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INSIDE

SPORTS

THAT DAY BELONGED TO NADEEM: NEERAJ ON PARIS OLYMPICS JAVELIN FINAL



KASHMIR UNDER ATTACK



FILE PHOTO/PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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



Hoax threats to airlines continue on Sunday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

Bomb blast shatters Delhi's Sunday slumber

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

Wayanad hills are alive, with the sound of politics



FILE PHOTO

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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



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

PM Modi gives Diwali gifts to Varanasi, brickbats to Opposition

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

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

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

BJP releases 99-strong Maharashtra list

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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



Devendra Fadnis and Chandrashekhar Bawankule

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

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



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

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

BY SAUMYA SHUKLA

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



GUEST COLUMN

From innocence to wisdom: The nine stages of womanhood



Manisha Dhama

Sharadiya Navratri may have concluded a few days ago but its deeper significance is timeless. The journey of a woman's life can be beautifully mirrored in the nine forms of Goddess Durga, collectively known as Navdurga. Each of these divine forms represents a unique stage of growth, strength and wisdom, closely aligned with the different phases of a woman's life. As stated in Indian philosophy, "Yatra naaryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devata," meaning, "Where women are honored, there the gods are pleased." This highlights the sacredness and respect that should accompany a woman's journey. From the first breath of infancy to the wisdom of old age, the Navdurga reflects how a woman evolves. We witness not only her physical development but also the emotional, social and cognitive growth that define her experiences, challenges and triumphs.

The journey begins with Shailaputri, the daughter of the mountains, representing the purity and potential of infancy. Just as Shailaputri stands tall and unshaken by the world around her, an infant girl embodies innocence and trust, nestled in the arms of her parents as she takes on the role of a daughter. This is where life begins—where the seeds of attachment, security and exploration are planted, laying a strong foundation for the future. As the infant grows into a child, she enters the phase of Brahmacharini, the goddess of learning and devotion. Childhood is a time of curiosity, where the mind opens like a blossoming flower, eager to absorb the world's knowledge. Like Brahmacharini, who walks the path of devotion and learning without weapons, young girls immerse themselves in education and friendships, gradually forming their first ideas about the world. This is the stage of wonder and exploration, where a child builds her sense of self through inter-

actions with family and friends.

As the poet Rumi once said, "The wound is the place where the Light enters you," signifying that the struggles of adolescence can lead to profound personal growth. With adolescence comes the challenges of self-discovery, marked by the energy of Chandraghanta, the

must be the change you wish to see in the world," remind young women to take charge of their destinies. Like Kushmanda, who created the universe from her cosmic egg, women in this phase nurture their personal goals, relationships and responsibilities. It is a time of immense growth, as they build homes, careers, or families, contributing not only

family and societal expectations. Like Katyayani, who defeated the demon Mahishasura, women face internal and external battles, overcoming self-doubt and societal norms. Middle adulthood is often marked by the challenges of caring for aging parents, dealing with the "empty nest" as children leave home, and adjusting to new

and purposes.

After the trials and transitions, a woman gracefully steps into the final stages of life, embodying the purity and peace of Mahagauri. With a lifetime of experiences behind her, she radiates wisdom and serenity, having embraced all the lessons learned along the way. In this phase, she becomes a beacon of hope for younger generations, guiding them with her insights and nurturing their growth. Her presence inspires those around her to seek inner peace and understanding, making her a true embodiment of maternal grace.

As this journey unfolds, she ultimately embraces her role as Siddhidatri, the goddess of fulfillment and accomplishment. This stage transcends mere existence; it is about legacy and the powerful impact she leaves behind. Like Siddhidatri, who grants wisdom and clarity to her devotees, an elder woman becomes a matriarch, sharing her wealth of knowledge, experiences, and love with those who follow. Through her life's work, she fosters resilience and hope in the hearts of future generations, ensuring her legacy thrives in their endeavors.

In the grand journey of life, every phase offers its own beauty and lessons. It is essential to embrace each stage with grace and joy. While the future may seem uncertain, it is important not to endure today's hardships merely in anticipation of tomorrow's peace. Each stage deserves to be lived fully, as time is ever-changing and never constant. The moments that pass cannot be recreated, and each experience is unique. This is the profound connection between time and growth—especially in the life of a woman. As she evolves, society evolves with her. The roles she plays are not just part of her personal journey but also a reflection of the greater world. Life is not about rushing through challenges but about savoring every phase, knowing that each fleeting moment contributes to the powerful, resilient woman she becomes.

(The author is an assistant professor, department of human development and family studies in MS University of Baroda. Views expressed are personal)



goddess who symbolises courage and inner strength. The teenage years are full of emotional turbulence, identity formation, and a quest for independence. Like Chandraghanta, who balances inner turmoil with external strength, young women must navigate both their own emotional worlds and the societal pressures they face. Adolescence is a time of heightened emotions and uncertainty, where the heart and mind wrestle with clarity and confusion. As adolescence blossoms into early adulthood, women begin to channel the creative energy of Kushmanda, the goddess of creation. This phase is filled with opportunities—education, career choices, relationships, and, for many, the creation of families. MK Gandhi's words, "You

to their own futures but also to their communities.

In adulthood, a woman transitions into the nurturing role of Skandamata, the mother goddess. This phase is marked by motherhood and caregiving, where women shape the future by raising their children and guiding them with love and wisdom. Like Skandamata cradling her child, women in this stage not only nurture others but also deepen their understanding of themselves, navigating the emotional, social and mental demands that caregiving brings. As women enter middle adulthood, they embody the fierce energy of Katyayani, the warrior goddess, symbolising strength and resilience. This phase often requires balancing multiple roles—career,

roles. This phase demands both courage and determination, as women continue to redefine their sense of purpose and balance. Eventually, a woman enters the transformative stage of Kaalratri, a phase of reflection and transition. As Lord Krishna states in the Gita, "Change is the law of the universe," urging acceptance of life's transformations. Kaalratri, the fierce form of the goddess, represents the shedding of old ways, making room for renewal and wisdom. For women, this stage often coincides with menopause, a significant life change that brings new perspectives and opportunities. Just as Kaalratri clears the path for something new, women in this phase embrace change, letting go of previous roles to explore new passions

Ambani pays obeisance at Badrinath & Kedarnath

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

Reliance Industries Limited chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani paid obeisance to the lord in Badrinath and Kedarnath temples on Sunday. Ambani first reached Badrinath before reaching Kedarnath. The industrialist reached Badrinath at 9AM. He offered prayers to lord Badrinath before paying obeisance at the Mata Lakshmi temple within the Badrinath temple complex. Ambani presented a cheque



for Rs 5.02 crore as donation for the Badrinath and Kedarnath temples to the temple committee members. Later, he also got photographs clicked with the temple committee officials and his admirers at the Sinh Dwar of the temple. The Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee vice chairman Kishor Panwar, chief executive officer Vijay Prasad Thapliyal and others were also present on the occasion.

Transparent mining policy bringing record revenue, mafia thrived under Congress, alleges BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has claimed that better management and transparency have resulted in record revenues

but the State government under chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama made special arrangements to ensure

transparency in the process. For the first time, the State government has imposed a Rs 70 per tonne tax on minerals brought from outside the State. Targetting the opposition, he said that these figures should make the Congress introspect on why it is in its present position.



from mining in the State. This clearly shows that a large portion of the revenue went into the pockets of the mafia during the term of the Congress government in the past, the party said.

The BJP State media in-charge Manveer Singh Chauhan said that the better mining policy of the State government is proving beneficial for the economy. Due to simplification of the mining rules, Rs 500 crore revenue has been earned so far in the financial year 2024-25, which is expected to increase to Rs 1,200 crore by March next year.

This amount is four times higher than the revenue earned during the term of the Congress government, he said. "In the past, the mining policy was drafted based on the approval of the mining

exploitation of resources on a scientific basis and prevention of theft.

The revenue from mining under the Congress government never crossed Rs 300 crore. The State government is setting up 45 e-mine check gates at 40 locations in the inter-State border area to effectively prevent illegal mining. Surveillance systems comprising NPR cameras, GPS and RFID reading facilities will be provided at these check gates. Automatic e-challan will be done in case the valid documents are not available," he said.

Chauhan further said that the State government has made a provision for e-auction for the allocation of mining lease to ensure

Restaurant owner caught running fake currency and job scam in Doon

PNS ■ RAMNAGAR

The Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) arrested a man with counterfeit notes amounting to Rs 80,000 from the Patelnagar area in Dehradun on the weekend amid heightened vigilance during the festive season. The accused Parmit Kumar was found operating a counterfeit currency

racket under the guise of running a restaurant and was also running a fake job placement cell centre, the Special Task Force senior superintendent of police Navneet Singh said. He stated that the STF had received multiple reports about individuals printing fake currency in Dehradun,

with the potential for increased circulation during the festive season. Considering this, the STF launched an investigation and identified Parmit Kumar, who lived in Mulchand Enclave near ISBT. The authorities monitored his activities closely and discovered that he ran a restaurant on Canal Road, where he discreetly exchanged fake notes while conducting business, Singh said. He informed that the STF intercepted Kumar's car in the wee hours of Saturday and arrested him. A search of his vehicle revealed two bundles of counterfeit Rs 500 notes, amounting to Rs 80,000. Further investigation led to the discovery of equipment used to make the fake currency, including a laptop, printer and unfinished notes amounting to Rs 14,000. The SSP claimed that the accused admitted during interrogation that he used the restaurant, named Annapurna, to pass off counterfeit notes by exchanging them with customers and making purchases in the market. He allegedly con-

fessed to producing the fake currency at his rented flat using a printer and laptop, aiming to recover losses incurred by the restaurant and exploit the festive season demand. He also revealed that he operated a fraudulent call centre named Multi Task Jobs from his flat. He reportedly targeted job seekers by obtaining contact numbers from various websites, luring them with promises of employment and then scamming them for amounts between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000, Singh said. He stated that the STF has launched a thorough investigation to determine the extent of the counterfeit currency's circulation and identify other victims of the fraudulent job scheme.

Kumar has a history of criminal activities, with a previous case registered against him in 2022 for operating a fake call centre in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The investigation is ongoing to uncover further details about his illegal operations in Uttarakhand, the SSP added.



Lack of acceptance and stigma may have led men to suicide in female attire

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various factors such as lack of acceptance, personal issues, societal stigma and other influences may have led individuals to take their own lives while dressed in female attire, the experts said. This observation comes in light of two recent incidents in the State. The first incident involved a Pantnagar airport official who was discovered deceased in a room dressed in a Sari while also donning Sindoor, bangles and other items in June. Similarly, a worker at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie was found hanging from a noose in the official quarter wearing women's attire on Thursday. Experts suggested that in order to prevent such tragedies, it is the responsibility of both society and parents to empathetically understand any unconventional feelings their children may have regarding their gender identity, rather than resorting to blame or criticism.

Clinical neuropsychologist Dr Sonu Kaushal Gupta expressed concern over recent incidents of suicide where the individuals were found wearing women's at-

tire. She emphasised that those individuals likely suffered from a mental disorder, often feeling a mismatch between their inner sense of gender and their physical sex. The lack of acceptance and understanding from society, along with the stigma attached to gender identity issues can lead to depression and ultimately, suicide. She further explained that societal stigma, bullying and frustration place a heavy burden on individuals struggling with their gender identity, ultimately exacerbating their mental health issues. Therefore, some individuals may choose to dress in women's clothing before taking their own lives as a way to challenge societal norms and convey the pain and isolation they had experienced. She stated that in order to prevent this, society must eliminate their stigma and refrain from blaming, harassing and body shaming individuals who experience unconventional feelings about their gender. Additionally, parents should understand that simply counselling is not enough for such individuals. Instead of pressuring them, parents should provide emotional support and be aware of hor-

monal changes without blaming their children, she said.

Clinical psychologist Pratibha Sharma noted that issues surrounding LGBTQ+, personality and lack of acceptance have caused many individuals to struggle with gender identity, leading some to consider suicide particularly while dressed in female attire. The lack of acceptance from both the individual and society results in psychological issues, anxiety and depression, which may ultimately culminate in suicide in extreme cases. In addition to this, individuals experiencing such behaviour and contemplating suicide while dressed as a female are simply attempting to demonstrate to society their future acceptance and their satisfaction regarding fulfillment. To prevent this, society must increase awareness and offer support instead of harassment, accepting these individuals into the community. Parents should ensure that they and their children receive counselling on sexual matters rather than placing blame.

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The general public is informed that I have changed my name from LOVEY AGARWAL to LOVEY MITTAL and in future I should be known as LOVEY MITTAL W/o Kapil Kumar Address: Flat No.- 01, Block P3A, Deep Ganga Apartments, SIDCUL, Sec-5A, Shivalik Nagar, Haridwar, Uttarakhand

The General public is informed that I have changed my old name from Mitaali Bist to new name Mitaali Rawat. In future I should be known as Mitaali Rawat W/o Sunil Rawat, Address: H. No. 83/1, Rupa Villa, Lane No. 2, Society Area Post Office Clement Town, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Jasbir Kaur Rawat to Sonia Anand Rawat. In future I should be known as Sonia Anand Rawat, Address: 11-C, Engineers Enclave, Jakhn Rajpur Road, Dehradun.

The original sale deed, Mauja Lakhmal, dated 26 102004, Sub Registrar Office, Chakrata, Ledger No. 1, page 1 to 8, Document No. 157, has been lost somewhere. The said original sale deed is not mortgaged in any government or non-government bank or institution. Santram Sharma, S/O Sabla, resident of Gram Panchayat Kandoi, Baundur, Chakrata, Dehradun.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Sale Deed dated 25.04.1990 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Dehradun in its Book No. 1 Vol. 2964 on page 81 A.D.F. Book No. 1 Vol. 3763 on pages 337/350 at Sl. No. 5555 on 01.05.1990 executed by Mr. Sunder Lal S/o Mr. Mangtu R/o Vill. Kalyanpur (Vikasnagar), Pargana Western Doon, Distt. Dehradun in favour of Mrs. Dayal Kaur W/o Mr. Jyoti Prasad R/o Vill. Kaichiwala, Pargana Western Doon, Distt. Dehradun.- MISSING, Original Sale Deed dated 31.12.2000 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Vikasnagar, Distt. Dehradun in its Book No. 1 Vol. 1 on page 318 A.D.F. Book No. 1 Vol. 131 on page 949/964 at Sl. No. 1 on 01.01.2001 executed by Mrs. Dayal Kaur W/o Mr. Jyoti Prasad R/o Vill. Dotorganj, Tehsil Vikasn RRagar, Distt. Dehradun in favour of Mr. Ram Lal Sharma S/o Mr. Jogiya R/o Vill. Sainj (Taranu), P.O. Athal, Chakrata, Distt. Dehradun. Missing. Manish Kumar Dutta S/O Late Harbhajan Singh Dutta, resident of Vidyapeeth Marg, Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand Advocate Navin Gupta contact number-9837052326

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U'khand among top six States as BJP achieves record membership with over 20 lakh enrollments



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has surpassed its membership target in Uttarakhand by enrolling 20,17,397 members under its primary membership campaign Sangathan Parv. This has placed the State among the top six States in the country, the BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt stated this while addressing the media at the party headquarters in Dehradun on Sunday. He said that the party made this record achievement in the first phase from September 2 to 25 and the ongoing second phase from October 16 to 31. He said that the State had exceeded the central goal of 20 lakh members, with the tally reaching over 20 lakh.

He informed that the membership drive spanned all demographics, from villages to urban centres, encompassing homemakers, working women, labourers, business owners, farmers, soldiers, the poor and the affluent alike. Districts including Uttarkashi, Almora, Pauri, Dehradun, Haridwar, Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Tehri, successfully achieved their membership goals. Besides this, 10 Assembly constituencies surpassed the number of members enlisted compared to votes received during the last Lok Sabha elections.

These constituencies include Almora, Tehri, Dehradun Cantt, Purula, Srinagar, Yamunotri, Gangotri, Haldwani, Haridwar and Didihat.

Furthermore, 23 Assembly constituencies achieved 100 per cent of their membership targets, while 44 others reached between 50 per cent to 100 per cent, with the remaining reaching 47 per cent of the target. Bhatt informed that the top contributors to the membership drive included Khatib Ahmed from the minority community, vice president Deshraj Karnwal from the scheduled caste (SC) category and Munesh Kumar from the other backward classes (OBCs).

He further stated that former BJP State president Madan Kaushik led the State in individual enrollments, adding 16,152 members. Besides this, 11 individuals enlisted over 10,000 members each and 100 individuals

recruited between 5,000 and 10,000 members. Bhatt expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, noting that 74 per cent of the voters who supported BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election have now joined as party members. The new members consist of 75 per cent men, 24.85 per cent women, and 0.15 per cent from other categories. In terms of social composition, 63.8 per cent belong to the general category, 24.5 per cent to OBCs, 8.7 per cent to SCs, and three per cent to minority communities.

The majority of members are young, with 58 per cent under the youth category, 39 per cent middle-aged and three per cent senior citizens, he added.

Post-monsoon showers likely in five districts today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even as some parts of the State witnessed trace to very light rain on Sunday, light rain and thunderstorms are likely in some parts of the State on Monday. The post-monsoon showers are forecast in five mountain districts of the State. With light snowfall having been reported in some of the higher reaches of the State recently, the rain may bring the mercury level down though many places in the State continued to witness above normal temperatures on Sunday too.

According to the State meteorological centre, very light to light rain/thunderstorms are likely to occur at isolated places in Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts today. Apart from this, dry weather is likely to prevail in the remaining districts of the State.

temperatures are likely to be about 30 degrees Celsius and 17 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various places on Sunday were 30.8 degrees Celsius and 16.7 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 33 degrees Celsius and 19.6 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 22.5 degrees Celsius and 8.5 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 22.1 degrees Celsius and 11.1 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum and minimum temperatures were two and one degrees above normal respectively in Dehradun while the maximum was two degrees and minimum was four degrees above normal in Pantnagar. Similarly, the maximum temperature was three degrees above normal in



The meteorological centre has further forecast that mist is likely to occur during the morning hours in the provincial State capital while mainly clear to partly cloudy sky is expected during the day. The maximum and minimum tem-

Mukteshwar though the minimum was normal. The maximum was a degree below normal while the maximum was a degree above normal in New Tehri. Meanwhile, there was two millimetres of rain in Sama and 0.5 millimetre each in Jakholi and Song on Sunday.

Village development officer arrested for attempting to murder wife in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police arrested a village development officer Vinod Giri Goswami from Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district on Sunday for allegedly attempting to murder his wife by strangulation at Saket Colony in Dehradun, following a prolonged family dispute.

before fleeing the scene. The victim's seven-year-old son reportedly witnessed the incident and screamed, alerting neighbours who rushed to the spot. The neighbours took the injured woman to Government Doon Hospital for



The Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said that the case came to light after Rajendra Nath, the victim's brother, lodged a complaint at Nehru Colony police station. Nath reported that his sister and his brother-in-law Goswami have been living separately for the past few months due to a domestic dispute. He claimed that Goswami arrived at his wife's residence in Saket Colony with the intent to kill her on Saturday. During the assault, he tried to strangle his wife, believing he had killed her,

treatment. Singh said that based on the complaint, the police registered a case and initiated an investigation. Considering the gravity of the incident, a special team was also formed to apprehend the accused. The police received a tip-off about Goswami's plan to return to Saket Colony to retrieve his vehicle. Acting swiftly, the special team arrested him from the location on Sunday. The investigation is ongoing and further proceedings will be done accordingly, the police said.

Dehradun DM sets December deadline for upgrading all government schools under Utkarsh Programme

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal has set a December deadline for the Education department to upgrade all government schools in the district with modern amenities, including

dream project Utkarsh Programme that aims to transform the educational environment and ensure holistic development for students across Dehradun, especially in remote areas. In a meeting held at the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun on Sunday, the chief education officer Pradeep Kumar Rawat addressed principals from the government schools of primary, upper primary, high schools and intermediate colleges, after the DM's order. He emphasised the crucial role of school leaders in bringing the programme to life, highlighting that effective communication between different educational levels is key to improving education quality. Rawat said

that with the right infrastructure and highly qualified teachers in government schools can help transform these institutions into centers of excellence. The Utkarsh Programme's comprehensive approach will equip every classroom with whiteboards, LED lighting, secured water tanks and sports equipment for both indoor and outdoor activities, aiming to create a conducive learning environment. He also urged teachers to look beyond academics and address social issues like substance abuse, especially among students in urban areas, by engaging them in constructive activities. This programme represents a significant effort to uplift the district's educational standards, ensuring that every child has access to quality education and facilities, he added.

MCD light section staff barred from going on leave till Deepawali

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Maintaining focus on ensuring the proper functioning of all streetlights in Dehradun city, district magistrate and Municipal Corporation of Dehradun administrator Savin Bansal has cancelled the leave of officials connected to the corporation's light section till Deepawali. According to officials, the authorities have so far repaired 6,000 streetlights. Work on repairing or replacing faulty streetlights is underway on a war footing in the area under the purview of the MCD with the teams replacing more than 500 lights daily on an average. Members of 35 teams have been visiting the municipal wards daily since October 9 to repair or replace the streetlights with the work being monitored on a daily basis. According to information received, till late on Sunday night, the MCD

teams had repaired 646 streetlights in various wards. To ensure that the work is done efficiently in time for the festival of Deepawali, Bansal has directed that the officials and personnel linked to the light works in the MCD will not go on leave till Deepawali. Further, the 570 lights sent by EESL company to the Meeruth repair centre have been received after being repaired. The company has handed over 208 repaired streetlights to the MCD while the corporation has given 334 units to the company for repairs. The MCD currently has more than 1,500 streetlights available. In addition to this, 11 teams were sent to former councillors and other public representatives while the other teams are working on complaints received through the CM helpline and other sources.

CM tells power corporations to work for making U'khand 'Energy State'

PTCUL presents Rs 11 crore dividend to State government

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that power corporations will have to work in coordination with full activeness in order to make Uttarakhand an 'Energy State'. Dhami said this after officials of the Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (PTCUL) presented a cheque for Rs 11 crore as dividend to the State government at his camp office on Sunday. The corporation's managing director PC Dhyani presented the cheque to the CM.

demand in the State. Works are being undertaken at a swift pace towards making Uttarakhand self-reliant in the energy sector, he said.

Rs five crore dividend to the State government each year during the past three years. The MD further informed that PTCUL's transmission



Addressing the officials on the occasion, Dhami said that making Uttarakhand an energy State was one of the major aims behind the foundation of Uttarakhand as a separate State. The State government is working consistently in the spheres of energy and renewable energy. The government is aiming to reach a point in the next five years wherein the energy production is according to the

The CM also directed PTCUL officials to expedite the work on the five new substations for which the corporation had laid the foundation stones in September this year.

Dhyani said that under the CM's guidance, PTCUL had earned a profit of Rs 141.67 crore in financial year 2023-24 compared to Rs 26.99 crore profit in 2022-23. The corporation had given

availability is presently 99.70 per cent which is higher than the national standard of 98 per cent. Due to this, one-third of the incentive amount received by the corporation is being given directly as rebate in electricity tariff, benefitting the consumers.

Additional secretary Manmohan Mainali, PTCUL director GS Badiyal and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Lalkuan railway station being enhanced and modernised under Amrit Bharat Station scheme

OP AGNIHOTRI ■ LALKUAN

The Railway has completed preparations for the launch of the new weekly train between Lalkuan and Banda to be flagged off virtually on Monday by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar MP Ajay Bhatt and Lalkuan MLA Mohan Singh Bisht will flag off the train physically at the railway station. The start of the new train is one of the various developments being facilitated in the Lalkuan junction railway station.



According to officials, this railway station has been connected to the Amrit Bharat Station scheme aimed at enhancing the modernising railway stations across the nation. Upgradation and expansion of modern facilities is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 29.78 crore in the Lalkuan railway station. About 39 trains pass daily through the five platforms at Lalkuan junction. As part of the enhancement measures, a low wall and fence

enhancement of the entry and exit gates. improvement and the station's façade has been completed. Drainage work in the circulating area of the station has also been completed while more stainless steel benches have been placed in the booking hall in addition to installation of false ceiling in the booking

hall and waiting room. In addition to these works, the façade lighting is being improved with LED street light poles and LED signage. A mini-mast light will also be installed to provide floodlights for enhancing illumination of the station compound. Apart from this, solar power panels will be set up on the roof of the railway station building.

Other improvements planned here include installation of a five-line train display board at the entry gate, 43-inch LED television in the waiting rooms, 65-inch LED digital signage board for train display board and PRS/UTS hall, single-line train display boards for all the five platforms, coach display guidance system and GPS clocks. CCTV cameras will also be installed at the entry and exit gates, the officials added. The completion of these works is expected to modernise the Lalkuan railway station and enhance the convenience of passengers along with safety measures.



A woman looks at the moon through a sieve as part of Karwa Chauth rituals in Nainital on Sunday Pioneer photo

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

Lucknow Police busts fake call centre, arrests 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

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



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

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

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

NCC launches inaugural sailing expedition on Indian rivers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

Cyclonic storm expected in Bay of Bengal by October 23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

TMC announces candidates for Bengal Assembly By-elections

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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



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

Indian Navy, Oman conduct successful naval exercise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

Court to resume witness statements in WFI chief case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DELHI



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

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

Two arrested for duping investors in Gurugram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GURUGRAM

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

BJP leader K Laxman accuses Telangana Government of ending reservation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

India seeks global expertise to modernise urban land records

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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



FIRST COLUMN

THE ART OF SAYING NO

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



SAKSHI SETHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Indian immigrants to Canada bear brunt of diplomatic row



K S TOMAR

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Family Reunification: Indian citizens who have family members in Canada and are in the process of family reunification (sponsorship programmes) could face delays in their applications due to the diplomatic standoff.

Trade and Bilateral Agreements: Professional Mobility: If diplomatic tensions continue, professional exchanges, joint ventures, and corporate partnerships involving Indian and Canadian companies might slow down. This could reduce job opportunities for Indian professionals working for Canadian companies in sectors like IT, telecommuni-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Writer is a strategic columnist; views are personal)

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

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

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

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



S P KOCHHAR

period, India exported mobile phones worth Rs 1.28 lakh crores and with 300 million units produced, it has emerged as the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world. On the telecom equipment front, India has become almost self-reliant in antennae, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and Customer Premises Equipment (CPE). As a result, India's status has turned from importing telecom equipment worth Rs 74,116.21 crore in FY 13-14 to exporting equipment worth over Rs 1.49 lakh crore in FY 23-24. Though we are still importing certain products, the gap between imports and exports has gone down significantly. Apart from fostering self-

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

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

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

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

al hub of technology development and telecom equipment manufacturing. The Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the Government's ambitions to set up telecommunication equipment manufacturing zones as the country expects more inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi too emphasised the need for "Design in India, Design for the World", calling for indigenous design capabilities and urging the citizens to create products that cater to both domestic and international markets.

The Government has further established several task forces to ensure the smooth functioning of the telecom ecosystem. These include initiatives for



creating a component ecosystem, developing telecom chips from design to production, training skilled workers and designers, aggregating the demand for manufacturing from different departments and allocating them to eligible manufacturers, and optimising the use of test beds for product testing and certification. Following the Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in telecom, the sector has attracted USD 39 billion in FDI for manufacturing, further boosting the momentum and solidifying India's role as a global telecom manufacturing hub. Thanks to these concerted efforts, India has been able to bring down the trade deficit in telecom from Rs 68,000 crores to Rs 4,000 crores, over the last

five years. Focus on design and creation of IP is crucial to fulfilling India's ambitions as a product nation as design elements add substantial value to products. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, DoT has sanctioned 17 companies under design-led manufacturing within the PLI scheme. Further, global telecom equipment manufacturers like Cisco and Nokia have set up their manufacturing units in India, fostering world-class manufacturing prowess. These efforts, among others, emerge as a testament to the country's indigenous engineering and entrepreneurial capabilities, as well as manufacturing prowess.

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

CNG price may go up on input supply cut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

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

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

per mmbtu.

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

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

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

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

The plant was originally allocated 4.12 million

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The revised domestic gas allocation to IGL is about 21 per cent less than previous allocation, "which will have an adverse impact on profitability of the company", it said, adding that it is in discussions with key stakeholders to minimise the impact. Separately, MGL said as per Policy Guideline dated August 10, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, domestically produced Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) natural gas is to be allocated to city gas distribution (CGD) companies for priority segments, specifically domestic piped natural gas and CNG (transport).

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

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

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

research into marketable products.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mansukh Mandaviya to launch eShram-One Stop Solution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

eShram-One Stop Solution

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

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

"This target seems ambitious,

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

In 2023-24, India imported USD 7 billion worth of solar equipment, with China supplying 62.6 per cent. China controls 97 per cent of global polysilicon production and 80 per cent of solar module manufacturing, making it difficult for India or any country to compete due to lower prices from China.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is also an urgent need to focus on building local production capacity for aluminum frames, glass, and other critical materials used in solar panel manufacturing. It asked to expand the scope of initiatives like the PLI scheme to cover early-stage solar manufacturing and provide targeted subsidies to attract private investment; and create a skilled workforce capable of managing large-scale solar installations and manufacturing processes.

"India should partner with the US, the EU, and Japan to establish large-scale solar manufacturing facilities, fostering an independent and resilient solar industry," Srivastava said, adding that the country's current import duties on solar modules and cells should be reassessed to ensure they promote local manufacturing without raising costs for consumers.

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

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

Producing solar panels involves six stages, from mining silica sand to assembling the final panel. Most countries import fully assembled solar modules, preferring this route over building domestic capacity. Due to this dependence, it said the US, the EU, India, and Japan can consider establishing global-scale solar cell manufacturing facilities, starting from scratch.

Automobile exports from India rise 14 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

Various African nations and

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

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

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

47,61,299 units in FY23. Total passenger vehicle shipments rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 3,76,679 units in the first half of the current fiscal year as against 3,36,754 units in the September quarter of FY24.

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

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

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

Scooter shipments increased 19 per cent to 3,14,533 units while motorcycle exports rose 16 per cent to 1,64,184 units during the period under review.

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

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

Mcap of most valued firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four of the top-10 most-valued firms together added Rs 81,151.31 crore in market valuation last week, with ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 156.61 points, or 0.19 per cent.

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

ICICI Bank added Rs 28,495.14 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 8,90,191.38 crore. The valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 23,579.11 crore to Rs 12,82,848.30 crore. State Bank of India's market

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INBRIEF

KHALSA COLLEGE & SHAHZADA NAND COLLEGE WON CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

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

BHAIRABI - SAIRANG RAILWAY PROJECT PROGRESSING TOWARDS COMPLETION

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

FINANZA 2024 CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD INVESTOR WEEK

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



THE REVELATIONS OF

'THE LIVING PLANET' REPORT 2024'

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

World Wide Fund's 15th biennial edition of the 'The Living Planet Report 2024' (LPR) reveals that there has been a catastrophic 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish) populations over just 50 years (1970-2020). The Living Planet Report (LPR) is a study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. There has been a strong decline seen, with the highest in the freshwater populations (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) populations. Declines in wildlife populations can act as an early warning indicator of increasing extinction risk and the potential loss of healthy ecosystems. When ecosystems are damaged, they can become more vulnerable to tipping points - being pushed beyond a critical threshold resulting in substantial and potentially irreversible change. There have been



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

India i.e. the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) between 1992 and 2002. The research tells that despite a decline in many wildlife populations in India, some populations have stabilised and shown recovery, largely due to proactive government initiatives, effective habitat management, and robust scientific monitoring, combined with community engagement and public support. It found that India is home to the largest population of wild tigers globally and the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018. On being asked if with such circumstances, we still have a chance of conserving the endangered wildlife species, the LPR panel said that it depends a lot on the species and the status of the species. They have seen it with some species like with the rhinos, tigers and if the action comes on the right time, at the right scale, and if the species itself is a species which can biologically recover, then we will see that change. The efforts need to be increased, and also some bit of scientific monitoring of this population. Long term monitoring is required, because currently, most of the monitoring that is happening there, they're voluntary or NGO actions.



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



DIABETIC RETINOPATHY: A SERIOUSLY OVERLOOKED DISEASE

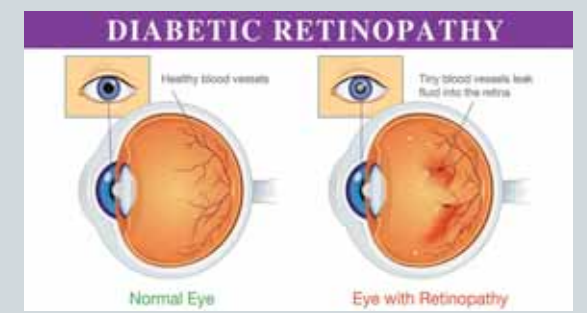
Early screening can prevent vision loss in diabetic patients, says ABHI SINGHAL

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



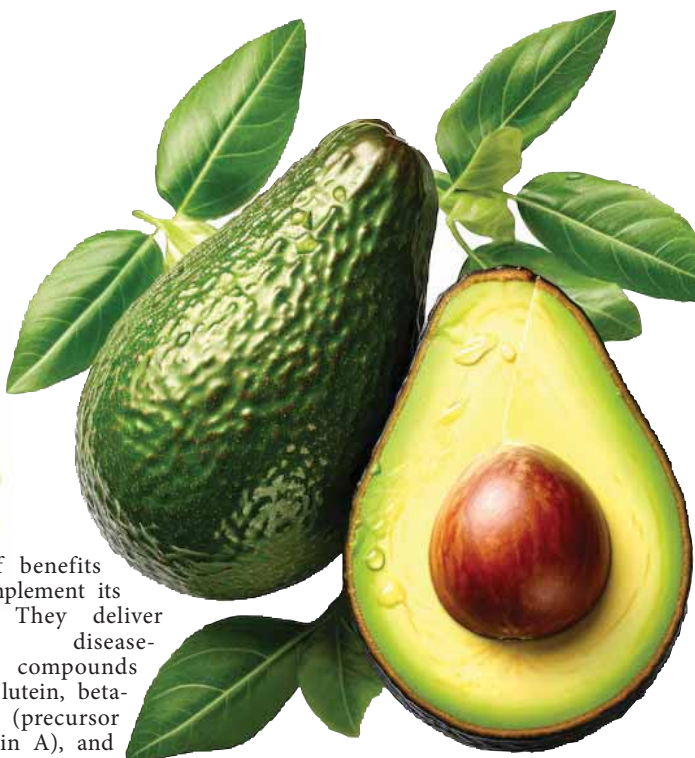
initial eye examination recommended 5 years following diagnosis of type 1 diabetes mellitus. Type 2 diabetes mellitus should be recommended for initial eye examination at the time of diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The patients with pregnancy with diabetes mellitus the eye examination prior to conception and early during 1st trimester is recommended and follow-up should be individualised based on severity and recent changes in retinopathy. "It is important to realise that earlier, diabetes was considered a disease of the elite, but it is no longer like that. It is equally affecting all stratas of the society. We are having an equal prevalence of diabetes, both in rural and urban settings of our country," said Dr. Manisha Agarwal, General Secretary, Vitreoretinal Society of India. A diabetologist plays an important role in timely screening for diabetic retinopathy and referring to an ophthalmologist for its management. With the increasing prevalence of diabetes and the associated risk of diabetic retinopathy, early screening and timely interventions for the same are crucial. It's essential for individuals with diabetes to schedule regular eye exams and for healthcare providers to follow the VRSI and RSSDI guidelines. Together, we can prevent vision loss and improve the quality of life for millions of people in India.

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



WHY AVOCADOS

Everything you need to know!



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

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

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

The author is a leading dietitian and holistic health consultant.



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

New Zealand win by Eight wickets for first Test win in India in 36 years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

New Zealand survived a hostile Jasprit Bumrah spell to foil India's attempt to add a final-day twist to an absorbing series-opener, slaying the cricketers at home by eight wickets and ending a 36-year long wait to taste Test success in the country, here Sunday. This is Kiwis' first Test win on the Indian soil after the John Wright-led outfit towelled India by 136 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, way back in 1988. Even hunting a modest 107 on the fifth day against a world-class attack could be nervy, and New Zealand did that after some initial scares. Will Young (48 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (39 not out) fuelled their chase with a 75-run stand for the third wicket, handholding their side a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. However, the Indians will not be an entirely despondent lot despite the defeat as they showed admirable spunk to



claw back from the depths of getting bowled out for 46 in the first innings. They will need to build on it and pretty quickly too as the second Test at Pune starts on October 24. The Rohit Sharma-marshalled side will also have to think deeply about retaining Sarfaraz Khan, who made a 150 in the second day, as Shubman Gill is poised to return after recovering from a stiff neck. The other point they will moot long is whether to go back to the three-pacer strategy or continue three spinners, a move which backfired here spectacularly, in Pune. New Zealand victory did not come without its share of drama once the day's play started at 10.15am, a wet outfield pushing back the proceedings by an hour. Bumrah (2/29), operating from the dressing room end, found appreciable movement and Tom Latham fell in the first over of the day itself for his overnight naught. Latham was behind the ball to cover the in-dipper but it swung back further to thud on to his pads as umpire Michael Gough raised his finger after vociferous appeal from the bowler and the crowd. The New Zealand captain reviewed the decision more in hope than in conviction and the DRS confirmed his worst fears as well, and he had to walk back. India might just have felt the absence of a third pacer as both Bumrah and Siraj found movement and carry to trouble the Kiwi batters under a largely overcast skies. Kuldeep Yadav, who gave away 26 runs in three overs, had replaced Akash Deep in the eleven for this Test after India went with a three-pronged pace attack against Bangladesh recently. Devon Conway, the other

overnight batter, was shaky throughout his stay and would consider himself fortunate to have found a last-minute edge on a Bumrah skidder that otherwise would have trapped him plumb in front. But as luck would have it, the ball beat the gully fielder and raced to the fence. However, the left-hander eventually reached the road's end when Bumrah, operating from around the stumps, caught him right in front of the wicket with another one that skidded and swung back into him. The on-field umpire did not relent but the DRS upheld India's appeal to send Conway (17) back. New Zealand were 35 for two at that point, and one would say the match in balance as a couple of more strikes could have left the cat among the pigeons. But Young and Ravindra, the first-innings centurion, found some solidity to resist the Indian charge. Once the sun came out for a while, the ball-movement was much more predictable and the Kiwi batters used favourable conditions to rack in a few boundaries to ease the pressure. Ravindra Jadeja, who started with a no-ball, too did not make much of an impression, conceding 14 runs in his first two overs. There was not much on the Chinnaswamy pitch for him to exploit either as the 22-yard track did not disintegrate on the final day, courtesy rain and cooler climes here. With the margin getting reduced alongside each run, the New Zealand batters became more daring and brought out their shots from the shelf, such as a clean hoist over mid-wicket for a six off left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep. The defining moment came when Will Young turned Jadeja for two to collect the winning runs as Kiwis' dressing room turned into a hub of celebration.

India U17 squad picked for Asian Cup Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India U17 men's national team head coach Ishfaq Ahmed, on Sunday, named a 23-member squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers to be held in Thailand from October 23-27. India are placed in Group D, where they will meet Brunei Darussalam (October 23), Turkmenistan (October 25) and hosts Thailand (October 27). There are 10 groups in the qualification phase, from which the group winners and five best second-placed teams will join hosts Saudi Arabia at the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025. **Goalkeepers:** Aheibam Suraj Singh, Rohit, Nandan Roy. **Defenders:** Karish Soram, Mohamed Kaif, Chingtham Renin Singh, Brahmacharimayum Sumit Sharma, Thougamba Usham Singh, Yaipharemba Chingakham, Jodric Abranches. **Midfielders:** Abdul Salha Sheergoji, Ahongshangbam Samson, Kh Azlaan Shah, Levis Zangminlun, Mahmud Sami, Manbhakumar Malngiang, Md Arbash, Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh, Vishal Yadav, Ngamgouhou Mate. **Forwards:** Bharat Lairenjam, Prem Hansdak, Hemneichung Lunkim. **Head coach:** Ishfaq Ahmed; **Assistant coach:** Ramachandran Govindaraju Mileswamy; **Goalkeeper coach:** Zakeer Hussain Mohammed Strength and conditioning coach: Chelston Pinto.

That day belonged to Nadeem: Neeraj on Paris Olympics javelin final

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra says nothing went wrong in his silver-winning performance in the Paris Olympics final earlier this year and Pakistani Arshad Nadeem emerged champion as the "day belonged to him". Chopra became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two successive Olympic medals by clinching a silver with a throw of 89.45m on August 8, but the day belonged to Nadeem, who destroyed the field with a new Olympic record effort of 92.97m for his country's maiden individual gold at the showpiece. "Nothing was wrong, everything was right. The throw was also good. Getting a silver (medal) in the Olympics is also not a small thing. There was disappointment. But, I feel that the competition was very good, and it was tough," Chopra told PTI in an interview. "The gold medal is won by the person to whom the day belongs to. That day was (Arshad) Nadeem's day." Chopra was in Lucknow on Saturday to inaugurate Under Armour's larger, new format brand house store at the Phoenix Palassio Mall. He brushed aside any notion of India-Pakistan rivalry in javelin throw competition replacing the same seen in cricket and hockey. "In javelin, there are no two teams (playing against each other), but there are 12 athletes from different countries, who are competing with each other. I have been competing with Nadeem since 2016, and it is for the first time that he has won," said the 26-year-old athlete from Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat district. "He (Nadeem) is a nice



person, speaks in a good manner, gives respect, so (I) feel good." Chopra said it was a sudden moment when he picked up the javelin for the first time in his life when he was boy. "It (taking up javelin throw) was a sudden moment. I did not know anything about it. When I went to the ground, at that time, it was decided," said

that time, I was quite young, and do not remember things much. "At that time, I had come by train. Now, a good airport has been built. Good mall has been built. And, it is for the first time that I am able to see the city so much by travelling. I felt very nice," he said. Chopra also had tea at a famous outlet ('Sharma ke Chai') in Lucknow's Lalbagh area, and took selfies with people. Giving a piece of advice to the youth, Chopra said, "To the youth, I would say that they should not assume in the starting itself that they would be bagging medals. They should exercise patience, because sports consume a lot of your time. "Your body needs time to grow, your muscles become strong in a good manner. Have patience, and work on your techniques."

Juyal's unbeaten century, Rinku's fiery 89 keep UP in game vs Haryana

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Young skipper Aryan Juyal continued his fine form to slam an unbeaten century, while Rinku Singh smashed a brisk fifty as Uttar Pradesh reached 267/6 in reply to Haryana's 453 in their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Saturday. Rinku hit 89 off 110 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, scoring 25 off 20 balls against Yuzvendra Chahal, who went wicket-less in 11 overs for 57 runs. Juyal, who missed a century by eight runs in their last match against Bengal, got to his fourth first class hundred and was unbeaten on 118

from 196 balls (13x4, 1x6) as UP cut their deficit to 186 runs on the third day. On a forgettable day for Chahal, Aman Kumar, Harshal Patel and Jayant Yadav bagged two wickets apiece for Haryana. Earlier, Chahal added 10 runs to his overnight total before Hayana's innings ended at 453 with Shivam Sharma dismissing the India leg-spinner to return figures of 4/95. At Mullanpur, opener Jaskaranvir Singh Paul shone with an unbeaten 117 on debut, leading Punjab to a commanding position against Madhya Pradesh. Building on their 70-run first

Djokovic tops Nadal before Sinner beats Alcaraz for title at the Six Kings Slam exhibition

AP ■ RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

Jannik Sinner beat Carlos Alcaraz 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3 for the championship in the Six Kings Slam exhibition Saturday after Novak Djokovic topped Rafael Nadal 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the third-place match. While Sinner and Alcaraz probably have plenty of future matchups in store, Djokovic and Nadal may have been playing for the final time in one of tennis' great rivalries. Djokovic won the match between rivals who have combined for 46 Grand Slam singles titles. Nadal, who won 22 Slam titles, is planning to retire after playing for Spain next month in the Davis Cup. They shared a warm embrace

win. "Until now, every match was very, very good, but we will always hope this rivalry will last as long as possible," Sinner said. Alcaraz beat the Italian on Oct. 2 to win the China Open in Beijing, along with semifinal victories at the French Open and Indian Wells. The Spaniard has a 6-4 lead in their head-to-head on Tour. "I will try to do my best every day ... To hopefully make this rivalry better and better over the years," Alcaraz said. Alcaraz defeated Nadal and Sinner topped Djokovic in the previous round of the exhibition event that awards money but not ATP ranking points in Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis. Sinner will miss you." Sinner then emerged with a victory over Alcaraz in a matchup between the winners of all four major titles this season. The top-ranked Sinner, who had lost all three meetings this season, collected \$6 million for the



Arsenal stunned by Bournemouth and Garnacho sparks Man United comeback

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

Arsenal blew the chance to go top of the English Premier League after a shock 2-0 loss to Bournemouth on Saturday. In one of the biggest upsets of the burgeoning season, 10-man Arsenal lost for the time. Mikel Arteta's team finished runner-up in the last two years and could have leapfrogged leader Liverpool and defending champion City in second place with a win at Bournemouth. But Arsenal's chances were hit after William Saliba was sent off in the first half at Vitality Stadium. Bournemouth took full advantage with Ryan Christie scoring in the 70th minute and Justin Kluivert converting a penalty nine minutes later. Third-placed Arsenal is a point behind Liverpool and level with City, having played a game more than its rivals, who are both in action on Sunday. Meanwhile,



United was reeling from its worst season start in the Premier League era heading into Saturday's game and it looked like being another disappointing day for Ten Hag, who was angered when Ethan Pincock opened the scoring for Brentford in a contentious circumstances in first-half added time. United defender Matthijs de Ligt was ordered off for medical attention on his bleeding head from a collision. It left the home team down a man as Brentford prepared to take a

corner and Pincock headed over the line in the fifth minute of added time. United responded quickly after the break thanks to Garnacho's goal in the 47th. moved Leicester six points clear of the relegation zone. Also, Everton won at Ipswich 2-0 to move five points above the relegation zone. Brighton's impressive start under coach Fabian Hurler continued with the win at Newcastle. Hurler, born in Texas, has made his presence felt in England's top flight following his appointment in the offseason. Hurler is also working wonders with Danny Welbeck, who scored in the 35th at St James' Park, his fifth goal of the season. Spurs comeback Tottenham trailed to Mohammed Kudus' 18th-minute goal at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but powered back with a brilliant second-half performance. Dejan Kulusevski leveled in the 36th and after the break the home team took control. Yves Bissouma struck in the 52nd and Alphonse Areola scored an own goal three minutes later. Son Heung-min added a fourth on the hour mark.