally facilitated by pressure related to academics. This leads to distraction, low motivation, and poor time management. The following suggestions have been

put into practice to help foster healthier sleeping habits and mental well-being for students so they can best be prepared: **Create a Consistent Sleep Schedule** - Encouraging students to go to bed and

wake up at the same time every day—even on weekends—helps regulate their internal body clock. This makes it easier to fall asleep and wake up refreshed. **Limit Screen Time Right Before**

Sleep - Radiation emitting through mobile phones, tablets, and computers interferes with the production of melatonin, the sleep hormone. Regulating the screens before bed time has to be a ritual.

Promoting Relaxing Methods - Engaging in relaxing activities such as deep breathing, meditation, listening to soulful music or reading a book before bed may ease the student into the spirit of sleeping. These methods also reduce levels of anxiety and stress, thus enhancing mental well-being. **Time Management** - Students often end up feeling extremely overwhelmed by the tasks in hand, exams, and extracurricular activities. Breaking down tasks into different elements, as well as a prioritisation of workloads, can actually ease the burden and reduce the stress associated with it. **Advocating Physical Activity** - Physical activities tire the body, thus improving the quality of sleep. In addition to that, regular physical activity reduces anxiety and depression, hence encouraging mental health. Balancing sleep, mental health, and academic performance can really impact the overall success of the student. So, educators and counselors should reinforce the importance of sleep in healthy mental habits and provide students with the tools to succeed not only in the classroom but also in their personal space. Together, schools can create this kind of school environment that works to make students shine in academics and emotionally as well.

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