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UK PM NAMES NEW CHIEF OF STAFF IN DOWNING STREET SHAKE-UP

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SINDHU, SEN EYE COMEBACK AFTER PARIS SETBACK
11 SPORTS



TOMATO PRICES LEAVE BITTER TASTE ON FESTIVE PLATES

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The price of tomato, a crucial kitchen staple, has skyrocketed to ₹100 per kg and in some colonies prices have touched ₹120 a kg. The surge in tomato prices is not the only concern for Delhi and NCR residents, prices of other vegetables including onion and potato have also increased. Onions are being sold at ₹80 per kg while potato prices range between ₹30 to 40 per kg. The retail rate of tomato was ₹50 per kg till the third week of September. This has increased the cost of a home-cooked vegetarian meal by up to 11 per cent in September. The average cost of a vegetarian meal was ₹31.3 in September. While vegetables account for about 37 per

cent of a vegetarian meal cost, pulses, which constitute 9 per cent, also saw a 14 per cent rise in prices last month. There are reports that the retail price of tomatoes, onions and potatoes across the country has almost doubled in a month. The reasons for the increase are said to be adverse weather conditions such as high humidity in producing states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, and crop loss due to prolonged monsoon. Traders attributed this to a supply shortage from Karnataka and Maharashtra as the second crop cultivation ended. The rates of tomatoes have also gone up in the major wholesale vegetable markets of Delhi, including Azadpur Mandi,

Ghazipur Mandi, and Okhla Sabzi Mandi. According to tomato traders at Azadpur Mandi, presently 30 to 35 trucks arrive daily now, as against 50 to 60 trucks per day. The wholesale market sells the tomatoes at ₹70-80 a kg and traders anticipate that the price might touch 150 a kg in the coming days. The wholesale price of onion was at ₹45 a kg, and Potatoes at ₹30 a kg. It will take at least five to six weeks or more for the supply to normalise. This is the third time since July when retail tomato prices have crossed ₹100 a kg in Delhi and NCR. Similar trends were seen in July and August this year, due to the supply disruption from the producing centres owing to rains.



Notably, the Ministry of Agriculture estimated an increase of tomato production by 4.38 percent to 21.32 million tonnes, driven by last year's price surge. As per Price Monitoring Division

of the Department of Consumer Affairs, average price of tomato was at ₹90 a kg in Delhi on Monday. Similarly, onions were being sold at ₹58 a kg and potatoes at ₹40 a kg. In the past three months, the wholesale price of tomatoes surged by 73.24 per cent. In a bid to address rising tomato prices, the National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) on Monday initiated a market intervention by directly procuring tomatoes from mandis and selling them at a subsidised rate of ₹65 per kilogram at 50 locations of Delhi-NCR. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare initiated the retail sale of tomatoes through mobile vans and NCCF retail shops at Krishi Bhawan. Other vegetables have also seen price increases. Beans are now selling for ₹120 a kg, Capsicum between ₹80 to ₹100 a kg, Bitter Gourd at ₹60 a kg, Bottle Gourd at ₹50 a kg, Cabbage at ₹80 a kg, Drumstick at ₹70 a kg, Cucumber

at ₹60 a kg, Brinjal at ₹60 a kg and elephant foot yam at ₹80 a kg. Coriander Leaves have prices ranging from ₹100 to ₹120 a kg. Rajeev Parmar, a Saket resident, said, "We have to reduce consumption to manage expenses." According to Ministry of Agriculture's estimates, onion production is likely to drop by 19.76 per cent to 24.24 million tonnes due to lower yields in key regions. Other vegetables such as brinjal, elephant foot yam, and capsicum may also see reduced output. Potato production is also set to decline by 5.13 per cent to 57.05 million tonnes. These drops could pose challenges in controlling prices of two essential items, which play a crucial role in food inflation.

RG Kar case not gangrape: CBI chargesheet suggests



A chart shows medical parameters of some junior doctors protesting against the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder incident, in Kolkata PTI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case does not indicate gang-rape, the preliminary charge-sheet filed on Monday by the Central Bureau of Investigation suggests. Though other possibilities are not ruled out as there are still some missing links, "as of now Sanjoy Roy is the prime accused who perpetrated the crime," sources said. In the 45-page charge-sheet Roy has been quoted as telling his interrogators that he first strangled the victim because she was resisting and then raped without realising that she had died. "If that be so then he had raped the victim when she was dead," lawyers at Sealdah Court said. The charge-sheet was filed on the 58th day of the rape and murder taking place inside the

sustained could not be the handiwork of a single person. Suspicion got stronger when the hospital authorities upon the orders of the then college Principal Sandip Ghosh started renovation in the area where the crime had taken place. Ghosh has since been arrested along with the officer in-charge of the local Tala Police Station which has jurisdiction over the area on charges of tampering of evidence. Apart from Roy, four persons have been arrested in the RG Kar rape and murder case, on charges of tampering evidence and carrying out a corruption racket inside the Health Department. Meanwhile, the junior doctor's indefinite fast in demand of justice for the victim entered its second day on Monday with the senior doctors too joining them in a symbolic fast. Apart from demanding justice for the victim, the doctors have placed a ten-point demand before the State government that includes centralised referral system for patients so as to save the harassment of shuttling between hospitals in search of beds, total CCTV coverage, adequate security deployment inside hospitals, restrooms and washrooms for the doctors, end of the "threat syndicate" perpetrated by doctors loyal to the ruling party and not least the removal of Principal Health Secretary NS Nigam from his post. Elsewhere a team of doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Monday conducted the postmortem of the 11-year-old girl who was on Saturday evening raped and murdered at Mahishmari village in Joynagar block of South 24 Parganas.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a meeting with farmers PTI

Will implement NRC in Jharkhand: Shivraj

PNS ■ RANCHI/NEW DELHI

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Centre on Monday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Jharkhand if voted to power. Chouhan who announced NRC for the State accused the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led government of "patronising" Bangladeshi infiltrators. He claimed that 'mati' (land), 'beti' (daughter) and 'roti' (bread) in Jharkhand are in danger. "Infiltrators are coming to Jharkhand, marrying daughters here, purchasing land and increasing their influence in local bodies. This is very dangerous and it is ruining Jharkhand," he said. The BJP on Saturday released five key points of its manifesto for the assembly polls in Jharkhand, promising financial assistance of Rs 2,100 to women every month, five lakh jobs to youths, LPG cylinders at Rs 500 to every household and housing for all if the party came to power. Speaking about a proposed meeting with farmers' bodies in Delhi on Monday, he said, "I meet farmers and their organisations every week. I am meeting them today as well. We decide about their welfare after talking to them." Chouhan on Sunday attended the BJP's election committee meeting in Ranchi where strategies for the upcoming assembly polls were discussed.

"The BJP is not concerned about coming to power only. In Jharkhand 'maati', 'beti', 'roti' are in danger because of infiltration. It is our pledge to protect them." Union Agriculture minister said at Ranchi's Birsamunda Airport while leaving for Delhi. Chouhan, who is also election in-charge for Jharkhand, alleged there has been infiltration from foreign land and the Hemant Soren-led government patronising them by making their Aadhaar and voter identity cards. "Infiltrators are coming to Jharkhand, marrying daughters here, purchasing land and increasing their influence in local bodies. This is very dangerous and it is ruining Jharkhand," he said. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been created to contain names of all genuine Indian citizens, and at present, only Assam has such a register. The NRC in Assam is a list of Indian citizens living in the state. The citizens' register sets out to identify foreign nationals in the state that borders Bangladesh. The Centre has been planning to exercise NRC to other states as well. Nagaland is already creating a similar database known as the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants. The Centre is also planning to create a National Population Register (NPR), which will contain demographic and biometric details of citizens.

No China-made decorations for Diwali: Ram Janmabhoomi trust

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra has taken a step toward supporting the "Make in India" initiative by banning the use of Chinese decorative items, including lights, for this year's Diwali celebrations at the Ram Janmabhoomi campus and proposed custom designed outfit for Ram Lalla by fashion designer Manish Malhotra. "The Trust will make all arrangements for the Diwali celebrations, ensuring that no Chinese items, including lights, are used on the campus," announced Champat Rai, general secretary of the Trust. In keeping with this vision, the Diwali festivities at the Ram Mandir will focus on promoting local artisans and traditional crafts. This celebration, the first since the grand opening of the temple on January 22, 2024, will highlight India's rich cultural heritage. The temple will be illuminated with two lakh diyas, handcrafted by local artisans, to honour India's traditional craftsmanship. The Trust has carefully planned the diya placements to preserve the beauty of the temple. A standout feature of this year's celebrations is

the custom-designed outfits for Ram Lalla and his brothers, created by renowned Indian fashion designer Manish Malhotra. Known for his intricate craftsmanship and blend of tradition and modernity, Malhotra's designs will add a special charm to the deity's adornment. "Manish Malhotra is preparing these special outfits for the deities, aligning with the 'Make in India' spirit of the celebrations," said a Trust member. The festivities will also include special offerings and four artis throughout the day. Acharya Satyendra Das, the head priest, will lead the Vedic rituals, while the temple complex will be decorated with locally sourced flowers and traditional decorations, further emphasizing the focus on Indian artisanship. The Uttar Pradesh tourism department is contributing to the celebrations by lighting diyas along the Sarayu River and organising cultural events to recreate the joyous return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also set an ambitious goal of lighting 25 lakh diyas during the Deepotsav, aiming to set a new Guinness World Record.

HEALING TOUCH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu prior to a meeting at Hyderabad House Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer



New Rohtak Road is the worst: Chief Minister Atishi

Traffic jams, potholes, broken patches make it dangerous for two wheeler commuters

BY RAJESH KUMAR

New Rohtak Road, one of the most densely populated areas connecting Mundka and Tikri Border is arguably the worst road in the National Capital. It has huge traffic jams round the clock and is also dangerous for two wheeler commuters due to potholes and broken roads. A major arterial road that links north, northwest, west Delhi to Central and New Delhi, heavy traffic and consequent snarls are common here with stoppage sometimes extending over two to three hours. Addressing a press conference along with Aam Aadmi Party national convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Monday admitted that New Rohtak Road is the worst road in the capital city. "One of the most problematic roads identified during the inspection is New Rohtak Road, which passes through Nangloi and Mundka, leading to Tikri Border. This

road is possibly the worst in Delhi today. The population in its surrounding unauthorised colonies has increased and the drainage system needs upgrading," Atishi said, adding "work on the new drain and road will begin within four weeks." In this traffic jams series, we have been highlighting that poor traffic management, and broken roads lead to traffic jams round the clock in the national capital. Be it Wazirabad road to Vikas Marg, Mehrauli Badarpur road to New Rohtak Road and all ISBT's, 1 and surroundings of metro stations, commuters face traffic jams on a daily basis. Real time data from TomTom showed that it took 25 minutes to cover 10 kilometres at 1 pm. Experts say poor planning, broken roads, high volume of traffic and illegal parking are reasons for worst jams, making Delhi one of the busiest cities when it comes to daily commutes.



The Delhi government's Public Works Department (PWD) manages a road network of 1,400 km, with a total lane length of 7,000 km. The inspection identified 6,671 potholes and over 230 km of road requiring re-carpeting and strengthening. "As many as 2,53,000 sq m of road patches have been identified for repair, and 39,500 sq m of patchwork was completed within the last week," the CM added. The Pioneer has been highlighting in its traffic jams series that poor and broken roads lead to traffic jams round the clock in the national capital. Sharing details of pathetic roads, CM Atishi said the party has identified 89 damaged PWD (Public Works Department) roads for strengthening. She said 74 tenders have already been floated for this. The CM added that AAP leaders identified a total of 6,671 potholes during a series of inspections, and 3,454 of the patches have already been filled. This is an indication that

broken roads cause traffic jams. Meanwhile, residents of New Rohtak Road say they are now used to round-the-clock traffic jams. Traffic bound to Central and New Delhi from areas like Punjabi Bagh, Model Town, Pitampura to Punjabi Bagh, Rohini and Najafgarh use this road during morning peak hours. Following this the 'shopping crowd' descends on Karol Bagh and other major markets. In the evening home bound traffic chokes the stretch. After 9.30 pm, trucks are allowed to pass, so there are hardly any quiet moments along this stretch. Using Zebra crossings, staying behind stop lines at red lights, and usage of pavements seem to be alien concepts here. Pedestrians walk on the traffic carriageway, and two wheelers zoom on the pavements. Many commuters say they avoid the stretch even if it means taking a long detour. Residentals enclaves on both sides of the road also generate substantial pedestrian traffic.



Arya questions proposed privatisation of IMPCL Mohaan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The leader of opposition (LoP) in Vidhan Sabha, Yashpal Arya has said that the decision of the Narendra Modi government to sell the profit making public sector undertaking Indian Medicine Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) at Mohaan in Nainital district exposes its hollow claims of promoting Ayurveda and AYUSH in the country. Questioning the motive of the government to hand over the profit making mini Ratna company, the LoP said it is clear that the government is continuing to hand over precious assets of the nation to a select group of businessmen.

He said that the IMPCL was established in 1978

by the Union and the State governments. It is now an important plant manufacturing Ayurvedic and Unani medicines in the country and the medicines from here are supplied to all parts of the country and are also exported. Arya said that the company earned a profit of Rs 18 crore last year and this year too it is planning to hand over a dividend of Rs six crore to the government.

He said that the Mohaan unit has more than 500 employees and thousands of farmers supply raw material to it. The LoP demanded that the government should clarify its motive behind handing over the profit making company to private players.

IN BRIEF

IIT Roorkee hosts panel discussion on GEP

ROORKEE: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, in collaboration with the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), hosted a panel discussion on the Gross Environment Product (GEP) on Monday. The organisers said that the main objective was to raise awareness about ecological issues and emphasise the need for a comprehensive strategy to shift from GDP-based economic growth parameters to GEP measures for defining development. Addressing it, the HESCO founder Anil P Joshi discussed the topic, its context



and the need for such a development parameter in today's times. IIT Roorkee director, Kamal Kishore Pant lauded the GEP initiative and stressed the need to make society aware of environmental issues

WILL launches Shakti Women Leadership Programme with UPES

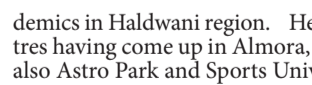
DEHRADUN: Work-Integrated Learning for Leadership (WILL) - in partnership with UPES - announced on Monday the inauguration of the Shakti Women Leadership Programme, aimed at empowering women professionals in the energy sector. The Energy, Housing and Planning secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram and MD of Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited, PC Dhyani besides the ED-HR of UJVNL Limited, Ashish Jain and deputy chief personnel officer, Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), Jitendra Singh were among those present on the occasion. The inaugural cohort comprises 12 participants from UJVNL, eight from UPCL, 12 from PTCUL and two from UREDA. The event commenced with addresses by the UPES vice-chancellor Ram Sharma and the director (Academics) Executive Education, WILL Education, Antarpreet Singh. They both highlighted the need for empowering women leaders in various industries.

Army jawan from Almora found dead in Poonch

ALMORA: A jawan of the 18 Kumaon Regiment, Manish Bishu who hailed from Dwarahat in Almora district died in the Balakote sector in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir under mysterious circumstances. The 23-year-old soldier had joined the army four years ago. The death came a few days after he resumed duty after spending some days with his family in his village. Sources said that he had shot himself with his service rifle. However, the reasons behind why he took such an extreme step are not yet clear.

Youth power flourishing under Modi's leadership: CM

HALDWANI: While addressing the students of Amrapali University here on Monday, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that India is now immensely rich with intelligent and dynamic youth power. "The youngsters of the country are leaving their deep imprints on every sphere of life. They are acquiring knowledge and technological skills, realising their dreams and ushering in positive changes in the society," he said while speaking appreciatively of the role the Amrapali University has been playing in the domain of academics in Haldwani region. He also referred to the science centres having come up in Almora, Champawat and Dehradun and also Astro Park and Sports University coming up in Haldwani.



16th Inter School Taekwondo competition concludes

NAINITAL: Mohan Lal Sah Bal Vidya Mandir team secured the first position while St Mary's Convent finished second in the 16th Inter School Taekwondo competition held in Mallital. Earlier, the Nainital District Taekwondo Association president CVS Bisht inaugurated the competition. Emphasising the importance of sports, he said that sports like Taekwondo promote self-confidence and discipline in students. In the closing ceremony, the senior social worker Saraswati Khetwal awarded the winner, saying that such competitions not only enhance physical ability but provide mental strength.

Executing agency selected for setting up blood bank at district hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to enhance the facilities for patients, the State administration has issued a tender to Peyjal Nigam for the establishment of a blood bank at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay district hospital. Informing about this, chief medical superintendent Dr VS Chauhan stated that following the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal's direction, the hospital administration recently submitted the blood bank proposal to the State administration.

The proposal was approved a few days ago and the next step which was left was to issue a tender to hire a company to build the blood bank. However, the State administration has recently issued a tender for the blood bank construction to the Peyjal Nigam, he added. He further informed that the agency officials recently visited the hospital to inspect the area where the blood bank will be established. The process of

preparing a map for the blood bank at the hospital has been initiated and it is likely that the construction work will start soon. He informed that the budget for the blood bank will be fixed by the State administration. He further stated that after the completion of the blood bank, the officials will focus on other matters, including infrastructure, licensing, equipment and staff.

It will be recalled that earlier Chauhan informed that in addition to setting up the blood bank, they will need equipment such as deep freezers, specialised components, cross-matching instruments, among others. They will also require three to four pathologists, nurses, medical officers, technicians and other staff to operate the blood bank. Chauhan stressed the importance of obtaining a license for the blood bank's operation. Once the blood bank is established, they will promptly request the necessary officials for the license.

Ecozen drives climate-smart innovation at Renewable Energy India Expo 2024

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Ecozen, an enterprise involved in climate-smart technology, showcased its in-



novative solutions at the recently held Renewable Energy India Expo 2024 at the India Expo Centre. Ecozen's participation was marked by the display of its flagship products, including Ecozon - the solar pump controller for the agricultural irrigation, solar powered cold storage solution Ecofrost, designed to combat post-harvest food loss by up to 50 per cent, while enhancing food security and increasing farmer earnings by up to 30 per cent. It also exhibited climate-smart EV tech solutions and EcozenAI - a platform enabling real-time monitoring, predictive diagnostics and seamless remote management, driving efficiency across energy, agriculture and mobility sectors. CEO and co-founder of Ecozen Solutions Private Limited, Devendra Gupta said, "This year's Renewable Energy India Expo was an exciting opportunity for us to showcase how our technology is driving climate-smart transformation across sectors. The innovations we displayed, particularly in the rural segment, sustainable cooling and mobility, highlight our ongoing commitment to sustainability and rural empowerment. We're thrilled to see the overwhelming interest from industry leaders, government agencies, partners and customers alike." "At Ecozen, we believe innovation is meaningful only when it creates tangible value for both businesses and communities. Our climate-smart solutions are not just technology offerings; they are catalysts for sustainable transformation, driving positive impact across industries and geographies," COO Prateek Singhal added. Company officials said that the Ecozen pavilion attracted a diverse range of visitors, including government officials, business leaders and industry experts. Throughout the expo, Ecozen engaged in discussions on potential collaborations and partnerships, exploring oppor-

footprint across India, EMEA and SEA. Ecozen continues to push boundaries in climate-smart solutions.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

In my service record my wife's name as Manju and her DOB 01.06.1976 have been mistakenly recorded. Her correct name is MANJU DEVI & Correct DOB is 10.06.1976 as mentioned in Aadhar card. It should be updated. Army No JC769746N Narendra Prasad Dhyani S/o Atma Ram Dhyani R/o Padampur Sukhro, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.

In my passport no. Z6825028 my father's name is registered as HEERA BHADUR JOSHI which is wrong whereas my father's correct name is HEERA BAHADUR JOSHI, which is correct. Ashish Joshi S/o Heera Bahadur Joshi, resident of Village Banwala Ashok Ashram, Ambadi, Vikasnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम बचानी देवी दर्ज है, सही नाम बचनी देवी नकोटी आधार नंबर 660606921371 M/o आर्मी नंबर 15348111A नायक दिनेश सिंह, ग्राम सेमवाल, पोस्ट जड़ गांव, तह. धनौली, जिला टिहरी गढ़वाल, उत्तराखण्ड 249145 है।

मैं सन्यास धारण करने के पश्चात् अपना नाम संजीव कुमार से बदलकर स्वामी संजीव सुजानानन्द पुरी व मेरे पिता बिसम्बर दयाल के नाम के स्थान पर मेरे गुरु केशवा नन्द पुरी करना चाहता हूँ, भविष्य में मुझे स्वामी संजीव सुजानानन्द पुरी शिष्य केशवा नन्द के नाम से जाना व पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी ओप नगर पंचायत, स्वाति लाने, डोईवाला देहरादून उत्तराखण्ड।

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University of Patanjali receives A+ grade from NAAC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The University of Patanjali has received A+ grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Swami Ramdev said that the aim of the university is to integrate ancient Vedic knowledge and modern science while enabling a good lifestyle of the youth and facilitate use of science and spirituality to conserve and nurture the ancient knowledge, traditions and culture of India. Speaking on the occasion, the university's vice chancellor Acharya Balkrishna said that

the university has been established for a special aim, considering which all those associated with it should pursue the standards expected. Bharatiya Shiksha Board executive chairman NP Singh said that according to global standards in higher education, one aims to develop personalities of youth in a way which produces responsible and productive citizens which benefits the nation and the world. The University of Patanjali is an ideal institution for developing

model personalities according to global standards, he averred. Central Sanskrit University vice chancellor Srinivas Varakhedi said that though the University of Patanjali is capa-

ble of receiving A++ grade from NAAC, it received A+ grade probably as the first evaluation generally results in comparatively limited grading.

ITBP and UCF to sign MoU for livestock supply

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Uttarakhand Cooperative Federation (UCF) are slated to sign a memorandum of understanding for the supply of live sheep, goats, poultry and trout fish. This collaboration involves more than 4,000 local farmers and livestock breeders from villages in Champawat, Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Pithoragarh districts.

Chief secretary Radha Raturi has instructed the officials to expedite the formalities and finalise the MoU. She emphasised that this agreement will promote economic activities in the border areas, support local breed rearing and livestock, create employment opportunities for the villagers and promote the "Vocal for Local" concept. This initiative is expected to bring livestock schemes to the grassroots level in the State, she added.

Additionally, ITBP has proposed to provide the services of its veterinarians in the border areas of the State, which Raturi agreed to. She has also directed the arrangement of medical vans for animals under the CSR fund. Further, a meeting will be held with the Tourism department regarding the skill development programme in the tourism sector proposed by ITBP. Raturi highlighted that the MoU between ITBP and UCF will pave the way for collaboration with other military organisations like SSB and the army, thereby strengthening the supply chain in the border areas.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DME acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. M-1-CAMC-HRE-BE-24 Closing Date/Time 28.10.2024, 11:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on web site www.ireps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/downloaded.

Department	C&W	Tender No.	M-1-CAMC-HRE-BE-24
Name of work	"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of Hydraulic Re-railing Equipment for a period of three years at C&W Depot Bareilly of MB Division" through outsourcing on Single Tender Basis.		
Tender Type	Single	Bidding system	Single Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time	28.10.2024 11:00 hrs		
Advertised Value	Rs. 28,27,132.50/-	Validity of Offer (Days)	45 Days
No.-M-1-CAMC-HRE-BE-24	Date : 04.10.2024	3076/2024	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कुमाऊँ मण्डल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का प्रतिष्ठान)
ओक पार्क हाउस, नैनीताल-263001
पत्रांक : 2796 / 10-निर्माण / 24-25 दिनांक : 07.10.2024

अल्पकालीन निविदा / ई-निविदा सूचना

निविदा :-
1-गौधी ग्राम ताकूला में गौधी स्टडी सेंटर एवं आरकाईव में विद्युतीकरण का कार्य।
2-पर्यटक आवास गृह, भीमताल के दो कक्षों में पाइन वुड सिलिंग, यू०पी०वी०सी० विन्डो लगाने का कार्य।
3-पर्यटक आवास गृह, जागेश्वर में रिटेनिंग वॉल का निर्माण कार्य।
4-पर्यटक आवास गृह, भीमताल में टीन शैड व गेट का निर्माण।
5-पर्यटक आवास गृह, तल्लीताल में क्षतिग्रस्त दीवार का निर्माण कार्य।
6-पर्यटक आवास गृह, सूखाताल नैनीताल में उच्चोत्कर्षण एवं मरम्मतकारण का कार्य।
7-अकादमी परिसर, नैनीताल के चौखम्बा भवन के द्वितीय तल में कक्ष संख्या 09 एवं 11 में यू०पी०वी०सी० खिड़कियाँ लगाने का कार्य एवं कक्ष संख्या 11 में सिलिंग एवं वुडन फ्लोरिंग का कार्य।
8-अकादमी परिसर, नैनीताल के यमुनोत्री छात्रावास में अवशेष 34 कक्षों में वुडन फ्लोरिंग लगाये जाने का कार्य।
9-अकादमी परिसर, नैनीताल के चौखम्बा भवन के द्वितीय तल में अवस्थित कम्प्यूटर लैब का उच्चोत्कर्षण / आधुनिकीकरण का कार्य।
(सम्बन्धित कार्य हेतु विस्तृत सूचना निगम वेबसाईट www.kmvt.in में दिनांक 08.10.24 से देखी जा सकती है।)

ई-निविदा :-
10-जिला-चम्पावत में मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी की घोषणा संख्या-559 / 2023 के अन्तर्गत "रामलीला मंच दुबचौड़ा का क्रियान्वयन"।
11-पैट्रोल पम्प सुनकिया मटेलिया, जिला-नैनीताल में भूखलन से सुरक्षा हेतु सुसूक्ष्म कार्य।
(उपरोक्त ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सूचना दिनांक 09.10.24 से उत्तराखण्ड ई-निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in में एवं निगम वेबसाईट www.kmvt.in में देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन निगम वेबसाईट www.kmvt.in के माध्यम से ही किया जायेगा।)

महाप्रबन्धक (नि०)

Public Notice

The general public is hereby informed that the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India neither certify/approve any Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani & Homeopathic (ASU&H) company or its drug medicine nor grant license of manufacture for sale to any Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani & Homeopathic (ASU&H) manufacturer/company. Further, as the extant provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder, the license of manufacture for sale of any ASU&H medicine/drug is granted by the State/ UT Licensing Authority (SLA) of the concerned State/UT.

2. The Ministry of Ayush hereby reminds the public that-

i. It is illegal to advertise ASU&H drugs claiming miraculous or supernatural effects for the treatment of diseases. Such advertisements can mislead and endanger public health by promoting unverified or false claims.

ii. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, strictly prohibits the advertisement of drugs and magic remedies for the treatment of certain diseases and conditions. Any person found guilty of contravening this Act shall be liable for penalties as prescribed under the law

iii. The Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs containing Schedule EI drugs are mandated to be consumed under the supervision and guidance of a registered medical practitioner of the concerned system of Ayush medicine. Container of such medicines will have instruction over its label that "**Caution To be taken under Medical supervision**" in both Hindi and English languages. General public are advised to use such medications only after consultations with registered medical practitioners/doctors of concern Ayush systems.

iv. Self-diagnosis or self-medication with Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homeopathy (ASU&H) drugs/ medicines should be avoided. It is suggested to seek advice of registered medical practitioners/doctors of concern Ayush systems for any health concerns.

3. General public is hereby informed to be aware of the aforementioned facts in respect of ASU&H drugs/medicines and avoid patronizing of misleading advertisements of such drugs medicines. Public is also encouraged to report any such objectionable advertisements, false claims, fake medicines etc. to the concerned State Licensing Authority or Ministry of Ayush at ayush-medicine@gov.in for appropriate action.

Ministry of Ayush

CBC1720111/0015/2425



5,000 acres of land freed from encroachment in 3 years: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the State government has freed more than 5,000 acres of land from encroachment in the last three years.

Addressing a programme organised at the Amrapali University in Haldwani on Monday, the CM said that in the last three years more than 17,000 youngsters were appointed in various departments of State government. He said that the State government has also provided 30 per cent horizontal reservation to women in government jobs and soon the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented in the State.

The CM averred that the GSDP of the State has increased by 1.3 times in the past 20 months and in the past two years the per capita income has registered a growth of 26 per cent. The unemployment rate in the State has decreased by 4.4 per cent and in the NITI Aayog's list of the States on the sustainable development goals, Uttarakhand has secured first position in the country.

Dhami said that the work



on improving infrastructure of colleges and universities is underway and 20 model colleges have been established. In the general budget the State government has made a provision for Rs 1,700 crore on youth welfare, sports, higher and technical education.

The CM said that he feels energised whenever he comes to any programme of the youth. He said that the young-

sters of the State are showing their skills in technology, art and sports.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire world is recognizing the knowledge and power of India. In the last 10 years, India has emerged as a major power. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, the CM said that one should recognise the

power that lies within everyone and appealed to the youth to move forward with a positive mindset.

Lok Sabha MP Ajay Bhatt, position holder Anil Dabhu, Kumaon commissioner Deepak Rawat, deputy inspector general of police Y S Rawat, district magistrate Vandana Singh and others attended the programme.

Central team probes ghee manufacturer in Roorkee

Manufacturer believed to have supplied ghee to Tirupati Balaji Temple for prasad

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A central team reached Haridwar on Monday to investigate Bhole Baba Organic Private Limited, a ghee manufacturer, which allegedly supplied 70,000 kilogrammes of ghee to the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Andhra Pradesh for preparing laddus (prasad). This development occurred a day after a joint team of food safety officials from Andhra Pradesh and Haridwar district conducted a surprise inspection of the ghee manufacturing company in Bhagwanpur, Roorkee on Sunday. During the raid, officials found the factory empty with no employees or ghee production in progress. They seized ghee cans and packaging materials but did not find any ghee products. The deputy commissioner of the Uttarakhand Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) GC Kandwal stated that authorities have sealed the factory, barring entry until further notice. He said that as per the investigation, the ghee used in the temple's sacred laddu prasad was reportedly sourced from this factory for a few

months. He said that the company operates under a Central government license, prompting a deeper investigation by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Kandwal said that the company is licensed under the Central government and a team from there has been investigating the whole matter. "A team of officers of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) reached Haridwar on Monday to investigate the matter. They interacted with the officials who conducted the raid of the company on Sunday and took necessary documents and information regarding the same. Further actions will be taken by them accordingly in the matter," he added. This probe follows a recent controversy over the alleged adulteration of ghee used in the Tirupati Balaji Temple's prasad. It will be recalled that reports suggest that animal fat, including beef tallow and fish oil, were found in the ghee, causing outrage among devotees and prompting the high level investigation underway.

Education Dept to give compulsory retirement to sick, incapable employees

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The School Education department is planning to give compulsory retirement to the sick and incapable employees including teachers and officers. The Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat has directed the department to prepare a list of such employees who are either suffering from serious ailments or are incapable of discharging their duties.

In a recent meeting with the officers of the department, the minister said that being a department with large number of employees, there are many employees including officers, who are suffering from serious ailments due to which they are unable to discharge their duties. He said that all such employees should be identified and should be given compulsory retirement to increase the work efficiency in the department.

The minister also directed that the employees who are absent from their duties

for many days should also be retired from service.

The minister's order regarding identifying and giving compulsory retirement to teachers suffering from serious ailments assumes significance as there are a large number of such teachers and employees who claim to be suffering from diseases and have submitted documents supporting their claims. It is believed that there are reportedly many such employees who have feigned illness in order to get transferred to easy to access schools or offices. The section 27 of the transfer act gives relaxation to such employees in transfers due to which many teachers and officers feign illness.

The minister has also directed the officers of the department to identify schools with less student enrollment and make arrangements of their merger in the nearest cluster schools.

Street light repairing and maintenance work handed over to MCD

35 teams to work on repairs in Doon from today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After observing consistent negligence in the repairing and maintenance of street lights in the city by the EESL company, the Dehradun district magistrate and administrator of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD), Savin Bansal has officially handed over this responsibility to the MCD. Besides this, 35 teams equipped with vehicles will be dispatched on Tuesday to begin ward-wise repairs of the streetlights as per the DM's order.

The DM said that the authorities have been receiving numerous complaints regarding the large number of faulty streetlights, with the situation exacerbated by the lack of response from the company responsible, leading to a backlog of 3,000 to 4,000 unresolved com-

plaints. According to the contract, the company was reportedly required to fix any issues within 48 hours of receiving a complaint, which was not being done. Taking serious cognisance of the company's inefficiency, Bansal summoned the CEO of EESL and issued a stern warning, along with a notice of potential legal action. Bansal informed that the company's operations were hindered by a lack of transparency, as its call centre and payment division were based in Delhi, making it difficult to manage the situation locally.

This inefficiency was denting the reputation of the MCD, as the public holds the corporation accountable. After reviewing the situation and seeing no improvement, the DM decided to

take action and transferred the repair duties to the corporation. He handed over the responsibility of streetlight repairs to MCD on Monday after conducting a thorough assessment of the city's streetlight maintenance system. However, new streetlights will continue to be managed by EESL until December 2024. Bansal has also directed the MCD to prepare rate contracts for new lights and equipment. Bansal also informed that 35 teams equipped with vehicles will be dispatched on Tuesday to begin ward-wise repairs of the streetlights.

These teams will report to the MCD every morning and after completing their work for the day, where attendance will be taken to ensure accountability.

New faculty members appointed in Almora and Haridwar medical colleges

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government has deployed 12 new faculty members in the government medical colleges in Haridwar and Almora. The Medical Education department has completed the process of appointment of these contractual faculty members.

The department has deployed seven faculty members in the Soban Singh Jeena government medical college, Almora and five in Government medical college, Haridwar. The department has appointed professor (Pharmacology) Dr Navpreet Kaur, assistant professor (Anaesthesia) Dr Shailesh Kumar Lohani, assistant professor (community medicine) Dr Anshul Mamgain and Dr Poonam Gadkoti and Dr Akshat Rajwar as medical officers in the Almora medical college. Similarly, assistant pro-

fessors Dr Mamta Nautiyal and Dr Ekta Rawat have been appointed in the gynaecology and obstetrics department of medical college, Almora.

In the government medical college, Haridwar, the latest appointments include Dr Saumya Pandey (pharmacology), Dr Mahim Khan (general surgery), Dr Priyanka Kashyap (anaesthesia), Dr Hina Fatima (anatomy) and Dr Kirti Bansal (medical officer).

The Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the State government is committed to fill all the posts in the government medical colleges of the State. He said that the objective of the State government is to provide quality education and better health facilities in the medical colleges of the State.

Cocaine worth Rs 50 lakh seized, Tanzanian arrested by Doon police

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dehradun police have apprehended a key foreign drug peddler involved in cocaine trafficking between Delhi and Dehradun with 68 grammes of cocaine worth about Rs 50 lakh in the international market. The accused was identified as Tanzanian national Nassor Zahran Hemed, who was arrested near Kuthal Gate barrier on Old Mussoorie Road late on Sunday, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He claimed that Hemed is a member of the notorious Cobra gang and a case has been registered against him at Rajpur police station under Section 8/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The SSP said that this arrest follows the earlier capture of seven other members of the Cobra gang by Rajpur police, including three foreign peddlers, two of whom were women. In past operations, the police had arrested several individuals with narcotics. Notable among the

earlier arrests were foreign nationals including Pascal John from Tanzania, who was caught with 44.50 grammes of cocaine valued at Rs 31 lakh, Sanyu Dianah from Uganda, found in possession of 16.35 grammes of cocaine worth Rs 10 lakh and Regina Waweru Njeri from Kenya, apprehended with 31 grammes of cocaine, estimated to be worth Rs 21 lakh. Singh said, "During interrogation, Hemed revealed that he worked alongside his associate known as Macdonald who is also Tanzanian- to supply cocaine across various States in India. Their main supplier, identified as Faience, a Tanzanian national, regularly travels between India and Tanzania, supplying cocaine to Macdonald, who then arranges for the distribution via peddlers like Hemed." The SSP said that the Cobra Gang has been involved in supplying cocaine in big parties, colleges and other locations in Dehradun, based on demand, for which

they receive a commission. Hemed had brought the cocaine from Delhi for distribution in Dehradun. Singh said that the police have launched a manhunt for Macdonald, who is still at large. "We are also in touch with national agencies regarding the smuggling of cocaine from foreign countries. We are also trying to identify those who were expected to get this cocaine supply in Dehradun. We are trying to identify them. More arrests are expected in this case soon," he added.

DOON UNIVERSITY DEHRADUN
Mothrowala Road, Kedarpur, Dehradun
Ph. 0135-253134

E-TENDER NOTICE

Doon University, Dehradun invites separate e-tender for the Supply and Installation and Micro-Raman Spectrometer at Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The tender documents are available on Uttarakhand government e-procurement www.uktenders.gov.in. Interested firms may apply through e-tender.

Store & Purchase Officer

Action underway to tackle human-wildlife conflict, enhance habitat and economy: Uniyal

Proposal being prepared to enable cultivation of herbs in Van Panchayats

PARITOSH KIMOTHI ■ DEHRADUN

Forest and Technical Education minister Subodh Uniyal has directed the Forest department to undertake various measures to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, enhance wildlife habitat and boost the income of villagers connected with Van Panchayats. Talking to The Pioneer, the minister said that the Forest department has been directed to prepare proposals to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and augment the income of villagers through cultivation of herbs on Van Panchayat lands so that they become directly involved and earn from such natural resources, which will also encourage them to look after the forests.

in the forests so these animals including deer and wild boars moved closer to human habitations in search of food. The big cats which prey upon these animals also came closer to human habitations. This has exacerbated the human-wildlife conflict situation. I have directed the Forest department to study the flora consumed by various wildlife and prepare a proposal for plantation of such species in the forests so that the prey base and the big cats tend to remain in the forest areas. The lack of public awareness is also a major issue. We have identified villages vulnerable to human-wildlife conflict and have sent streetlights to be installed in the fringe areas to deter wildlife from entering human habitations. We are also providing mechanical grasscutters to such villages so that the locals also clear the grass and shrubs bordering their villages, as such foliage also encourages the predators' presence. The department has also been



directed to study the carrying capacity of the protected areas when it comes to the specific wild animals involved in human-wildlife conflict, and then prepare a proposal in order to address the situation. We have also issued an advisory to the locals in vulnerable areas to observe basic precautions while venturing outdoors especially after sunset while also facilitating measures like streetlights to make their surroundings safer," the minister said.

Uniyal said that the policies implemented in the past

disconnected the locals from economic activities dependent on forests. To address this situation, the government is planning to make amendments in the Van Panchayat Act to enable those living in such areas to use Van Panchayat lands for cultivation of herbs. "The proposal for this purpose was prepared earlier and also approved by the cabinet. However, various gaps were later found in the proposal and I have directed the department to make necessary corrections. The corrected proposal will be presented to the cabinet. Enabling residents of Van Panchayat areas to cultivate herbs and earn from it will strengthen their connection and involvement in forest areas. This is one of the major aspects we must focus on to prevent both forest fires and human-wildlife conflict while also enhancing the

local economy and environmental protection. We have planned a project worth Rs 628 crore which also involves setting up processing plants so that we can ensure value addition of the herbs cultivated in selected Van Panchayat areas," Uniyal said.

Regarding forest fires, the minister said that for the first time, deliberately setting up forest fires was treated as a cognisable offence in the State. The government is also working on empowering forest fire management committees with provision of Rs 30,000 to each for purchasing necessary equipment and other tasks. The department is also preparing rainwater harvesting tanks in areas vulnerable to forest fires. This will increase the moisture content in the soil and ensure availability of water in case of forest fires. Such tanks will also help ensure the availability of green grass for fodder during the summers, he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER						
S/N	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Bid Security to be deposited (in Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1	14 SrDEE G MB 2024.III Call:- Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for three (3) years for On Line UPS of different make and capacities with battery bank installed at various UTS and PRS locations over Moradabad division.	5623105.36 (Including GST)	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad	112500/-	36 (Thirty Six) Months	Tender will be received upto 15/00 hrs and opened at 15/00 hrs on 29/10/2024 www.ireps.gov.in
2	15 SrDEE G MB 2024:- Electrical work for provision of Infrastructural facilities, monitoring mechanisms, FOIS/TMS and facilities for merchants at Bulandshahr Goods Shed, Preparation of Wharf on other side of line no. 11 with used sleepers at Hardoi goods, Construction of crew and guard lobby at BLM station & Erection/Development of infrastructure i.e. all weather stabling facility for Road mobile Van at MB & Balamau and approaching pathway to ART siding RAC.	7758039.42 (Including GST)	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad	155200/-	6 (Six) Months	Tender will be received upto 15/00 hrs and opened at 15/00 hrs on 29/10/2024

Tender Notice No. - 21/2024 Dated - 07.10.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

3083/2024

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank BRANCH: Civil Lines Roorkee (5939)
ALLAHABAD Hardwar-247667

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers/ guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Sec. 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank erstwhile Allahabad Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against the account herein below. The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand Notice Date	Date of Possession	Outstanding Due Amount
Branch: Civil Lines Roorkee (5939) Borrower : Mr. Vijay Pal Singh S/o Late Jai Prakash Verma and Mrs. Kamlesh W/o Vijay pal Singh (Guarantor & Mortgagor), Mr. Shri Jasmeet Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh & Shri Neeraj Kumar S/o Sohanveer Singh (Guarantor)	Mortgaged assets: All the part and parcel Khasara No. 385 Ka Mauza Dhandera, Pargana & tehsil- Roorkee. Haridwar Uttarakhand total Area 108.2 Sqmt in the name of Mr. Vijay Pal Singh S/o Late Jai Prakash Verma & Kamlesh Verma W/o Vijay Pal Singh The said property is bounded as under East: House of Guptaji, West: 16 Ft wide CC road, North: 10 Ft wide CC road, South: Property of others	31.07.2024	07.10.2024	Rs. 9,60,726.83 as on 07.05.2024 with further interest, costs other charges and expenses thereon

Date: 07.10.2024 Place: Roorkee Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Amit Shah celebrates PM Modi's 23 years of political journey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

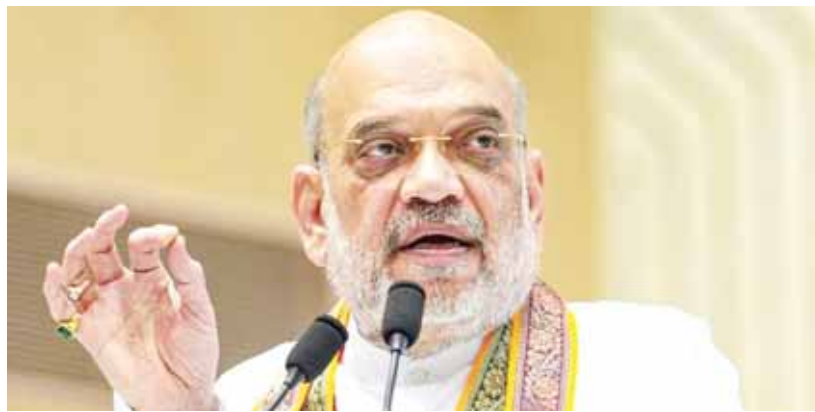
Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long journey of public service is a symbol of 'unique dedication' of how a person can devote his entire life to national interest and welfare of the people.

As Modi completed 23 years in public life, first as chief minister of Gujarat and then as prime minister, Shah said the long journey is a living inspiration for those who are in public life.

Today Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji has completed 23 years in his public life as Chief Minister and Prime Minister.

This 23-year long journey of public service is a symbol of the unique dedication of how a person can devote his entire life to the national interest and welfare of people," he said in a post on 'X' in Hindi.

The home minister, who has been a constant companion of Modi in his political journey, said it was a matter of good fortune for him that he has been a



witness to this long public life of Modi. "Modi showed how to carry out the work for the welfare of the poor, country's development, security and strengthen India's global identity at the same time," he said.

Instead of looking at the problems in pieces, Modi presented the vision of holistic solution to the country, Shah said.

"I congratulate Modi, the nation

builder, who is dedicated to the service of the nation and its people for 23 years uninterrupted, without getting tired, without caring for himself," he said. Modi took oath as the chief minister of Gujarat for the first time on October 7, 2001 and continued in that post for 13 years before becoming the prime minister in 2014. He has taken charge as prime minister for the third consecutive term in June this year.

India, Maldives strengthen ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Strengthening their bilateral ties, India and the Maldives on Monday inked a currency swap agreement to the tune of USD 400 million, a move that would help the archipelago nation overcome foreign exchange reserve issues. Prime Minister Modi described India as the "first responder" for Maldives, in times of crisis - from the pandemic to drinking water shortage. Prime Minister Modi and visiting Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu also launched Rupy card in the Maldives, inaugurated the new runway at the Hanimaadhoo International airport and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year. Muizzu, who is on a four-day state visit, held talks with Prime Minister Modi at the Hyderabad House here. After the talks, India also handed over 700 social housing units to the Maldives built under the EXIM Bank's buyer's credit facilities.



"Today, we have inaugurated the redeveloped Hanimaadhoo Airport. Now, the Greater Male Connectivity Project will also be expedited. We will also support the development of a new commercial port in Thilafushi," Modi told reporters here with Muizzu by his side. Modi said India and Maldives have decided to initiate discussion on the Free Trade Agreement to further strengthen economic ties. The prime minister described Maldives as a "close friend" which had an important position in India's neighbourhood policy and SAGAR vision. "India has always fulfilled the

responsibilities of a neighbour. Today, we have taken up the vision of a comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership to give our mutual cooperation a strategic direction," Modi said. Earlier, Muizzu was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhawan by President Droupadi Murmu. Prime Minister Modi was also present on the occasion. Muizzu was given a tri-services guard of honour before he drove down the Rajghat to offer his respects at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November. Muizzu won the presidential election last year on the 'India out' campaign and asked New Delhi to withdraw its military personnel posted in the archipelago nation by May this year. The bilateral ties also hit a rocky patch when Maldivian

ministers were critical of Modi. However, Muizzu has since toned down his anti-India stance and even sacked ministers who were critical of the Indian prime minister. As the Maldives was grappling with a serious economic downturn, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year. Muizzu said, "The Maldives will remain a friend committed to our shared vision of peace and development in our countries and our region." He also invited Modi to visit Maldives next year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties. On the economic help for the Maldives, Muizzu said, "I would like to thank Prime Minister Modi, the government and the people of India for generous assistance and cooperation extended to the Maldives over the years, including the recent budgetary support in the form of rollover of the T (treasury bills)."

Very few people know about Dalit kitchens: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress will protect that Constitution that gives Bahujans their rights but true inclusion and equality for all in the society will be possible only when every Indian strives with the spirit of brotherhood in their hearts, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Monday.

Rahul Gandhi shared a video on his social media handles of his recent interaction at a Dalit household where he helped out in cooking a meal in their kitchen.

"Even today, very few people know about Dalit kitchens. As Shahu Patole said, 'Nobody knows what Dalits eat.' Intrigued by what they eat, how they cook, and its social and political significance, I spent an afternoon with Ajay Tukaram Sanade and Anjana Tukaram Sanade," Rahul Gandhi said in his post in Hindi along with the



Maharashtra to help out in the kitchen. Together we cooked 'chane ke saag ki sabzi',

'harbharyachi bhaji', and 'tuvar dal' with brinjal," the former Congress president said. "Drawing on Patole and the Sanade family's personal experiences with caste and discrimination, we discussed the lack of awareness about Dalit cuisine and the importance of documenting this culture," he said. The Constitution gives Bahujans a share and rights, and we will protect that Constitution, he asserted. But true inclusion and equality for all in the society will be possible only when every Indian strives with the spirit of brotherhood in their hearts, Gandhi said. In the video, Rahul Gandhi is seen helping out in the kitchen and then having a meal with the family at their home. Shahu Patole informed Rahul Gandhi that he had written a book in Marathi and now translated into English 'Dalit Kitchens of Marathwada', to highlight foods eaten by the Dalits.

Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar dithches Ajit, joins Sharad Pawar's NCP

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the entry of former minister and senior BJP leader Harshvardhan Patil, it is now the turn of senior leader from the Ajit Pawar-led NCP Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar to join the Sharad Pawar-led NCP on October 14. On Monday when Harshvardhan Patil and his daughter Ankita Patil joined his party, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar himself indicated that Ramraje - who is the 29th descendant of the royal family from Phaltan - would soon join his party. "As I was coming for this function at Indapur, I received a call... I will go to Phaltan on October 14 for a similar function... Hope you understand what I am saying," Sr Pawar said at a function organised at Indapur near Pune to welcome Patil, his daughter Ankita and their supporters into his party. Informed sources in the NCP (SP) said that Ramraje met Sr Pawar and expressed his desire to return the party led by the latter. A political heavy weight from Satara in western Maharashtra, 75-year-old Ramraje was a minister in the erstwhile Democratic Front

government and a former Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Speaking at a rally held on Sunday, Ramraje had himself indicated that he would return to the NCP (SP). "I feel guilty about deserting Pawar Saheb, who made me a minister in 2009, when I was not even a legislator. I joined Ajit Pawar so to ensure the security of my workers. But that doesn't seem to be happening," Ramraje said. "Many of my supporters have told me to join Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP)... they have asked me something for the first time," Ramraje said. Earlier in the day, speaking at a function organised at Indapur to welcome him to the NCP (SP), Harvardhan Patil said: "This is the wish of the people and the workers of Indapur... All the people of all castes and religions wanted to join the NCP (SP) and we are bowing to their wishes". At the function, Patil, his daughter Ankita and their supporters were welcomed formally to the NCP (SP) party by Sharad Pawar, its national working President Supriya Sule, MPs, MLAs and other party leaders.

Sanjeev Kumar Singla appointed India's ambassador to France



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior diplomat Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as the country's next ambassador to France, the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)said on Monday. He is currently India's envoy to Israel. "Sanjeev Kumar Singla (IFS:1997), presently Ambassador of India to Israel, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to France," the MEA said in a statement. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, it said. In another appointment, senior diplomat Ajit Vinayak Gupte has been appointed India's next ambassador to Germany, MEA said. He is currently India's envoy in Egypt. "Ajit Vinayak Gupte (IFS: 1991), presently Ambassador of India to Egypt, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Germany. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the MEA said in a statement. The appointment comes ahead of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's scheduled visit to India later this month.



Modi pens down a garba song for Goddess Durga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday shared on social media a 'garba' song he wrote as a tribute to Goddess Durga. "It is the auspicious time of Navratri and people are celebrating in different ways, united by their devotion to Maa Durga. In this spirit of reverence and joy, here is

Aavati Kalay, a Garba I wrote as a tribute to Her power and grace. May Her blessings always remain upon us," he said in the social media post. He thanked Purva Mantri, whom he lauded as a talented upcoming singer, for singing the garba song and presenting such a melodious rendition of it. Garba is a traditional Gujarati dance which is especially performed during the Navaratri festival.

Opposition walks out after CM's unexpected statement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOCHI:

"googly" bowled by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday morning shocked the Congress-led UDF and they staged a walk out from the House, the reason for which the latter is reluctant to explain. When the House commenced sitting on the first day of the session, the Congress MLA Sunny Joseph submitted an adjournment notice seeking discussion on the statement made by the Chief Minister that Malappuram topped the table in the seizure of smuggled gold and hawala money and his subsequent retraction following the resentment among the Muslim community. The decision of the Speaker A N Shamsier to grant

permission for a discussion on the adjournment notice took the Opposition by surprise as they were hoping that the government would not allow the same. The submission of adjournment notice and its refusal followed by the walk out by Opposition benches is a routine affair in the Kerala legislative assembly. But Monday's decision by the Speaker literally shocked the Opposition and they trooped into the podium of the former with banners and flags. Despite the Speaker's plea to go back to their seats, the Opposition members stayed put in front of the podium and shouted slogans against the LDF Government. Chief Minister Pinarayi had unleashed a verbal attack on Leader of the Opposition V D Satheshan and the latter

turned furious over certain comments made by the former. "Pinarayi Vijayan is trying to become Narendra Modi. God alone would be able to save the people from him," charged Satheshan to which the chief minister retorted that one has to be careful in the words used in the Legislative Assembly. What surprised political Kerala was the action of the Opposition in walking out of the House despite the Chair agreeing to the adjournment notice served by the, "This is the first time in the history of Kerala the movers of adjournment notice running away from the battlefield without furnishing a reason for their action," P Rajeve, minister for industry and a strong contender for the chair of the Chief Minister told reporters.

Lalu and sons granted bail in case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The fast track court on Monday granted bail to former Union Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and his sons Tejaswi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav in the land-for-jobs in Railways case. The Rouse Avenue Court granted bail to all three on a condition that they each furnish a bail bond of Rs One lakh. The matter will be heard next on October 25. Earlier, the Court had directed them to appear before it on October 7. While summoning Yadav and his sons, the Court had prima facie observed that Yadav had been in a position of power to facilitate public employment when he was Union Railway



Minister from 2004 to 2009. The case pertains to alleged appointments made in the Railways in exchange for land transferred to Yadav's family when he was a Minister. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has claimed that the appointments were not in consonance with the hiring standards and guidelines established by the Indian Railways. The Delhi court had granted bail to Lalu Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and daughter Misa Bharti in the case in March 2023.

DESW launches campaign to streamline Ex-Servicemen services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW), Ministry of Defence is undertaking a number of initiatives under the 'Special campaign for Disposal of Pending matters' (SCDPM 4.0) between October two-31, officials said here on Monday. Giving details, they said the department is carrying out the pan Indian campaign, identifying various sites including the remotest offices having the highest public interface such as various Zila Sainik Boards, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) Polyclinics and Zonal Resettlement Offices. It has identified more than 250 files to be reviewed for the purpose of weeding out. recognised Ex-Servicemen Associations are also



undertaking cleanliness drives through various activities like swachhata rally, minimising single use plastic, village common area cleaning etc. at various locations. Those making significant contributions are also being honoured during the campaign. Preparatory phase of the campaign started with Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare Niten Chandra administering the 'Swachhata

Pledge' to head of all the attached offices along with the department officials on September 17. He urged them to avoid using single-use plastic and create awareness about segregation of waste at source itself in their offices as well as their communities. The focus areas of Special campaign 4.0 include removing pendency and improving cleanliness, better record management, improvement in work efficiencies, and enhancement in transparency. Steps are being taken for optimal maintenance of documents and files and getting rid of the obsolete documents. The Campaign seeks to institutionalize Swachhata as a matter of habit in the day to day functioning of the department.

Scurvy risk in older adults' health: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Older adults experiencing abnormal bleeding and fatigue should be assessed for scurvy, a disease linked to vitamin C deficiency, according to a recent study. Vitamin C is crucial for maintaining overall health, offering significant antioxidant properties that protect cells from free radical damage. Chronic deficiency of this essential nutrient can lead to scurvy, which impairs immune function and collagen production. The condition primarily arises from inadequate consumption of vitamin C-rich fruits and vegetables. Detailing a case study of a 65-year-old woman with mobility issues and social isolation, the study published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical



Association Journal) showed that scurvy, or vitamin C deficiency, is not just an 18th-century seafarers' disease. Researchers from the University of Toronto in Canada implored clinicians to consider scurvy in patients with abnormal bleeding and nonspecific symptoms. The elderly patient visited the emergency department at a downtown Toronto hospital for leg pain and weakness, skin lesions, and discoloration. She also had several chronic health conditions.

Mobility issues restricted her ability to go grocery shopping, cook, and perform other daily activities. She lived largely on canned soup and fish, with no fresh produce. "This case presents a complex example of food insecurity manifesting as an uncommon diagnosis," said Dr. Sarah Engelhart, a general internist at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto. The researchers noted that vitamin C deficiency is more common than expected in the 21st century. However, its

diagnosis is often challenging as symptoms are often nonspecific, such as fatigue, weakness, and shortness of breath. The patient also smoked, which further contributes to vitamin C deficiency. Her symptoms improved once she started on vitamin C treatment, and a blood test for vitamin C deficiency eventually confirmed the diagnosis, said the doctors. "Clinicians should be alert to vitamin C deficiency when assessing patients, including children and isolated older adults," the doctors said. The team noted that people who follow restrictive eating patterns (for example, those with autism spectrum disorder or those on a tea and toast diet), who smoke cigarettes, who have a substance use disorder, or who have malabsorption syndrome, can also be at risk of scurvy.

Political parties jittery ahead of Jammu and Kashmir counting day

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the counting day, the leaders from different political parties appeared jittery as they anticipated the hung verdict may further delay the process of stable government formation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC leader was reacting to the statement made by the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) Chief Abdul Rashid Sheikh who during a press conference during the day had said whoever will get the majority should not form the government until the statehood is restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The man goes to Delhi for 24 hours and comes back to play straight into the hands of the BJP," Omar posted on X

(formerly twitter). Rashid during the press conference also revealed that he had been to Delhi for two days.

"The BJP would like nothing more than to extend central rule in J&K if they aren't in a position to form a government," Omar said.

However, the mood in the Bharatiya Janta Party camp was upbeat despite adverse projections by the different exit polls.

J&K BJP Assembly election in-charge Ram Madhav Monday took stock of the ground situation before addressing a meeting of the Election Management committee here at the party headquarters.

In his brief address, Ram Madhav conveyed his gratitude to the party workers who worked hard during the month-long campaign to realize the dream of forming a BJP-led government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina also asserted his position claiming that the BJP will emerge as the single



largest party in the region by securing 35 seats and will form Government with the help of like-minded and independent candidates.

He also said that the nomination of five MLAs by the Lieutenant Governor is being carried out as per the Reorganisation Act.

"We are confident of winning 35 seats in Jammu and Kashmir, and with the support of independents and like-minded groups, who will secure around 15 seats, we will

nominated by LG are BJP members or associated with the party. Brazen pre result rigging & shameful manipulation," Iltija Mufti posted on X.

She said it seems no lessons were learned from the rigging of 1987 elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir Congress President Tariq Hameed Karra also termed the power to nominate five members in the new Assembly by the Lieutenant Governor as "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic."

Karra said, "If the Centre has implemented and given powers to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to nominate five members for the new Assembly, it is in my view unconstitutional and undemocratic."

"How could it happen where a President of India could not have the arbitrary powers and a Lieutenant Governor would be given such powers," Karra questioned.

In Srinagar, National

Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said his party was open to the idea of taking support of Mehbooba Mufti's PDP to form a government in the Union territory.

He also flayed the move to give powers to the Lieutenant Governor for nominating members to the five reserved seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, and said his party would approach the Supreme Court if the BJP-led Centre went ahead with it.

Abdullah, while ruling himself out of the race for chief minister's post, said statehood should be restored to Jammu and Kashmir so that the new government has powers to address the people's problems.

The NC president said he was not averse to taking support of the independents as well but he would not go begging for it. "I will not go to beg before them. If they feel they can strengthen the state, most welcome. It should be their initiative. They should want to do good for the people," he added.



Yogi warns against derogatory remarks on faith

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

In response to the controversy surrounding priest Yati Narsinghanand's recent remarks against Prophet Muhammad, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath issued a stern warning against any derogatory comments directed at religious figures, saints, or deities of any faith.

Addressing a law and order review meeting on Monday, Adityanath emphasised that while peaceful expression of faith is essential, any disrespectful comments will not be tolerated, and offenders will face legal action.

"Offensive comments against deities, revered figures, or saints-regardless of caste, religion, or community-are unacceptable. Lawlessness under the guise of protest will not be accepted either," the Chief Minister said.

During the meeting, which took place ahead of the upcoming festivals of Sharadiya Navratri and Vijaydashami, Adityanath held discussions with the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), and other senior officials. He urged them to maintain peace and ensure that the faith of all communities is respected, while calling for action against anyone attempting to disrupt harmony.

"Gratitude towards great personalities should come from the heart of every citizen, but no one can be forced to express it,"

Adityanath said, emphasizing that respect for religious figures cannot be imposed.

The Chief Minister's remarks come amid growing tension after Yati Narsinghanand, a priest based in Ghaziabad, made controversial comments against Prophet Muhammad. An FIR has been filed against the priest, and his aides claim he has been detained in Ghaziabad, though police have not confirmed his detention.

Adityanath made it clear that mutual respect among communities is paramount, and that anyone found tampering with faith or making offensive remarks would be dealt with under the law. He further warned that protests involving violence, vandalism, or arson would not be tolerated, and that offenders would face severe consequences.

The Chief Minister also instructed law enforcement to ensure that upcoming festival celebrations remain peaceful. "Each district and police station must ensure that festivals are celebrated in a manner that does not disturb public order. Identify and take strict action against those attempting to disrupt peace," he directed.

In addition, Adityanath highlighted the importance of women's safety, calling for enhanced foot patrols and increased PRV 112 patrolling in crowded areas during the festival season. "The safety and convenience of women and girls must be prioritized. All departments should collaborate to ensure this," he added.



Security forces achieving success against naxals, says Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said security forces have been carrying out "offensive operations" instead of defensive against Naxals and have achieved big successes in recent times. Addressing Chief Ministers and top officials of the Naxal-affected States, Shah said due to the improved security situation, high voter turnout up to 70 per cent was witnessed in the Maoist-hit region in the last Lok Sabha polls. There was zero polling in the region earlier, he said.

The crucial meeting, which discussed anti-Naxal operations and development initiatives carried out in the affected areas, came days after the security forces killed 31 ultras in the forests of Chhattisgarh in one of the most successful operations against them in recent times. "Security forces are now carrying out offensive operations instead of defensive operations earlier," Shah said.

Describing Naxals as the biggest hurdle to development, Home Minister said they are the biggest

human rights violators who have been depriving over eight crore people of development and basic welfare opportunities. The Naxal-affected states include Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence has come down by 72 per cent while there was an 86 per cent decline in deaths in 2023 as compared to 2010. Naxals are fighting their last battle now, officials said.

More than 230 LWE cadres have been eliminated so far this year, 723 LWE cadres have surrendered and 812 have been arrested. The number of LWE-affected districts is just 38 now.

The Central Government has taken many steps, including giving impetus to road and mobile connectivity, to take development schemes to the remotest areas of the affected States.

A total of 14,400 km of road length has been constructed and nearly 6,000 mobile towers have been installed in LWE-affected areas so far, said Home Ministry in a statement.

AB-PMJAY expansion to benefit 120 million families: JP Nadda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY) bringing all citizens aged 70 years and above under its ambit, around 45 million families, including 60 million elderly population are expected to get the medical benefits, by ensuring them free health insurance coverage.

"This initiative covers over 120 million families, providing an annual hospitalisation benefit of USD 6,000 per family," JP Nadda, Union Health Minister said on Monday during his inaugural address to the 77th session of WHO Southeast Asia Region

(SEARO), here.

"This expansion will benefit around 45 million families, including 60 million elderly population, by providing them free health insurance coverage. It underscores the government's commitment to ensuring universal and inclusive healthcare for India's growing elderly demographic", he said, pointing out the program's potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with healthcare.

Nadda said that India as a lighthouse country in the digital health arena, is poised to share its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs) such as Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, e-Sanjeevani, Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), SAKSHAM etc. by providing

technical and financial support through the Global Initiative on Digital Health - a WHO-managed network, launched during India's G20 Presidency.

He also stated that "following the remarkable success of the CoWIN digital platform during the COVID-19 pandemic, India has conceptualised the online digital platform-UWIN, for the Universal Immunisation Programme. The portal will register, track and monitor all vaccination events."

He said that "India's experience in integrating this system with the conventional system of medicine has led to the provision of holistic healthcare, promoting overall well-being and expanding the range of healthcare services".

Highlighting the significant

progress made in global health since 1948, particularly in reducing infant mortality rates, Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO SEARO said, however emphasised the emerging challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

"In 1948, when the first Regional Committee for South-East Asia was formed, the infant mortality rate globally was around 147. Today it is 25. Then, the antibiotic age had just begun. Today, we are faced with new ones. It is upon us to confront the perils of today, with the collective wisdom of all who came before us - and with the tools of the 21st century," she added.

Rajnath Singh urges private sector to innovate for defence needs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exhorted the private sector to move ahead from imitative to innovative technology to cater to futuristic needs of the Armed Forces.

He made this appeal while launching the second edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI 2.0) challenges and the 12th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 12) during DefConnect 4.0.

ADITI 2.0 features 19 challenges from the Armed Forces and allied agencies in the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technology, military communication, anti-drone

systems customised for military platforms and adaptive camouflage, etc.

This scheme offers a grant of up to Rs 25 crore to Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) winners, focusing on critical technological areas crucial for strengthening the defence ecosystem of the country.

DISC 12 presents 41 challenges across key technology domains, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), AI, Networking and Communication, with grants up to Rs 1.50 crore. Notably, it introduces the Medical Innovations and Research Advancement (MIRA) initiative, featuring nine challenges aimed at fostering the development of medical technologies to meet the



medical demands of the Armed Forces.

To provide momentum to the iDEX initiative, DISC was launched in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, aimed at supporting Start-Ups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialise products/solutions in the area of national defence and security.

In his address, the defence

minister commended DefConnect for playing a crucial role in developing the culture of innovation in the country. He stated that the platform is bringing a new energy to the defence industrial ecosystem, and making the nation's talent a partner in strengthening the security apparatus.

Rajnath highlighted the vibrant and dynamic

ecosystem of innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists and start-ups in the country, stating that the world is acknowledging the strength and talent of India's youth. He reiterated the Government's commitment to further enhance the role of the private sector in the defence ecosystem. Their involvement is necessary to achieve self-reliance, he said.

He pointed out that as soon as the Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, came to power in 2014, it identified 'lack of private sector participation in the defence sector' as a major hurdle in attaining self-reliance, and strived to increase their contribution in nation building.

On the new technologies being incorporated in wars

and conflicts, the defence minister said apart from conventional arms and ammunition, many dual use or purely civilian tech is being weaponised. He called for an in-depth understanding of these technologies, exhorting the innovators to make imaginative use of the advancements for the defence of the nation.

Stressing on the need to move forward from imitative to innovative and distinctive technologies, Rajnath called upon the private sector to think beyond the solutions to challenges being provided through ADITI & DISC. He urged them to bring forth the technology which is far ahead of the requirements of the Armed Forces and would be beneficial to deal with future threats.

Officials responsible for Marina beach stampede: Ex CM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Despite the "best" efforts by the Government of Tamil Nadu and its 'friendly' media houses to put the blame on the Indian Air Force for Sunday's stampede at Chennai's Marina Beach which resulted in the death of five persons, intelligence officials blamed the state administration for the mishap and hospitalisation of hundreds of people due to suffocation and poor medical facilities.

The Air Show held in connection with the 92nd anniversary of the IAF had drawn a crowd of more than 1.2 million to Marina Beach and surrounding areas to watch the adventurous pilots of the IAF in action with their state-of-the-art flying machines.

The IAF in its communique issued days before the event had said that nearly 1.5 million people are expected to converge in Marina Beach, the longest sea shore in South Asia, to watch the action.

While the air show featuring the pilots displaying



brehtaking feats was about to conclude, there was chaos as people were moving towards the exit gates in large numbers and many fell down and died due to suffocation.

"Administrative arrangements and crowds were not managed properly and the police force was inadequate. People were stuck in heavy traffic with no drinking

water available, and many were hospitalized due to heatstroke," said former Chief Minister and AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswamy.

A senior intelligence officer said that the administration, especially the Police failed in taking effective crowd management measures which resulted in this mishap. It seems someone in

the hierarchy failed in his duty.

I give full credit to the IAF for the steps it had taken to organize such a mammoth show," said the officer.

He also pointed out that Chennai had hosted such an event in 2003 when Jayalalithaa was the chief minister.

"Crowd management at that time was of high quality," said

the officer who did not want his name to be quoted.

Tamil Nadu's Minister for Health, M Subramanian issued a statement on Monday claiming that the government has done a good job.

"We had extended all help to the IAF for Sunday's Air Show. Several rounds of meetings were held with the IAF authorities and we had met all their demands to manage the crowd.

Two health teams, with adequate number of doctors and nurses, had been deployed by the state government at the venue. We had provided all the facilities and arrangements beyond what they had requested," said Subramanian.

Kanimozhi MP, who is the daughter of M Karunanidhi, who is engaged in a fight with chief minister M K Stalin for control of the party, blamed the huge crowd for the disaster.

"We should avoid unmanageable crowds," said Kanimozhi indirectly hinting that people should have stayed at their homes.

Six dead in coal mine blast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA



At least 6 people died and As many injured when dynamite being unloaded from a truck went off blowing up the vehicle. The accident occurred at Gangaramchak Mining Private Limited colliery, located near Badulia in Birbhum district.

Some sources put the toll to seven or eight as some bodies had been hurriedly transported by the management, villagers said. "Six bodies have been

recovered. One is severely injured, his condition is serious, and two are out of danger," Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Pant said.

The truck full of explosives was being unloaded when things exploded tearing the bodies of the labourers unloading truck into smithereens, sources said adding the body of the driver of the truck was found about 500 feet away. The intensity of the blast was such that the bodies of the victims had to be identified by their clothes. Alleging illegal mining in the

area the locals said that they are not allowed to come near the open cast coalmine.

The police rushed to the area upon hearing about the incident and started rescue work, Bolpur ASP Rana Mukherjee said. "We found six bodies, three people were injured who are undergoing treatment in the hospital," the ASP said adding the Government had announced jobs to the next of kin of those killed in the explosion. The company would also give compensation to the family of those killed and those injured, he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Strategic balancing act

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu assures India that he would never jeopardise India's security interests

The first state visit of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu to India marks a milestone in the evolving diplomatic relationship between the two neighbouring countries. President Muizzu's visit, represents not only a continuation of the historically strong India-Maldives ties but also signals a renewed commitment to fostering regional stability and cooperation. To put it in perspective, China has made inroads into Maldives much to the consternation of India. Chinese presence in its backyard is a clear security threat. But now things are looking better. President Muizzu has emphasised that while the Maldives follows a 'Maldives First' policy, it remains committed to ensuring that its actions would never undermine India's security interests. The Maldives occupies a key strategic position in the Indian Ocean, making its foreign policy decisions crucial to India's security and regional aspirations. India has long viewed the Maldives as an important ally in maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This visit, following a period of political transition in the Maldives, underscores the importance of maintaining a strong bilateral relationship, especially amid concerns over the growing influence of China in the region.



President Muizzu has reaffirmed that its engagements would never compromise India's security which indeed is music to Indian ears. This statement comes at a time when concerns have arisen regarding the Maldives' expanding ties with China, especially in defence and trade. President Muizzu sought to allay these fears, stressing that the relationship with India, built on 'mutual respect and shared interests,' remains a priority. One of the key aspects of the India-Maldives relationship

has always been defence cooperation. Earlier President Muizzu's decision to expel Indian military personnel was seen as a clear sign of Maldives acting on Chinese advice. Though on his part he explained that this move, though sensitive, was aligned with the will of the Maldivian people and aimed at ensuring the sovereignty of the Maldives. But that is diplomacy for you. Historically, defence and economic cooperation has long been a cornerstone of India-Maldives relations. But things changed after President Muizzu took over last year in November. President Muizzu has expressed satisfaction with the progress of key Indian initiatives, including the Greater Male Connectivity Project, which is expected to significantly boost the country's infrastructure and local economy. India has also restructured a line of credit arrangement to facilitate smoother execution of developmental projects, which President Muizzu acknowledged as a positive step. The visit is expected to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries, with discussions centered on boosting trade, tourism and investment. Perhaps shift in Maldives' stance comes with the realisation of perils of aligning with China as many countries like Sri Lanka have paid a heavy price for their dependence on Chinese investments and grants.

PICTALK



An artisan gives finishing touches to effigies of Ravana and Meghanad ahead of the Dussehra festival, in Nagpur

Mitigating heatwaves and floods in rural India

Only by engaging in comprehensive dialogue can India hope to counter the growing threats of climate change and protect its rural population

India is currently facing the severe consequences of climate change. At the very onset of summer, a severe heatwave gripped vast regions of the country. More recently, heavy rainfall and floods have disrupted numerous lives and livelihoods in many states. Owing to a lack of infrastructure and resources, communities in rural areas are the worst impacted. In the face of this crisis, the power of dialogue emerges not just as a tool but as a necessity to formulate effective policies and mitigate the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.



Impact on Rural Communities The recent heatwave in India was relentless, with temperatures soaring well above 40 degrees Celsius in many regions. This is now succeeded by an onslaught of floods in various regions, especially in Assam. Rural communities, often more exposed and less equipped to cope with extreme weather events, bear the brunt of these conditions. Agriculture, the backbone of rural livelihoods, suffers as crops wither under scorching tempera-

tures or are submerged during floods, leading to reduced yields and income losses. Many states have implemented State Climate Change Programmes (SCCCs) and Heat Action Plans (HAPs) to deal with the situation. Effective as many of these initiatives are the severity of the problem leaves scope for much more to be done.

Dialogic Approach for Climate Crisis From its various applications across problem-solving, community mobilization, building policy narratives, and engaging with diverse stakeholders, a dialogic approach may be integral to addressing the challenges posed by heat waves, particularly in rural India. First, by engaging stakeholders—from policymakers and scientists to community leaders and affected populations—dialogue facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand and fosters consensus on actionable solutions. It encourages the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and local insights necessary to tailor policies that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities. Next, putting dialogic methods into place can also help uncover local solutions and adaptation strategies that can

be built into nationwide policy. Farmers, for instance, possess invaluable traditional knowledge and practices that can complement scientific interventions. Through dialogue, these insights can be integrated into agricultural policies aimed at promoting climate-resilient farming practices, improving water management, and enhancing crop diversity to withstand extreme weather events. Finally, dialogue can enhance community mobilization and self-governance, which can lead to community-driven initiatives to counter the current crisis—from community heat shelters, and water management practices, to creating awareness of related health risks such as heat strokes and increase in vector and water-borne diseases. From Discussion to Collaborative Action Dialogue-driven policies ensure that interventions are inclusive, transparent, and accountable, thereby fostering trust and cooperation among stakeholders. (The writer is CEO of Kshetra Foundation; views are personal)



KRISHNA UDAYASANKAR

policy making and even business and management, involves more than just conversation. Dialogue is essentially an approach that weaves together multiple elements to craft effective and long-lasting solutions.

be built into nationwide policy. Farmers, for instance, possess invaluable traditional knowledge and practices that can complement scientific interventions. Through dialogue, these insights can be integrated into agricultural policies aimed at promoting climate-resilient farming practices, improving water management, and enhancing crop diversity to withstand extreme weather events. Finally, dialogue can enhance community mobilization and self-governance, which can lead to community-driven initiatives to counter the current crisis—from community heat shelters, and water management practices, to creating awareness of related health risks such as heat strokes and increase in vector and water-borne diseases. From Discussion to Collaborative Action Dialogue-driven policies ensure that interventions are inclusive, transparent, and accountable, thereby fostering trust and cooperation among stakeholders. (The writer is CEO of Kshetra Foundation; views are personal)

BRICS: Dealing with emerging challenges

As geopolitical tensions escalate and new security challenges emerge, the upcoming 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan promises to be a critical turning point



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The 16th BRICS Summit, set to take place from October 22-24, 2024, in Kazan under Russia's chairmanship, comes at a critical juncture for global affairs. The summit will address pressing issues like the geopolitical tensions caused by escalating regional conflicts worldwide, the need for effective governance in emerging societies, and the evolving challenges of environmental degradation.

With these multifaceted threats becoming more severe, there is a growing urgency for BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with newly inducted members Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia—to modernise and diversify their security and economic frameworks. A recent BRICS National Security Advisors' (NSA) conclave in St Petersburg underscored the urgency of these challenges. India's National Security Advisor highlighted the critical role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in tackling modern security concerns, particularly the evolving threat of transnational terrorism.

ICT will likely remain a focal point during the Kazan summit as BRICS nations look to leverage advanced technology to mitigate security risks and ensure more effective regional and global cooperation. Russia has expressed its intention to prioritise five key areas of partnership at the summit: politics, security, the economy, finance and cultural and humanitarian ties. In light of the rising number of security threats confronting the BRICS nations, this broad-ranging focus is timely. The inclusion of the five new BRICS members adds to the group's strategic importance. Their cooperation will be vital in addressing the sudden and unpredictable threats that arise from both state and non-state actors. This includes real-time sharing of geospatial data, which will be instrumental in improving border security and countering transnational terrorism. The Kazan summit will likely focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as



economic development, public health, border security, and geospatial information sharing. These discussions could lead to tangible outcomes in the form of new initiatives for infrastructure development, increased bilateral trade, and innovative technological solutions.

These developments would further strengthen ties between India and BRICS, especially Russia, while fostering a new era of defense cooperation. Given the rise of security challenges across the BRICS countries, particularly concerning border disputes and terrorism, the summit presents an opportunity to improve international coordination on these matters. Satellite data sharing, military intelligence cooperation, and logistical support are expected to be central components of future BRICS security strategies.

For instance, one significant point of discussion could be China's expansionist policies, which have raised concerns about regional stability. Additionally, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is another issue that could dominate the agenda, with hopes for a possible resolution. The summit holds great potential for strengthening global cooperation in fighting transnational terrorism. This cooperation could encompass several key areas, including the financing of terrorist activities, enhancing police cooperation, and



THE SUMMIT MAY EXPLORE STRATEGIES FOR ANTICIPATING AND NEUTRALISING THESE THREATS, FOCUSING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SECURITY AND DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS OF BRICS MEMBERS

addressing cyber threats. The summit may also discuss tightening security measures at borders and maritime zones, alongside the development of advanced communication networks and security management systems. One of the key challenges in counter-terrorism will be dealing with groups motivated by religious ideologies. The summit may explore strategies for anticipating and neutralising these threats, focusing on cooperation between the security and defense establishments of BRICS members. As nations adopt a more pragmatic and bilateral approach to foreign policy, there is less concern that enhanced BRICS cooperation would adversely affect relations with other major powers, such as the United States. Another area requiring immediate attention is the threat posed by chemical weapons in the hands of terrorists. These weapons, often difficult to detect and transport, pose a significant risk. International collaboration in formulating stricter regulations and preventing the acquisition of such weapons could be vital in managing this growing concern. Furthermore, the BRICS nations could work together to establish a robust mechanism to limit the accessibility of dangerous materials like RDX, Erythritol Tetranitrate (Penta), and advanced weapons such as AK-47s. Efforts to curb drug traffick-

ing are also expected to feature prominently at the summit, particularly in light of the strong nexus between drug cartels and terrorist groups in regions like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia. Enhanced policing cooperation among BRICS members could lead to more effective crackdowns on these criminal networks. India's leadership approach, as demonstrated by Prime Minister Modi in recent international forums like the UN Summit on September 23, 2024, emphasises a human-centric focus. At the BRICS summit, India is expected to push for policies that address economic, technological, and social gaps, thereby advancing the interests of the Global South. India's growing influence on the global stage is also reflected in its strong relationships with both the United States, the world's largest democracy, and Russia, one of its closest strategic partners. These ties place India in a unique position to play a leading role at the BRICS summit. The meeting in Kazan is likely to provide a framework for enhanced security-related information sharing and greater confidence-building measures among BRICS nations. (The author is a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award and an expert in strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ESCALATING CONFLICT IN WEST ASIA

Madam — After Iran supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's penchant claim that the "Zionist nation would not last long" and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vow of retaliation, "Whoever attacks, we will attack them," the two countries are closer to a destructive all-out war. West Asia is being pushed into a nuclear firestorm by the challengers in conflict and the proxy groups. Israel is allied with the United States of America and NATO nations, while the Islamic militant groups, Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis, are proxies of Iran.

Hamas' failed missile attack gave Israel an opportunity to bomb Gaza indiscriminately. Since then, Israel Defence Force has killed and injured thousands of innocent Palestinians. The mass annihilation of women and children served as a reminder of the genocide committed against European Jews during World War II. The United States seamlessly provides Israel with strategic support, advanced weaponry and manpower. Their occasional counsel for sanity is for the world to hear and not for Israel to heed. Neither side-Israel, America and other NATO nations, or Iran and the proxy groups is seeking a lasting peace. This war threatens to wreck world peace and economies, with the chance of more countries being sucked into it. India is stuck between two stools.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

RESERVATION POLICY CRITICISED

Madam— The news report titled 'Removing 50 per cent cap on reservation necessary to protect Constitution: Rahul Gandhi' (October 6) hardly evokes surprise as Rahul Gandhi constantly chants the ridiculous statement "Rights and benefits in proportion to share of population" since several months! What a criminal wastage of time, energy and resource to determine which caste group will receive what quantum of share in job openings, higher education and other rights and benefits in this heterogeneous country—that too through the yardstick of numerical strength only!

IAF celebrates 92nd anniversary



The clear blue skies over Chennai were incandescent with adventurous excitement last Sunday, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) staged a stunning air show at the famous Marina Beach in celebration of its 92nd anniversary. Much to the pride of the city, the event, which was reportedly attended by 15

lakh people, set a new world record, earning a place in the Limca Book of Records for the largest-ever gathering at an air show. Spectators were treated to a breathtaking display of aerial acrobatics. The highlight of the show was the Rafale fighter jets demonstrated their skills in mid-air refuelling, a sight that added an extra layer of wonder to the spectacle. Saddeningly, however, the event saw five people have died and many reportedly suffered from dizziness and fainting due to searing heat. Though the air show displayed its pageantry, and the event was a proud reminder of India's growing self-reliance in defence, it raises an important question over the need for IAF aggressively pushing the occasion to set a new world record by aiming to mobilise a crowd much beyond the manageable level. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

FINANCIAL AID FOR FARMERS

Madam — The release of the 18th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme is a significant achievement, benefiting over nine crore farmers across the country. Both the central and state governments deserve recognition for their collaborative efforts in supporting the agricultural sector. The Central government's direct financial aid to farmers, particularly the inclusion of 31,51,700 beneficiaries from Odisha, highlights a continued commitment to rural development. At the state level, the Odisha government's CM Kisan scheme, complementing the PM Kisan Yojana, is another positive step towards ensuring that small and marginal farmers receive much-needed financial assistance. This dual support, reaching farmers through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, is a model for efficient governance.

Manoj | Almora

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Kajal chatterjee | Kolkata



FIRST COLUMN

THE GIFT OF ATTENTION

Offering our full attention not only strengthens bonds but also gives us clarity and wellbeing



RACHNA LAKHPATI

It's paradoxical that in a world where distractions never stop and sincere appreciation of attention is as precious as it is a type of most valuable coin. Notifications echo from every direction, screens compete for our attention, and in our quest to be "present," I fear we have lost sight of who we truly are. Amidst the chaos, there exists a profound reality: the act of giving one's attention may indeed be the most precious gift one can bestow. Think about it. When was the last occasion you experienced someone's full focus—no devices, no interruptions, just an authentic, human connection? If that moment is hard to remember, you're not the only one. The fast pace of modern life has taught us to multitask, to balance discussions with brief looks at our devices, and to believe that speed equals efficiency. Yet in this pursuit, we have sacrificed something invaluable: the capacity to truly engage with the moment. When we focus on someone, we absorb more than just their words. We are expressing, "I acknowledge your presence." Your existence is significant. In this manner, attention serves as a quiet endorsement of an individual's value—it transcends superficial exchanges and paves the way for a more profound comprehension, fostering empathy, compassion, and genuine connection. Engagement serves as the foundation of confidence in connections. By focusing our attention on our partners, friends, or family members, we convey a powerful message regarding the significance of their thoughts, feelings and experiences. It's no surprise that the depth of our connections often reflects the level of attention we invest in them—the stronger



our bond with those who truly listen and comprehend us. And personal connections are the final aspect of it. Focus holds immense power in the professional realm. Think about a manager who listens to his team or a leader who takes the time to interact with employees, rather than rushing through meetings.

These individuals foster loyalty, ignite creativity and guide collaborative environments. What is the reason behind this? People naturally feel invigorated when they believe their actions hold significance and are appreciated. Focus fosters involvement, and involvement leads to achievement. Yet, perhaps the most significant impact attention has lies in how we relate to ourselves. In our rush to achieve and accumulate, we often overlook the importance of self-care. Mindfulness—the practice of immersing ourselves in the present moment—reveals that genuine wellbeing is at the heart of our experiences: pursuing goals, dedicating time to others and even engaging with our feelings.

By taking a moment to observe, we can discover a profound clarity and tranquillity that has the potential to transform our lives. In a realm where time is an actual finite commodity, the gesture of dedicating our complete focus is truly transformative. It requires no expense yet holds immense significance.

As we navigate our daily lives, constantly facing new demands on our time and energy, it's important to remember that the most valuable gift we can offer is not material wealth, but rather our full presence. Next time you're engaged in a conversation, set your phone aside. Pay close attention. Offer your focus willingly and without interruption. It might surprise you that by focussing your attention, you receive something far more valuable in return—a profound and significant bond that enhances the lives of both individuals.

(The writer is a motivator and freelance writer; views are personal)

Will the three farm laws be revived?

Were the laws a missed opportunity to address the deep-seated issues faced by millions of India's struggling farmers and consumers?



UTTAM GUPTA

Recently, a BJP Member of Parliament talked of resurrecting the three national Farm Laws. Faced with criticism from the opposition parties, a spokesperson of the BJP clarified that 'her statement does not represent the party view'. Modi - The government doesn't intend to bring back these laws.

What were those laws?

Enacted in September 2020, the most far-reaching of these laws was the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020. It allowed the Centre to regulate inter-State trade and intra-State trade, providing for freedom of choice to the farmer or trader to conduct trade and commerce while allowing traders to purchase specified farm commodities directly from farmers anywhere in the country, even outside the designated State APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committee).

The second law was the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. It provided a legal framework for farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers etc in a 'fair' and 'transparent' manner.

The third law was the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. It took off pulses, cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law. The enactment of these laws triggered prolonged protests - mostly confined to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. In January 2021, the Supreme Court stayed their implementation and set up a committee to undertake a thorough review. The report of the committee submitted within the set deadline of three months was never made public. Meanwhile, the farmers continued with their stir. On November 19, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced their repeal.

Was there anything wrong with them? But, first, we need to ask as to how the subsisting laws on the marketing of farm produce are treating farmers. The widely reported plight of a farmer from Maharashtra's Solapur says it all. Last year, he got a measly Rs 2.49 from the sale of 512 kg of onions to a trader at Rs 1 per kg on sale at the Solapur market yard, the total sale value was Rs 512; after deducting labour, weighing, transportation and other charges adding to Rs 509.5, the net back was Rs 2.5. Let's be clear, it isn't a profit. To arrive at it, we need to deduct from this the cost of producing 512 kg onions which includes the expenses on seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, etc. This would result in a colossal loss. This leads to a mounting debt burden as the farmer is forced to take a loan (often at a high interest rate) to finance the loss. The condition of tens of millions of poor farmers with small land holding sizes of fewer than 2 hectares (they are about 86 per cent of the total number of land-owning farmers) is no different.

Why does the farmer get a low price? This is because she can sell her produce only in the 'designated' mandi under the State APMC Act. In the mandi,



THE APMC MANDIS CAN HANDLE ONLY A FRACTION OF THE QUANTITY FARMERS BRING TO SELL. SO, MOST OF THEM ARE FORCED TO COME TO PRIVATE LOCAL MARKETS, WHERE SALES ARE LEGALLY BARRED

arthritis - the local term for commission agents (they arrange for auction and delivery of the produce) - and the licensed trader/buyer rule the roost. The duo exploit her to the hilt by giving a low price, rejections, weighing less, delaying payment, etc. Levies such as market fees, anthias commission, rural development cess (RDC) etc further erode her net-back.

The APMC mandis can handle only a fraction of the quantity farmers bring to sell. So, most of them are forced to come to private local markets, where sales are legally barred.

At these markets, they end up selling their produce to traders at throwaway prices. The latter have the blessings of corrupt bureaucrats and politicians (in many cases, they or their kin also masquerade as traders) and hence, won't face any action for violating the law.

True, the state agencies such as The Food Corporation of India (FCI), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) etc purchase in the mandis specified crops needed for running welfare Schemes such as the distribution of free food under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). They make purchases at the minimum support price (MSP) notified by the Centre. But, their purchases are limited. Except for paddy and wheat where the agencies buy only 30 per cent of farmers' produce, for all other crops their purchase is minuscule. Even so only 6 per cent of farmers - mostly rich with larger land holdings - get the ben-

efit of government procurement. In short, under the existing State APMC laws, most poor farmers have no hope of getting a better price. They are forced to live in abject poverty and run high debt leading to even suicides that have become a national phenomenon.

The millions of consumers too are at the receiving end. They pay high prices for the foodstuff they buy from the market. People getting free food under NFSA 820 million, but that leaves out a mammoth number who buy their needs from the market; even NFSA beneficiaries depend on the market for buying their needs other than wheat/rice. The extra money they pay fills the coffers of the commission agents, traders and middlemen. Retail inflation very often gets out of control primarily because food inflation (it has a share of 40 per cent in the retail basket) remains sticky most of the time. It remains so even when there is a normal monsoon enabling surplus production. This, in turn, has a lot to do with the cartelization of the supply chain by a few middlemen working in collaboration with the political brass in states - abetted by the State APMC laws.

High inflation doesn't let the RBI reduce interest rates and that imposes an additional burden on millions of borrowers whose EMIs remain high; small businesses getting crippled due to the high cost of servicing their loans. Even the government's budget comes under stress due to higher interest payments on its debt. The solution lies in liberating all such stakeholders from the stran-

glehold of the big sharks. The way forward is to give more options to the farmers to sell and more options to consumers to buy. This is precisely what the three laws sought to do. The laws legitimized sales on all non-APMC platforms such as private traders, processors, aggregators, exporters etc without disturbing APMC mandis. These opened up unlimited opportunities for farmers to sell their produce, thereby helping them get higher prices, which could even exceed MSP depending on the demand-supply. They don't have to pay any levies for selling at non-APMC platforms. These enabled the farmers to enter into contracts with enterprises (private companies, cooperatives etc) that would not only give them an assured market at pre-set good prices but also the timely supply of quality inputs viz. fertilizers, seeds, pesticides etc and good agronomic practices for securing higher yield and quality foodstuff. In short, the laws gave a fair deal to millions of poor farmers on one hand and millions of consumers on the other. This would have reined in the unjust enrichment of a few and left more money to the farmers and consumers. Resulting lower inflation would prompt RBI to reduce interest rates helping millions of borrowers at one level and improving the Centre's fiscal health. ALAS! Their withdrawal has restored the status quo. Thanks to the political compulsion of the BJP, it is unable to even talk about those laws; forget resurrection.

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

India and UNICEF: Celebrating 75 years of transformative partnership for child welfare

India and UNICEF have worked hand in hand, advancing the health, safety and rights of millions of children across India

For 75 years, India and UNICEF have worked together, advancing the rights and well-being of millions of children. The long-standing trusted and multi-faceted partnership is deeply rooted in shared values and a commitment to children's wellbeing in India and around the world, encompassing child health, safety, protection, equality, rights and wellbeing. An important, but lesser-known aspect of India's partnership with UNICEF is India's role as a key source of procurement of lifesaving supplies around the world. From 2016 to 2023, India supplied to UNICEF, commodities worth \$3 billion, including vaccines, and health supplies essential for



CYNTHIA MCCAFFREY

UNICEF's humanitarian and development response to children's health and nutrition needs, globally. In 2023 alone, India ranked as the third-largest source of essential supplies for UNICEF, with procurements totalling \$483 million. Of this expenditure, approximately 74 per cent was allocated to vaccines, underscoring India's integral role in supporting

global immunisation efforts. India's collaboration with UNICEF in advancing global health was best exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, resilience, and innovation, India, as the world's largest vaccine producer, played a key role in providing COVID-19 vaccines globally. During 2021 and 2022 in partnership with UNICEF, India supplied 292 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines under the COVAX initiative to 47 countries, all of which were delivered to low and middle-income countries. Efficiently managed supply chains that allow children, adolescents, and mothers access to quality, safe, equi-

table, and affordable health-care and essential services are critical. UNICEF supports the government in establishing and managing these agile, cost-effective, and sustainable end-to-end supply chains. These have also strengthened UNICEF's ability to respond swiftly to emergencies and ensure the sustained availability of essential supplies. During COVID-19, UNICEF supported the government address critical challenges by installing oxygen plants, providing medical equipment, and distributing PPE equipment, strengthening the country's pandemic response. In fact, over the past decades, UNICEF supported the government's efforts



to strengthen immunisation systems by investing in the capacity building of health workers, upgrading and expanding cold chain capacity, and introducing electronic management information systems to track progress.

These efforts have improved the system's resilience, preparing the country for future public health emergencies. Supplies are essential to fulfil children's rights and innovations with sustainable supply chains are important considerations.

By partnering with the private sector, UNICEF promotes product innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable procurement, aligning with national priorities and SDG-12 on responsible consumption. In India, UNICEF works with suppliers to adopt eco-friendly business practices, ensuring essential supplies are sourced ethically, supporting both environmental goals and child welfare. Both India and UNICEF recognise that the well-being of children is inextricably linked to the prosperity of future generations. India has made significant progress in reducing child mortality, increasing immunisation coverage, achieving high enrolment in primary

education, and improving access to sanitation and clean water. The 75th anniversary of the collaboration between UNICEF and the Government of India this year is a historic milestone that bears evidence of the legacy of progress. India's collaboration with UNICEF has remained steadfast which has accomplished millions of children having been vaccinated, educated, and lifted out of poverty. UNICEF remains committed to supporting India, for every child in the country to have equal access and opportunities that help them realize their dreams and aspirations.

(The writer is Representative, UNICEF India; views are personal)

Pak suicide attack kills two Chinese nationals, suspected militant

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two Chinese nationals were killed and 17 people injured in a suicide attack by a Baloch insurgent group late at night that targeted a convoy of Chinese workers near Pakistan's busiest airport here, authorities said on Monday.

The explosion near the Jinnah International Airport on Sunday night also killed a suspected suicide bomber. The attack is the latest in a string of violence against Chinese workers in Pakistan. It comes less than two weeks before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit to be held in the national capital.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the blast was a suicide attack targeting a convoy of Chinese engineers and investors leaving the Jinnah International Airport.

The attack occurred less than a mile from the airport's main terminal. Authorities briefly suspended all traffic going to the airport.

It targeted a convoy carrying

Chinese staff of an electric power company.

Initial investigations show that a small vehicle was used to carry out the suicide attack when the vehicle carrying the Chinese nationals reached the main signal near the Karachi Airport," Deputy Inspector General of Police Asif Sheikh said.

He said that it appeared the vehicle used by the suicide bomber had explosives and as soon as it hit the target it exploded.

The Chinese embassy confirmed that two of its nationals had died and another was injured, along with "some local casualties".

"Three bodies were brought to the hospital and two of them are Chinese nationals," surgeon Dr Summaiya at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical College (JPMC) said.

A senior police official at the Counter Terrorism Department said the third body could be that of the suicide bomber.

Another police official said that the explosion was heard far and wide in the city and an oil

tanker which was at the signal had also caught fire and exploded.

"It was the tanker explosion which caused so many injuries and damage to at least a dozen vehicles in the close range," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the attack a "heinous act" and offered his condolences to the Chinese people. "Pakistan stands committed to safeguarding our Chinese friends," he wrote on X.

Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) on Monday said last night's terror attack near the Karachi airport would not "go unpunished". "This deplorable act of terrorism is an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. We remain resolute in bringing to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the Majeed Brigade," the FO said in a statement. "Pakistan's security and law enforcement agencies will spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators. This barbaric act will not go unpunished," the FO said.

It said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese embassy for coordination and facilitation. "Pakistan and China are close partners and iron brothers, united by a bond of mutual respect and shared destiny. Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in Pakistan, and will continue to work hand in hand with our Chinese brothers to defeat the forces of terror," it said.

Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects under the aegis of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Chinese embassy on Monday asked its citizens and Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to be vigilant and to "do their best to take safety precautions". It also asked Pakistan to thoroughly investigate the incident and "severely punish the murderer".

In a statement, the Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA) said that airport buildings and assets remained safe in the

incident. Flight schedules at the airport are continuing as normal.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting CPEC projects.

The BLA accuses China and Islamabad of exploitation of the resource-rich province, a charge rejected by the authorities. It has fought a long-running insurgency for a separate homeland.

The group in the last two years carried out similar suicide bomb attacks in Karachi targeting foreign nationals.

The BLA in March this year claimed responsibility for an attack on a Pakistani naval air base near China-run Gwadar port. In April 2022, the group killed three Chinese tutors and a Pakistani driver in a suicide bombing near Karachi University's Confucius Institute.

In November 2018, gunmen killed at least four people in an attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi.



Security officials examine the site of an explosion that caused injuries and destroyed vehicles outside the Karachi airport, Pakistan, early Monday. AP/PTI

Life returns to normal in Pakistan's capital, Imran Khan's party ends protest

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Life was returning to normal in the Pakistani capital on Monday after the violent protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters subsided in the wake of high drama involving the mysterious disappearance of the party leader Ali Amin Gandapur.

Gandapur, the chief minister of the restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in the northwest, is a mercurial PTI leader and confidante of jailed party founder Imran Khan.

With shoulder-length flowing hair, a thick moustache, a broad chest and considerable height, he boasts a towering personality.

Following Imran Khan's directives, he announced that the party will stage a protest at the famous D-Chowk of Islamabad in the heart of the city on Friday - the same venue where the PTI had organised a sit-in for 126 days in 2014.

Leading a caravan of dozens of vehicles and overcoming road blockades and resistance by police, he finally managed to reach the capital on Saturday afternoon.

After arriving in the national capital, he left his supporters and went to the KP House, the property of his government in Islamabad, for refreshments, but disappeared from there.

After remaining incommunicado for more than 24 hours, he suddenly appeared Sunday evening at the provincial assembly building in Peshawar. He made a fiery speech to the assembly but failed to give exact details about his whereabouts when he was not accessible to his family or party.

As the media frenzy focused on his disappearance, hundreds of protestors whom he had led to Islamabad silently melted away and probably went back to their homes, except those arrested by police.

As the protestors went away, the authorities began to lift the siege of the city, clearing most of the roads and restoring the

suspended mobile services.

By Monday morning, life returned to normal in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Public transportation resumed its regular routes, although the Islamabad Metro Bus service remains partially suspended.

Roads and thoroughfares in Islamabad had reopened. Containers obstructing major arteries in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been removed. Government offices, private businesses, and schools have reopened.

Civic bodies were busy at several places in Islamabad repairing and renovating sidewalks, roads and bridges ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit to be held here next week.

Meanwhile, Pakistan authorities registered new cases under terrorism laws against Imran Khan and dozens of his supporters for violence and vandalism in Lahore and Rawalpindi.

The Express Tribune newspaper reported that according to the FIR lodged in Lahore, police accused that Khan has been provided with extraordinary privileges inside prison, which allowed him to communicate with his party leaders and incite them to engage in violent actions.

Additionally, several cases have been registered against PTI workers for violating Section 144 by holding protest in the city. The protest was prohibited under the emergency law, which was in effect at the time. Meanwhile, a case was registered at Naseerabad Police Station in Rawalpindi against Khan and 300 party workers under the Anti-Terrorism Act. So far, 16 protesters have been arrested. On Monday, the Punjab government banned Imran Khan from meeting his family members, lawyers and party leaders till October 18, citing "security concerns". Khan has been lodged in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail in multiple cases since August 2023.

Pak's Punjab govt bans Imran from meeting wife

Lahore (PTI): Pakistan's Punjab government on Monday banned jailed former premier Imran Khan from meeting his family members, lawyers and party leaders till October 18 due to "security concerns", amidst his party staging anti-government protests in several cities.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Khan was lodged in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail in multiple cases since August 2023.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has accused PTI of trying to disrupt the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled to be held on Oct 15 and 16 in Islamabad and emphasised that the government will ensure that these plans do not succeed.

"Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have been banned from meeting their family, lawyers, and party leaders at Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, till Oct 18," a Punjab government official said. The government has taken the decision in view of "security concerns", he said.

According to sources, the government has taken the decision in anticipation of the upcoming SCO summit.

The coalition government led by PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif has alleged that PTI is staging protests in Islamabad to sabotage the summit. The Pakistan Army has been called in to provide security for the SCO summit. Earlier, security agencies arrested six Adiala jail staff for aiding the PTI founder.

Meanwhile, a PTI spokesperson said its legal team of Khan will file a petition in court, requesting the lifting of a ban on meetings with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi. "Justice Sardar Jaz of Islamabad High Court had ordered the authorities not too long ago to arrange meetings via video link, if not possible physically, given the number of cases Imran Khan has to deal with, legal consultation is given and, therefore should be provided," he said.

UK PM names new chief of staff in Downing Street shake-up

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday named a new chief of staff after a high-profile resignation amid a wider shake-up of his top team at 10 Downing Street to mark his Labour Party government's first 100 days in office.

Sue Gray, previously a top civil servant appointed by former prime minister Boris Johnson to investigate the partygate scandal of COVID lockdown law breaching parties within the then Tory government, resigned as Starmer's top aide saying the "intense commentary around my position risked becoming a distraction to the government's vital work of change". She was referring to weeks of media revelations and controversies surrounding her role, including her salary package of GBP 170,000 being GBP 3,000 more than the Prime Minister being leaked to the BBC.

"It is for that reason I have chosen to stand aside, and I look forward to continuing to support the prime minister in my new role," said Gray, who has been demoted to a part-time role as Starmer's envoy for nations and regions.



Morgan McSweeney, the Labour Party's former campaign director who masterminded July's general election landslide for the party, will replace Gray as the new chief of staff. His appointment comes alongside political director Vidhya Alakeson and director of government relations Jill Cuthbertson being promoted to deputy chiefs of staff. Nin Pandit, the director of the Downing Street policy unit until now, has been appointed

principal private secretary to Starmer, while former journalist James Lyons will join to head up a new strategic communications team. "I'm really pleased to be able to bring in such talented and experienced individuals into my team. This shows my absolute determination to deliver the change the country voted for," said Starmer in a statement.

He thanked his outgoing chief for "all the support", both in Opposition and government and her work to prepare Labour for government. "Sue has played a vital role in strengthening our relations with the regions and nations. I am delighted that she will continue to support that work," he added.

According to media reports, junior staff at Downing Street were disgruntled and some had resorted to leaks to the media at a time when Starmer and the Cabinet were battling allegations of accepting "freebies" of clothes and hospitality from wealthy party donors.

"In fewer than 100 days Sir Keir Starmer's Labour government has been thrown into chaos - he has lost his chief of staff who has been at the centre of the scandal the Labour Party has been engulfed by," a

Conservative Party spokesperson reacted. Meanwhile, in a statement to mark the anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attacks in Israel, Starmer said the UK must "unequivocally stand with the Jewish community and unite as a country".

"As a father, a husband, a son, a brother - meeting the families of those who lost their loved ones last week was unimaginable. Their grief and pain are ours, and it is shared in homes across the land. A year on, that collective grief has not diminished or waned," he said. He added: "We must never look the other way in the face of hate. We must also not look the other way as civilians bear the ongoing dire consequences of this conflict in the Middle East. I reiterate my call for immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon, and for the removal of all restrictions on humanitarian aid into Gaza."

"We will not falter in our pursuit of peace and on this day of pain and sorrow, we honour those we lost, and continue in our determination to return those still held hostage, help those who are suffering, and secure a better future for the Middle East."

World's rivers faced driest year in three decades in 2023: UN weather agency

Geneva (AP): The UN weather agency on Monday said that 2023 was the driest year in more than three decades for the world's rivers, as the record-hot year underpinned a drying up of water flows and contributed to prolonged droughts in some places.

The World Meteorological Organisation in a report also said glaciers that feed rivers in many countries suffered the largest loss of mass in the last five decades, warning that ice melt can threaten long-term water security for millions of people globally.

"Water is the canary in the coalmine of climate change. We receive distress signals in the form of increasingly extreme rainfall, floods and droughts which wreak a heavy toll on lives, ecosystems and economies," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo, releasing the report on



Monday. She said rising temperatures had in part led the hydrological cycle to become "more erratic and unpredictable" in ways that can produce "either too much or too little water" through both droughts and floods. The weather agency, citing figures

from UN Water, says some 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water for at least one month a year - and that figure is expected to rise to 5 billion by 2050.

The world faced the hottest year on record in 2023, and the summer of this year was also the hottest summer ever -

raising warning signs for a possible new annual record in 2024. "In the (last) 33 years of data, we had never such a large area around the world which was under such dry conditions," said Stefan Uhlenbrook, director of hydrology, water and cryosphere at WMO. WMO called for improvements in data collection and sharing to help clear up the real picture for water resources and help countries and communities take action in response. The report said the southern United States, Central America and South American countries Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay faced widespread drought conditions and "the lowest water levels ever observed in Amazon and in Lake Titicaca," on the border between Peru and Bolivia.

WMO said half of the world faced dry-river-flow conditions last year.

Russian court sentences 72-year-old American to nearly seven years in prison

Moscow (AP): A Russian court on Monday sentenced a 72-year-old American in a closed trial to nearly seven years in prison for allegedly fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine. Prosecutors said Stephen Hubbard signed a contract with the Ukrainian military after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022 and he fought alongside them until being captured two months later. He was sentenced to six years and 10 months in a general-security prison. Prosecutors had called for a sentence of seven years in a maximum-security prison. Hubbard, from the state of Michigan, is the first American known to have been convicted on charges of fighting as a mercenary in the Ukrainian conflict. The charges carried a poten-

tial sentence of 15 years, but prosecutors asked that his age be taken into account along with his admission of guilt, Russian news reports said.

Arrests of Americans have become increasingly common in Russia in recent years.

Concern has risen that Russia could be targeting US nationals for arrest to use later as bargaining chips in talks to bring back Russians convicted of crimes in the US and Europe.

Also on Monday, a court in the city of Voronezh sentenced American Robert Gilman to seven years and 1 month for allegedly assaulting law enforcement officers while serving a sentence for another assault.

According to Russian news reports, Gilman was arrested

in 2022 for causing a disturbance while intoxicated on a passenger train and then assaulted a police officer while in custody. He is serving a 3 1/2-year sentence on that charge.

Last year, he assaulted a prison inspector during a cell check, then hit an official of the Investigative Committee, resulting in the new sentence, state news agency RIA-Novosti said.

The US and Russia in August completed their largest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history, a deal involving 24 people, many months of negotiations and concessions from other European countries, which released Russians in their custody as part of the exchange. Several US citizens remain behind bars in Russia following the swap.

Myanmar's ex-ruling party's member dies while serving prison sentence

Bangkok (AP): Zaw Myint Maung, a senior member of Myanmar's former ruling party arrested during the 2021 military takeover, died Monday while serving a prison sentence that was considered politically motivated. He was 72.

He was a close colleague of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and spokesperson of her National League for Democracy party. He had been a second vice president and chief minister of the central Mandalay region before the army seized control of the government in 2021, arresting him, Suu Kyi and many top members of her NLD party and government.

Zaw Myint Maung had been jailed at least twice under previous governments for his political activities.

He had had leukemia since 2019. His death was confirmed by Tun Kyi, a party colleague from Mandalay, and another friend, who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities.

In a statement expressing condolences, the National Unity Government, the main shadow opposition group organizing against army rule, lauded Zaw Myint Maung for being "unwaveringly committed to the democratic cause, fighting alongside the people and other democratic forces to dismantle military dictatorship."

The NLD won a landslide victory in Myanmar's 2020 election, but the army seized power Feb. 1, 2021, the day it was supposed to begin a second five-year term in office. The country now is enmeshed in civil war between the military and pro-democracy forces allied with armed ethnic minority groups. Zaw Myint Maung was serving a prison sentence of 29 years after being convicted in closed court in 2021 and 2022 on charges of violating coronavirus restrictions.

'Projectiles launched from Gaza set off sirens in Tel Aviv'

AP ■ RE'IM
Israelis were holding vigils and sombre ceremonies on Monday to mark a year since the Oct 7, 2023 Hamas attack, the deadliest in the country's history, which sparked the war in Gaza and scarred Israelis indelibly.

up a fight. It launched rockets that set off air raid sirens in Tel Aviv, as well as closer to the Gaza border. In Gaza, which is still buckling under the weight of the ongoing war, no formal commemorative event is planned.

Tunisia's Kais poised to win after cracking down on opp

AP ■ TUNIS
Tunisia's incumbent president announced late on Sunday that he would wait for official results before declaring victory while acknowledging exit polls showing him winning by a landslide in an election marred by earlier arrests of his opponents.

himself ablaze to protest police humiliation and corruption, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali abdicated and fled the country. In the years that followed, Tunisia enshrined a new democratic constitution, created a Truth and Dignity Commission to bring justice to citizens tortured under the former regime and saw its leading civil society groups win the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering political compromise.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Lucky Baweja S/o Shri Vikas Baweja R/o E-53 Gali No. 13. Raja Puri, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, hereby declare that my name is mentioned in my old aadhar card as Lucky instead of "Lucky Baweja" that I declare that "Lucky" and "Lucky Baweja" both are the same and one person.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Shaheed Ahmed (Author No.: 9198-0907-99448) S/o Mr. Basheer Ahmed R/o F-400-A, Gali No. 15, Jawahar Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110029, do hereby solemnly affirm and inform that I have discovered my son Mr. Inzar Ahmed, my Daughter-in-law Mrs. Koushar and their children Mr. Ayan Ahmed and Ms. Aitasha Bebi from my all movable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior and non-co-operative behavior towards me and other family members.

OUTSOURCING JOB OF ACCEA FOR ESCORTING OF AC COACHES
E-Tender Notice No.: EL-GH-965 of 2024-25. Dated: 01-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: EL-GH-965. Name of work: Outsourcing job of ACCEA for escorting of LHB & SG AC Coaches of primary Maintenance Depot at Guwahati & Kamakhya for a period of 4 years.

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Asset Recovery Management Branch
8-B, First Floor, Rajender Park, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110 060
Phone : 011-40591567(Ext-240)
E-Mail : delhiarm@ktbkbank.com
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Whereas, undersigned being the Authorised Officer of KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice dated 06.07.2024 calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantors: (1) M/s JMD Elevators Represented by its Proprietor: a) Mr. Anil Kumar Monga S/o Mr. Krishan Lal Monga, (2) Mr. Anil Kumar Monga S/o Mr. Krishan Lal Monga, Both No (1) & (2) are residing at: 8/127, 1st Floor, Ramesh Nagar, Single Storey, New Delhi-110015, (3) Mrs. Mamta Monga W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Monga residing at: House No.23, Block-5 Single Storey, Ramesh Nagar New Delhi-110015, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.11,64,158.79 [Rupees Eleven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight and Paise Seventy Nine Only] under PSOD Account No. 5547006000013801 along with future interest from 01.07.2024, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of already equitable mortgage of Rear side flat on Second Floor, plot no RZ-15, Gali no-2, Bindapur Mittala Road, Subhash Park Ext-II, Uttam Nagar New Delhi, belonging to Mrs. Mamta Monga
Boundaries: East: Entry Road West: Plot No. RZ-16 North: Road 10 Feet Wide South: Road 20 Feet Wide
Place: New Delhi
Date: 05.10.2024

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178
E-mail id: cs@himalayainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Particulars, Quarter Ended (30.09.2024, 30.06.2024, 30.09.2023), Half year ended (30.09.2024, 30.09.2023), Year ended (31.03.2024). Rows include Total Income from Operations, Net Profit for the period, Total Comprehensive Income, Paid-up Equity Share Capital, Earnings Per Share.

Notes:
1. The above unaudited results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and there after approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on October 07th, 2024.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter/ Half year ended September 30th, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter/ Half year ended September 30th, 2024 are available on BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company website (www.himalayafoodcompany.com).

Nobel Prize in medicine honours US duo for discovery of microRNA

AP ■ STOCKHOLM
The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine was awarded Monday to Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA, tiny pieces of genetic material that alter how genes work at the cellular level and could lead to new ways of treating cancer.

Perlmann said. Ambros and Ruvkun, the assembly explained, were initially interested in genes that control the timing of different genetic developments, ensuring that cell types develop at the right time. To do that, they studied two mutant strains of worms commonly used as research models in science.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publicly notified that the Residential Plot No.100, Block-A, Sector-36, Noida (U.P.), has been allotted in the name of Shri Jai Prakash S/o Sh. Faqir Chand R/o 203, Masjid Moth, New Delhi, had sold the said plot on the basis of GPA to the following persons:-

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT
ADMISSION NOTICE (Skill Development Courses-2024)
Online applications are invited wef 10.10.24 to 24.10.24 through university website from eligible candidates who are Punjab Residents only for Skill Development courses (seats-30 each) at Skill Development Centre, University Institute of Paramedical Sciences, Faridkot etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Avinash Chander Vohra S/o Shri Sital Dass Vohra and Smt. Sudesh Vohra W/o Sh. Avinash Chander Vohra both R/o 4B/13, First Floor, Old Rajender Nagar, New Delhi-110060 have disowned/debarred their son Pankaj Vohra from all their movable & immovable properties and have severed all relations from him due to his misconduct.

REGISTRAR
Online applications are invited wef 10.10.24 to 24.10.24 through university website from eligible candidates for QAI, (Qualification and Assessments International) UK Level 4 Diploma in Caregiving and Midwifery Course (seats-30) -Total 1200 hrs (collaboration with National Skill Development Commission, India) at University College of Nursing, Faridkot alongwith requisite fee of Rs 1180/- incl. GST (SC-RS 590/-).

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I/W, Mrs. Ramesh Kumar Kalra Alias Ramesh Arora D/o Sh. Jaswant Ram & W/o Sh. N. K. Arora R/o 43-C, Block-CC, DDA LG Flats, Hari Nagar, South West Delhi, Delhi-110064, We misplace/lost Sub-Registrar endorsement paper of Perpetual Sub-lease Deed of the said property bearing Plot No. C-3, Naraina Residential Scheme, New Delhi-110028.

REGISTRAR
Online applications are invited wef 10.10.24 to 24.10.24 through university website from eligible candidates for QAI, (Qualification and Assessments International) UK Level 4 Diploma in Caregiving and Midwifery Course (seats-30) -Total 1200 hrs (collaboration with National Skill Development Commission, India) at University College of Nursing, Faridkot alongwith requisite fee of Rs 1180/- incl. GST (SC-RS 590/-).

PD(824)C
I, Rekha Negi, M/o Shashwat Negi, H.no. B-39, Chatterpur Enclave, Phase-2, New Delhi-110074, hereby declare that my son's name has been changed from Shashwat Negi to Shashwat Singh Negi. In all future records, he shall be known as Shashwat Singh Negi.

PD(825)A
I, Maithli Sharan F/o No-15748731k, Sigmnt Atul Pratap R/o Vill/Post- Khilli, Teh- Moth, Distt-Jhansi, State Uttar Pradesh Pin No-284306 have Changed My Name FM Maithli Sharan to Maithali Sharan and also Changed my date-of-brith Fm -09-06-1970 to 01.01.1969 for all future purpose vide affidavit before Public notary Uttar Pradesh dated 27/08/24

PD(826)C
I, Ram Devi M/o No. 15748731k Sigmnt Atul Pratap R/o Vill/Post- Khilli, Teh- Moth, Distt. Jhansi State- Uttar Pradesh Pin No.-284306 have Changed My date-of-brith FM 01-01-1973 to 01.01.1982 for all future purpose vide affi-davit before public notary Uttar Pradesh 27/08/24

PD(827)C
I, Ridhima Rao, D/o Mr. Prabhansh Rao, R/o H. No-A-129 Gymkhana Colony, Gautam Puri Phase-2, Badarpur New Delhi-110044 hereby declare that Ridhima and Ridhima Rao is the same and one person. In future I known as Ridhima Rao for all future purposes.

PD(834)C
I, Service No.3188803K Rank Sep Desh Raj S/o Sh. Chanda Singh R/o Village & Po Alampur, TEH Jaisinghpur, Distt Kangra H.P declare that my father's date-of-birth has been wrongly written in my service record as 01 July 1948. the correct date of birth of my father is 11-02-1949 for all future purposes.

DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL Commission SAS NAGAR
SCO No.- 43, NEAR BASSI THEATRE, PHASE-2 SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Consumer Complaint No. 363/2023 Fixed for: 05.11.2024
Satinder Singh S/o Late Shri Tarvinder Singh R/o House No. 15-B, Dayal Bagn, Ambala Cantt, Haryana through its GPA holder namely Charanjiv Singh S/o Inderjeet Singh R/o House No. 15-B, Dayal Bagn, Ambala Cantt, Haryana.

CHANGE OF D.O.B
I, Service No.3188803K Rank Sep Desh Raj S/o Sh. Chanda Singh R/o Village & Po Alampur, TEH Jaisinghpur, Distt Kangra H.P declare that my father's date-of-birth has been wrongly written in my service record as 01 July 1948. the correct date of birth of my father is 11-02-1949 for all future purposes.

Indian Overseas Bank
KUNDLI BRANCH
(ADDRESS : SCO 24, HSIIDC INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, PHASE-I, KUNDLI DIST- SONIPAT, HARYANA - 131028
PHONE NO: 8733030068 & EMAIL ID : iob2193@iob.in)
DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWERS / MORTGAGORS / GUARANTORS UNDER SUB-SECTION(2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Place : Kundli
Date : 30/09/2024

Table with 5 columns: SI No., Nature of Facility, Limit, Rates of interest (including overdue interest & rests), Last Interest Debit Date (Mandatory), Total dues* as on 30/09/2024 (in Rs.). Rows include Home Loan (RSUBH Scheme) with a total of 2035250.16.

* With further interest from last interest debit date at contractual rates/rests will become payable from the date mentioned above till date of payment.
The above named guarantors referred under SI. Nos have executed guarantee and thereby guaranteed payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to Indian Overseas Bank by the borrowers for the aggregate credit limits of Rs 19,80,000.00 together with agreed interest, charges etc.

Table with 2 columns: NATURE OF SECURITY, PARITICULARS OF SECURITIES. Row 1: Mortgage, Residential Flat Situated at Entire Third Floor with Roof Rights, Property Bearing No. 61, Block-A, Pocket-00, Sector-2, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

** The Bank reserves its right to proceed against the agricultural land security Nos. 6 above through other available legal course of action.
3. Consequent upon defaults committed by the above-named borrowers in payment of the principal debt/ interest as per agreed terms, loan account mentioned above have been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 26/09/2024 (date of classification as NPA) as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines and directives. Despite our reminders for regularization of your account, you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.
4. Since you the above named borrowers referred under SI. Nos. 1, have failed to meet the liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned above and upon classification of your account as a Non-Performing Asset, we hereby recall our advances to SI. Nos 1, of you and give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the bank aggregating to Rs 2035250.16, as detailed in para 1 above, with further interest @ contractual rate + Overdue Interest @ 2% compounded with monthly/ half yearly as agreed, from the date mentioned above, within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.
5. The above named mortgagor / guarantor Nos have given undertaking for repayment / guarantee for the credit facilities taken by the borrowers and have also mortgaged the properties herein mentioned to secure the above said credit facilities. Since the borrowers have committed defaults in repayment, the mortgagors/guarantors have become liable to pay to us in terms of the guarantee, the amounts due to the Bank as per the loan / credit facilities aggregating to Rs 20,35,250.16, together with further interest @9.55% compounded with monthly/ half yearly as agreed and we hereby invoke the guarantee against the mortgagors / guarantors who have given non-agri securities enforceable under the SARFAESI Act namely of you and call upon you to pay the said amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of this notice. Please be advised that the Guarantors liability is co-extensive with the liability of the borrowers.
6. We further give notice to the borrowers namely 1, and mortgagors / guarantors who have given non-agri securities enforceable under the SARFAESI Act namely that failing payment of the above amount in full with interest and charges etc till the date of payment, we shall be exercising all or any of the rights vested on us, under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act.
7. Please note that in law the borrowers and guarantors are jointly and severally liable to repay the dues with further interest and charges etc.
8. Please note that interest will continue to accrue at the rates and rests as agreed for each credit facility until full repayment.
9. Your attention is also invited to sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are restrained from transferring/alienating/shifting any of the secured assets referred to above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining our prior written consent. Please also note that non-compliance / contravention of the provisions contained in the said Act or Rules made thereunder, is an offence which is punishable with imprisonment and/or fine as provided under section 29 of the Act.
10. The guarantors referred under SI. Nos have given personal guarantee to secure the loans of the said borrowers and as such we advise you to prevail upon the borrowers to repay the dues as per our demand since we have the right to initiate action against you simultaneously in accordance with law, for recovery of our dues based on your personal guarantee.
11. We also put all of you on notice that if the account is not regularized/ repaid within the stipulated time and in case of the Bank classifying you as a willful defaulter, as per RBI Guidelines, the Bank reserves its rights to publish your photograph in newspaper(s) with your name, address, details of default, dues etc., in accordance with RBI Guidelines besides initiating all recourses available to the Bank for recovery.
12. We also advise you that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we have for recovery of the above said dues as well as our right to make further demands in respect of sums due and payable by you.
13. Further, your attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to you, to redeem the secured assets.

India, Maldives strengthen ties; inaugurate new runway, RuPay card

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The inauguration of a new runway in the Maldives built under an airport redevelopment project assisted by India and the official launch of the RuPay card in the island nation on Monday are aimed at boosting economic ties and tourism cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu jointly virtually inaugurated the runway at the Hanimadhoo International Airport and also witnessed via weblink a live transaction using a RuPay payment service card in the Maldives.

The launch took place after the two leaders held extensive talks which Muizzu in his press statement said were to "chart a new path for the future".

The Maldivian president accompanied by First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed and a Maldivian delegation arrived in India on Sunday evening.

Though the Maldivian president attended PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it is his first bilateral visit to India. Prior to the launch of different India-assisted projects in the Maldives, a small official video was played in which details about these projects were shared in the presence



of the two leaders at the Hyderabad House.

"The bonds between India and Maldives stretch back centuries, woven together through rich trade and cultural exchanges," it was narrated in the video.

Over the years, this relationship has evolved, characterised by "mutual respect and unwavering support", underpinned by India's Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR vision, it said. India has always been the first responder in the Maldives during times of crisis.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Mohamed Muizzu, this relationship is to achieve greater heights," it added.

The RuPay card launch today will pave the way for strengthened India-Maldives relations by boosting tourism and economic cooperation, according to the India-Maldives video.

"It will allow Indian tourists to make cashless transactions easily, reducing cost and enhancing convenience, especially in the Maldives tourism sector," it said.

The inauguration of the new runway at Hanimadhoo International Airport marks a "significant milestone in the airport's ongoing expansion project".

Its redevelopment, under an "Indian Line of Credit of USD 132 million", aims to provide complete new infrastructure including runway, ATC tower, ARFF block, hangar, cargo facilities, and passenger terminal building, it added.

Prime Minister Modi in his press statement after the bilateral talks said President Muizzu's visit adds "another chapter to our ties".

DGCA issues advisory on Boeing 737 rudder risks



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to Indian airlines operating Boeing 737 planes regarding the potential risk of a jammed rudder control system.

The move follows the recent probe report by the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) that highlighted safety concerns involving Boeing 737 aircraft lanes equipped with Collins Aerospace SVO-730 Rudder Rollout Guidance Actuators. Against the backdrop of the potential risk of a jammed or restricted rudder control system, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued safety recommendations to the Indian carriers.

Currently, Air India Express, Akasa Air and SpiceJet

operate Boeing 737 planes. DGCA said all flight crews are to be informed through a circular/advisory regarding the possibility of a jammed or restricted rudder control system.

"Appropriate mitigations must be communicated to help crews identify and handle such a situation," it added.

Further, all operators have been asked to conduct a safety risk assessment for aircraft to evaluate and mitigate the risk associated with the rudder control system.

The regulator also said that all Category III B approach, landing, and rollout operations, including practice or actual autoland, must be discontinued for these planes until further notice. Category III B pertains to operations in low visibility conditions. Among other measures,

airlines have been asked to mandatorily include discussion about potential rudder control system issues as a mandatory topic in recurrent training sessions.

It will also be included in the Instrument Rating/Proficiency Checks (IR/PPC) during pre-simulator briefings.

"Operators have been instructed to include specific exercises in Recurrent Training and IR/PPC that simulate scenarios involving a jammed or restricted rudder control system, including rollout procedures. "Appropriate flight crew responses and mitigations should be practised during these exercises," the regulator said in a release.

DGCA also said the interim measures aim to enhance safety and ensure that flight crews are well-prepared to handle potential rudder control issues effectively, transparency and efficiency in services provided to apple growers," the chief minister said."HPMC has enhanced its processing capacity, with this year's crushing capacity increasing from 21,000 MT to 39,000 MT compared to the previous year. Additionally, the grading and packaging line capacity has been enhanced from 15,900 MT to 33,900 MT.

Automobile sales in India drop 9 per cent amid sluggish demand: FADA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile retail sales in India declined 9 per cent year-on-year in September amid a massive buildup of passenger vehicle inventory due to sluggish demand, dealer's body FADA said on Monday, urging original equipment manufacturers to take corrective steps.

The overall registrations declined to 17,23,330 units last month from 18,99,192 units in September 2023, as most of the categories including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers witnessed a year-on-year (Y-O-Y) drop.

"Despite the onset of festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam, dealers have reported that the performance has been largely stagnant," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President C S Vigneshwar

said in a statement. Given the critical festive season around the corner, FADA urges OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) to take immediate corrective measures to avoid a financial setback, he said.

This suggests that overall market sentiment during these festive periods has been underwhelming, with a trend leaning towards flat or negative growth, he added.

Passenger vehicle sales declined 19 per cent Y-O-Y to 2,75,681 units last month from 3,39,543 units in the year-ago period.

"Seasonal factors such as Shradh and Pitrapaksha, coupled with heavy rainfall and a sluggish economy, have exacerbated the situation, leaving dealers with historically high inventory levels of 80-85 days' equivalent to 7.9 lakh vehicles worth Rs 79,000 crore,"



Vigneshwar said.

FADA also calls on the Reserve Bank of India to issue an advisory to banks, mandating stricter channel funding policies based only on dealer consent and on actual collateral, to prevent dealers from facing additional financial pressure due to unsold stock, he

added. This is the final opportunity for PV OEMs to recalibrate and support market recovery before it's too late, he said.

Two-wheeler retail sales saw a dip of 8 per cent Y-O-Y to 12,04,259 units due to low consumer sentiment, poor inquiries, and reduced walk-ins, FADA said.

Shradh period and heavy rains further impacted demand, resulting in delayed purchases and a subdued market environment, it added.

Commercial vehicle registrations declined 10 per cent year on year last month to 74,324 units.

While there was positive sentiment and marginal growth in regions supported by infrastructure projects, overall demand remained weak due to low government spending, extended monsoon delays and seasonal challenges, the industry body said. Three-wheeler sales retail sales rose marginally to 1,06,524 units last month as compared with 1,05,827 units in September 2023.

Tractor sales rose 15 per cent year on year to 74,324 units last month. For the April-September period, this fiscal, overall

retail sales across segments witnessed a growth of 7 per cent to 1,19,15,963 units against 1,11,83,734 units in the same period of last fiscal.

Passenger vehicle registrations rose 1 per cent to 18,70,991 units as compared with 18,51,249 units in the year-ago period. Two-wheeler sales increased 9 per cent year on year to 85,66,531 in the first half of the current fiscal.

Commercial vehicle registrations, however, fell marginally to 4,77,381 units in the period under review from 4,80,488 units in H1 of last fiscal. On near-term sales outlook, FADA said that while dealers and OEMs are betting on robust festive sales, especially in rural markets where positive cash flow and better agricultural conditions are expected to spur demand, the outcome remains uncertain.



India's domestic air passenger traffic to touch 300 million by 2030: Naidu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's domestic air passenger traffic is projected to touch 300 million by 2030 and about USD 11 billion is being spent to develop airports, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said on Monday.

The minister also said India and France can work together to develop a robust global SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) supply chain.

He was speaking at the conference organised by the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) in the national capital.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and airlines are expanding their fleets well as networks to meet the rising demand. Naidu said the domestic air passenger traffic is projected to touch 300 million by 2030 while 200 more airports are expected to be developed in the next 20-25 years.

Currently, India has 157 airports, heliports and waterterms.

The number of operational airports is expected to reach 200 by the end of 2025. The potential for partnership between India and France is immense, the minister added.

India to establish 100 food testing labs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan on Monday said the government will build 100 food testing labs and 50 food irradiation centres as part of its efforts to boost processing levels and ensure quality.

The minister asked the industry not to compromise on the quality of products as this will affect not only brands but the country's image as well.

He said the ministry will set up 100 food testing labs to ensure that products meet standard norms set by regulators.

The minister assured the industry that he would try to address any issues and challenges affecting the growth of the food processing



sector.

Addressing a Ficci seminar, Paswan emphasised the need to minimise wastage and promote value addition. The minister also exhorted industry players to make India a global food basket.

"Indian food products should become popular globally. Indian food standards should be recognised as global standards," Paswan said.

To boost processing levels, Paswan said as many as 50 food irradiation units will be established. On the sidelines of the event,

he said the ministry has already invited Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from prospective entrepreneurs to set up multi-product food irradiation units.

These units will be set up under Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure (cold chain scheme), a component of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) with support from the ministry.

Financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid/subsidies will be provided to the eligible projects under the demand-driven cold chain scheme.

Paswan said the food industry has been demanding reduction in GST on some items and he has taken up the issue at the right forum.

IT department invites public suggestions for I-T Act review

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department on Monday invited public inputs for review of the six-decade old I-T Act with regard to simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and obsolete provisions.

Pursuant to the Budget announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee to oversee the review and make the Act

concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigation, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers.

"The committee invites public inputs and suggestions in four categories: simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and obsolete provisions," the CBDT said. A webpage on the e-filing portal -- <https://eportal.incometax.gov.in/iec/foservices/#/prelogin/ita-comprehensive-review> -- has been launched and the public can access the

page by entering their mobile number and validating it via OTP.

Suggestions should specify the relevant provision of the Income-tax Act, 1961 or Income-tax Rules, 1962 (mentioning the specific section, sub-section, clause, rule, sub-rule, or form number), as the case may be, to which the suggestion relates under the aforementioned four categories.

The Finance Minister in the 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review will be completed in six months.

Tata Power-DDL wins the prestigious Deming Prize 2024

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited wins 'Deming Prize 2024' in recognition of its Total Quality Management (TQM) practices. Although, the award ceremony to felicitate the winners will take place in November 2024. The Deming Grand Prize, is one of the longstanding quality awards presented by the Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers (JUSE). It is awarded to companies that not only achieve the Deming Prize but also consistently maintain and improve their TQM standards for an extended period. Tata Power-DDL has been on the TQM journey for over six years towards

becoming a global benchmark. With this recognition, the company has set the benchmark of being the First Power Distribution Company in the world to achieve this feat. The TQM practices have enabled the transformation of the processes and elevated the business performance to benchmark levels.

Commenting on the win, Mr. Gajanan S. Kale, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "We're deeply honored that Tata Power-DDL has been awarded the Deming Prize. It is a remarkable achievement for us, signifying global recognition of the company's unwavering commitment to excellence in quality management practices."

Zhejiang International Trade Exhibition kicks off in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 2024 Zhejiang International Trade Exhibition commenced on October 5 at the Pragati Maidan Convention and Exhibition Center in New Delhi. Running until October 7, the event is headlined by the 39th MEDICALL exhibition, widely regarded as the premier medical trade show in India and South Asia. The exhibition has attracted medical manufacturers and providers from countries such as Germany, the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Italy.

A key feature of the three-day event is the dedicated

Zhejiang area, comprising 70 booths representing 41 companies from cities like Hangzhou, Wenzhou, Jinhua, Yiwu, Shaoxing, Taizhou, Jiayang, and Huzhou. Exhibits cover a broad range of products including medical devices, consumables, in vitro diagnostics, disinfectants, protective equipment, rehabilitation care, traditional medicine, home healthcare solutions, and cutting-edge innovations in smart healthcare and medical industry services. Prominent Zhejiang-based companies are showcasing their advanced products and technologies, further cementing the reputation of the "Made in Zhejiang".

UGC-recognized beauty, wellness programs launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Medhavi Skills University (MSU), India's largest skills university, has partnered with Orane International, a leading skilling pioneer, to introduce UGC-recognized degree programs in the beauty and wellness sector.

The collaboration aims to address the skills gap in the industry by offering specialized B.Voc (Bachelor of Vocation) courses in Cosmetology and Makeup Artistry. This partnership, formalized through an MoU signed on September 24, combines MSU's expertise in industry-

led education with Orane's extensive network of over 120 skill centers across India and abroad. The initiative will provide hands-on training to professionals in the beauty and wellness industry, projected to reach 75 lakh crore by 2030, and which employs a 70% female workforce.

Key highlights of the partnership include industry-driven curricula with a 70% practical component, the use of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) framework for experienced professionals, and a focus on empowering women through formal qualifications.

INBRIEF

REC LIMITED DISBURSES LOAN IN H1 FY25

GURGAON: REC Limited, a maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has disbursed loans worth ₹90,955 crore, up 20.10% year-on-year for the half year ended September 30, 2024. The quantum of renewable energy loans grew 92.68% year-on-year to Rs. 11,297 crore.



INDUCTION PROGRAM HELD FOR LL.B CLASSES AT GNDU



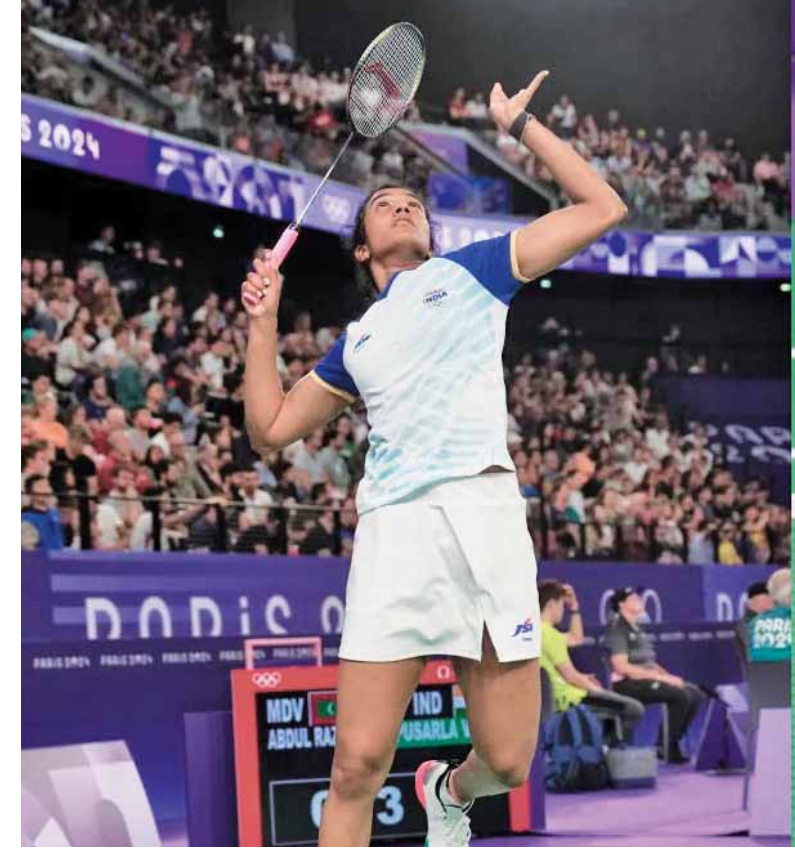
AMRITSAR: Department of laws, GNDU, RC JALANDHAR, organised an induction programme for its new batch of students in LL.B TYC 2024-2027 and BALL.B 2024-2029. The event aimed to welcome and familiarise students with academic environment.

EDUCATION COLLEGES ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

AMRITSAR: The Education Colleges Zonal Youth festival of Guru Nanak Dev University will be held on October 9, 2024 in the Dashmesh Auditorium of the University. Students-artists from Education Colleges affiliated to the University are participating in this zone. As many as 00 student-artists are expected to participate in 35 items of Music, Theatre, Dance, Literary & Fine Arts during this festival. Dr. Amandeep Singh, In-charge Youth Welfare said that on the first day ie October 9 the festival begins with the competitions of Costume Parade, Mimicry, Skit, Geet/Gazal & Folk Song will be organized in the Dashmesh Auditorium.

SINDHU, SEN EYE COMEBACK AFTER PARIS SETBACK

ARCTIC OPEN SUPER 500



PTI ■ VANTAA (FINLAND)
Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will lead the Indian contingent at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament commencing here on Tuesday, as they eagerly look to reclaim their

momentum on the international stage following a medal-less outing at the Paris Olympics. This tournament marks the first outing for Sindhu and Sen since the Olympic Games, and they are keen to reset their goals. The duo has reassessed

their performances and implemented changes to regain their rhythm. Sindhu has roped in Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun II as her new coaches, moving on from her previous coach Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso.

Sen, who narrowly missed a medal in Paris, spent time at the Red Bull Arena in Austria for physical assessment. In the opening round, Sindhu, who exited in the round of 16 in Paris, will face familiar rival Canada's Michelle Li, while Sen, who lost in the bronze

medal play-off, will compete against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. Double Olympic medallist Sindhu is favoured to overcome Li and could face 18-year-old Japanese sensation Tomako Miyazaki, the 2022 junior world champion, in the

next round, an opponent against whom she lost at the Swiss Open earlier this year. For Sen, it's a chance for revenge against Gemke, having lost to him at the India Open in 2023. If he overcomes Gemke, he might face seventh-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. Kidambi Srikanth, returning to action at the Macau Open after a four-month injury layoff, will compete in the qualifiers alongside younger compatriots Kiran George and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran. Former world number one Srikanth is set to face George, while Sathish will battle against France's Arnaud Merkle. In women's singles, besides Sindhu, in-form Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap are also in contention. Malvika, who reached the quarterfinals at the China Open Super 1000, will open against World No. 24 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei, while Aakarshi will be up against Yvonne Li of Germany in the first round. Another promising player, Unnati Hooda, who won the 2022 Odisha Masters, will take on Heli Neiman of Israel in the qualifiers. While there is no Indian representation in men's doubles, Rituvarna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will compete in women's doubles, and Sathish will partner with Aadya Variyath in mixed doubles.



Women's Champions League begins with reinforced Barcelona going for third straight title

AP ■ MADRID
Barcelona will go for its third straight Women's Champions League title with a squad boosted by Poland's star striker Ewa Pajor and with Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas playing on new contracts. The group stage of the European club competition begins Tuesday and the Catalans are trying to become only the second team after Lyon to win three titles in a row or reach five straight titles. Barcelona beat Lyon in last season's final, when Ballon d'Or winners Bonmati and Putellas scored a goal each. Both had their contracts with the club extended ahead of the new season, and now they will have Pajor as a teammate. Pajor, who joined from Wolfsburg, was the competition's top scorer in 2022-23 as the German club reached a final that it lost to Barcelona despite a goal by her. In her nine seasons with Wolfsburg, Pajor won 14 titles and scored 136 goals despite a series of injuries. She was not able to win a Champions League crown even though she played in three finals and was part of a run to another. Barcelona has also added Kika Nazareth from Portuguese club Benfica. The team's first game in the competition this season will be on Wednesday against Group D rival Manchester City in a rematch of the 2020-21 quarterfinals, where the Spaniards triumphed after a 4-2 first-leg win and a 2-1 second-leg defeat in what was Barcelona's only loss that campaign. Barcelona's squad also includes former City players Keira Walsh and Ellie Roebuck. Lyon's firepower takes on Galatasaray, which could prove a busy night on Tuesday for Galatasaray's defense and goalkeeper Gamze Yaman. The Norway striker, who won the first women's Ballon d'Or award, has 64 competition goals, while teammate Eugénie Le Sommer, third on the all-time list, needs two to reach 50. They form the spine of the team along with veteran captain Wendie Renard, the women's Champions League record holder for appearances with 116. Lyon has been in good scoring touch so far, netting 16 goals in its first three French league games, with American midfielder Lindsey Horan getting five and France striker Kadidiatou Diani scoring two. French hopes rest on Lyon after Paris Saint-Germain - a semifinalist last season - was eliminated by Juventus in the qualifying, losing 5-2 on aggregate. Lyon is the competition's record eight-time winner but last won the trophy in 2022. It was runner-up last season to Barcelona. The club hired a new coach in June, with Australian Joseph Montemurro replacing Frenchwoman Sonia Bompastor, who joined Chelsea. The contrast in experience between the sides is noticeable. Galatasaray's team was founded in 2011 and the senior team only started in 2021. As well as European success, Lyon's women's side has won a national record 17 league titles and 10 French Cups. Galatasaray will be making its competition debut after a qualifying run that included triumphs over former quarterfinalist Slavia Praha. It is the first Turkish team to get to the group stage. It won its first national title last season in only its third campaign. Wolfsburg starts against Roma. Two-time champion Wolfsburg begins its Group A campaign on Tuesday at Italian champion Roma, which drew with the German club on its last visit two years ago. Both teams will want to make a good start with Lyon and Galatasaray the other teams in Group A. Wolfsburg warmed up with a 5-0 rout of Leipzig in the Bundesliga on Friday, when Alexandra Popp set up three goals. The 33-year-old Popp announced her international retirement last week, meaning her focus is fully on leading Wolfsburg to more honors. She is just two games away from becoming the second player to reach 100 Champions League appearances, after Wendie Renard. Wolfsburg is unbeaten in five away meetings against Italian sides, but Roma is unbeaten in 14 home games in all competitions. Chelsea without Hayes. Life after Emma Hayes has started well for Chelsea. Hayes left to take over the United States women's team in the offseason and carried on her winning ways by taking gold at the Paris Olympics. After 14 major titles she left big shoes for her replacement Bompastor to fill, but it has been an impressive start for the former Lyon coach. Chelsea opened its Super League campaign with a 1-0 win against Aston Villa and followed that by routing Crystal Palace 7-0. First up for the Blues in Group B is a home game on Tuesday with Real Madrid, which has made a perfect start in the Spanish league, winning five out of five to trail leader Barcelona on goal difference. Bayern's momentum. Arsenal, the 2007 winner, faces a tough opening Group C match on Wednesday at two-time defending German champion Bayern, which has made a seven-game winning start to the season, including a 1-0 victory over Wolfsburg in the German Supercup. A 1-0 win over Cologne on Saturday stretched Bayern's unbeaten run in the Bundesliga to 44 games.

Alaskan Knights beat SG Pipers to remain unbeaten in GCL



PTI ■ LONDON

Former world champion Vishwanathan Anand lost to World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura after sacrificing a queen for a drawing fortress, only to lose on time. Fritz and Dimitrov finally advance at rain-soaked Shanghai Masters Shanghai, (AP) Two days after starting, seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz and 10th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov finally got to complete their second-round matches at the Shanghai Masters on Monday. Fritz, the U.S. Open finalist, had led 4-3 in the opening set against Frenchman Terence Atmane when rain suspended play on Saturday at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena, and then washed out all matches on the outside courts until Monday. The 26-year-old American needed two tiebreakers to see off the No. 161-ranked Atmane 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), with only one break of serve for each in the 122-minute match. Fritz will play Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki in the third round. Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, resumed Monday with a set lead but down a break in the second against Zizou Bergs. The No. 73-ranked Bulgarian converted his advantage to take the second set before Dimitrov responded by breaking Bergs three times - for the loss of one of his own service games, to clinch the match 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. The 33-year-old Bulgarian will play Australian Alexei Popyrin in the third round. Also, U.S. Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe routed Zhou Yi of China 6-2, 6-4, while Tallon Griekspoor beat the 26th-seeded Jordan Thompson 6-3, 6-2 and Roman Safiullin had a 6-4, 6-2 win over Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan. Later Monday, No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton plays Roberto Carballes Baena of Spain in a third-round match, with the winner to meet top-ranked Jannik Sinner in the 4th. Wuhan Open No. 12-ranked Beatriz Haddad-Maia beat Madison Keys of the U.S. 7-6 (7), 6-2 in the opening match of the Wuhan Open. The Brazilian, winner of the Seoul Open last month for her fourth career title, converted five of her eight break point opportunities - to Keys' three from 12 - as she advanced in 128 minutes at the tournament in China. One-time U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada rallied to beat 12th-seeded Diana Shnaider 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-3. Rain in Wuhan meant play on the outside courts was suspended. The top eight seeds, including second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and China Open champion Coco Gauff, received a first-round bye.

Alpine SG Pipers with a 9-7 score to continue their unbeaten run at the Global Chess League here. Alaskan Knights won all their five of encounters after 15 matches, the halfway stage of the tournament. Despite the team's top player, Anish Giri blundering a piece and losing to Magnus Carlsen in just 20 minutes, the Alaskan Knights came out on top garnering 58 game points. Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings climbed to second place after defeating the upGrad Mumba Masters. Continental Kings' icon, Alireza Firouzja, continued his winning streak by defeating France's top-rated player, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Though just three game points behind the leaders, Triveni Continental Kings has recorded three wins and two losses, earning nine match points and 55 game points. Meanwhile, the upGrad Mumba Masters sit in the fifth place with only three match points. An epic encounter between Carlsen and Nakamura highlighted the final match of the day between the Alpine SG Pipers and the American Gambits. Both the players traded winning positions in a time scramble, and the duel ultimately ended in a draw. The match came down to the youth board, where Daniel Darda defeated Jonas Bjerre, securing a narrow 9-7 victory for the Alpine SG Pipers, which placed them in third place with nine match points and 43 game points. With one win and one loss in Sunday's matches, the American Gambits hold fourth place with six match points and 33 game points. At the bottom of the standings, the Ganges Grandmasters continue to struggle, having lost their match on Sunday against American Gambits.



Mohun Bagan considered withdrawn from ACL 2: AFC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohun Bagan Super Giant are considered to have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League 2 after the Kolkata side decided against travelling to Iran to face Tractor FC, the continental body AFC said on Monday, pending further decision on the matter. Keeping their players' "safety and security" in mind, Mohun Bagan Super Giant had last month decided against travelling to Iran for the October 2 match owing to the volatile situation that prevailed in the west Asian nation at that time. "In accordance with Article 5.2 of AFC Champions League 2 2024/25 Competition Regulations, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) confirms that India's Mohun Bagan Super Giant are considered to have withdrawn from the ACL 2 competition

after the club failed to report to Tabriz... Against Tractor FC on October 2, 2024," the AFC said. "Consequently, all matches played by Mohun Bagan SG are cancelled and considered null and void in accordance with Article 5.6 of Competition Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, no points and goals in the club's matches shall be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in Group A pursuant to Article 8.3 of the Competition Regulations." Mohun Bagan SG were to play Tractor FC on October 2 in their Group A match of the ACL 2 - the continent's second tier club competition - but their players expressed unwillingness to play in Iran, which had announced a state of mourning following the death of a prominent general of the Revolutionary Guard in an Israeli air strike.

"The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committee(s) as appropriate for their decision(s)," the AFC said in the statement. In their first match of Group A, Mohun Bagan had played out a goalless draw against Tajikistan's FC Ravshan. It was learnt that 35 registered players, including seven foreigners, wrote to the club that they didn't wish to go to Iran at that point in time. "So we tagged their letters and wrote to the AFC, asking them to either reschedule the match or move the game to a neutral venue," a Mohun Bagan source had told PTI. "We have decided to not travel to Iran keeping our players' safety and security in mind, because that is paramount. We have also written to the ministry of external affairs as their advisory states that you can go to Iran or Israel on your own responsibility."

PSG held to 1-1 draw at Nice despite return of Dembélé

AP ■ PARIS

Even with Ousmane Dembélé back in the starting lineup, Paris Saint-Germain had a sleepy first half before being held to a 1-1 draw at Nice to leave Monaco alone at the top of the French league. The defending champion enjoyed much of the possession but was largely unproductive during the first half on Sunday. Luis Enrique's team played better after the interval and PSG finally created chances as Nuno Mendes leveled the scoring following Nice defender Ali Abdi's first-half opener. "We were not really into it during the first half," PSG

forward Bradley Barcola said. "We woke up in the second half, it's a shame we could not take our chances." Lagging three points behind unbeaten Monaco before kickoff, PSG was too timid to draw at Nice for a better result on the Riviera. Marquinhos came close to snatching the three points for PSG soon after Mendes' goal but his header ended its course on the left post. Dembélé started the match after being left out of the squad that lost 2-0 to Arsenal in the Champions League midweek. Luis Enrique, who had blamed Dembélé for a perceived lack of commitment, was criticized after the loss for not selecting

the France star, one of the most creative players in the team following the departure of Kylian Mbappé to Real Madrid. Nice took a deserved lead in the 39th minute when Abdi controlled the ball on the edge of the box and followed up with a left-footed shot that took a slight deflection and went in. Luis Enrique replaced the largely inefficient Randal Kolo Muani with Lee Kang-in, who greatly improved the connection between PSG's midfield and its attack in the second half. Dembélé's effort in the 47th was parried away by Nice goalkeeper Marcin Bulka, who



was however powerless five minutes later when Nuno Mendes equalized with a deflected shot from outside the box. Monaco has a two-point lead

over PSG, with third-place Marseille five points off the pace. **LYON EXTENDS WINNING RUN:** Seven-time French champion Lyon continued its recovery with a fourth straight win in all competitions by beating Nantes 2-0. The match was marred by fan violence and Lyon said the clashes that broke out at Groupama Stadium were "unworthy" of the seven-time French champion. A goal from Nicolas Tagliafico and an own-goal from Nantes defender Nicolas Pallois earned Lyon its third win in seven league matches, giving the club some room to breathe at five points above the

relegation playoff spot. Tagliafico put the hosts in the lead in the 22nd minute from Said Benrahma's cross for his first goal this season. Nantes wasted several occasions to level and was punished after the interval when Pallois accidentally beat his own goalkeeper as he tried to defend a cross from Corentin Tolisso. **REIMS SINKS MONTPELLIER:** Host Reims moved up to fourth place with a 4-2 win over Montpellier. The Champagne side took the lead in the sixth minute with a header from captain Marshall Munetsi. "We all share the same ambition to win the most

matches, and enjoy ourselves" Munetsi said after his team produced a fourth league win. Keito Nakamura exploited a poor clearance to show his dribbling skills and make it 2-0 with an impressive strike. Oumar Diakité and Teddy Teuma scored Reims' other goals while Arnaud Nordin had a brace for Montpellier. The southern team remained in the relegation zone with the worst defensive record in the league, having already conceded 21 goals. In other matches, Brest followed up its 4-0 midweek win over Salzburg in the Champions League with a 2-0 defeat of Le Havre, and Lens drew 2-2 at Strasbourg.

OUR BATTERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO SCORE 180 RUNS, SKIPPER SHANTO

PTI ■ GWALIOR

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has candidly admitted that his team doesn't know how to consistently post 180 plus totals in a T20 game. Batting has been Bangladesh's weak link for a while, especially their approach in the powerplay. They struggled to 39 for two in six overs on Sunday night before managing a below par 127. India chased that down in just 11.5 overs to go 1-0 up in the series. "We have the ability, but we have room for improvement in our skills. We have been batting in this way for the last 10 years. Sometimes we do well. We have to make some changes, perhaps where we practice back home." Shanto feels that tracks in Bangladesh aren't conducive for big scoring games of T20 and that has affected their collective batting performance. "We play on 140-150 wickets at home. Our batters don't know how to score 180 runs. I won't blame just the wickets, but we have to consider skills and mentality," Shanto said following the crushing loss. The batters' shot selection was also questioned with the likes of Litton Das falling to ordinary shots. "I wouldn't say we played badly. We are a better team than this. We haven't done well in this format for a long time, but I don't believe we are such a bad team," said Shanto. "I don't want to talk about any individual player. I think the batting unit didn't do well today. There will be aggression in the way we approach our scoring, but sometimes we have to select the

deliveries correctly. We will think about it, but we can't rush in changing our approach." Shanto went on to say that their powerplay approach needs to be reviewed with the opening stands having contributed only 69 runs in the last eight innings. "Powerplay is definitely a worry. The approach we talked about (before the game), it will be successful if we make a good start with the bat. "We have to keep the wickets in the first six overs, and score runs in those. Otherwise those coming in next, it becomes too challenging for them. We have struggled in the powerplay. Those batting in the power play must take more responsibility," said the southpaw. Rookier Indian pacer Mayank Yadav made a promising debut on Sunday, generating speeds close to 150kmph in his first competitive game in five months. He hurried the batters but Shanto said they are used to facing such speed in the nets. "We have some similar fast bowlers in the nets. I don't think we were too worried about (Mayank Yadav). But he is a good bowler," he added. Surya gives you freedom, he is a calm captain: Debutants Mayank, Nitish Gwalior, (PTI) Mayank Yadav and Nitish Kumar Reddy were expectedly nervous ahead of their India debut in the first T20 International against Bangladesh here but the newcomers said skipper Suryakumar Yadav helped them stay calm with his comforting words. Mayank, the 22-year-old pace sensation, made his debut here on



Sunday after recovering from a recurring abdominal strain after playing only four matches in this year's IPL. He impressed in the first match returning with figures of 1/21 from his four overs. Nitish, 21, also made instant

impact by remaining unbeaten on 16 off 15 balls, to help India register a commanding seven-wicket win in the series-opener. "He (Suryakumar) gives you freedom. When I was taking the run up, he was telling me 'do what

you feel, what you feel best'. So that's very important for any fast bowler, specially when you making your debut," Mayank told BCCLTV. Nitish added: "He is very calm and cool. He is doing fabulous

captaincy, not giving any pressure to us. We were debutants, obviously we will have nervousness and pressure. He gave that license to us. Any youngster would like to get it from the captain."

Taking about his debut after the long injury layoff, Mayank became emotional. "It's a great moment because I am coming from an injury. I was a bit nervous, like I was telling myself don't stress yourself. "When I got to know I am going to play my first match, making my debut, complete flashback of last four months came in front of my eyes," he said. The speedster started his international career with a maiden over on Sunday and credited bowling coach Morne Morkel for shaping him. "It felt good. I was not like thinking that I am going to bowl a maiden over. Just wanted to live in that moment, enjoy that moment," Mayank said. "It's very comfortable for me, I am with him (Morkel) for the last three years. I know him, he knows me very well. So, it's very easy for me to work with him. He knows which things are better for me." Nitish too was satisfied with his debut performance, saying it was a dream-come-true moment for him. "For any cricketer in India it's a big moment. Playing for Indian cricket team is a dream-come-true moment. Obviously, there was nervousness but I enjoyed that. It was a very proud moment for me and my family as well," he said. "There are senior players and I got a lot of experience as well from the coaching staff. Even in bowling as well getting some keen points. I love this kind of atmosphere in the dressing room." The second T20 of the three-match series will be played in New Delhi on Wednesday.



Jayasuriya appointed full-time head coach of Sri Lanka till 2026 T20 WC

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya was on Monday appointed as full-time head coach of the Sri Lankan cricket team until the end of the 2026 T20 World Cup. The former left-handed opener was Sri Lanka's interim coach since early July, and after he impressed in the role against India and England, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has decided to hand him full-time responsibility. Under Jayasuriya's guidance, Sri Lanka won their first bilateral ODI series against India in 27 years, and then defeated England in an away Test for the first time in 10 years. Most recently, Sri Lanka

defeated New Zealand 2-0 in a Test series at home. "The Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket made this decision taking into consideration the team's good performances in the recent tours against India, England, and New Zealand, where Jayasuriya was in charge as the interim head coach," SLC said in a statement. "The appointment came into effect on October 1, 2024, and will remain until March 31, 2026." Jayasuriya had been a chief selector in the past and his first assignment as full-time head coach will be the limited overs series against West Indies, starting in Dambulla on October 13.

I have completely shifted to overspin from sidespin: Varun Chakaravathy

PTI ■ GWALIOR

Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy says he is reaping the rewards of putting over-spin on the ball instead of side-spin following his successful India comeback. The 33-year-old, whose India career came to an abrupt halt after an underwhelming debut in the 2021 T20 World Cup, took three wickets against Bangladesh in the series opener. As the great Nathan Lyon has shown over the years, putting over-spin on the ball generates sharp bounce and turn, which aided Varun on Sunday night. His googly to get rid of Jaker Ali showed the former architect's total control over his craft.

"I used to be a side-spin bowler, but right now, I have completely shifted to being an over-spin bowler," said Varun after playing a part in India's seven-wicket win. "It's a minute technical aspect of spin bowling, but it took me more than two years. I gradually tested it in TNPL and IPL. While the mental aspect also had to be worked on, the major chunk of effort I put in was on my technical side." Despite doing well in the IPL and domestic cricket over the past two seasons, Varun did not get a recall to the Indian team and that only made him hungrier. Now that he is back in blues, it feels like a rebirth. "Whenever there was a squad that was announced, I used to



feel like, 'Why is my name not there?' and I used to keep thinking about that. So that kind of brought the motivation within me that I should not leave this.

"I should go all out and make a comeback, so I started playing a lot of domestic games and giving importance to it. That kind of helped me," said the soft-spoken

cricketer. A catch was dropped in Varun's first over that eventually went for 15 runs with Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hasan Shanto and Towhid Hridoy going on the offensive against spinner in the powerplay. However, skipper Suryakumar Yadav trusted Varun to bounce back in the following over and he did that by having Hridoy caught at long-on. "Yes, in the first over the catch could have gone my way but that's how T20s are played. I felt the reverse-sweep six was a good ball but it still went for a six, so it's all mixed emotions." He played the series opener of leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi who

too has had done well fairly well in the limited opportunities that he has got after the T20 World Cup, reflecting India's robust bench strength. Varun acknowledged the fierce competition. "There is good competition and there is good camaraderie also. And the person who was cheering me was Ravi Bishnoi; he was coming and telling me messages, so I can't ask for more. "It's actually good to have such competition so that people will keep pushing each other. Someone will be better than others at one point of time and he will definitely get the Cup for India, so that competition is very required," Varun added.

Gulveer Singh finds place in eight member senior squad for Asian Cross Country in Hong Kong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian Games medallist long distance runner Gulveer Singh was on Monday named in the eight-member Indian senior team that will take part in the Asian Cross Country championships to be held on October 20 in Hong Kong. The 26-year-old Army man had won a bronze medal in the men's 10,000m race in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. Singh had an excellent run on the track this season. In September, he improved his national 5,000m record to 13:11.82 seconds during a World Athletics Continental Tour event in Japan. Athletics Federation of India (AFI) selection committee has also named the national senior and junior teams for the South Asian Cross Country Championships to be held on November



24 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The national team that will compete at the Asian Cross Country will also get the

opportunity to compete at the South Asian Cross Country in Pakistan in November. "The participation of the athletes at the South Asian Cross-Country Championship in Pakistan will be subject to fitness," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. "Any athlete who is unfit will be dropped from the national squad," he added. **TEAM FOR ASIAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS:** **Senior Men:** Gulveer Singh, Karthik Kumar, Abhishek Pal, Arun Rathod. **Senior Women:** Ankita, Seema, Sanjivani Jadhav, Sonika. **Junior Men:** Amardeep Pal, Kripashankar Yadav, Vinod Singh, Gaurav Bhaskar Bhosale. **Junior Women:** Ekta Dey, Sunita Devi, Shilpa Dhiora, Prachi Ankush Devkar.



PCB chief 'confident' that Champions Trophy would be held in Pakistan

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday expressed confidence that the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy would be held in the country and all teams, including arch-rivals India, would participate in the tournament. The 2025 edition of the Champions Trophy is scheduled to start on February 19, and the final is on March 9. Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi have been earmarked as the venues. India hasn't sent its team to Pakistan since July 2008 due to tense political relations between the two countries. "The Indian team should come. I don't see them cancel or postpone coming here and we are confident we will host all the teams in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan," Naqvi said. He also said that Pakistan was prepared to host all the teams including India and preparations were on schedule.

"The stadiums will also be ready to host the matches on schedule and any remaining work would be completed after the tournament," he added. Naqvi said the stadiums would "definitely" be in a much better shape to host the tournament in February-March. Asked about Babar Azam's resignation from captaincy and who is going to replace him, the PCB chief said he had told the selection committee to take their time and make a long-term decision. "I have told them to take a decision after careful consideration because the captain's position is important." Naqvi also said he had inquired from the selection committee including the captain and head coach of the teams whether it was the right time to introduce some fresh blood in the national sides. "They said they are okay with the current set-up of players so I told them 'fine, it is your call'" he added.

India win team gold in men's 50m pistol event

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The troika of Deepak Dalal (545), Kamaljeet (543) and Raj Chandra (528) won the men's 50m pistol team gold medal on the concluding day of the Junior World Shooting Championship at the Peruvian capital of Lima. Indian shooting team won the yellow metal with a combined tally of 1616 points beating Azerbaijan by a point. Armenia came third. In all, India's junior shooters finished the championship on top with a rich haul of 24 medals which included 13 gold, three silver and eight bronze. Italy finished second with five gold and four silver and bronze medals each while Norway was third with four gold and a total of 10 medals. On Sunday, Mukesh Nelavalli also won an individual bronze in the event, his sixth medal of the competition, shooting a total of 548 over 60-shots. Azerbaijan's Imran Garayev won the gold with a score of 552. In the junior women's 50m



pistol, Parisha Gupta won an individual silver with a score of 540. She could not get past Hungary's Miriam Jako's effort of 546, which was a junior world record. Sejal Kamble (529), Ketan (525) and Kanishka Dagar (513) also combined to win India a team silver in the event, finishing behind Azerbaijan. Divanshi, the fifth Indian in fray, shot 523 to finish eighth. In the other event of the final day, Shardul Vihan and Sabeera Harris combined to give India a bronze in the junior mixed team trap competition, played over 75 targets each. Shardul (71) and Sabeera's (67) shot a total of 138, which was not enough to get past gold winners Czech Republic (141+8) and silver medallist Italy (141+7). Zuhair Khan and Bhavya Tripathi, the second Indian pair in the event, shot a total of 134 to finish joint sixth. The ISSF bandwagon will now move to New Delhi for the final stop of its 2024 calendar, the prestigious season-ending ISSF World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun.