

# **KEEP GODS OUT OF POLITICS: SC**

### SUPREME COURT SLAMS ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

bserving that at least Gods should be kept out of politics, the Supreme Court slammed Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for prematurely going public with the claim that previous regime of YSR Congress Party used substandard ghee containing animal fat to prepare laddus at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati.

Studying the lab report produced by the Government, the Apex Court on Monday, said that the ghee that had been sent for testing was rejected and not used for making laddus.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan noted that the Chief Minister made the claim on September 18, even though the FIR in the matter was lodged on September 25, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted on September 26. "It was not appropriate on the part of a higher constitutional functionary to go in public and make a statement which can affect the sentiments of crores of people," the Bench said.

The Bench said there is no conclusive proof yet to substantiate such a claim. It questioned the need to make a public statement on the issue remarked

cop's murder

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on

Monday arrested a person

in connection with the death

of a constable, who was

mowed down in an incident

of road



when a probe had already The Bench was hearing the petitions filed by Bharatiya been ordered by the State into Janata Party (BJP) leader the allegations. Justice Gavai also asked whether there was Subramanian Swamy, and any material with the CM to former Tirumala Tirupati conclude definitively that animal fat had been used to Devasthanams Chairman YV Subba Reddy and historian Vikaram prepare laddus at Tirupati Sampath demanding court Justice Viswanathan observed monitored probe on the allegations of presence of that the ghee sample had been rejected as per reports. "So animal fat in the ghee used in

what was the need to go to the Tirupati laddus. press at all, when you yourself Whether such a statement ordered an investigation?" the should have been made that judge asked. "At least the affects the sentiments of the Gods should be kept away devotees? What was the need from politics," the Court of going to the press and making a public statement

when SIT was ordered? Prima facie there is nothing at least to show, no concrete proof to show at this stage, that the same ghee was used and procured. Even pending investigation when such statements are made by responsible public functionaries then what effect it will have on the SIT? What was the material?"

The Court told Senior Advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing TTD, that he was not answering the court's queries on this aspect. "You have still not answered. There is nothing to show that ghee was used. These are processes used to justify the rejection and stop payment!"

The Bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the stateappointed SIT should appointed 511 should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent agency. The Bench has posted the matter for further hearing on October 3.

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu claimed earlier this month that animal fat was used in preparing Tirupati laddus during the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government in the state, triggering a massive political row. The YSR Congress has accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains.

# **BJP and Congress spat** over remarks on PM

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and their parties engaged in war of words following the latter's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Jammu when he said he won't die before PM Modi is removed from power. Shah termed Kharge's remark as "absolutely

distasteful and disgraceful". At an election rally in Jasrota in Jammu on Sunday, Kharge felt dizzy and uneasy but resumed his speech after a brief pause, saying he won't die before PM Modi is removed from power. Shah said "in a bitter display of spite", Kharge unnecessarily dragged the Prime Minister into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing Modi from power. "Yesterday,

Champaran were damaged due to excessive

water pressure, resulting in inundation in the Valmiki

Tiger Reserve, another official

"Water flowing above the

embankments was reported from Valmikinagar and

e water level in

severa

the Congress president Shri the Home Minister should Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and disgraceful in his speech.

He said Kharges remarks showed how much hate and fear the Congress people have for PM Modi and that they are constantly thinking of him. "As for the health of Mr. Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047," the Minister said. Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Nirmala said the Congress leadership never loses any opportunity to display their hate towards Modi. "Aptly said, Home Minister Amit Shahji," Sitaraman said in a social media post.

Kharge responded to Amit Shah's attack on him and said

### **ED books** Siddaramaiah

### PNS NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday booked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and some others in a moneylaundering case linked to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority, taking cognisance of a recent state Lokayukta FIR, official sources said.

The federal agency has filed an enforcement case information report (ECIR) to book the Chief Minister and others, they said.



Siddaramaiah, his wife BM brother-in-law Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju, from whom Swamy had purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi, and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Mysuru-located Lokayukta police establishment on September 27.

The FIR was lodged after a special court in Bengaluru last week ordered a Lokayukta police probe agai Siddaramaiah in the case. against

"The cyber criminals targeted

in this operation were involved in a range of illicit

impersonating... Tech support

services and approaching

victims, especially in the USA

in the guise that the victim's

systems have been hacked," a

CBI spokesperson said in a

He said the victims were

convinced by the criminals

that their identities had been

stolen and that a large

number of unauthorised

transactions were being made

The scammers told the

victims that they were under

the scanner of investigation

agencies of their respective

The cyber criminals then

induced the victims to

transfer their bank holdings

into new bank accounts given

by cyber criminals in the guise

of safeguarding their finances.

Continued on Page 2

in their bank accounts.

countries, he added.

including

Continued on Page 2

### **Kosi drowns Bihar in sorrow** Delhi road rage: **One arrested for** Gandak river's embankment in

(TTD)

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA

Temple.

 $F_{\mathrm{parts}}^{\mathrm{lood}}$  situation in several parts of Bihar worsened on Monday as embankments of Kosi river in Darbhanga district and Bagmati river in Sitamarhi were breached, officials said Kosi river was in spate and



### **IMD** announces end of Monsoon

PNS NEW DELHI

2024 southwest ¬he monsoon season officially ended on Monday. India recorded 934.8 mm rainfall, the highest since 2020.

The country experienced a rainfall deficit of 11 per cent in June, followed by an excess Kiratpur in Darbhanga. But of 9 per cent in July, 15.7 per cent in August, and

cent in September. The IMD had predicted

above-normal rainfall (106

per cent of the long-period

average) for the monsoon

It also accurately forecast

rainfall for northeast India,

normal rainfall for the

northwest, and above-normal

rainfall for central and

monsoon

season this year.

below-normal



rage invol men inside a car, in Outer Delhi's Nangloi area early on Sunday. Deputy Commissioner of

no two

Police (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said the arrested person identified as Rajnish alias Sittu, a resident of Veena Enclave, was arrested in connection with the death of Constable Sandeep, 30. Rajneesh was sitting in the car at the time of the accident, from Noida. However, the man who was driving the car is still on the run. Earlier, some reports claimed that one of the occupants in the car was a liquor smuggler. "The offending vehicle has been seized. Multiple teams have been formed for investigation and several raids are ongoing in Delhi, UP, and Harvana to trace the other accused," said

Chiram. According to the FIR registered against two persons for murder, on Sunday at around 2 a.m., the constable Sandeep Malik allegedly stopped two occupants of a car from drinking alcohol inside the vehicle.

breached its embanl Kartarpur block, inundating Kirtarpur and Ghanshyampur villages in Darbhanga late on Sunday, while seepage was reported in the embankment of Bagmati river in Runni Saidpur block in Sitamarhi district, they said. "The flood situation has worsened with

fresh embankment breaches

but it is under control. There is

nothing to panic," an official

said.

NDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation at a flood affected area, in Bihar's PTI Supaul district

The State water resources and disaster management departments have been working on a war footing, he said. "Altogether six incidents of embankment breach have so far been reported from various parts of the State. Some of

them have already been repaired and work is going on for others," Bihar Water Minister Resources Vijay Kumar Choudhary said.

The embankment of the Bagmati River at Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi and the

rivers started receding. No casualty has been reported so far in Bihar due to the flood", the minister said. Considering the gravity of the flood situation in north Bihar,

West

said

six more teams of the National Disaster Management (NDRF) from Authority Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Ranchi in Jharkhand are being deployed, he said.

Continued on Page 2 southern peninsular regions.

#### CBI nabs 26 global cyber criminals PIONEER NEWS SERVICE criminal activities across the

four call centers, the officials said

activities,

statement.

'n a multi-State crackdown Ion organised cybercrime, the Central Bureau of (CBI) Investigation has arrested 26 alleged cyber involved criminals in fraudulent activities targeting people globally, officials said on Monday. The action under operation Chakra-III started with raids at 32 different places across Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Visakhapatnam late night last Thursday. The central agency has seized Rs 58.45 lakh cash, locker keys and three luxury vehicles, they said.

NEW DELHI

focus on serious issues such as

the Manipur situation, census

and a caste census. "Home Minister Amit Shah should

focus on serious issues like

Manipur, census and caste

census. Your Government's

own survey says that 92

percent of the employees

cleaning urban sewers and

septic tanks come from SC, ST, OBC categories," the Congress

"The BJP is against caste

census because then it will be

known by which work SC, ST, OBC, EWS and all other

categories are earning their livelihood. What is their

economic and social status?

What kind of targeted benefits

of Government schemes

should they get?" Kharge said.

He asserted that the Congress

party is firmly committed to

getting a caste census done. "We will get it done," he added. **Continued on Page 2** 

chief said.

V.C. Four call centres — Inconformities Pvt. Ltd at Regent Plaza, Pune; V.C. Infrometrix Pvt. Ltd, Murli Nagar, Visakhapatnam; Viajex Solutions, Hyderabad; and Atriva Global Services Pvt. Ltd, Visakhapatnam were among the places raided

The CBI intercepted 170 Continued on Page 2 | people engaged in live online

Gujarat man buys real gold with fake currency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

Gujarat bullion trader has Abeen duped of 2.1 kg of gold after unidentified handed over conmen counterfeit currency featuring the face of noted bollywood Anupam Kher. actor A h m e d a b a d based bullion trader, Mehul Thakkar has filed a complaint with the Navrangpura police station, detailing how he was

bundles of counterfeit Rs 500 notes. The fake currency which conveyed to the trader as Rs 1.90 crore, also labelled

"Resole Bank of India," and was presented to his staff in exchange for 2.1 kgs of gold on September 24. police According to complaints Thakkar, a gold

dealer received a call from another manager of a jewellery shop Prashant Patel whom the bullion trader Continued on Page 2 tricked into accepting 26 knew. Patel was eager to buy



2.1 kgs of gold, and Thakkar instructed his staff to transaction was pegged at Rs meet Patel at an 'angadia pedhi' (Hawala) office - a 1.90 crore.

traditional money-moving service where they were handed over bundles of what they claimed were Rs 500 notes.

The unsuspecting staff was told to count the 'money' using a machine provided by the trio. Two of them then went out with the gold biscuits on the pretext of fetching the remaining Rs 30 lakh from a neighbouring

office, while a third one by the agency. stayed on.

Chakraborty also praised Prime Minister Modi. "I have great respect for PM Modi, he is a fantastic man. I know him, he is

a gem of a person," he added. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also congratulated the veteran actor. "Mithun Ji's illustrious career spanning several decades has not only enriched our films but has also set standards of excellence in acting. All my best wishes to him," Shah said.

The three-member jury comprising former Dadasaheb awardee Asha Parekh, actorpolitician Khushbu Sundar and filmmaker Vipul Amrutlal Shah - selected Chakraborty for the prestigious honour.

**Continued on Page 2** 

# Dadasaheb Phalke finally acknowledges Mrigayaa actor

### RAHUL DATTA NEW DELHI

Dancing into the hearts of millions of Indian cine goers in the chartbuster "I am a Mithun disco dancer" Chakraborty, 74, has come a long way from the bylanes of Kolkata to reach peak stardom. Recognising Chakraborty's contribution to Indian cinema, the Union government on Monday bestowed the Dadasaheb Phalke award upon him. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on social media.

The veteran actor, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member, was recently awarded Padma

Bhushan, the third highest civilian honour.

Congratulating Chakraborty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor is a "cultural icon" admired across generations. "Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, on October eight, Vaishnaw recognising his unparalleled said. contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances. Congratulations and best wishes to him," the Prime Minister said in a social media post.

Vaishnaw said Chakraborty's remarkable cinematic journey "inspires generations". "Honoured to announce that the

Jury has decided to award legendary actor, Sh. Mithun Chakraborty Ji for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema, the minister said in the post. The award will be presented to Chakraborty at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony

> Though the actor made his debut in film 'Mrigayaa' directed by renowned director Mrinal Sen, Chakraborty in 1976. He bagged his first National award for best actor, and tasted commercial success with his film 'Disco Dancer.' All the songs of the film including 'I am a disco dancer' and 'Yaad aa raha' were a huge hit in the late

Dadasaheb Phalke Selection



Then followed several hits like 'Mujhe Insaaf Chahiye', 'Hum Se Hai Zamana', 'Pasand Apni Apni', 'Ghar Ek Mandir', 'Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki' and 'Commando'. Chakraborty was also praised for his role in the 1990 film 'Agneepath', fronted by Amitabh Bachchan.

Chakraborty's unique moves, which popularised disco dancing, and fight scenes enthralled the audience all over the country and even in Russia He earned two more National Awards for 1992's 'Tahader Katha' (best actor) and 1998's Vivekananda' (best 'Swami supporting actor).

When he got the news about the award Chakraborty said his life

kept replaying in his mind, including the initial struggle for food and shelter. "I am short of words. It is an occasion which reminded me of the past. I went to Mumbai from Kolkata. In Mumbai, I did not have food and would sometimes sleep in the garden...

"This kept replaying. After all this, you get this huge honour. I have no words. I can only say I dedicate this award to my family and to fans all over the world. 'You know my life has never been smooth, I did not get anything on platter, I had to fight for everything, but when the result comes like this, you forget all the pain, God has been kind," the actor told reporters in Kolkata.



# Big fat Indian weddings to drive $\gtrless$ 5.9 lakh crore expenditure this festive season

### RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

The big fat Indian wedding L season starting from November 12, 2024, is set to witness 48 lakh weddings, generating business worth Rs 5.9 lakh crore. The estimated figure is based on the data collected from 75 cities across the country who are dealing with wedding-related goods and services. The national capital is also estimated to see 4.5 lakh weddings and is expected to contribute a massive Rs 1.5 lakh crore alone in business.Last year, 35 lakh weddings generated a total business of Rs 4.25 lakh crore. These expenses range from Rs 3 lakh per wedding for 10 lakh ceremonies, to over Rs 1

crore for high-end weddings. as the 'Wedding Season' This diverse spending spec-These periods coincide with trum is expected to fuel growth across various sectors, with significant demand for goods such as clothing, jewellery, electronics, and food items According to a study con-ducted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT),

this year there is an increase in wedding date, which is expected to result in substantial growth in business. While there were 11 auspicious dates in 2023, this year there are 18. In India, wedding expendi-

tures peak during two distinct periods: November to mid-December and mid-January to July, commonly referred to

increased economic activity, especially during the first peak period which aligns with the festive season. Acharya Durgesh Tare, Convenor of CAIT's Veda and Spiritual Committee, said the wedding season will kick off from November 12 (Dev Uthani Ekadashi) and will last until December 16. The auspicious dates in November are 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29, while in December, the dates are 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15,

and 16. Weddings will then pause for about a month and will resume from mid-January 2025 through March. The second phase of the wedding season is set to resume from



16 January 2025, after Makar said the study also revealed Sankranti adding another wave of business opportunities for traders and service providers.

Minister Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Vocal for CAIT's National Secretary General and Chandni Chowk MP, Praveen Khandelwal, , Bharat' (self-reliant India).

Indian products have made significant inroads in the market and their demand has increased dramatically overshadowing foreign goods, he said.

Additionally, services like banquet halls, event management, catering, transporta-tion, and photography will also see a sharp rise in business. Another emerging trend this year is the increased expenditure on social media services for wedding coverage, as more couples look to enhance their digital presence

during the festivities. As per data, at least 10 lakh weddings will be solemnized with an expenditure of Rs three lakh per wedding; 10 lakh weddings with an expen-

Army recovers four bodies from Rohtang pass, 56 years after plane crash

diture of Rs 6 lakh per wedding; 10 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 10 lakh per wedding; 10 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 15 lakh per wedding; 7 lakh weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 25 lakh per wedding; 50,000 weddings, with an expenditure of Rs 50 lakh per wedding and 50,000 weddings, with an expendi-ture of Rs 1 crore or more per

wedding. According to traders, these estimates may actually be conservative, given the massive scale of economic activities expected during the wedding season.

Traders say the major sectors expected to see significant and other services (3%) this business which include clothvear.

Sepoy Narayan Singh (AMC).

Rajnath Singh to launch car rally from National War Memorial

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday will give a send-off to a car rally from the National War Memorial here. It is a mega 7,000-km long 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh organised to mark the 92nd anniversary of Indian Air Force (IAF) on October eight.

Giving details, officials said the defence minister will flagoff the rally before it is formally flagged-off from Thoise, one of the world's highest altitude air force station at 3,068m above mean sea level, on October eight. Enroute, the air warriors will have 16 halts comprising interactions with students in various colleges and univer-

sities. The halts will be Leh, Kargil, Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Agra, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Bagdogra, Hasimara, Guwahati, Tezpur, Dirang and Tawang. The rally will culminate on October 28. The aim of the rally, organised by IAF in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial, is to raise awareness among the people about the glorious history of

IAF; the deeds of valour of the air warriors in different wars and rescue operations and attract the youth to serve the motherland

Fifty-two (52) air warriors, including women, will be behind the wheels during this mega car rally, which will also witness the participation of former Air Force Chiefs in different legs. The IAF's Adventure Cell is leading and coordinating the rally.

T N RAGHUNATHA 📕

MUMBAI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Army has managed to recover the bodies of four persons from Rohtang pass 56 years after their plane crashed there. The ill-fated IAF AN-12 aircraft was carrying 102 passengers. As of now, nine bodies including the latest have been recovered.

NEW DELHI

Giving details, army officials said here on Monday, in an extraordinary development, the ongoing search and rescue mission to recover the remains of personnel from the aircraft has achieved significant breakthrough.

The mission, led by the Dogra Scouts of Indian Army in collaboration with representatives of Tiranga Mountain Rescue, is part of the larger Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition. The joint team has recovered the remains of four more individuals from the site, marking a significant success in one of

### India's longest-running search and recovery operations.

that consumers are increas-

ingly prioritising Indian prod-

ucts on the lines Prime

Local' and 'Atmanirbhar

The tragedy dates back to February 7, 1968, when an IAF AN-12 aircraft, carrying 102 passengers, went missing after taking off from Chandigarh and encountering severe weather conditions near the Rohtang Pass. For decades, the wreckage and

remains of the victims remained lost in the icy terrain. It was only in 2003 when mountaineers from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering discovered the wreckage, sparking multiple expeditions over the years by the Indian Army, especially the Dogra Scouts, who have been at the forefront of search missions in 2005, 2006, 2013,

and 2019. Despite the treacherous conditions and unforgiving terrain, only five bodies were recovered by 2019. However, the Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition has now recovered four addi-

tional bodies, bringing renewed hope to the families of the deceased and the nation. As of September 29, three fully intact bodies and remains of a

fourth have been recovered from the snowbound mountains.

Malkhan Singh (Pioneer). Identified by a voucher found in his pocket, Malkhan Singh's identity was confirmed with the help of documents obtained from Pioneer Records Office. His body was recovered nearly six decades after the ill-fated flight.

Narayan Singh, a sepoy from the Army Medical Corps (AMC), was identified by his paybook found on his person. Singh hailed from the village of Kolpadi, Chamoli Tehsil in Garhwal, Uttarakhand. His next of kin (NOK) is his wife, Basnati Devi. After years of uncertainty, his family can now finally lay him to rest with the dignity and honour he deserves.

While documents recovered from the third body have not conclusively identified the individual. details of the next of kin were found. The wife, Parvati Devi, and father, Netram, were notified of the discovery.

Craftsman Thomas Charan (EME). The remains of CFN Thomas Charan from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) were identified, with further confirmation through his paybook. He hailed from Elanthoor, Pathanamthitta district in Kerala. His next of kin, his mother Eleama, has been informed of the discovery.

nation 02

ing, sarees, lehengas, and

apparel (10%), jewelry (15%),

electronics, electrical appli-

ances, and consumer durables

(5%). dry fruits, sweets, and

snacks (5%) and roceries and

vegetables (5%) and gift items

(4%) and other goods (6%).

Besides, it is estimated banquet halls, hotels, and wed-

ding venues are expected to

generate revenue upto five percent of the 5.9 lakh crore

ousiness, event management

(5%), tent decoration (12%),

catering services (10%), floral

decoration (4%), transporta-

tion and cab services (3%)

photography and videography

(2%), orchestra and bands

(3%) light and sound (3%)

The Chandra Bhaga Expedition has once again demonstrated the Indian Army's relentless determination to bring closure to families, even after half a century. The Dogra Scouts of Indian Army, renowned for their expertise in high-altitude operations, have led this mission with exemplary courage, battling through extreme weather conditions and hostile terrain to recover the remains of their fallen comrades.

This discovery also stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Tiranga Mountain Rescue, which has been instrumental in assisting the Indian Army during the expedition. The recovery of these bodies brings some solace to the families who have been waiting for decades, hoping for answers and the return of their loved ones.

### LG slams AAP Government for failure to constitute Board of Visitors for Delhi Prisons

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

ieutenant Governor Vinai Lieutenant Gordan Kumar Saxena on Monday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for failing to constitute the Board of Visitors for Delhi Prisons mandated by law and ordered to be constituted by Delhi High Court way back in Sept 2019. The proposal is pending for the last five years.

The Lt Governor criticised the

 $A^{\mathrm{head}}_{\mathrm{of}}$  the formal launch party's electionwait for 05 years and even then eering for the forthcoming a half-baked proposal has been Maharashtra Assembly polls, leader of the Opposition in submitted without proper appli-cation of mind and following due process. The file is returned Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will accordingly with directions to take part in a series of programs during his visit to sugar-rich Kolhapur district rectify the shortcomings in the notification in terms of appointment of District and Sessions in western Maharashtra on Judge as Chairman and sending October 4 and 5. a panel of names under section

The Congress is planning to use Rahul's two-day visit to Kolhapur to set the tone for



Chhatrapati Rajarshi Shahu the first Maharaja (1900-1922) of the princely state of Kolhapur.

Later he will participate in a conference organised to commemorate the Indian

### Rahul to visit Kolhapur on October 4-5 **Gujarat man buys real** gold with fake...

### From Page 1

When the staff sent by Thakkar noticed the currency notes were fake after taking them out from plastic wrap for counting, they questioned the third person, who told them he was there just to deliver the counting machine for 'angadia pedhi', the complainant told the police.

It also later came to light that the 'angadia' office was opened by the accused persons two days before the incident, as per the complaint. An FIR has since been filed against the two unidentified suspects, and police have launched an investigation to track down the culprits behind this unusual con.

### **Dadasaheb Phalke finally...**

### From Page 1

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, who worked with the actor on films such as 'The Tashkent Files' and 'The Kashmir Files', also wished him in a social media post.

Chakraborty, whose real name is Gourang Chakraborty, is an alumnus of Pune's Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) who has predominantly worked in Hindi and Bengali cinema. A former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Chakraborty joined the BJP ahead of the 2021 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election. The actor also served as the head judge or 'grandmaster' on the popular dance reality series 'Dance India Dance' from 2009 to 2018. In 2023, Waheeda Rehman was named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

### ED books...

From Page 1 compensatory sites he order of the sp judge came a day after the high court upheld the sanction granted by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against the senior Congress leader on allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The ED has pressed sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to book Siddaramaiah in its ECIR, the equivalent of a police FIR. According to the procedure, the ED is empowered to summon the accused for questioning and even attach their assets during the investigation. In the MUDA site-allotment case, it is alleged that (assault).

government for forwarding a half cooked proposal to this effect."It is indeed disturbing that the constitution of a Board of Visitors which plays the crucial role of providing independent feedback to prison authorities about the standard of basic facilities to be maintained in the prison, including health, hygiene, security and other basic minimum facilities, is pending for five years now. The Board serves as a platform for hearing the grievances of the prisoners/convicts and enables authorities to undertake remedial measures in this regard," Saxena said.

"I take strong exception of this approach and attitude which flies in the face of established norms of governance. A simple decision of this nature had to tion"

this note to the Hon'ble High Court so as to bring the correct picture of where the fault lies as far as delay is concerned, on the next date of hearing i.e. 01.10.2024," the Lieutenant Governor said in a note to Atishi.

45 D of GNCTD Act, 1991 and

with specific direction that the

Saxena said, "What is more disturbing is the fact that the notification which has been put up now after approval of Minister (Home), GNCTD and Chief Minister, run contrary to the provisions of Rule 1643 of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018 which envisages that the Board of Visitors shall be chaired by the District and Session Judge. It is what authority this has been substituted by District Magistrate in the said notifica-Shivaii.

On the morning of October 5, Rahul will pay his respects at the memorial of Maratha king and social reformer

"We have invited more than State Assembly polls, for which the schedule is expectrepresentatives from all religions and different NGOs. At ed to be notified by the Election Commission of India this conference, Rahul (ECI) after the declaration of Gandhi will interact with difthe results in the Jammu & ferent sections of the society," former State minister and Kashmir and Haryana Assembly polls on October 8. current MLC Satej Patil, who is hosting Rahul's two-day Rahul, who will arrive in Kolhapur on October 4, will visit to Kolhapur, said. unveil a huge statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji at Kasba Bawda. Senior Congress leaders including AICC general sec-

retary Ramesh Chennithala, On the following evening, former Chief Ministers the Congress leader will wit-Sushilkumar Shinde, Prithviraj Chavan state Congress President Nana Patole, Leader of the ness a dance drama – in which more 2,000 participants and half of them will sport dresses of Chhatrapati Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar and Congress legislative party leader Balasaheb Thorat will remain present on the occasion.

### CBI books 26 global cyber...

From Page 1 "In some instances, the cyber criminals intimidated the victims into transferring funds to them through international gift cards or crypto currency. Extensive wrongful losses were incurred by the victims targeted by this criminal network," the statement said. So far, the CBI has arrested 10 cyber criminals from Pune, five from Hyderabad

11 from and Visakhapatnam. Further investigation and questioning into the role of illegal call centers is said.

ongoing, it said. "These operations have resulted seizure of critical digital evidence and incriminating material. 951 items have been seized including electronic devices, mobile phones, laptops, financial information, communication records and incriminating material used by this cyber crime network for criminal activity and to defraud victims," the the spokesperson said.

This operation has resulted in significant disruption and dismantling of a major trans national technology other workers at these enabled crime network, he

ien to Siddaramaian's wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land that was "acquired" by MUDA.

were

The Lokayukta FIR has been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) like 120B (criminal conspiracy), 166 (public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person), 403 (dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 426 (mischief), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 340 (wrongful confinement) and 351

### **BJP and Congress...**

#### From Page 1

Addressing the rally on Sunday, Kharge had said, "I am 83 years old. I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive till PM Modi is removed from power". "I wanted to talk. But due to dizziness, I have sat down. Please pardon me," the Congress leader said. BJP slammed Mallikarjun Kharge, terming his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi "absolutely distasteful and disgraceful". Ít also said Modi became the Prime Minister for a third consecutive term with the people's mandate and not because of the Congress president's grace. BJP national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain hit out at Kharge for his remarks and said Modi has become prime minister for the third consecutive term with the blessings of the people of the country. Asked about Shah's attack on Kharge, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said,

"In his election speech,

Kharge said 'I am not going to retire till I see the exit of the Prime Minister', which is a perfect political statement to make. The non-biological From Page 1 prime minister and this selfdeclared Chanakya (Shah) have made disgraceful statements and they are now accusing Kharge.

"There is nothing wrong about Kharge's statement. operation in the floodaffected districts," said a This is a deliberate distortion, bulletin issued by the a deliberate and malicious twist (to the Congress chief's disaster remarks). If I start recounting department on Monday. "Despite water levels all the nonsense spouted by receding in several small rivers, the overall situation the Prime Minister on the Congress and its leaders, I can remained grim with over 16 lakh people affected by the deluge. No fatality has been reported so far," another official said go on and on," Ramesh said. Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera also hit out at official said. Shah over his attack on The Bihar Government Kharge. "What Amit Shah has sounded an alert for floods said in his tweet is wrong -that we hate Narendra Modi. in northern, southern and We do not hate Narendra central parts of the state, following heavy discharge Modi but we love our country and hence, we want to make of water from Birpur and India free from his rule. It is Valmikinagar barrages on our intention and aim," Khera Saturday and Sunday. However, said

### **Kosi drowns Bihar** in sorrow...

the

from discharge They are being engaged in Valmikinagar and Birpur addition to the existing 12 barrages across the Gandak teams of NDRF and 22 of and Kosi rivers respectively State Disaster Management reduced this morning, Authority (SDRF) deployed another official said. in the relief and rescue The water discharge

Valmikinagar through barrage was 5.62 lakh cusecs on Sunday, while the same was 1.89 lakh cusecs management till 8 am on Monday, he said. Similarly, the water

discharge from the Birpur barrage was 6.61 lakh cusecs on September 29, and the same was reduced to 2.88 lakh cusecs till 8 am on Monday, the official said.

Affected districts in the state include West and East Champaran, Sitamarhi Muzaffarpur, Sheohar, Ggopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Jehanabad, Madhubani, Araria, Purnea, water Katihar and Bhojpur.

### Delhi road rage: One arrested for cop's... From Page 1 Nangloi police station during

As he closed in on the car of two men he had been chasing after rebuking them for drinking on the road, Delhi Police Constable Sandeep did not realise it was what they wanted. "Brother Bhandre, let's run Sandeep over and finish him," said accused Rajnish alias Sittu, to Dharmender alias Bhandre, who was driving the car. They waited for the constable to get close enough, according to

the FIR registered in the matter. Dharmender revved the throttle and hit Sandeep's motorcycle from behind,

dragging him for some distance before hitting a stationary car and crushing the constable between the two cars, the FIR said. The gruesome incident was caught on CCTV camera.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday near Veena Enclave here when Sandeep, 30, was headed towards Railway Road from

duty hours in plainclothes. While Sandeep was on duty, he met his colleagues, Constables Khushi Ram and Sachin, who were returning home after duty.

"We spotted him (Sandeep) on his bike in plainclothes. I asked him about his duty hours and he told us that on the directions of his SHO (station house officer), he was on duty in plainclothes as incidents of thefts had increased in his beat area," Ram stated in the FIR.

As the three started moving towards Nangloi Railway Road, they saw a white Wagon R parked near a government school and that two men inside it were consuming alcohol, the FIR said.

"We identified one of the occupants as Dharmender alias Bhandre, who lives in Veena Enclave. Since I was previously posted at Nangloi police station, I knew Dharmender," Ram said in the FIR.

When Sandeep objected to the duo drinking alcohol on the road, Dharmender shouted, "You are interfering in our personal matter. How dare you?"

Sandeep asked Dharmender and Rajnish to come to the police station but the two started moving towards Nangloi railway station in their car. Sandeep chased them on his motorcycle. Ram and Sachin also followed them.

After reaching near Jaat Dharmshala, Dharmender slowed down the vehicle and waited for the three policemen to get close. As he approached the car, Sandeep asked the accused to stop their vehicle. Instead Dharmender hit Sandeep's motorcycle with his car. Dharmendra stopped dragging Sandeep only after

his car hit the other car. While Ram and Sachin rushed to Sandeep's rescue, Dharmender managed to flee the spot, leaving behind the car. Rajnish was nabbed from

the spot, the FIR stated. Ram and Sachin rushed Sandeep to Sonia Hospital. He was then referred to Balaji Action Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Rajnish managed to give the constables a slip while they were running around for Sandeep's treatment at Sonia Hospital. He was caught by police on Monday.

DCP Chiram said Rajnish was questioned and efforts were being made to nab Dharmender. A senior police officer said they are also trying to ascertain if the accused have connections with bootleggers in the area. It will be clear once prime accused Dharmender is

arrested, he said. Police said the car used by the two accused did not belong to any of them and the car owner was also being questioned. A 2018-batch constable, Sandeep was a native of Rohtak in Haryana. He is survived by his mother, wife, and a fiveyear-old son.



# Team Atishi, pothole hunting on city road

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $F_{\mathrm{and}}^{\mathrm{acing\,criticism\,of\,potholes}}$  Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and her five cabinet ministers, accompanied by several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, including former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and senior officials of Public Works Department (PWD) inspected roads in the national capital on Monday as part of the government's road assessment and repair initiative. This is the first time that the entire Delhi Cabinet was on the roads to assess the road's conditions. After the inspection, Atishi said that she found the roads at NSIC Okhla, Modi Mill flyover, Chirag Dilli, Tughlakabad, Mathura Road, Ashram

dilapidated condition. In a post on X, the chief minister said she found roads at NSIC Okhla, Modi Mill flyover, Chirag Dilli, Tughalakabad, Mathura Road, Dilĺi, Ashram Chowk and its underpass in a dilapidated condition. There was a very big pothole at the U-turn at Modi Mill flyover. Also, the upper surface of the road was found broken. Due to which vehicles have to slow down here. All the potholes will be filled here and the road will be repaired within a week. The road at NSIC, Ring Road was cut towards the footpath due to laying of BSES wire, but the road was not repaired after laying the wire. At the Chirag Dilli flyover,

Chowk and its underpass in a the road below the flyover Also, the black-top of the road was uprooted.

The Tughlakabad Extension road was cut from the side due to laying of wire, but it was not repaired. Ashram Chowk is one of the busiest intersections in Delhi. During inspection here and in many parts of Mathura Road, large pot-holes were seen which are obstructing the traffic. Due to water on the road of Ashram Underpass, many pot-holes have been formed here too. Also, the black-top of the road has started getting uprooted. Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia inspected roads in east Delhi and found roads are bad condition. The many pot-holes were seen on road has been dug up in many



places to lay the pipeline in months. Due to rainwater Ganesh Nagar and it has not accumulation in many places, been repaired even after 4-5 potholes have formed in the roads. Sisodia, in a post on X, alleged that the BJP sent him and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to jail in fake cases to stall the work being done by the AAP government for the people of Delhi.

Minister Gopal Rai inspected Noor-Ilahi Road, Yamuna Vihar and Wazirabad Road in northeast Delhi.During inspection, Rai found that the road was dug up by Delhi Jal Board, after which the road was not repaired and the condition of this road is very bad. Minister Kailash Gehlot Minister Kanash Genfot inspected the roads of Najafgarh assembly con-stituency. During this, he inspected Najafgarh-Bahadurgarh road along with PWD angingers and officials PWD engineers and officials. The condition of these roads is

very bad. After this, he also visited Najafgarh-Dhansa road, where the upper layer of the road from Khaira turn to Mitraon Chowk has completely deteriorated due to water logging. Many potholes have also formed on the road due to the sewer line of Delhi Jal Board.

He inspected the roads in water pipeline under the road, which is leaking and that water is coming on the road. There are potholes at the Idgah Road intersection as well. Naveen Place and Sainik Naveen Place and Sainik Enclave of Najafgarh on Najafgarh-Jharoda Road and found that potholes had formed on the road due to rain. Minister Imran Hussain At Deshraj Bhatia Marg, garbage is accumulated on the divider of this road. Minister inspected Paharganj Chowk, Mukesh Ahlawat, inspected Rohtak Road in Delhi and said Sadar Thana Road, Multani Dhanda, Idgah Road, Deshraj Bhatia Marg in Paharganj that the road has suffered a lot Assembly. of damage due to continuous

In Sadar Thana area, IGL has laid a gas pipeline on this

Delhi Government initiates special audit of 12 DU colleges

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has initiated a special audit of 12 DU colleges fully funded by it to investigate allegations of financial irregularities flagged by Chief Minister Atishi. The Directorate of Audit has

assigned an eight-member team to conduct the special audit after a status report was submitted by a high-level committee.

In an order issued last week, the Audit department directed the secretary of Directorate of Higher Education to instruct the colleges to make all necessary records available to the audit team.

"I am directed to convey the approval of Competent Authority for conducting a Special Audit on the examination of issues related to 12 colleges (fully funded by the Delhi Government) affiliated with the University of Delhi, as per the status Report of the High Level Committee," read the

order dated September 27. The order further instructed that the concerned colleges provide all records, sitting arrangements and secretarial assistance to the audit team. Last month, in a joint meeting of the Academic Council (AC) and Executive Council (EC), Delhi University (DU) unanimously accepted the findings of a 10-member committee set up to probe the allegations.

In its report, the committee concluded that no financial irregularities were found in the 12 DU colleges, as alleged by Atishi The university said it will

request the state government to consider the committee's rec-



ommendations and also demanded Atishi to withdraw her letter to the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in which she suggested de-affilia-tion of the 12 DU colleges. In December last year, Atishi had flagged "irregularities" in the 12 Delhi University colleges funded by the Delhi government, citing procedural lapses

involving hundreds of crores of rupees from the public exchequer. She suggested either merging the colleges under the Delhi

Government or allowing the Centre to take full control, in which case the city Government would cease funding them.

### AAP waking up to poor road conditions weeks before Assembly polls: Opposition

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Congress on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of neglecting the city's roads for the past decade and only waking up to address the issue just 10 weeks before the upcoming assembly election. They termed it a political drama.

In a statement, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged that the Public Works Department (PWD), responsible for maintaining Delhi's roads, has been under the control of the "most corrupt faces" of the Kejriwal government.

"The truth is that four people are primarily responsible for the poor condition of Delhi's roads: Arvind Kejriwal, Satyendra Jain, Manish Sisodia, and Atishi," he said.

Earlier on September 27, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, after inspecting the roads, handed over a letter to Chief Minister Atishi in the Delhi assembly urg-ing her to start the repair work

#### of Delhi roads on a war footing. Sachdeva said, "AAP who has spent the last ten years destroying roads and neglecting maintenance are now waking up just 10 weeks before the election notification to claim that they will make the roads potholefree." Delhi cabinet ministers led by Atishi hit the ground running on Monday morning, inspecting and identifying damaged roads across the city to ensure a pothole-free national capital by Diwali.

The Delhi BJP president claimed that the former PWD ministers Satyendra Jain and Manish Sisodia and current PWD Minister Atishi, who has been operating under the influence of Kejriwal, are responsible for the bad condition of the roads

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari took a jibe at Kejriwal stating that Atishi proved he was "completely useless" as he never inspected the roads. "Those who slept for 4.8 years are now coming out on the streets to show off.

Atishi has proved that Arvind Kejriwal was a completely useless Chief Minister because Arvind Kejriwal never inspected the roads ... The people of Delhi will now send these people away permanently because the people of Delhi have understood that at the time of elections, they all talk sweetly and take good steps... The people of Delhi will punish them," he said.

Terming it a nautanki by Atishi and her cabinet road inspection, South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said Kejriwal government did nothing for the people of Delhi except press conferences. Evey day they conducted five to six press conference on daily basis," he added.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav wondered why the AAP Government waited till the election year to give attention to the broken roads as these roads should have been recarpeted as a matter of routine by the PWD under the Delhi Government.

### Supreme Court pulls up Forest Department

months.

October 15.

capital 03

road. After laying the pipeline

IGL has not repaired the road.

Therefore, this road is broken.

Instructions have been given to

do patchwork on it. In Multani

Dhanda, garbage was found accumulated on this road. Due

to this, the road is very dirty.

it was found that there is a

rain for the last one and a half

The Delhi government has

claimed that it filed a com-

pliance report in the contempt

petition which has been trans-

ferred from this bench to

another bench. Apart from

this approach of the Delhi

government, the status report dated September 21 shows a complete lack of interest by

In Idgah Road Chowk,

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the Delhi government's forest department for not apprising it of any comprehensive measures taken by it to enhance the green cover of the national capital, saying it has shown a "complete lack of interest" and "lacklustre" approach. The Court said, "Judges come and go. It is not for the ben-efit of judges but for the national capital territory of

Delhi.' A bench of Justices AS Oka and Augustine George Masih directed the principal secretary of the forest department to be present on October 18 through virtual mode and asked him to file a personal affidavit to explain why information was not placed on record on steps taken and to be taken for enhancing the green cover of Delhi by the principal secretary of the forest department," the bench said. The Supreme Court also expressed displeasure over the statement of advocate Chirag Shroff appearing for the Delhi government that it has filed the compliance report in a contempt matter, which is pending before another bench of the apex

court. "Either there is a complete lack of knowledge or somebody else wants that this court should not hear this matter. There is something else in your approach obviously.

### Centres under PM-UDAY to remain Rai launches Green War Room at Delhi Secretariat open throughout week: LG directs DDA

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $G^{\text{earing up for likely pol-}}_{\text{lution in the national}}$ capital in the coming months, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday launched the Green War Room at Delhi Secretariat for better implementation of Winter Action Plan against smog. Drone mapping this year will be used to analyse He said due to the steps taken by the Delhi government, a huge reduction in pollution has been recorded. While the number of polluted days was 243 in 2016, it has come down to 159 in 2023. Delhi's air pollution has reduced by 34.6%. As part of the public awareness campaign, a "Harit Kalash Yatra" will be taken out in Connaught Place on October one, added the Environment Minister.



Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, will also be analysed from the Green War Room. Thirdly, analysis of the satellite data on analysis of the satellite data of the smoke produced from stubble burning at various places will also be done on daily basis at the war room. Gopal Rai said like the previous years, the entire Delhi will be connected with the Green War Room through the Green Delhi app.

seven days of the week includ-



Addressing media persons, the minister said winter is round the corner in Delhi. With the onset of winter, the

environment in Delhi becomes increasingly unfavourable. The wind speed is going to decrease gradually, the rain will stop, and the temperature is going to fall. Under such unfavourable conditions, the level of pollution in Delhi starts going up. Owing to these three fac-

Ranjan Dimri

get dissolved, reach the ground. And because of that the level of air pollution starts increasing.

Gopal Rai said under such unfavourable conditions, all we can do is to keep under check the sources of pollution that cause PM 10 and PM 2.5 in the atmosphere. To control tors, the gases that otherwise it, the Delhi government in collaboration with the people of Delhi has put in place a 21point Winter Action Plan.

The Environment Minister said the additional feature of the Green War Room this year is to analyse data with drone mapping. Secondly, the data of the Real Time Source Apportionment Study, which is done at our centre at

monitor hotspots because they are the biggest hurdle in the pollution level of Delhi in winters as they increase the total AQI of Delhi. When the AQI of Delhi is 200, the AQI at 13 hotspots is 125 to 150 more than normal. This makes the AQI level of the whole of Delhi jump. The Environment Minister said the data of 24-hour mon-

itoring stations that have been set up at different places in Delhi from where we monitor PM10 and PM 2.5 will be analysed at the Green War Room.

from October 1. "This step is aimed at expediting the processing of applications and ensuring timely delivery of ownership rights to the residents of PM-UDAY (Pradhan Mantri-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi AwasAdhikarYojana) colonies. The Lt. Governor has received several representations from residents of PM-UDAY Unauthorized colonies to this effect," DDA said in a statement.

PM-UDAY Scheme is aimed at granting ownership rights to the residents of 1731 unau-

thorized colonies in Delhi. The primary objective of this Scheme is to provide legal recognition to residents' properties, by conferring ownership rights.

"By extending operations to weekends, these Centers will have increased capacity to process applications and clear pending cases, leading to faster disposal of applications. This initiative will provide enhanced opportunities for residents and especially benefit those residents of PM-

STAFF REPORTER

The arrest was made by the

officials of Kavinagar police sta-

tion following the registration

of a complaint made by Singh,

the former Ghaziabad Lok

Sabha MP, on Sunday evening,

a senior officer said. Those

booked in the case are the news

portal's editor-in-chief Ran

Singh and a city-based iron

trader, Anand Prakash, who

allegedly made the false claim

The YouTube channel alleged-

ly posted unverified claims,

saying that Singh failed to pay rent for his residence during his

In his complaint, Singh described the post as "baseless"

and lacking factual evidence.

He asserted, "The post has tar-

nished my image both nation-

ally and internationally, as well

as in Uttar Pradesh and in the

occupancy.

about Singh, the officer said.

GHAZIABAD

UDAY colonies who face challenges in submitting documents and following up their applications during weekdays," it said The DDA aims for this mea-

sure to significantly enhance accessibility to PM-UDAY centers for the residents of the 1731 unauthorized colonies covered under PM-UDAY and improve overall application-processing effectiveness and disposal of applications for issuance of Authorisation Slips/ Conveyance Deeds.

### CM's men forcibly taken over parks, started illegal parking collections: BJP

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday charged that Chief Minister Atishi's men have forcibly taken over parks and started illegal parking collections in her constituency. It was also claimed hundreds of saplings were destroyed.

Making these allegations, Leader of Opposition in Municipal Corporation of Delhi(MCD)Raja Iqbal Singh said here on Sunday afternoon in the MCD Park located in Krishna Market, Kalkaji, Atishi's representative Vandana Sinha, along with AAP leader Shivani Chauhan came with some goons and attempted to park vehicles forcibly. When local people, along with the municipal councilor from Kalkaji and BJP state vice-president Yogita Singh, questioned them, they responded by saying Atishi is not just an MLA but the Chief Minister now.

Raja Iqbal Singh, Councilor Yogita Singh, and Rajpal Singh held a press conference on Monday condemning the illegal parking setup by the Chief Minister. They demanded strict action against the AAP goons by filing a police complaint for attempting to take over the park.

Raja Iqbal Singh said pollution will peak in the coming times, and Delhiites will need parks and trees. However, the AAP goons have started encroaching on parks for their illegal collections.

He added that AAP goons began illegal parking and started extorting money from the public. Seeing this, local councilor Yogita



Singh, along with Kalkaji residents, informed the police, and the illegal parking was removed. However, by then, hundreds of saplings in the park had been destroyed. Raja Iqbal Singh questioned Atishi, asking how many parks she has developed in the last five years and what steps have been taken to protect Delhiites from pollution. He warned that Delhi citizens will no longer tolerate such hooliganism.

Yogita Singh said during her first visit to the assembly after winning the election, Atishi incited violence against BJP councilors and now her people are carrying out similar actions in her constituency

She also mentioned that the damage to the saplings in the park is a matter she will raise with the NGT, as it involves the destruction of government property.

### Youtuber booked for Three people arrested for duping defamatory content against people on pretext of providing CNG pumps former Union Minister

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three people, including a former contractual employee of the Ministry of Petroleum, for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing CNG pumps The fraudsters duped a man of

Rs 2.39 crore under the guise of setting up a CNG pump, police said, adding that the accused had received Rs 1.79 crore through various dummy bank accounts and Rs 60 lakh in cash.

"On March 27, this year, the complainant approached the IFSO Special Cell, stating that he had been defrauded of Rs 2.39 crore by individuals who promised to install a CNG pump on his land," Deputy Commissioner of Police (IFSO) Hemant Tiwari said.

The officer further said that the complainant told police that he was searching petrol or CNG pump allotment processes online and was approached by two individuals, Amrendra and Amit Pandey, who presented themselves as coordinators and agents of a gas

company. "They lured him with promis-

es of getting a CNG pump installed with minimal formalities. The accused created forged documents, including a registration certificate, bank account details, and an invoice with a GST number, and sent them to the complainant. By posing as officers of a gas company. They swindled Rs 2.39 crore from the victim," said the DCP, adding that an FIR was registered and an investigation was taken up. According to the police, a spe-

cial team was formed as the fraud dates back almost three years. The team gathered details of the bank accounts involved in the fraud and traced the money trail. The registration and allotment documents provided by the accused were verified with the gas company and found to be fake. Team pinpointed the location of the accused and subse-

quently arrested Amit Kumar Pandey (41), Amrendra Kumar (47) and Amar Singh (62), the DCP said. To avoid detection, the accused had been using SIM cards registered in some-

one else's name. They also created fake emails to send documents to the complainant. Pandey was identified as the mastermind who forged the registration and allotment documents, while Amrendra Kumar collected the cash from the complainant. Amar Singh, former employee of the Ministry of Petroleum, posed

as a facilitator, police said. Sharing modus operandi, the DCP said that the fraudsters learned that the complainant was seeking to install a CNG pump on his land and falsely presented themselves as gas company officials and intermediaries

'They offered to install the CNG pump with minimal for-malities, claiming to have strong connections in the Ministry of Petroleum. The gang employed various tactics to deceive the complainant, including arranging site visits and issuing fake NOCs, area clearance reports, and invoices to avoid raising suspicion. The investigation into other coconspirators and any possible connection to the gas company is ongoing," he added.



society as a whole. This act cannot be overlooked or excused; it has hurt my sentiments. Even the apex court and the high court did not pass any orders, so how can a businessman issue such false statements on social media?"

Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Rajesh Kumar Singh said the accused YouTuber has been arrested while further probe is underway. The FIR was registered under BNS sections 356 (defamation), 352 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace),  $61(\hat{2})$  (party to criminal conspiracy) and under provisions of the IT Act, he said.

"Police are currently investigating the case to initiate action against those responsible," Singh added.



### nation 04

### Modi to launch projects worth **Rule of law key to social** ₹83,300 crore in Jharkhand development: President Murmu

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

resident Droupadi Murmu on President Droupadi Multilla on Monday said economic growth and social development are possible only where the rule of law is upheld

Without maintaining law and order, ensuring justice and protecting citizens' rights, progress becomes a meaningless term, she said addressing a group of Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers, who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"One category of crime I would like to highlight here is crimes against women. While it is a complex phenomenon with its roots deep in a sick mindset as well as sickening social prejudices, it is, first of all, a crime. Therefore, fighting it requires action at many levels, but the first response comes from the police force," President Murmu said.

She said police officers working on these cases are expected to have exceptional sensitivity, empathy for the victim besides utmost commitment to the task of ensuring justice.

The president said police officers working on cases of crime against women are "expected to have exceptional sensitivity and empathy the victim and utmost for



to be tech-savvy and stay a step ahead

of the criminals. Maintenance of law

and order, crime prevention and

detection as well as other aspects of

policing have benefited from advances

"The flip side, however, is that criminals and terrorists too have

rising around the world, you will be

in technology, she said.

commitment to the task of ensuring she said. The President asked the police officers justice"

She said law and order is not only the bedrock of governance but also the very basis of the modern state, and asked the officers to be efficient, sympathetic, fearless as well as friendly. President Murmu said police officers' roles become more crucial as India aims to scale new heights in the years to come.

resorted to using technology. When cyber-crimes and cyber warfare are and social 'Economic growth development are possible only where expected to be tech-savvy and stay a step ahead of the criminals," President the rule of law is upheld. Without maintaining law and order, ensuring justice and protecting citizens' rights, Murmu said. She expressed happiness over the rise progress becomes a meaningless term,"

in the number of women officers in the IPS. "I am told that in this batch there are 54 lady officers out of the total strength of 188. At 28.72 per cent, it is a sharp jump from last year's numbers as well as the average of recent years," the President said.

She said the role of lady officers goes much beyond addressing genderbased crimes.

"Their increasing numbers can change the overall character of policing for the better, improve the police-community relations, and will prove beneficial to the nation too," the president said, addressing the IPS probationers of the 76 Pagular Pacruite (2023) batch 76 Regular Recruits (2023) batch.

officers to make yoga a part of their routine and not ignore their mental well-being.

"I have spoken about the great responsibilities placed on your shoulders. These can sometimes be too stressful. I would like to offer you a word of advice in this regard.

'Never ignore your mental well-being. Make yoga, 'pranayama' and relaxation techniques part of your routine from now, and they will help you do your job better," she said. "The 'S' in 'IPS' stands for service", President Murmu said, and added that "one watchword above all is to serve the nation and its citizens".



### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jharkhand on October two and lay the foundation stone, launch and inaugurate various projects worth over Rs. 83,300 crore in Hazaribag, Jharkhand, Prime Minister's Office(PMO)said here on Monday.

In line with his commitment to ensure comprehensive and holistic development of the tribal communities across the country, Prime Minister will of India.

In order to boost the educational infrastructure for the tribal communities, Prime Minister will inaugurate 40 Eklavva Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and lay the foundation stone for 25 EMRS worth over Rs 2,800 crore.

Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple projects under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) worth over Rs 1360 crore.

It includes more than 1380 kms of road, 120 Anganwadis, 250 multi purpose centres and 10 school hostels.

launch Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan with a total outlay of over Rs 79,150 crore. The Abhiyan will cover

around 63,000 villages benefitting more than 5 crore tribal people in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks across 30 States and UTs. It aims to attain saturation of

critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, livelihood, through 25 interventions implemented by various 17 Ministries and Department of Government

Further, he will also unveil a of landmark series achievements under PM JANMAN, which include, electrification of more than 75,800 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) households in around 3,000 Villages, operationalization of 275 Mobile medical units, operationalization of 500 Ānganwadi centres, establishment of 250 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras and saturation of more than 5,550 PVTG Villages with 'Nal se Jaľ.



### NHRC seeks report on tribal students electrocution

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

∎aking "suo motu L cognisance of a media report that two students, belonging to a Scheduled Tribe, got electrocuted to death while cleaning a water tank on the instructions of the government-run hostel in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on September 25", the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the chief secretary and the director general of police, the State government, seeking a detailed report within two weeks. It appears that the hostel authorities have acted in an "insensitive manner" by asking the young boys to execute such a hazardous task resulting in their deaths, the Apex rights body said. It has issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh government over reports that two tribal students were electrocuted allegedly while cleaning a water tank on the instructions of the superintendent of a government-run hostel in Dhar district.

said, going by the reports, it appears that the hostel authorities have acted in an

"insensitive manner" by 'Marine Resources" and asking the young boys to execute such a hazardous task resulting in their deaths. According to the media report, carried on September 26, the students came into a live connected to a water pump inside the tank while cleaning They were spotted lying in the tank by villagers, who reportedly informed the hostel authorities, it said. Commission has The NEW DELHI observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious concern about human rights violations of the victim students. Accordingly, the Commission has issued a notice to the chief secretary and the director general of police, the government of Madhya Pradesh, seeking a detailed assignment. report within two weeks, said a statement by the NHRC here. It is also expected to include the status of the police investigation and compensation, if any, paid to the aggrieved families of both victims, the statement added. An alumnus of the National Defence

## Indo-Pacific regional dialogue set to begin on October 3

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Cituation in the strategically Simportant Indo-Pacific region will figure prominently during the three-day conference here starting October three. More than 20 countries will take part in the annual apex-level international Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue(IPRD), organized by the Indian Navy. Giving details, officials said here on Monday, in focusing upon "Resource-Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific", the 2024 edition of the IPRD would explore and elaborate upon the several dimensions of two vital pillars of the IPOI Web, namely,

"Resource Sharing". This year's conference would concentrate upon the manner in which traditional and newly identified marine



contemporary geopolitics and are likely to do so in the foreseeable future. These include dwindling fishstocks - with a concomitant in

increase Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, especially in oceanic areas beyond national jurisdiction.

resource-geopolitics is the cobalt

lithium, nickel, and other hard-to-find minerals, as also rare earth elements (REE) such as tellurium and neodymium that are needed for the millions of batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, and other such renewableenergy devices required to successfully transition from fossil-fuels to renewable sources of energy.

resources such hydrocarbons, are likely to retain their geopolitical significance, even as more unconventional ones, such gas hydrates and oceanic renewable energy resources ocean-sourced hydrogen for example, appear likely to drive future geoeconomic strategies across the Indo-Pacific.

The IPRD-2024, through the agency of a series of globally renowned subject-matter experts and eminent speakers, will endeavour to identify mega trends of resourcegeopolitics in the Indo-Pacific and posit policy-options that could be pursued to advantage.

Over a period of three days, it would also explore whether and how cooperation, collaboration, and comity might offer alternative pathwavs within the resourceparadigm of



### India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise begins in Uttarakhand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T_{\rm India-Kazakhstan}^{\rm he \ eighth \ edition \ of}$ Military Exercise KAZIND-2024 commenced on Monday at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand and will conclude on October 13, ce ministry said here The joint exercise has been include joint response to a held annually since 2016. Last terrorist edition of the Joint Exercise establishment of a Joint was held at Otar, Kazakhstan Command from October 30 to establishment Intelligence and Surveillance November 11 last year. The Indian Armed Forces, Centre, securing of helipad / comprising 120 personnel, landing site, combat free fall, are being represented by a Special battalion of the Kumaon Regiment along with other Search operations, besides arms and services, as well as employment of drones and personnel from Indian Air counter drone systems among others. Force. The Kazakhstan contingent Joint Exercise KAZIND-2024 will be represented mainly by personnel from Land Forces best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of and Air Borne Assault Troopers. conducting joint operations. It will facilitate developing Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military inter-operability, bonhomie capability of both sides to and camaraderie between the undertake counter terrorism two armies. operations in a sub conventional scenario under The Joint Exercise will also enhance defence cooperation, Chapter VII of the United further augmenting bilateral Nations Charter. relations between the two

on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous terrain. Objectives to be achieved from the Joint Exercise are high degree of physical fitness, rehearsing and refining drills for operations at tactical level and sharing of best practices. Tactical drills to be rehearsed Joint

Operations, Cordon and

will enable both sides to share

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President Murmu also advised the NEW DELHI

In a statement, the NHRC

### Air Chief Marshal AP Singh takes charge as IAF Chief

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ir Chief Marshal A P Singh, an Aaccomplished fighter pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying experience, on Monday assumed charge as new chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding incumbent Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari who superannuated. Air Chief Marshal Singh was serving as Vice Chief of the Air Force in his previous

Born on October 27, 1964, Air Chief Marshal Singh was commissioned into the fighter pilot stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1984.

In his long and distinguished service spanning nearly 40 years, he has served in a variety of command, staff, instructional and foreign appointments.



Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College, the air officer is a qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying experience on a variety of fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Air Chief Marshal Singh has commanded an operational fighter squadron and a frontline air base.

As a test pilot, he led the MiG-29 upgrade project management team at Moscow. He was also the project director (flight test) at National Flight Test Centre and was tasked with flight testing of the Light Combat Aircraft, Teias.

The officer has held important staff appointments of Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command and Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command.

Prior to assuming the charge of Vice Chief of the Air Staff in February last year, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command.

The Joint Exercise will focus friendly nations.

### Young travelers shape family vacations, says Hilton report Congress: Government employment opportunities are half-truths

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

n overwhelming 93 per Acent of young travelers specifically Generation Alpha and Generation Z are actively involved in shaping their family's vacation plans, according to a study. Interestingly, these young travelers are eager to explore both local and international destinations, showing a growing interest in cultures beyond Asia.

Their preferred travel destinations include India (34%), Singapore (28%), the USA (22%), and Australia and the UK (17%), said the "Small Voices, Big Choices: Hilton 2025 Trends Report" Revealing that these younger

generations are emerging as decision-makers, influencing destinations and activities, the report notes that in India, 76 per cent of parents



per cent. Although young travelers play their children's interests, a significant role in selecting demonstrating the power of activities and destinations, youth preferences in shaping parents still handle logistical family trips. Generation Alpha, those aged 14 and decisions like transportation under, comprises a quarter of (44 per cent), dining (40 per India's population, while cent), and accommodation Generation Z, born between (32 per cent). The report notes 1997 and 2012, makes up 30 that young travelers in India

take an average of two to three trips per year, with 94 per cent traveling at least once annually. Looking ahead, 90 per cent of these youths plan to travel in the coming year, highlighting a strong demand for travel among younger generations.

contrast, millennials (Generation Y) tend to favor familiar Asian destinations for comfort and convenience, such as Japan and the Maldives. This generational shift is prompting the travel industry to innovate, creating immersive more and culturally enriching experiences that align with the values of these younger travelers.

Alexandra Jaritz, senior vice president of brand management for Asia Pacific at Hilton, said that the preferences of Generation Alpha and Z are reshaping the travel landscape. "The demand for more meaningful, immersive, and culturally enriching experiences is prompting the travel industry to innovate.

This shift reflects a broader trend where younger generations seek not just to visit places but to engage with them in a deeper, more

authentic manner." The findings are based on two surveys: a global Ipsos poll and an APAC-focused OnePoll survey, indicating a comprehensive analysis of travel trends among young people in India and beyond.

While the Ipsos survey sampled 13,001 adults (18+) across 13 countries, the OnePoll survey included 8,000 Gen Z and Millennial parents (born in or before 1981) with children aged 6 to 19, from Australia, mainland China, India, Japan, and Singapore, said the report.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday dismissed as "half-truths" the government's assertions of creating eight employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024 and 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the EPFO database, and said no "spin-doctoring" can take away from the fact that 2014-24 has seen "jobloss growth".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said amidst the "U-turns and scandals" that have marked the last few months of this "tottering" government, "the non-biological PM and his drum beaters have tried to find some solace in their economic record, claiming to have



eight created crore employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024".

'This claim initially emerged from the RBI KLEMS data, which we had earlier countered on July 15th, 2024. The Government's spin doctors have now mustered another statistic - that of 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) database between September 2017 and March 2024. Both

claims are based on halftruths," he said in a statement. To justify its claim of eight new jobs, the government adopts an expansive definition of without registering the quality and

employment, Ramesh argued. A large part of the claimed "employment growth" is recording unpaid household work done by women as "employment", he said, adding that it is not new job creation. Amidst the poor economic climate, the share of salaried, formal employment in the labour market has decreased, he said and pointed out that workers are moving to lowproductivity informal and agricultural jobs, which KLEMS is capturing as jobs created.

crore

crore employment, circumstances

## nation 05

# the pioneer NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 1, 2024

# Pak refugees, Valmiki, Gorkha community to vote for first time post abrogation of Article 370

#### MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

n the eve of the third and final round of polling in Jammu and Kashmir, the mood was upbeat among the first-time voters who belong to the West Pakistani refugee community, Valmiki Samaj, and Gorkha community. These people got voting rights in assembly, urban local bodies, and panchayat elections only after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

Speaking to the Pioneer of the West Chairman Pakistan Refugee Action Committee Labha Ram Gandhi said, "It is going to be a momentous occasion for members belonging to the West Pakistan Community as they will be exercising their right to vote to elect their public representatives for the

first time in the Assembly polls"

We have already booked a band group to celebrate the festival of democracy. The first-time voters will march in a group to the polling station in RS Pura on Tuesday to cast their vote", he added. Labha Ram Gandhi also the Union credited

government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who gave them their citizenship rights, ending their sevendecade-long struggle. The mood in the Valmiki

colony in Jammu was equally upbeat. A large number of first-time voters were keen on collecting their voter slips to avoid any chaos and confusion at the last minute. A first-time voter in the Valmiki colony Eklavya told The Pioneer, "Our parents were deprived of their voting rights successive by

we have been empowered by the constitution of India to exercise our voting rights. We are eagerly waiting to participate in the festival of democracy to choose our

public representative. According to official sources, over 39.18 lakh voters will be exercising their right to vote across 40 Assembly segments in the final round of polling on October 1.

governments in the past. Now

The Election Commission of India has deployed over 20,000 polling staff across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fate of several senior leaders including two former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand and Muzaffar Beig will be decided in the crucial phase.

Prominent among others in the fray include People's Conference chairman and

former minister Sajjad Lone and National Panthers Party India president Harsh Dev Singh. While Lone is fighting on two seats from Kupwara, Singh is contesting from Chenani seat of Udhampur.

Former ministers Raman Bhalla (R S Pura), Usman Majid (Bandipora), Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Taj Mohiuddin (Uri), Basharat Bukhari (Wagoora-Kreeri), Imran Ansari (Pattan).

Ghulam Hassan Mir (Gulmarg), Choudhary Lal Singh (Basohli), Rajiv Jasrotia (Jasrota), Manohar Lal Sharma (Billawar), Sham Lal Sharma and Ajay Kumar Sadhotra ( Jammu North), Mula Ram (Marh), Chander Prakash Ganga and Manjit Singh (Vijapur) are other strong contenders in the fray. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in the poll-bound areas to ensure "terror-free and peaceful" polling.

Amid tight security arrangements, thousands of election staff along with poll material left their respective district headquarters this morning to take positions at designated polling their stations by this evening. The voter turnout was robust

in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase on September 18 and 57.31 percent in the second phase on September 26.

Officer. Chief Electoral Jammu and Kashmir PK Pole said a total of 5,060 polling stations have been set up the poll-bound across districts.

A total of 39,18,220 lakh voters eligible to exercise franchise their include 20.09.033 male voters 19,09,130 female voters and 57 third gender voters, the CEO said, adding as many as 1.94 lakh youth between the age 18 and19 years, along with 35,860 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 32,953 elderly voters above the age of 85 are also eligible to exercise their franchise in this phase.

He said there will be 50

polling booths managed by women, known as Pink Polling Stations, 43 polling stations manned by specially abled persons and 40 polling stations manned by youths. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations to spread the message about environmental concerns and 33 unique polling stations, he said, adding 29 polling stations are

established near the Line of Control or International Border for border residents. The purpose behind these special polling stations is to spread awareness among sections of society like specially-abled women, persons and first-time young voters to come forward and exercise their right to vote," he said.

He said over 1.07 lakh saplings have been planted in the premises of all polling stations

# 26 Indian fishermen died in Pakistan jails in last ten years

#### T N RAGHUNATHA 🗖 MUMBAI

A<sup>s</sup> many as 26 Indian fishermen died in Pakistan's jails India during the last ten years, according to information received under the Right to Information Act (RTI).

In a reply to an RTI query sought by Mumbai-based journalist-peace activist Jatin Desai, the High Commission of India in Islamabad said that 24 Indian fishermen died in Pakistan's custody between January 2014 and December 2023. Of the 24 deaths, two deaths were reported during 2024.

Of the two fishermen who died during the current year, Vinod Laxman from Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra, passed away on March 17 and his mortal remains reached his village on 1 May

Nathu died on 5 Suresh September 5. Nathu's family members and friends are waiting for his mortal remains. "Pakistan must

Muslim League



repatriate his mortal remains without further delay urgently," Desai said. As of today, 210 Indian fishermen have been languishing in Pakistan's jails for crossing the water border 'inadvertently'.

"Of them, around 180 Indian fishermen have completed their sentences and their nationality was also verified long ago," Desai said. The section (V) of the The

bilateral Agreement on Consular Access, 2008, states: "Both Governments agree to release and repatriate persons

within one month of confirmation of their national status and completion of sentences." "It means around 180 Indian

fishermen should have been released and repatriated by Pakistan long ago.... Of them, 52 Indian fishermen have been in Pakistan's jails for more than over three years now. 130

Another Indian fishermen have been behind the bars in Pakistan for more than two years. Ten Indian fishermen have not been keeping well," Desai said.

### Congress confused, leaders absent in Haryana: CM Saini

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

hief Minister Nayab Singh Saini attacked Congress fiercely, saying- In the last 15-20 days, no big leader of Congress was ready to come to Haryana. Congress is in a state of confusion today. CM Saini visited Sohna

Constituency in support of party candidate Tejpal Tanwar. The Independent candidate

from the Sohna assembly, Subhash Bansal, was also present in support of the BJP candidate Tejpal Tanwar. Chief Minister Nayab Singh

Saini, Haryana co-in-charge Surender Nagar, and District President Kamal Yadav were also present on this occasion. Saini, while attacking the Congress party, said In the last few days, it has become clear that the condition of Congress is also going to be like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; now Where it used to be strong but has lost its influence over time. Even the Congress leaders have started believing this.



"Now the news has come that Rahul Gandhi, who gave antireservation statements on foreign soil, is coming to Haryana on a 2-3 day political tour. In the last 10 years, the BJP government has developed Haryana in all directions, so Rahul Gandhi should come here and roam around and do his tourism activities," Saini said.

The youth of Haryana will ask him why he is silent on the 'kharchi, parchi' system that happened during Hooda's rule. Dalits of Harvana will ask with what face has he come to Harvana after opposing reservation? Rahul Gandhi should answer all these questions," Saini said. Meanwhile, A total of 47 candidates are in the fray for four Assembly seats in the



Singh from Badshahpur seat Congress, Vardhan Yadav and Kumudni Independent

Similarly, BJP Bimla Chaudhary from the Pataudi (SC) constituency, Congress Parl Chaudhary. from the Sohna assembly constituency BJP's Tejpal Tawar from the Sohna seat, Congress Rohtas Khatana and others.

Moreover, 7 candidates from the Pataudi Assembly, 13 from the Badshahpur Assembly, 17 from the Gurgaon Assembly and 10 from the Sohna Assembly are now in the poll battle.

Voting for the Assembly elections will be held on October 5, and counting will be held on October 8; the result will be declared along with the counting.



### India to launch first Ayush Jan Aushadhi Centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndia is set to get its first Ayush Jan Aushadhi Centre on October 9, aiming to integrate traditional practices like healthcare with modern Avurveda medicine, Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Ayush said on Monday. These Centres will be on the lines of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra which are dedicated to making quality generic medicines accessible to all sections of society. Jadhav stressed that the

initiative (Ayush Jan Aushadhi Centre) seeks to enhance access to holistic treatments and promote awareness of traditional he remedies, enriching the country's healthcard negative People are interested in experiencing authentic Ayush services, but many times it is observed that either they are unaware or don't have access to these services. But we are taking several steps to reachout to the general masses.

nationwide.' In his keynote presentation, Vaidva Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary Union Ayush delved into the Ayush industry's growing global presence. "The global reach of vush significantly expanded,

with

requiring health insurance

companies to offer AYUSH

treatments at par with other

So far about 49 life insurance

companies are providing

Jadhav further said, "Our

focus on comprehensive

health encompasses physical,

mental, and spiritual well-

being, making India a global

in tourism...With the G-20

positioned Ayush globally,

integrating these practices

various

systems and

witnessing

growth.

we

health

have

healthcare

exports

substantial

institutions

treatments.

leader

into

presidency,

about 69 packages.

# If I can make it, anyone can: Mithun Chakrabarty

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA



announce that the Dadasaheb Minister tion Jury has

generations! Honoured to political circles like Chief Banerjee in th

Jhangu.

### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

welcomes

**PV** Anvar

Muslim League in Kerala is preparing the stage ready for welcoming P V Anvar, the independent MLA from the Left Democratic Front to its fold. The Muslim League leadership is in talks with Congress leaders in the State for declaring Anvar, who has been declared a persona non-grata in the LDF by the CPI(M).

Since Anvar had ridiculed and humiliated Rahul Gandhi during the Lok Sabha polls by demanding a DNA test on the Leader of the Opposition, it may not be easy for the former to get into the Congress fold. What gives him relief is that the Muslim League is the "A" team of the Grand Old Party in the State and a phone call from League supremo Panakkadu Thangal in Malappuram to 10 Janpath in New Delhi would remove all hurdles, if any, in the path of Anvar.

declared Anvar, wno ucclarcu additional director general of police M R Ajith Kumar as a criminal and P Sasi, the Anvar, who political secretary to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan as a forest brigand went one step by describing N P Mohanan, the Malappuram district secretary

as a stooge of the RSS. The independent MLA who got elected from Nilambur with support from the CPI(M) has been behaving as a bull in a China shop by attacking all close confidantes of Vijayan. Though the CPI(M) leadership had suffered all humiliations meted out by Anvar as part of its appeasement politics, the time has come for the party to declare its stance viz-a-viz the independent MLA.

Though the public meetings convened by the dissident MLA drew big crowd in his constituency, only time alone would make it clear what the future holds for Anvar, said Althaf Roshan, a young CPI(M) leader in Malappuram district.

If I can make it then anyone can make it." That is how Krishnan Iyer YamYa (MA) ... Nariyal Paani Wala

(Invoke Agneepath) explained his 48-year journey to success, hours after the news of him being news of him being nominated for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Providing a few snatches from his hard days — "that was hardly considered hard by me" — Mumbai mega star Mumbai mega star

Mithun Chakrabarty on Monday said, "when a journalist contacted me for an interview after I got my first National Award — for Mrinal Sen's Mrigaya — I remember telling him that I would give him one if he could treat me to good food ... that sums up my struggling days?

A veteran of the famous Scottish Church College, Kolkata - where went the greats like Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose — the Disco had occasions to meet him Dancer of the eighties got several time and I am Chandra Bose — the Disco



saying emotional he was running short of words. 'Neither I can laugh nor cry. It is beyond my imagination, he said dedicating his success "to my family and my fans across the world." The super star who too is often referred as Dada in Mumbai expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi Narendra for acknowledging his success saying "he is a fantastic human being to be with ... I

fortunate to be congratulated by him." Earlier the Prime Minister wrote, "delighted Mithun that Shri Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognising his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema.

Earlier Union Minister Vaishnav Ashwini said Dadasaheb announcing Phalke award for the North Kolkata boy of the 1970s, "Mithun Da's remarkable cinematic journey inspires

decided to award legendary actor, Sh. Mithun Chakraborty Ji for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema."

An alumnus of Pune's Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Chakraborty has worked predominantly in Hindi and Bengali cinema and is perhaps among very few actors who have three National Awards in his kitty for his debut film Mrigayaa, followed by Tahader Katha and Swami Vivekananda. He is also known for his other famous parallel films like

Mera Rakshak, Patita etc. However it is the main stream Mumbai blockbusters that got him the real fame like Disco Dancer with its chartbusters like Jimmy Jimmy and Yaad Aa Raha Hai, Guru, Pyar Jhukta Nahin, Agneepath, Suraksha etc that catapulted him to be the first mega star of Hidni films.

When asked as to whether he expected praises from Bengal award?

saying he was not expecting such praises. "I am thankful to her that she sent me to Rajya Sabha but I came out of my own ... I should not say much on things that would invite controversy?

He however acknowledged how late President Pranab Mukherjee had lobbied for him saying, "Yes I must acknowledge that he wrote several letters for me," adding apart from these I don't h gave any obligations from anyone. Even as Bengal cine fraternity like actors Prasenjit and Rituparna Sengupta saw him in a "great actor and inspiration for many people because he never stopped and went on," Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh said, "I must congratulate Mithun da the actor and ... also would request him to for once remember during his hours of success how late Pranab Mukherjee wrote several letters for him for the

It is now vital to India's healthcare system, including integration into AIIMS and hospitals, defence he emphasised.

The Minister was speaking at the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024, themed Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel,' in Mumbai. He also exhorted the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to establish a Ministry of Ayush and an Ayush University in the State.

The size of the sector has increased dramatically. According to an analysis, the size of the Ayush sector grew from USD 3 million in 2014 to USD18.1 million in 2020an increase of sixfold within

six years." Dr. Manoj Nesari, Advisor (Ayu), Union Ayush Ministry said that as the number of foreign travellers seeking Ayush treatments grows, it's vital for all stakeholderstour operators, insurance providers, and hospitality leaders—to unite and leverage government initiatives to boost this essential sector.

According to a report, India ranks 10th globally in the Medical Tourism Index, and its top wellness tourism As per the statement issued destinations underscore the here, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) nation's potential to attract international patients seeking integrated and cost-effective has issued new guidelines, healthcare solutions.

### Bengal doctors threaten to cease work again

### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Bengal junior doctors' forum protesting against the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case besides demanding overall secured and safe environment for them to work in Government hospitals once again said that they were contemplating resumption of cease work in the wake of repeated attacks on the on-duty doctors and threats issued by the ruling party leaders. "We have no other way but to return to our cease work as there is no other way to make this Government and the police administration to listen to our woes ... despite the horrific incident of rape and murder of our postgraduate colleague and despite the orders to this effect by the Supreme Court the Government hardly seems to have done anything to increase our security in the hospitals," Dr Kinjal Nanda one of the agitating doctors said after three successive attacks on the junior doctors in three different medical colleges in the past several days

"Doctors were attacked and injured by the patient parties at Sagar Dutta Medical College a few days ago, then inside the National Medical

College — both in Kolkata — yesterday and today at Rampurhat Medical College ... our women colleagues are being manhandled ... boys and other medical staff beaten up ... we are not feeling safe," said Dr Maity another Junior Doctors' Forum leader.

"We are thinking in terms of resuming our cease work," another doctors said adding how "leaders and MLAs are threatening us every day with gheraoing us in the hospitals ... one MLA has threatened to take 50,000 men to Behrampore Medic al College ... then how can we work ... it seems that another Abhaya is waiting to happen," he said. A lady doctor reminded how in most of the cases "the women doctors and staff are being threatened with 'RG Kar like treatment" adding "how can we work in an atmosphere of fear .., it seems that the entire establishment is conspiring against us ... we want to work but we don't want to die."

The junior doctors' ultimatum came close on the heels of the Supreme Court - hearing suo motu the — on Monday rebuking the Bengal Government for the "tardy" progress in installation of CCTVs and construction of toilets and separate resting rooms at medical facilities?

### Liquor worth ₹95.43 lakh seized in Gurugram after poll code imposed, 399 arrested

### PARVESH SHARMA **GURUGRAM**

Around 399 people were arrested and Rs 95.43 lakh worth over liquor seized from across in Gurugram district after the imposition of the model code of conduct for the upcoming assembly polls, police said on Monday.

The model code is a set of guidelines, issued by the Election Commission, for political parties, candidates, government and the party in power during elections concerning speeches, announcements, election manifestos and general conduct. elections



with the counting of votes on October 8, the results will also announced on the same day Election Commission announced. With the announcement of the schedule, the Model Code of Conduct for governments, candidates and political parties has come into force.

etc. Keeping this in mind and with the aim of ensuring the rules of the code of conduct, as per the instructions of the Police Commissioner, Gurugram, police formed various special police teams and directed them to take action against those smuggling illegal liquor, cash, weapons and transferring them illegally.

26351.805 litres of liquor worth over Rs 95.43 lakh has been seized with the period of 16 September to 29 September and around 359 case were registered after imposition of the poll code, police said. During elections, there is a

Assembly elections in parties has come into force. possibility of increased Haryana will be held on Giving details of seizure, activities like smuggling of October 5 in a single phase police said in a statement illegal liquor, cash, weapons

The Gurugram police chief has given special instructions to all SHOs, crime branch teams and various police

teams to keep an eye on illegal trading. Team have also been formed in plain/civil clothes and deployed at various places, through which every illegal activity is being monitored, police said.

NEW DELHI | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 1, 2024

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### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Cauldron boiling**

West Asia is once again on the precipice of a larger conflict, as tensions between Israel, Hezbollah and Iran reach a boiling point

he situation in the West Asia is becoming critical and it would not be surprising if the region is embroiled in a full-fledged war. The assassination of Hezbollah's longstanding leader, Hassan Nasrallah, marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Lebanese militant group. This development could pull not only Iran but also the United States into a broader and potentially devastating confrontation. Hezbollah, reeling from the assassination of its leader and the destruction of much of its command structure, finds itself at a critical juncture. With over a dozen of its top commanders eliminated and its communications infrastructure crippled, the group faces significant operational challenges. However, expecting Hezbollah to capitulate is unrealistic. The group, which has thousands of fighters and a sizable arsenal of longrange, precision-guided missiles capable of hitting major Israeli cities, has vowed revenge. With pressure mounting from within its ranks, there is a strong likelihood that Hezbollah



will attempt to launch a major offensive against Israel, potentially overwhelming Israeli air defences. If such an attack takes place and results in significant civilian casualties, Israel's response is expected to be swift and devastating, targeting Lebanon's infrastructure or even expanding the conflict to Iranian territory. Such a scenario could ignite a much wider conflict that drags the entire region into chaos.

For Iran, the loss of Nasrallah is as much of a blow as it is for Hezbollah. Iran, which has yet to respond to the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, is now facing heightened pressure from hardliners to retaliate. Iran's influence extends across the

region through a network of militias known as the 'Axis of Resistance,' which includes Hezbollah, the Houthis in Yemen, and various groups in Syria and Iraq. While Tehran will likely use these proxies to increase pressure on Israel, its response is expected to be measured to avoid triggering a full-scale war. Israel's intentions are now clearer than ever. The assassination of Nasrallah signals that Israel has no interest in halting its military campaign, despite international calls for a 21-day ceasefire, including one from its closest ally, the United States. Israel believes it has Hezbollah on the defensive and aims to continue its offensive until the group's missile threat is neutralised. A broader war would have catastrophic consequences, not only for the parties directly involved but for the entire region. Lebanon, already on the brink of economic collapse, could be devastated and any escalation could disrupt global oil supplies, sending shockwaves through the international economy. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether this conflict spirals into a wider regional war or if diplomatic efforts can halt the violence before it escalates further. As of now, this volatile region stands on the edge of a conflict with no clear resolution in sight. This is high time for the UN to step in and the West to make efforts for rapproachment else this region is going to burn for sure.



# The deceptive facade of China's military



Despite technological advancements, setbacks like the Zhou-class submarine sinking, reveal a widening gap between China's military claims and actuality

eception is at the heart of Chinese strategy and operations, especially on matters, the military. Ancient Sinological philosophers like Sun Tzu (The Art of War) had propounded extensively on cheating (likening it to a 'magic weapon') as a vital underpinning of deceptive warfare. The Chinese PLA Navy Submarine Academy has formally distilled four examples of deception in war (under the manual, Essentials of Sun Tzu and the Art of War and Submarine Operations'). Firstly 'Show yourself to intimidate the enemy', then 'Show the false to confuse the enemy', thirdly 'Create momentum to harass the enemy and lastly 'Deceive to obstruct the enemy'. Herein, untruth is a natural necessity as per their established treatise. India would be well versed in how the Chinese would talk about the 1962 Indo-China War but remain conspicuously silent on the reversal of fortunes about the 1967 Nathu La and Cho La border clashes. While an estimated 340 Chinese soldiers had died then (88 on the Indian side) - true to their downplaying style, they only accepted a figure of 32 fatalities. The Chinese are similarly circumspect or lying about the essential outcomes of the China-Vietnam War of 1979. This deliberate fudging of facts was to repeat itself in the 2020

India-China skirmishes on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). While India acknowledged the loss of its Bravehearts in the bloody encounters, the Chinese shied away from acknowledging any of their own – this when the US pegged the Chinese fatalities as 20-35, the Russians estimated Chinese loss of about 45, whereas the Australians insisted at least 41 Chinese killed.

Almost a year later, the Chinese sheepishly admitted four fatalities killed in the Galwan clashes, as they gave away gallantry awards. True to their practised instincts, the Chinese always overstated their gains and downplayed their osses to deceive the onlookers (especially their citizenry) to Zhou-class of attack submarine retain 'manufactured' optics of infallibility and invincibility, even service, speaks volumes of the when the reality was a lot more gap between purported tech-



unheroic. This sovereign impulse of fake claims, downplaying failures, and overstating their capabilities has been elevated to a fine art, as is the won't of any authoritarian state reeling from regime insecurities.

It routinely manifests in their claims of making advancements in technologies, weaponry and platforms that are ostensibly cutting-edge and even ahead of peers like the United States or Russia. The reality is essentially predicated on reverse-engineering technologies that could be brazenly stolen or surreptitiously acquired - but the claim of 'homegrown' is gleefully posited.

A lot of 'fifth generation' fighters, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Hypersonic technologies to Chinese nuclear submarines remain in public news but are essentially untested or unsubstantiated in live combat. While it has a considerable industrial base and budgetary allocation granted to its Defence Industry, like everything else in the Chinese realm, claims remain more impressive than reality. With this murky backdrop, came the recent news of the sinking of the latest Chinese nuclear sub-

nological advancements as opposed to factual efficacy. Incidentally, the US Deputy Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell, had confirmed that the Russians were helping China develop this submarine technology and that it too wasn't necessarily homegrown, as claimed. While this sinking of the submarine is believed to have happened in May earlier, it was never owned up by the Chinese and it took satellite images to AS IF ON THE unravel the sinking of the first-in-class nuclear-powered **REBOUND AND TO** Chinese submarine. It is cer-STITCH A COUNTERtainly a major setback for China's priority weapons pro-NARRATIVE, CHINA grams that is key to its expan-IS BELIEVED TO HAVE sionist and hegemonic aspira-

tions

FIRED AN As if on the rebound and to stitch a counternarrative, INTERCONTINENTAL China is believed to have fired **BALLISTIC MISSILE** an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile into the Pacific Ocean, INTO THE PACIFIC in a move that seems designed to distract and deflect from the OCEAN, IN A MOVE embarrassing news of its sunk THAT SEEMS submarine and to reiterate its prowess and capability. DESIGNED TO Coming as the testing does after more than four decades DISTRACT AND over the Pacific Ocean, it is DEFLECT FROM THE unmistakably a 'signal' move to suggest that the 'Dragon' still **EMBARRASSING** retains sharp claws and fangs. edge technology is suspect. Incidentally, the missile is part of the PLA's Rocket Force that was subjected to a sweeping corruption crackdown, purge, and complete overhaul last

year - something that could be inflicted again on the PLA Navy leadership, which was in charge of the sunk submarine. Already the chorus of substandard Chinese weaponry has gained decibels from traditional clients like Pakistan or from emerging ones like Bangladesh, who complained about the quality of spares for its navy. Russia's decline on the global stage as a military supplier has not resulted in an automatic transfer of business to the Chinese manufacturers, as earlier thought and the growing perception of 'Made in China' has a lot to do with the reactions. With the US returning to the Pakistani arms market (Islamabad accounts for over 50 per cent of Chinese exports), and the overall pressures of economic slowdown haunting the Chinese economy - Beijing is in a tight spot to invest, innovate, and deliver weaponry that truly delivers what it claims. It is premature to write off Chines 'Military-Industrial complex just yet, but the chinks in its armour are getting routinely exposed. While still a 'value player' for the desperate, authoritarian or 'paradise' countries, its claim to cutting-

marine. The fact that the sank even before going into NEWS OF ITS SUNK SUBMARINE

(Ine writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views are personal)

n artist prepares an environment friendly *puja pandal* ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

## The challenges of parenting in the age of technology



While the challenges are real, so too are the solutions — adaptation and patience remain the cornerstones of successful parenting in these digital times

onversations these days are rife with the refrain ✓ of how challenging life has become and how surfing the turbulent seas is not as easy as it used to be previously. It amuses me that we endorse this view readily despite the conveniences the modern world has introduced to us.

The all-round improvement in quality of life has done nothing much in terms of bringing us the sense of gratification that material accumulation is perceived to bring. Instead, we have only become crazier and more complaining. Among the things that we whine about there is one that stands out – the difficulty of being a parent in these times. It is not like how it used to be when we were kids, they assert and are at a loss to keep

their children under control, be it about the use of gadgets or their demands for new-age comforts or following well-meaning advice. Children these days have a way of growing up that parents can't seem to get a grip over, and parents are at their wit's end. Has parenting become so



it used to be for our parents or theirs? Before we delve into why it

seems more difficult now than ever before, it is important to recognise that parenting has always been tough. Our grandparents may not have had to deal with social media addiction or the anxiety of being on constant alert, but they had their own set of worries—scarcity, lack of information, and fewer opportunities. Yet, they managed, just as we try to manage today. What, then, has changed so significantly that parents now feel a near-constant sense of overwhelm? For one, the digital age has transformed not only how we live but also how we raise children. Social media, YouTube, video

are not just forms of entertainment; they shape the way children think, act, and even perceive reality. Parents often feel powerless in the face of this digital onslaught, unsure how to manage screen time without seeming authoritarian or disconnected from their children's world. This struggle is exacerbated by the speed at which technol-

ogy evolves. By the time parents get a handle on one app or platform, their children have already moved on to the

> next one. Then, there's the issue of peer pressure, not just on children but on parents too. The 'Instagram-perfect' life adds a layer of stress to parenting that previous generations didn't face. Parents today are not just competing with them-selves to be the best versions of their upbringing-they are competing with a curated version of perfection they see online. The pressure to enrol children in extracurricular activities, make sure they're developing emotional intelligence, cultivate leadership skills, and create future 'success stories' can be crush-

ing. Our grandparents' idea of tough now, tougher than what games-all these distractions raising children to be 'good'

need to raise 'achievers,' and this shift in focus can leave parents feeling like they're running a race with no finish line. Despite these challenges, parenting isn't a lost cause. It is, and always will be, a journey of trial and error. The key is finding balance and knowing that perfection is neither attainable nor necessary. A good place to start is by building a stronger connection with your children. Parents also need to accept that they cannot fight all battles alone.

has been replaced with a

They must seek help. Many of the challenges we face today are new and unfamiliar, but that doesn't mean they are insurmountable. Just as previous generations found solutions to their problems, so too can we, but it will require adaptation, learning, and, most importantly, patience. After all, our children are not just products of their environment-they are reflections of the love, support, and wisdom we give them, no matter how fast the world around them changes. (*The author is a Dubai*-

based columnist, writing *coach. Views are personal)* 

### **PERILS OF MUSI PROJECT**

Madam - Congress government's extravagant plan to spend a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore on the Musi river beautification project. This expenditure raises serious questions about the government's priorities and its commitment to the welfare of the people of Telangana. As KTR has rightly pointed out, the government's focus on this project while neglecting the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, which is nearing completion, is a clear indication of their misplaced priorities. The Palamuru-Rangareddy project has the potential to transform the lives of countless farmers in the region, yet it seems to be overshadowed by the Musi project, which appears to be more about political gain than public welfare. It is also alarming to note that the estimated cost of the Musi project has tripled from Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, suggesting a significant financial scan-

The government must provide a transparent explanation for this drastic increase in expenditure and ensure that the funds are used efficiently and for the benefit of the people. Furthermore, the government has failed to provide clear details about the expected benefits of the Musi project, such as the number of acres of farmland that will benefit, the amount of water that will be stored, and the anticipated industrial benefits. Without such information, it is difficult to justify the massive investment being made in this project

Juloori B Saraswathi | Hyderabad

### **HEZBOLLAH LEADER ASSASSINATED**

Madam- The unstoppable Israel has once again inflicted another severe wound on Iran when Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in airstrikes by the Israeli defence forces at Lebanese capital Beirut. His death gave jolts to his shell shocked sympathisers in Iran, like the death of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. But at the same time a cause for celebration for the north-

## **India's dominance in Asia**

THE EDITOR



he Australian think tank 'Lowy Institute' ranked India as the third strongest Asian power in the Asia Power Index. US and China occupied the first and second position

western Sunni population in Syria for his atrocities and war crimes during the Al-Assad regime in the Civil War. The backto-back war between Hezbollah and Israel has spoilt the hope of a ceasefire and wreaked havoc on civilians through constant shelling in various human settlements for more causality.

It proves the hypocrisy of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who pretends to gather international support for isolated Israel in the UN General Assembly but on the contrary continues to provoke Iran for a wide-scale regional war and long-running conflict results in vicious ramifications. Lacking international support for war crime and muscle approach, how long Israel will continue to push for war with the help of the US in Gaza, Lebanon and beyond, only time will tell Janga B Sunuwar| Jalpaiguri

### **NEPOTISM IN POLITICS**

Madam - It refers to 'Stalin to succeed Stalin' (September 29). The biggest threat to Indian democracy is the appointment of Udhayanidhi as Deputy

followed by India in the third place. Considering the economic growth, future potential and the diplomatic influence of India on an improvement, India successfully managed to rank better with passing years than the countries like Japan, Australia and Russia. The improvement from the side of India is particularly welcoming because India strives to make continuous improvement in its performance in all respects and also ensure holistic growth of Asia for a better future together

The journey of India turning into the Asian giant is particularly strategic and India's efforts for industrialisation, infrastructural development, public policy and administration, good governance and holistic development are much appreciated in this regard.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

CM, which has proven the pervasiveness of dynastic politics and the prioritising of family interests over public welfare. It is easy for a son, daughter, or close relative of a leader to take over the political baton, while others have to spend a significant amount of time in the rough and tumble of politics. Political observers say that there is no harm if a political leader's son or daughter, or close relative, chooses to enter politics, but there is a thin line that separates dynasty politics and a worthy kin's choice to take a plunge.

But when we look into the pros and cons of dynastic politics, it highlights the deficiency it could bring to the ideals of democracy, questioning its legitimacy. The trend of dynastic politics will lead to the perpetuation of an elite class that transcends generations and will hamper the smooth inflow of capable, meritorious candidates into politics.

KV Chandra mouli | Mysuru

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### **FIRSTCOLUMN THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF ZERO**

The symbol of zero holds profound meaning, it symbolises eternity



### RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Tero is the number people often feel, more so than one, isn't it true? Because more zeroes means more prosperity. However from a spiritual perspective, zero is the point from which all other numbers spring forth. Even visually the number zero is symbolic of a seed, womb or egg from which pure potential emerges. Since the zero also visually resembles a circle, it symbolises eternity, evolution, and infinity. Like an atom is to the physical world and a soul to the spiritual world, the zero is symbolic of both worlds.

Pythagoras viewed the sign of the zero as the container for all things and the birthing place of all other values. The discovery of zero changes the way we calculate, compute and communicate. All these tasks affect almost all fields of human activity today. Zero is counted as an even number along with positive and negative integers. It is important in the number-value system because it defines the value and place of a digit in a number as a thousand, hundred, ten or a million. In a way, it is a symbol that defines nothingness.

While zero is valuable in terms of its contributions to the myriad spheres of human life, it has been used to describe mystical concepts in religious and spiritual philosophies. In Hindi zero is called 'shunya' meaning a void, the supreme state of awareness where everything comes to nothingness. Spiritual seekers perceive this state as 'mukti' or nirvana in which the soul is restored to its original state free from all impressions, influences and impurities of the earthly life. Zero looks like an elliptical circle representing infinity the eternal cycle of cre-



ation. Everything returns to zero or nothingness before being created anew. Hence, most spiritual teachers emphasise attaining the zero state i.e. emptying the mind of all worldly thoughts and detaching from the awareness of the physical body to attain liberation and peace. The egg shaped symbol of the Soul or Supreme Almighty as a point of light surrounded by an oval aura also resembles a zero. In its original state, every soul is like a zero & it has no worldly identity or role but like a seed, it has infinite power and qualities merged within, which manifest when the soul enters the field of karma in this world. The Supreme Almighty is the eternal seed who always exists in the zero state of awareness, detached from everything yet filled with infinite divine qualities and powers that support the whole creation. It is from this supreme state of nothingness that HE creates a perfect new world whenever the creation becomes degraded and old. Like zero, the soul essentially has an even or positive character. Just as the negative of 2 is - 2 which means lacking in 2, the lack of awareness of positive qualities manifests as negative or odd traits in the soul. The number zero has very special functions in the calculation. Anything added or subtracted to zero remains unchanged. Any number multiplied by zero gives zero while any number divided by zero gives infinity. Interestingly, when we add zeros after a number, its value grows ten times. These specialities can be ascribed to the Almighty Supreme who remains unchanged in the cycle of eternity. He does not enjoy the fruits of karma and nothing can be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided from his powers. When we multiply our powers by linking ourselves with him, we too become a zero like him filled with all divine virtues. So let us try our best to remain in the Zero state and achieve a higher state of consciousness to live a life that is minus all worries, tension & stress.

# Revive shallow aquifers for urban water woes in India

Indian cities, plagued by over-extraction of deep groundwater must turn to the ancient underground reservoirs writes S VISHWANATH and ISHLEEN KAUR



and protect it. Under the mis-

• n India, groundwater plays a critical role in meeting urban water demands. These aquifers, found at relatively shallow depths, have served as vital sources of water for centuries. At a time when transporting water across long distances was inconceivable, communities turned to shallow aquifers to meet their water needs.

Found at accessible depths, they offered a cost-effective and reliable water supply for the growing populations. The dug wells and step wells, still standing today, are reminders of a time when water scarcity was addressed by harnessing rainwater to recharge shallow aquifers. However, as modern cities grew, the humble dug wells, once a ubiquitous part of the landscape, began to vanish. These wells have now largely been replaced by deep bore wells tapping into groundwater reserves at alarming depths.

India is the world's largest user of oundwater, consuming more than the United States and China combined. Urban areas, in particular, have increasingly relied on groundwater to supplement their needs, leading to a significant depletion of shallow aquifers, and for too long, groundwater management has been side-lined in urban planning. However recent climate challenges-unpredictable rainfall, flash floods, and urban water crisishave sparked renewed interest in groundwater management. Increasingly, rainwater harvesting and urban waterbody rejuvenation projects are turning toward these natural underground reservoirs as a solution. Aquifers are now being studied for their potential to store excess rainwater and mitigate flooding. The launch of AMRUT 2.0 in 2021 marked a paradigm shift in water management, with groundwater finally being prioritized at the 'urban' scale. The mission recognised the need for cities to not only rely on groundwater but to actively manage



PARTICULAR. HAVE **INCREASINGLY** RELIED ON GROUNDWATER TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR NEEDS, LEADING TO A

This initiative aimed to raise awareness among city officials and communities about the importance of shallow aquifers and demonstrate effective recharge structures to tackle crit-ical issues like groundwater depletion, contamination and urban flooding. It sought to cre-ate an environment where cities could integrate shallow aquifer management into broader water strategies. By emphasising both simple and scientifically sound recharge methods, it aimed to revive approaches that have been overlooked in the pursuit of modern infrastructure. The project has yielded valuable insights for cities on effective shallow aquifer management. i his initiative has led to the development of 12 unique approaches and designs for recharge structures, tailored to local aquifer conditions. These ranged from the revival of existing wells and step wells in Dhanbad, Hyderabad, and Bangalore to catchment treatment of areas showing high recharge potential in Pune. Cities such as Gwalior and Rajkot have undertaken detailed mapping of aquifer systems, and groundwater depths, and created an inventory of recharge structures at the city scale, facilitating informed groundwater management decisions. The project has also shown promising results in showcasing the sustainable use of these recharge structures to supplement water needs for local communities.

project is now supplying water to sion, the Shallow Aquifer around 500 households with up to one lakh litre of water being pumped every day for non-potable use. Similarly, in Thane's Management (SAM) pilot project was initiated in 2022 in 10 cities. Yeoor Village, tribal communities are benefiting from water sourced from desilted and retrofitted wells. In Dhanbad and Rajkot, where peri-urban areas heavily depend on shallow wells, the initiative has begun to expand beyond its pilot phase. Rajkot Municipal Corporation

has initiated work on constructing more than 100 additional recharge structures city-wide based on the SAM mapping, showing the renewed awareness and commitment to scale up shallow aquifer management. The project has been able to draw the attention of larger voices in the climate resilience and water security space.

Bangalore's Climate Action Plan has now incorporated groundwa-ter management as a vital aspect of making Bangalore climate resilient. Pune has even established a dedicated groundwater cell in the municipal corporation to ensure that shallow aquifer management remains a priority in the city's future water plans. In FY 2024-2025, the Pune Municipal Corporation has allocated a dedicated budget of INR 1 crore for aquifer recharge structures, showing significant action in this direction. Despite the progress made through the SAM project, much work remains. Cities need to acknowledge that deep aquifers hold vast reserves of water accumulated over centuries and must be typically reserved for emergencies, such as droughts.

immense potential as the first line of defence for daily water needs, making them essential for urban areas. However, as cities grow, the natural processes that recharge these aquifers are being disrupted.

analys \$ 07

In the current situation, where urban development is increasingly characterised by impermeable surfaces, inhibiting rainwater infiltration and preventing natural recharge, cities need to make conscious interventions towards artificial recharge of shallow aquifers including rejuvenation of lakes, wetlands and river floodplains.

Îndia's groundwater crisis is complex, but the solution may lie beneath our feet. By managing shallow aquifers, cities can foster a more resilient and sustainable future. The SAM project provides a blueprint for this approach, but its lessons must be scaled up and

As India faces the dual challenges

of urban growth and water scarci-

implemented nationwide.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

SIGNIFICANT DEPLETION OF SHALLOW AQUIFERS, AND FOR TOO LONG. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN SIDE-LINED IN URBAN PLANNING

> In Kanteerava Nagar, Bangalore, a dug well retrofitted under the

In contrast, shallow aquifers hold

ty, it is time to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors and integrate it with the science of hydrogeology. By restoring shallow aquifers and making them a part of an integrated urban water management ecosystem, cities can ensure that this invaluable resource remains a dependable source of water for generations to come. In the words of Kabir: The well is one, and the

water is the same. Let us remember that the water we draw today must sustain us tomorrow.

(S. Vishwanath is co-founder Biome Environmental Solutions, Bengaluru and Ishleen Kaur is senior environment specialist,

National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi; views expressed are their own)

Right-wing and challenge for Indian Muslims: The path to reform and reconciliation

Indian Muslims must embrace internal reforms that align with a modern, secular framework, helping to bridge societal divisions

◄he rise of right-wing politics in India seems to have solidified its presence, and the deepening of Hindu-Muslim fault lines is likely to persist. While liberal and secular parties may win several State elections, an increase in their numbers in Parliament or State legislatures is unlikely to mend the fragile communal ties. The division between communities has now reached a deeper societal level, presenting a grave challenge for Indian Muslims. To minimise this damage and repair the social fabric, it is essential to promote a counter-narrative grounded in secularism. Indian Muslims must focus on internal reforms that promote secularisation within their own societal framework. While some right-



TARIQ ASHRAF

wing claims about Muslim life may be exaggerated or entirely untrue, certain aspects warrant closer introspection by the community itself. Although the issues have much earlier times. rework the internal narrative

values. The painful legacy of India's partition, drawn along communal lines, has left a heavy burden on the Muslim community. In response, Indian Muslims need to go above and beyond to heal the sentiments and emotions of the majority community. Despite constitutional protections and safeguards, the com-

intensified since 2014, their roots can be traced back to As Muslims, it is critical to

reforms as standalone processes that benefit the communiand processes within the community to align with secular ty. A close examination of

some outdated practices will reveal that reforms have already taken place in many Muslim-majority countries. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board missed a crucial opportunity to declare triple talaq un-Islamic before the government passed legislation against it. Similarly, the Shah Bano case harmed the Muslim munity needs to focus on community's interests and fueled the resurgence of rightchanging perceptions at both wing mobilisation. The societal and communal levels. One step toward this change is Muslim Personal Law Board to reform Muslim personal has exacerbated the commulaws and harmonize them nity's challenges by opposing with a modern, progressive every proposed reform instead social order. Instead of framof acting as a forward-thinking, responsible institution. ing personal law reforms as a Hindu-Muslim conflict, Another significant issue fac-Muslims should see these ing Indian Muslims is the lack of leadership from within the intelligentsia. With few exceptions, Muslim leadership has



gy, leaving the community without enlightened, visionary, and progressive guidance. The void left by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has remained largely unfilled. Even leaders like Asaduddin Owaisi, despite their education and goodwill, have failed to adopt a liberal and secular approach in addressing legitimate community concerns. An aggrieved community must commu-

nicate in a conciliatory manner, rather than adopting a confrontational stance.

The Muslim leadership's approach to the Hijab controversy clearly illustrates this failure. While Muslim women are entitled to wear the Hijab as a matter of choice and religious freedom, elevating the issue to the extent of students quitting their studies was unwise. It is essential for religion to be separated from public life and confined to the private domain. Although this holds true for all communities, Indian Muslims must make this move more emphatically due to historical reasons. The community needs to create a secular platform to address its concerns. The severe political and socio-economic challenges facing Muslims today

cannot be ignored. One positive step in this direction has been the recent initiative by a group of retired civil servants from Delhi who attempted to engage with leaders from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). However, the initiative failed to gain traction as it was undertaken individually without an organizational framework. To be successful, such efforts must be scaled up to a national-level dialogue with a clear agenda involving eminent citizens from various levels, including state and central governments. It is imperative to address the widespread perception that the Muslim community is resistant to reform, reconciliation, and compromise.

Before the Hindu-Muslim fault lines in India reach a danger-

ous level, the country urgently needs a period of cooling off. Many right-wing grievances against Muslims lack substance and truth. In a society governed by constitutional principles and the rule of law, a community cannot be punished for the historical wrongs committed by its ancestors. To address the right-wing narrative effectively, the Muslim community must launch a secular, modern, and progressive narrative based on evidence, rather than countering with equally polarizing rhetoric. it is the only viable option. (The writer has been associat-

ed with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM Lucknow, University of Delhi, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; *Views are personal)* 



# **HEZBOLLAH'S DEPUTY LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT ON**

#### AP BEIRUT

Hezbollah's deputy leader vowed to continue fighting Israel and said the militant group was prepared for a long war after much of its top command was wiped out, includ-ing its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

In his first speech since Nasrallah was killed, Naim Kassem said in a televised statement Monday that if Israel decides to launch a ground offensive, Hezbollah fighters are ready to fight and defend areas. Lebanon, where the group is based.

As deputy secretary-general, Naim Kassem now is the act-ing leader of Hezbollah until the group's leadership elects a replacement for Nasrallah. Israeli strikes have killed

Nasrallah and six of his top commanders in the last 10

days, and have hit what the military says are thousands of militant targets across large parts of Lebanon. Over 1,000 people have been killed in Lebanon, nearly a quarter of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry, and the government says the fighting may have displaced up to a million people. Hezbollah has significantly increased its rocket attacks in the past week to several hundred daily, but most have been intercepted or fallen in open

Several people have been wounded in Israel. There have been no fatalities since two soldiers were killed near the border on September 19. Kassem said that despite the killing of Hezbollah's top military commanders over the past months, Hezbollah now is relying on new commanders.

"Israel was not able to affect our (military) capabilities," Kassem said. "There are deputy commanders and there are replacements in case a commander is wounded in any post."

Before he spoke, an airstrike levelled an apartment building and killed three Palestinian militants in central Beirut early Monday, as Israel appeared to send a clear message that no part of Lebanon is out of bounds. As recently as two weeks ago,

such a strike, outside of the main areas where Hezbollah operates and next to a busy transportation hub, would have been seen as an escalation and likely followed by a long-range Hezbollah strike into Israel. But the unspoken rules of the long-running conflict, and Hezbollah's ability to respond, are no longer clear.

Israel has not claimed Monday's strike but is widely assumed to have carried it out.

It's possible that Hezbollah is holding back to avoid an even bigger escalation, including a threatened Israeli ground invasion. But the militant group might also be in disarray after Israeli intelligence apparently penetrated its highest levels. The strike early Monday killed three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a small, leftist faction that has not been meaningfully involved in months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence including the massive strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah but had not hit locations clos-

er to the city centre.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack from Gaza into Israel sparked the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies and both supported by Iran, and Hezbollah said it would continue the attacks in solidarity with the Palestinians until there was a cease-fire in Gaza. Israel has responded to the rockets with airstrikes in Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based, and the fighting has steadily escalated over the past year, displacing tens of thou-sands of people on both sides of the border. Israel has vowed to know fighting until the to keep fighting until the attacks stop and its citizens can return to their homes. The United States and its allies have called for a cease-fire, hoping to avoid further escalation that could draw in Iran

and set off a wider war. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has shown little interest, as his country racks up military achievements against a longtime foe.

Some Israelis broke into spontaneous celebrations after Nasrallah's death was announced. Videos circulated of crowds at bars singing a song in Hebrew mocking him. A news anchor on a pro-Netanyahu station sang and danced as the studio audience joined in with him while a commentator on Israel's largest TV station offered co-panelists celebratory shots.

Hezbollah, which boasts tens of thousands of battle-hardened fighters and long-range missiles capable of hitting anywhere inside Israel, has long been seen as the most powerful militant group in the region

and a key partner to Iran in both threatening and deterring Israel. Hezbollah fought Israel to a monthlong stalemate in

their 2006 war, But Hezbollah has never faced an onslaught quite like this one, which began with a sophisticated attack on its pagers and walkie-talkies in mid-September that killed dozens of people and wound-ed around 3,000 — including many fighters but also many civilians.

White House national securiwhite House hatohal securi-ty spokesman John Kirby said Israel's airstrikes in Lebanon had "wiped out" Hezbollah's command structure but warned that the group will work quickly to rebuild it.

"We're watching to see what they do to try to fill this leadership vacuum. It's going to be tough, he told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.

A billboard with a huge portrait of slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is installed on a building as minarets of a mosque are seen, in downtown Tehran, Iran, Monday. The billboard reads in Farsi on top left: "The beginning of Nasrallah.' AP/PTI

### Israeli airstrike hits Beirut for first time

### AP JERUSALEM

The first apparent Israeli airstrike on central Beirut in nearly a year of conflict levelled an apartment building early Monday. It came after Israel hit targets across Lebanon and killed dozens of people, as Hezbollah sustained heavy blows to its command structure, including the killing of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The airstrike hit a multistorey residential building, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene. Videos showed ambulances and a crowd gathered near the building in a mainly Sunni district with a busy thoroughfare lined with shops.

The airstrike killed at least one person and wounded 16, an official with Lebanese Civil Defence said, speaking on con-dition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media. He said the person killed was a member of the al-Jamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, a Sunni political and militant group that is allied with Hezbollah.

A Palestinian leftist faction in Lebanon said three of its members were killed in the airstrike. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement early Monday that its military and security commanders in Lebanon, and a third member were killed in the attack.

Neither militant group has played a significant role in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

Also early Monday, another strike killed a commander with the militant group Hamas, which has a presence in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. Hamas said Fatah Sharif and his family were killed in an airstrike on the Al-Buss refugee camp in the southern port city of Tyre. In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence — including a major strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah - but had not hit locations near the city centre. Earlier, Hezbollah confirmed that Nabil Kaouk, the deputy

head of its Central Council, was killed Saturday, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader killed in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include the group's founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades. Hezbollah also confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in the strike that killed Nasrallah. Israel says at least 20 other Hezbollah militants were killed, including one in charge of Nasrallah's

security detail. The Lebanese Health Ministry said at least 105 people were killed around the country in airstrikes Sunday. Two strikes near the southern city of Sidon, about 45 kilometres south of Beirut, killed at least 32 people, the ministry said. Separately, Israeli strikes in the northern province of Baalbek Hermel killed 21 people and wounded at least 47. Lebanese media reported dozens of strikes in the central, eastern and western Bekaa and in the south, besides strikes on Beirut. Israel says it targets militants, but the strikes have hit buildings where

civilians were living and the death toll was expected to rise. In a video of a strike in Sidon, verified by the AP, a building swayed before collapsing as neighbors filmed. One TV sta-tion called on viewers to pray for a family caught under the rubble, posting their pictures, as rescuers failed to reach them. The Lebanese Health Ministry reported at least 14 medics were killed over two days in the south.

President Joe Biden said Sunday that he would speak soon with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and believes that an all-out war in the Middle East must be avoided. "It has to be," Biden told reporters at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware as he boarded Air Force One for Washington.

Meanwhile, wreckage from Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah was still smoldering. Smoke rose over the rubble as people flocked to the site, some to check on what was left of their homes and others to pay respects, pray or simply to see the destruction.

Netanyahu adds rival to Cabinet

world 08

Jerusalem (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed a former rival, Gideon Saar, as a member of his Cabinet on Sunday, expanding his coalition and strengthening his hold on office.

Under their agreement, Netanyahu said Saar would serve as a minister without portfolio and serve in the Security Cabinet, the body that oversees the management of the ongoing war against Israel's enemies across the Middle East. Saar (57) had hoped to replace Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, another rival of Netanyahu's. But a deal to become defence minister fell through several weeks ago after fighting inten-sified with Hezbollah along Israel's northern border, leaving the popular Gallant in office for the time being.

Saar has had a strained relation-ship with the prime minister. He was once a rising star in Netanyahu's Likud party but angrily left it four years ago after accusing the prime minister of turning it into a "cult of personality" as he battled corruption charges.

Since then, however, Saar has struggled as leader of a small conservative party, enjoying little support with the broader public. While he and Netanyahu have little love for one another, they share a hard-line ideology toward Israel's Arab adversaries. In recent months, Saar has said Israel must fight until Hamas is destroyed. He also has called for tougher action against Hezbollah's sponsor, Iran. And like Netanyahu, he strongly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In a joint statement, they said they had put their differences aside for the good of the nation. Netanyahu's decision appears to have been driven in part by domestic politics. He faces a number of key political battles in the coming weeks - including the contentious issue of drafting ultra-Orthodox men

into the army, passing a budget

and taking the stand in his long-

running corruption trial.

# Austria's Freedom Party secures first far-right national election win since World War II

#### AP VIENNA

The Freedom Party secured the first far-right national parliamentary election victory in post-World War II Austria the governing conservatives after tapping into anxieties about immigration, inflation, Ukraine and other issues. But its chances of governing were unclear. Preliminary official results showed the Freedom Party finishing first with 29.2 per cent of the vote and Chancellor Karl Nehammer's Austrian People's Party was second with 26.5 per cent, according to a near-complete count, national public broadcaster ORF reported. The centre-left Social Democrats were in third place with 21 per cent. The outgoing government — a coalition of Nehammer's party and the environmentalist Greens - lost its majority in the lower house of parliament. Herbert Kickl, a former interior minister and longtime campaign strategist who has led the Freedom Party since 2021, European Union to Austria.

wants to be chancellor.

leader, he would need a coali-

But to become Austria's new position, because we have always said that we're ready to tion partner to command a par-liamentary majority. Rivals have to push forward this change in people

"We don't need to change our European far-right parties. position, because we have Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders, whose party dominates the Netherlands' new liamentary majority. Rivals have to push forward this change in government, congratulated the said they won't work with Kickl Austria side by side with the Freedom Party on social net-Kickl said in an appearwork X So did Alice Weidel ance alongside other party lead-ers on ORF. "The other parties co-leader of the Alternative for Germany party. The Freedom Party is a longshould ask themselves where established force but Sunday's they stand on democracy," he added, arguing that they should result was its best yet in a "sleep on the result". Nehammer national parliamentary election, beating the 26.9 per cent said it was "bitter" that his party it scored in 1999. In 2019, its missed out on first place but support slumped to 16.2 per noted he brought it back from cent after a scandal brought lower poll ratings. He has often down a government in which it said he won't form a coalition was the junior partner. Then-vice chancellor and Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian with Kickl and said that "what I said before the election, I also say after the election". Strache resigned following the More than 6.3 million people publication of a secretly recordwere eligible to vote for the new parliament in Austria, an EU ed video in which he appeared member that has a policy of to offer favours to a purported Russian investor. The leader of military neutrality. the Social Democrats, a party Kickl has achieved a turnaround since Austria's last parthat led many of Austria's post-World War II governments, liamentary election in 2019. In positioned himself as the polar opposite to Kickl. Andreas Babler ruled out governing with the far right and labelled June, the Freedom Party narrowly won a nationwide vote for the first time in the European Parliament election, which also brought gains for other Kickl "a threat to democracy".

## Supplies rushed to isolated areas as Helene death toll rises to 100

### AP PERRY

Torth Carolina officials pledged to get North Carolina officials pledged to get more water and other supplies to flood-stricken areas by Monday after Hurricane Helene left a trail of destruction across the US Southeast and the death tol

Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. Cooper implored residents in western North Carolina to avoid travel, both for their own safety and to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in search of stranded peop

and staff were plucked by helicopter from a hospital rooftop on Friday.

More than 2 million homeowners and other utility customers were still without power Sunday night. South Carolina had the most outages and Gov. Henry aster asked for patience as ci

iment The far right has benefited from frustration over high inflation, the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also built on worries about migration.

In its election programme, titled "Fortress Austria", the Freedom Party calls for "remigration of uninvited foreigners", for achieving a more "homogeneous" nation by tightly controlling borders and suspending the right to asylum via an emergency law. The Freedom Party also calls for

an end to sanctions against Russia, is highly critical of Western military aid to Ukraine and wants to bow out of the European Sky Shield Initiative, a missile defence project launched by Germany. Kickl has criticised "elites" in Brussels and called for some powers to be brought back from the

from the storm rose to nearly 100.

At least 91 people across several states were killed. A North Carolina county that includes the mountain city of Asheville reported 30 people killed. Gov. Roy Cooper predicted the toll would rise as rescuers and other emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding.

Supplies were being airlifted to the region around the isolated city of Asheville. Buncombe County Manager Avril Pinder pledged that she would have food and water to the city by Monday. "We hear you. We need food and we need water," Pinder said on a Sunday call with reporters. "My staff has been making every request possible to the state for support and we've been working with every single organization that has reached out. What I promise you is that we are very close.

Officials warned that rebuilding from the widespread loss of homes and property would be lengthy and difficult. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast. Deaths also were reported in Florida,

One rescue effort involved saving 41 people north of Asheville. Another mission focused on saving a single infant. The teams found people through both 911 calls and social media messages, North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General Todd Hunt said.

President Joe Biden described the impact of the storm as "stunning" and said he would visit the area this week as long as it does not disrupt rescues or recovery work.

In a brief exchange with reporters, he said the administration is giving states "everything we have" to help with their response to the storm.

Hurricane Helene roared ashore late Thursday in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mph (225 kph) winds. A weakened Helene quickly moved through Georgia, then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains that flooded creeks and rivers and strained dams.

There have been hundreds of water rescues, including in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients

with widespread snapped power poles.

'We want people to remain calm. Help is on the way, it is just going to take time,' McMaster told reporters outside the air port in Aiken County.

Begging for help in North Carolina as that help is slow to arrive

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. One community, Spruce Pine, was doused with over 2 feet (61 centimeters) of rain from Tuesday through Saturday.

Jessica Drye Turner in Texas had begged for someone to rescue her family members stranded on their rooftop in Asheville amid rising floodwaters. "They are watching 18wheelers and cars floating by," Turner wrote in an urgent Facebook post on Friday.

But in a follow-up message on Saturday, Turner said help had not arrived in time to save her parents, both in their 70s, and her 6-year-old nephew. The roof collapsed and the three drowned. "I cannot convey in words the sorrow, heartbreak and devastation my sisters and I are going through," she wrote.

#### S Korean court sentences to prison **Britain's last coal-fired electricity plant closing** 3 cops over 2022 Halloween crush London (AP): Britain's last coal-fired power plant is clos-Owner Uniper says many of the 170 remaining employees walked out in 1984 over plans by Prime Minister Margaret

Seoul (AP): A South Korean court gave three police officers prison sentences on Monday over their botched handling of a 2022 Halloween crush in a Seoul nightlife district that killed nearly 160 people. It was the first conviction of officials over the failure by authorities to prevent or adequately respond to the overcrowding that occurred in the popular Itaewon district. No top-level officials have been charged or held accountable, prompting criticism from bereaved families and opposition politicians.

The crush, one of the biggest peacetime disasters in South Korea, caused a nationwide outpouring of grief. The victims, who were mostly in their 20s and 30s, had gathered in Itaewon for Halloween celebrations.

The Seoul Western District the Yongsan ward office, and Court sentenced Lee Im-jae, the former chief of Seoul's Yongsan police station, whose jurisdiction includes Itaewon, to three years in prison. It sentenced another Yongsan police officer to two years in prison and gave a third officer a suspended two-year term. The three officers were con-

ple.

victed of professional negli-gence resulting in death. The court ruled that the crush wasn't a natural disaster and could have been prevented or the toll reduced if the three officers had prepared properly for the crowd, alerted others of the danger quickly and supervised other police officers appropriately. The police officers and pros-

ecutors can both appeal the ruling. The court also ruled swelling crowds bef that Park Hee-young, head of surge turned deadly.

three other ward officials were not guilty. It said a ward office was unlikely to have a legal right to control or break up a crowd of peo-

Bereaved family members criticized the acquittal of Park and the other ward officials. "Does this make sense? We can't really accept this," Lee Jeong-min, a representative of the families, told reporters.In early 2023, a police special investigation concluded that police and municipal officials had failed to formulate effective crowd control measures despite anticipating a huge number of people in Itaewon. Investigators said police also ignored hotline calls by pedestrians who warned of swelling crowds before the

ing on Monday, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that sparked the Industrial Revolution.

The Ratcliffe-on-Soar station in central England is finishing its final shift at midnight after more than half a century of turning coal into power. The UK government hailed the closure as a milestone in efforts to generate all of Britain's energy from renewable sources by 2030. Plant manager Peter O'Grady said it was "an emotional day."

"When I started my career 36 years ago, none of us imaged a future without coal generation in our lifetimes," he said.

The shutdown makes Britain the first country from the Group of Seven major economies to phase out coal though some other European nations, including Sweden and Belgium, got there sooner

will stay on during a two-year decommissioning process. Energy Minister Michael Shanks said the plant's closure "marks the end of an era and coal workers can be rightly proud of their work powering our country for over 140 years. We owe generations a debt of gratitude as a country."

The era of coal might be ending, but a new age of good energy jobs for our country is just beginning," he said. The world's first coal-fired electricity plant, Thomas Edison's Edison Electric Light Station, opened in London in 1882.

Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which opened in 1967, is a landmark whose eight concrete cooling towers and 199-metre (650foot) chimney are seen by millions of people a year as they drive past on the M1 highway or speed by on trains.

In 1990 coal provided about 80 per cent of Britain's electricity.

By 2012 it had fallen to 39 per cent, and by 2023 it stood at just 1 per cent, according to figures from the National Grid. More than half of Britain's electricity now comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar power, and the rest from natural gas and nuclear energy."Ten years ago, coal was the leading source of this country's power — gener-ating a third of our electricity," said Dhara Vyas, deputy chief executive of trade body Energy UK.

"So, to get to this point just a decade later, with coal's contribution replaced by clean and low carbon sources, is an incredible achievement," Vyas said. "As we aim for further ambitious targets in the energy transition, it's worth remembering that few back then thought such a change at such a pace was possible. Coal has fuelled civil strife as

Conservative government in well as powering the country. 2022. Tens of thousands of miners

carbon-burning industrial heritage ends Monday with the closure of the last blast furnace at one of the world's biggest ernment to close more than 20 steelworks, in Port Talbot, year, divided communities and Wales. saw widespread violence as

Almost 2,000 jobs are being lost with the shutdown at the plant, owned by India's Tata Steel. Tata plans to replace the blast furnace, which runs on the coal derivative coke, with a cleaner electric furnace that will emit less carbon and

require fewer workers. At its 1960s peak, more than 18,000 people were employed at the Port Talbot steelworks, before cheaper offerings from China and other countries hit production.

Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of the Community union, said the closure "marks the end of an era, but this is not the end

for Port Talbot." We will never stop fighting for our steel industry and our communities in South Wales, he said.

Another chapter in Britain's

Thatcher's Conservative gov-

coal pits. The strike lasted a

police clashed with pickets.

The miners' eventual defeat

helped break the power of

Britain's trade unions and has-

ten the end of the mining

industry and the communities

Coal remains a combustible

issue. Plans to open Britain's

first new coal mine in 30 years

in northwest England divided

residents, with some welcom-

ing the promise of well-paid

jobs and others opposing the

pollution and carbon emis-

sions it would bring. On

September 13 the High Court

struck down planning per-

mission for the mine that had

been granted by the previous

that relied on it.



# Le Pen denies wrongdoing in **EU fund embezzlement trial**

#### AP PARIS

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen denied violating any rules as she and her National Rally party and two dozen others went on trial on Monday, accused of embezzling European Parliament funds, in a case that has the potential to derail her political ambitions. Arriving at the court in Paris, Le Pen said she remained confident as "we have not violated any political and regulatory rules of the European Parliament" and vowed to present the judges with "extremely serious and extremely solid arguments".

Le Pen and other National Rally members casually greet-ed each other before sitting down in the first three rows of the packed courtroom. The nine-week trial will be

closely watched by Le Pen's political rivals as she is a strong contender in the race to succeed Emmanuel Macron when the next presidential election takes place in 2027.

It comes as a new government dominated by centrists and conservatives just came into office in the wake of June-July legislative elections. Some observers expect the trial could prevent National Rally lawmakers, including Le Pen herself, from fully playing their opposition role in Parliament as they would be busy focusing on the party's defense.

Since stepping down as party leader three years ago, Le Pen has sought to position herself as a mainstream candidate capable of appealing to a broader electorate. Her efforts have paid off, with the party making significant gains in recent elec-tions at both the European and

national levels. But a guilty verdict could seriously under-mine her bid to take the Elysee. The National Rally and 27 of its top officials are accused of having used money destined for EU parliamentary aides to pay staff who instead did political work for the party between 2004 and 2016, in violation of the 27-nation bloc's regulations. The National Rally was called National Front at the time. Le Pen, whose party has softened its anti-EU stance in recent years, denies wrongdoing and claims the case is polit-

ically driven. "Parliamentary assistants do not work for the Parliament. They are political assistants to elected officials, political by definition," she previously said. 'You ask me if I can define the tasks I assigned to my assistants; it depends on each per-

son's skills. Some wrote speeches for me, and some handled logistics and coordination." If found guilty, Le Pen and her co-defendants could face up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to 1 million euros (USD 1.1 million) each. Additional penalties, such as the loss of civil rights or ineligibility to run for office, could also be imposed, a scenario that could hamper, or even destroy, Le Pen's goal to mount another presidential bid after Macron's term ends. Le Pen was runnerup to Macron in the 2017 and

2022 presidential elections. She served as party president from 2011 to 2021 and now heads the group of RN lawmakers at the French National Assembly. Despite her denial, her party has already paid back 1 million

to the European Parliament, the Parliament's lawyer Patrick Maisonneuve said. Of that

amount, 330,000 euros were directly linked to Marine Le Pen's alleged misuse of funds. The legal proceedings stem from a 2015 alert raised by Martin Schulz, then-president of the European Parliament, to French authorities about possible fraudulent use of European funds by members of the National Front.

Schulz also referred the case to the European Anti-Fraud Office, which launched a separate probe into the matter. The European Parliament's sus-picions were further heightened when a 2015 organizational chart showed that 16 European lawmakers and 20 parliamentary assistants held official positions within the party — roles unrelated to their supposed duties as EU parliamentary staff.

A subsequent investigation found that some assistants were contractually linked to different MEPs than the ones they were actually working for, suggesting a scheme to divert European funds to pay party employees in France. Investigating judges concluded that Le Pen, as party leader, orchestrated the allocation of parliamentary assistance budgets and instructed MEPs to hire individuals holding party positions. These individuals were presented as EU parlia-mentary assistants, but in real-ity, were allegedly working for the National Rally in various

capacities. The European Parliament's legal team is seeking 2.7 million euros in compensation for financial and reputational damages. This figure corresponds to the 3.7 million euros allegedly defrauded through the scheme, minus the 1 million euros already paid back. During the

2014 European elections, the National Front won a record 24 MEP seats, finishing first with 24.8 per cent of the vote, ahead of the centre-right and the Socialists. This surge resulted in a substantial financial windfall for the party, which faced severe financial problems at the time

An audit of the party's accounts between 2013 and 2016 revealed that it was running a deficit of 9.1 million euros by the end of 2016. Yet, the party still had a cash balance of 1.7 million euros and had lent 1 million euros to Le Pen's 2017 presidential campaign, while also holding 87,000 euros in loans to Cotelec, its funding association.

At the time, the party was also indebted to a Russian bank for 9.4 million euros, a loan taken out in 2014 for 6 million euros. The investigation uncovered many irregularities involving prominent party members.

Thierry Legier, the long-time bodyguard of Le Pen's father Jean-Marie, was listed as his parliamentary assistant. But his resume did not reference this role, and he made no mention of it in his 2012 autobiography.

Legier admitted during the investigation that he was not interviewed and signed his employment contract without fully understanding his official role.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, who led the National Front from 1972 to 2011, will not appear in court alongside his former colleagues due to health concerns. Now 96, he was deemed unfit to testify by a court in June.

He has 11 prior convictions including for violence against a public official and hate speech.

### 11 Ukrainian regions as it steps up drone attacks

Kviv (AP): Russia fired missiles and drones at 11 regions of Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said on Monday, in a 33rd consecutive night of aerial attacks behind the front line and set a new monthly record of drone barrages. In Kyiv, multiple explosions

and machine gun fire could be heard throughout the night as the Ukrainian capital's air defences fought off a drone attack for five hours. No casualties were reported in Kyiv or elsewhere, though a

"critical infrastructure object" caught fire in the southern Mykolaiv region, Gov. Vitalii Kim said, without elaborating.Russia has increasingly deployed Shahed drones rather than more expensive missiles, in its aerial bombardment of Ukrainian cities since its full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022. It launched more than 1,300 Shahed drones at Ukraine in September alone -

the highest number of drone attacks in a single month since the war began. Ukraine, too, has developed a

new generation of drones for the battlefield and for long-range strikes deep inside Russia. More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia on Sunday, Russian officials said.

Also Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin released a video marking the second anniversary of the annexation of four Ukrainian territories and again accused the West of turning Ukraine into "a military base aimed at Russia"

### Russia targets | Rescue operations continue as over 200 killed in Nepal floods

### PTI KATHMANDU

Monday after monsoon-induced floods and landslides killed more than 200 people in one of the worst rain-related disasters in the Himalayan nation in recent years. Incessant rainfall over the weekend triggered floods and landslides, wreaking havoc in Kathmandu and most of the districts of Nepal

At least 204 people have been killed in the continuous rainfall, floods, landslides and inundation, MyRepublica news portal reported, quoting the Armed Police Force (APF).

It added that 89 others have also been injured nationwide in the disaster, while 33 others remain missing. An all-party meeting convened on Sunday by Officiating Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh at the Prime Minister's Office in Singha Durbar decided to enhance rescue, relief, and reestablishment efforts during the ongoing disaster caused by

heavy rains. The Home Ministry said it would provide grants for temporary housing construction, repair blocked roads to restore transportation and ensure effective free health treatment for citizens injured in disaster incidents.

A task force was also formed to assess the details of the damage caused within a 15-day dead line, the news portal reported. The Disaster Management Executive Committee said it will provide a relief amount to the families of those missing. If the missing person is not found within 10 days, their family will be provided the same amount as that given to the kin of a per-son killed in the rain-induced



A tin shed lies partially submerged at the edge of the Bagmati River in spate after heavy rains in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday.

Ministry

portation.

cities.

disaster, the report said. The Home Ministry said all security agencies have been deploved for relief efforts following the floods and landslides, and the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel have rescued around 4,500 disaster-affected individuals so far. While those injured are receiving free treatment, food and other emergency relief materials have been provided to others affected by the floods. Hundreds of people are facing a shortage of food, safe drinking water and sanitation in

Kathmandu following the natural disaster, according to eyewitnesses Market prices have also soared as vegetables coming from India and other districts of the

country have been temporarily halted due to obstruction in major highways due to landslides. Numerous roads throughout the nation are severely damaged, and all routes leading to the capital city, Kathmandu, are still blocked, leaving thousands of travellers stranded, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. Home

caused widespread flooding across Kathmandu Valley, and across Nepal. This is the worst flooding experienced in recent years," said Jagan Chapagain, the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in a post on X. "In response to the crisis, local branches of the @NepalRedCross are working closely with authorities and (the) Emergency Operations

Spokesperson

Rishiram Tiwari said efforts are

underway to clear the obstruct-

ed highways to resume trans-

At least 20 hydropower plants with a combined capacity of 1100 MW suffered damages

due to floods and landslides triggered by the incessant rain-

fall in the past three days, which has led to the

disruption in power supply in

Kathmandu and other major

"Heavy rains since Friday have

Centre of Nepal Red Cross to coordinate rescue and relief operations," he added.

### Xi pays tribute to fallen heroes ahead of 75th PRC National Day

### PTI BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other state and party leaders paid floral tributes on Monday to fallen heroes to mark Martyrs' Day at the

sprawling Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. The Martyrs' Day was observed ahead of the 75th National Day of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on Tuesday. Xi, along with Premier Li Qiang, and other leaders was joined by representatives from all walks of life to pay tributes to the lt in memory ( martyrs of the revolutionary struggle during the 19th and 20th centuries leading to the formation of PRC on October 1, 1949, headed by the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) founder Mao Zedong. China will observe a week shut down from Tuesday to mark the national day holidays. Marking the occasion, Xi, 71, on Sunday awarded the highest state honours to several Chinese veterans.

E-375



### Sunak pleads for party unity in final address as Tory leader

London (PTI): Britain's interim Leader of the Opposition Rishi Sunak has used his final address as Conservative Party chief to call on his colleagues to stop squabbling and unite behind his successor

The 44-year-old British-Indian politician, who resigned as Tory leader following the party's bruising defeat in the July general election, used his address to the annual Conservative Party conference in Birmingham on Sunday evening to express optimism for its future. He and his wife, Akshata Murty,

were given a warm welcome by the Tory membership gathered

for his speech, which reflected a modified agenda as Sunak made way for the four leadership contenders to take centre stage to make their pitches to be elected his successor.

"I'm optimistic about our country's long-term future, I'm optimistic about our party's future too," said Sunak, amid loud cheers. "Whoever wins this contest, give them your backing. We must end the division, the backbiting, the squabbling. We mustn't nurse old grudges but build new friendships. We must always remember what unites us, rather than obsessing about where we might differ, because

when we turn in on ourselves, we lose and the country ends up with a Labour government," he said. Former ministers James Cleverly, Kemi Badenoch, Robert Jenrick and Tom Tugendhat are going head-tohead at this week's party conference to convince fellow Tory members of Parliament and the wider party membership that they are best placed to take Sunak's place following the worst Tory general election defeat in decades

'In James, Kemi, Robert and Tom, we have a slate of strong leadership candidates. Now, I sat around the Cabinet tables with

all of them, and I can tell you, they are all good Conservatives who would lead this country well and be better Prime Ministers than Keir Starmer," said Sunak, refraining from endorsing any one of the four contenders. "If we Conservatives are going

to get back into office so that we can once more deliver for the British people, then our new leader is going to need your support. So, let's use this conference to look to the future and ensure that one of our four candidates is not just the next leader of our party, but our next prime minister too," he said.

Sunak used the ongoing media uproar around Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his Labour Party colleagues accepting expensive gifts from donors to take digs at the government. 'Now you don't need somebody else to buy you a pair of designer glasses to see that the shine is coming off Keir Starmer already; people can see that Labour weren't frank with them at the election... that Labour are making the wrong choices for our country," he said, amid laughter.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

b be known to all that I, Shakeel Ahmad /o Shri Nihal Ahmad R/o B-34, THE ITY CGHS LTD. (Known as City Apartments), Plot No. 21, Vasundhara Enclave Delhi-110096, Original allottee/owner of flat No.B-34, THE CITY CGHS LTD. (Known as City Apartments) Plot No. 21, Vasundhara Enclave Delhi-110096, have applied for conversion of the said flat from leasehold to freehold in DDA. Original document i.e. Certificate issued by the City CGHS Ltd. in my name, has been misplaced/lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station Crime Branch. New Delhi, vide FIR/NCR No LR 2132028/2024 dated 05/08/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9811936757 within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property roperty will be doing it at his own risk. Yogesh Bhardwaj-Advocat Registration No. D/1491/2000 Chamber No. 409, Civil Side. Tis Hazar Court, Delhi Moi: 9958849223 can personally inform or write to the Dy Director. (GH) or Director (RL), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi. Shakeel Ahmad

He also presented China's never forget international Friendship Medal to Dilma Rousseff, former Brazilian president and the Chair of the Shanghai-based New Development Bank of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

Lauding Rousseff as an outstanding representative of China's old and good friends, Xi said the Chinese people will

foreign people.

ment, he said.

dt. 30.09.2024

### friends who have significantly contributed to the country's development and the friendship between the Chinese and The Chinese people stand

ready to work together with people from various countries to safeguard world peace and promote common develop-

#### NOTICE INVITING BID (TENDER)

#### No. 550/DSGAH, Bhubaneswar

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS AND CONTINGENT ARTICLES TO GOVERNMENT AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL PHARMACY, BHUBANESWAR, GOVERNMENT AYURVEDIC PHARMACY, BOLANGIRAND GOPABANDHU AYURVEDA MAHAVIDYALAYA PHARMACY, PURI ODISHA.

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers including wholesale co-operative organizations and Government/ Semi Govt. agencies for supply of raw materials and contingent articles to Government Ayurvedic Hospital Pharmacy, Bhubaneswar, Government Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Bolangir and Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya Pharmacy, Puri for preparation of Ayurvedic Medicines for the financial year 2024-25.

1.	Value of Tender	Rs. 1,05,00,000/- (One Crore Five Lakhs) Only				
2.	Cost of Tender Book	Rs.1,050.00 (One Thousand and Fifty rupees only including GST)				
3.	Availability of tender book	In the office of the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR only in shape of D.D. /Bankers Cheque in favor of the Deputy Superintendent, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Old Town, Bhubaneswar				
4.	Mode of payment of cost of Tender Book	In shape of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque in favor of Deputy Superintendent, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, payable at Bhubaneswar.				
5.	Date of commencement of sale of Tender Book	Dt: 01.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 21.10.2024 at 4.00 P.M.				
6.	Last date & time for submission of tender	Dt: 21.10.2024 at 4.00 P.M.				
7.	Mode of submission of tender	To be received through a sealed Tender box kept in the office chamber of the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR, Odisha.				
8.	Mode of submission of sealed samples	To be received by the Deputy Superintendent, GAH, BBSR, Odisha, and in his absence A.M.O., I/c-Pharmacy, Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhubaneswar will receive the samples at the time of submission of tender paper within the scheduled date and time.				
9.	Date, Time &Place for opening of tenders	Technical bids will be opened on dt. 23.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M. at Government Ayurvedic Hospital Pharmacy, Bhubaneswar. The date, time & place of opening of the Financial Bids of the technically qualified bidders will be intimated later on.				
ssig		thority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without For details, please log on to <b>www.ayushodisha.nic.in</b>				
OIP	R-10053/11/0003/2425	-Sd-Dr. Banditarani Mishra Deputy Superintendent Govt. AyurvedicHospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha				

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mobile No. 9811215181

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-7 Mobile :- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Mahesh Prasad Tyagi claims to be owner and in

possession of Second Floor of Prop. No.

5035 & 6880 executed by Savitri Devi, & Ors, after the death of Krishan Lal Tyagi,

said Mahesh Prasad Tyagi has agreed to

sell the said Property to Susheela Sharma and said Susheela Sharma agreed to

create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd, Ito Branch, any

person/s having claim against the said

Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale.

exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or

otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated

to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence

address mentioned below within 7days

from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons

will be considered to have been waived

and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and

subsequent creation of mortgage in respect

H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

Mobile No. 9818399999

For Diwan and Company LLP

thereo

My client **Smt. Rajendri** W/o Late Sh. Anil Kuma My client Smt. Hajendri W/o Late Sh. Anii Kumar Palewmer of built-up property bearing Plot on C-71, area measuring 154.68 sq. mtrs. out of Khasra no. 13/3, C - Block, situated in unauthorized colony Patel Garden Extn. Najafgarh Road, Kakrola More, Delhi, through Registered conveyance deed dated 0.1.0.2021 executed by DDA-PM-UDAY Cell in favour Stark Baiendri W/o Late Sk. Anii Kumare Divide Den

The General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Mrs. Pushpa Devi wife of Late Purar Singh R/o F3/78, Sultan Puri, Delhi-110086 have severed all relations with their son Prayeen due to his bad habits and bad conduc and illegal activities. My Above named clien f Smt. Rajendri W/o Late Sh. Anil Kumar Pal Vide Reg o 9773 at SR-IX DELHI the above-mentioned property have also disowned and debarred their said no 9773 at SR-IV DEL111 the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, F-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, F-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; son from their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Praveen wil do so at their own risk and responsibility and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deer or dealing done by Praveen.

SANJEEV DWIVEDI (ADVOCATE) 48, Gajanand Block, Tis Hazari Courts, N.D-54 PUBLIC NOTICE

Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092;

International Content of the second state of t PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client Known to all hat my client 1.NIRMLA DEVI,2.RATNA HAUDHARY,3.NEETU RAN Jowner of the IOT AREA 160 SQ VARDS KHATA NO -198 2841,KHASRA NO-13071,WAKA SIWANA MOJA SWAROOP GARDEN GURGAON, ARYANA and 1.NIRMLA DEVI, 2. RATNA HAUDHARY, 3. NEETU RANI, Have Not Originals 1. Sale deed in favour of Bal disfan Saini, 2 Probate of Will in favour of Bal disfan Saini, 2 Probate of Will in favour of Nirmla Devi, ii. Rattna Chaudhary, iii. Veetu Rani, 3.Intkal in favour of i. Nirmla Devi, ii.Ratta Chaudhary, iii.Neetu Rani, 4. Intkal in favour of Sh. Raghubir Singh and tal Kishan Sain Chaudhary, iii.Neetu Rani, 4. Intkal in favour of Sh. Raghubir Singh and ala Kishan Said And It Sin Dome that any except my said client and said institution egarding said property, shall be demed as ull and void. If any person having any ontact and handover the same and pirise his claim to undersigned within 8 lays of this publication. ress, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no ms or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 11000 \_\_\_\_\_Mob.: +91-807618832



### LOST & FOUND

I, Priti Agarwal D/o Sh. Subhash Agarwal, has to inform that, I have misplaced the Original Share Certificate and original possession cum allotment letter of the flat bearing no. H-102, Prince Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 and are not traceable by my best efforts.

### PD(814)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Puneet Badial S/o Nirmal Singh R/o RZ-31/1, First Floor, Indra Park Extn., East Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-IN-DL63866164415403W.

#### COMPREHENSIVE AMC OF GENERATOR SETS

E-Tender are invited by the undersign for the following work. Tender Notice No.: EL/29/11\_2024/K/787; Dated: 25-09 2024: Tender No: 11 2024: Name o work At Katihar Division Comprehensive AMC of Kirloskar mak 500 KVA DA Generator Sets for schedul naintenance of Diesel Engines and its Alternator in Power Cars with enroute escorting and operation of DG sets from originating to destination and back for eriod of 03 years. Approx. value of work: ₹2,46,65,624.17/-; Earnest Money:₹2,73,400/-; Bid End Date: A 15:00 hrs. and Bid Opening at 15:30 hrs on 16-10-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e ender will be available up to 15:00 hrs on 16-10-2024 in website http:/ w.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DEE/Gen & Chg./Katihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

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### PUBLIC NOTICE It is to bring to the notice of general public that Mr. Shashank Saxena husband of my

client Aditi Saxena and his mother Mrs Briibala Saxena are the co-owner of the Fla Vo A-182 Assotech the Nest Crossin Republic, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201016 vide sale deed dated 30/03/2012 in Vol. No. 1 Book No. 9761 at page No. 265 to 308 S. No. 2940 dated 30/03/2012 in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Ghaziabad, U.P. The above nentioned flat is in a joint family property o ny client Aditi Saxena wife of Shashan axena being legally married wife and by virtue of the same she has share legal righ o stay in the property. The property is subject matter of court case bearing Civil Suit No. 929/2024 titled as Briibala Saxen vs. Smt. Aditi Saxena & Ors. pending court of Smt. Neha Banaudhia, CJ (S.D. Ghaziabad. The person dealing with sale/purchase/transfer of the above

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 *FICICI Bank* 

### PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

### [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Price Earnest	Inspection	Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mohd Abbas. (Mortgagor/ Co-Applicant &	Shop Bearing Pvt No G-11, On Ground Floor Upto Ceiling Level Without Roof Rights , A Part Of Property Bearing No A- 1/B , Situated In The Abadi Of Acharya Niketan ,Out Of Khasara No 63 In Mayur Vihar Phase 1 In Village Kotala Delhi- 110091 area 166.34 sq ft	Rs. 1,22,52,208/- as on September 02, 2024	Rs. 23,70, 000/- Rs. 2,37, 000/-	October 11, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	October 23, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
		Shop Bearing Pvt No G-12, On Ground Floor Upto Extent Of Ceiling Level Without Roof Rights, A Part Of Property Bearing No A-1/B, Situated In The Abadi Of Acharya Niketan, Out Of Khasara No 63 In Mayur Vihar Phase 1 In Village Kotla, Illaqa Shahdara Delhi-110091 Area- 147.68 Sq ft		Rs. 21,30, 000/- Rs. 2,13, 000/-		

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by October 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. With further interest by October 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before October 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 22, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money DepositDD/PO should befrom a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications in tarms of inspection. Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 8928935040/8584874809 Please note that the Marketing agenciest. *M/s* NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Date : October 01, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR

3/63, Khasra No. 163, Peshawar Nagar, Nirankari Colony, Delhi-09 (herein after called the said property) by virtue of Partition Deed dated 08.08.2017, Doc. No. 9540 executed between Rameshwar Prasad Tyagi, Mahesh Prasad Tyagi and Uma Tyagi r/w Relinquishment Deeds 16.02.1989/31.05.2016 reg. vide Doc. Nos.

110059 have changed my minor son's name to Navneet Badial from Navneet Singh for all future purposes. Purposes vide affidavit no.

PD(815)C



# India's consumer durables market to become global powerhouse: CII

### PTI 📕 NEW DELH

India's consumer durables I market is expected to touch a size of Rs 5 lakh crore by FY30 and will become the fourth largest in the world by 2027, industry body CII said on Monday.

While the country's products are inching towards global reliability, it is imperative to build robust quality ecosystem and adopt standardisation in the sector and also export Indian standards globally, said B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics and Durables.

the CII Speaking at Electronics & Consumer Summit 2024. Durables Thiagarajan, who is also the Chairman and Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd, further said the next decade is expected to create multiple opportunities across the value chain in the sector.

"From finished goods as well development of an indigenous component ecosystem, with the right focus on domestic scale, India's prospects of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse holds great promise," he asserted.



goal of manufacturing to

contribute 25 per cent of the

GDP to the country. With

over USD500 billion in FDI

and the creation of over 8.5

On the quality front, he said

"As strengthening the quality

ecosystem fosters consumer

trust in the products offered,

it is imperative to build a

robust quality ecosystem and

adopt standardisation in the

towards global reliability.

sector,

for

conditioning

said.

Thiagarajan said, "India is are well on track to meet the already the fastest growing major market for consumer durables in the world and is expected to become the fourth largest by 2027 with a projected market size to reach Rs 5 lakh crore by fiscal year 2030. He acknowledged the

government's support to the sector through various initiatives, including the PLI scheme to boost competitiveness and make India a self-reliant and technologically advanced global player. The momentum we are

witnessing is a clear sign that India is emerging as a key player of the global manufacturing stage and we standards also globally as envisioned by the Prime Minister and the government of India," he added. By adopting and promoting

Indian standards on a global scale, Thiagarajan said, "We can enhance our reputation in the international markets and ensure that our products meet the expectations of the consumers worldwide.

However, he said, "While we have made significant strikes, there is still more work to be done to drive growth in sector R&D and innovation is of paramount importance."

He said advancement ir technology, particularly, artificial intelligence, has revolutionised the sector, presenting it with new market opportunities and innovative

lakh jobs, the progress is undeniable. The air applications. "To harness the potential of these technologies, it is instance, is expected to become the largest in the world by 2040," Thiagarajan crucial for the industry to proactively invest in R&D aimed at integrating artificial intelligence into consumer Indian products are inching electronics and durables to bring innovation to the sector," Thiagarajan asserted. To further boost the sector's competitiveness on the global stage, he said, "We must harness economies of scale and build a strong domestic sector and export Indian ecosystem."

### Government extends I-T audit report filing date



PTI NEW DELHI

The income tax department has extended the date for filing audit report for 2023-24 by 7 days till October 7.

I-T a circular, the In department said considering the difficulties faced by taxpayers in electronic filing of various audit reports under the Income Tax Act, the deadline is being extended from September 30 to October 7

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said technological issues in electronic filing of tax audit reports have pushed the government to extend timelines by 7 more days. "Load of filings is quite high on the portal in the last few days, throwing the entire

ecosystem in a frenzy. Government should either upgrade the system to handle such rush or stagger the timelines for tax filings,' Mohan said.



### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Fintech firm BharatPe has reached a settlement with its former co-founder Ashneer Grover, ending months of acrimonious legal and public dispute, the two sides said on Monday.

As part of the settlement agreement, Grover will not be associated with BharatPe in any capacity nor be a part of the shareholding of the company.

Grover will transfer a part of his shareholding to the BharatPe board and the rest will be managed by a family trust, keeping him off the company's capital table. Also, the two sides will not pursue legal cases, BharatPe and Grover said in separate statements. The settlement comes days after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police arrested Deepak Gupta on charges of misappropriation of fintech Unicron's funds. Gupta is the husband of Madhuri Jain Grover's sister.

'Certain number of shares held by him will be transferred to the Resilient Growth Trust for the benefit of the company and his remaining shares will be managed by his family trust.

"Both parties have decided not to pursue the cases filed," BharatPe said in a statement. It all started in January 2022 when Grover had to go on

UP Government to start paddy procurement from October 1



leave following allegations of using abusive language against Kotak Mahindra Bank staff and fraudulent practices, which he denied.

BharatPe had roped in SAM, Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) and PwC for governance review in February 2022 after sending Grover on leave.

In a report by A&M, it was alleged that Madhuri Jain Grover and her family members, brother Shwetank Jain and brother-in-law Deepak Jagdishram Gupta were involved in financial irregularities at the company. BharatPe sacked its head of controls and Grover's wife Madhuri Jain Grover on February 23, 2022, for alleged financial irregularities ranging from producing fake invoices to billing the company for personal beauty treatment and trips abroad.

These followed allegations of illegitimate payments to bogus human resource consultants linked to Madhuri Jain's brother Shwetank Jain. Also, there were allegations of

inflated transactions, undue payments through through vendors, sham transactions in input-tax credit, illegal payments to travel agencies, forged invoices etc. Grover quit as managing director of the firm on March 1, 2022, after an emergency arbitrator in the Singapore International Arbitration Centre held that there was no ground to stop governance review at the fintech firm. That followed months of

bickering by both sides. Grover in a post on X said, "I have reached a decisive settlement with BharatPe. I repose my faith in the management and board, who are doing great work in taking BharatPe forward in the right direction. I continue to remain aligned with the company's growth and success. I will no onger be associated with BharatPe in any capacity, nor

be part of the capital table." Grover, who had previously accused the BharatPe board of mismanagement, ended the post with "Peace!".

directed that payments to

farmers be processed within

Registration for the paddy

48 hours," it added.

# Coal will remain part of India's energy mix for decades: Experts

### PTI NEW DELH

s the UK officially shut Adown its last remaining coal power plant on Monday policy experts said coal will continue to be a part of India's energy mix for the next few decades, given that it is still a developing country with significant energy needs.

The UK on Monday closed its last coal power plant, becoming the first G7 nation to do so amid calls for a global coal-free energy system by 2040.

The world's first coal power plant opened in London in 1882, and until 2012, coal accounted for 39 per cent of electricity the UK's

electricity generation after China, saw the share of coalfired power generation rise to 75 per cent in 2023-24 from per cent in 2019-20. According to the IEA, while coal consumption fell in Europe and the US in 2023, it rose by 8 per cent in India and 5 per cent in China. nt said India's co for power generation began several decades later than that of developed nations. While the UK's first coal power plant opened in 1882, India established its first major thermal power plant, the Hussain Sagar Thermal Power Station in Hyderabad, in 1920. Policy experts say India is focusing on a long-term energy transition, where coal will continue to be part of the energy mix for the next few decades. Sunil Dahiya, an independent analyst, said that while coal will not disappear in the near future, India must reduce harmful emissions from the sector by deploying advanced air pollution control technologies and improving efficiency to curb carbon emissions According to climate activist Harjeet Singh, India has made remarkable progress in renewable energy, but the remarkable intermittent nature of these sources and the lack of scalable battery storage mean that coal still underpins its power supply and industries like steel and cement.



"Yet, the cost of coal goes far beyond emissions destroys ecosystems, displaces communities, and deepens environmental injustice. Îndia must urgently shift away from coal, and the international community must provide the financial and technological support needed for a just sition -- for both and the planet," he said. Montek Singh Ahluwalia former deputy chairman of Planning the erstwhile Commission, said in a webinar organized by the think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress last week that India can't cut down coal immediately and it is hypocritical in the West to focus solely on coal while ignoring oil and natural gas. However, if we are going to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, we must recognise that we need to phase out thermal power.We should indicate to world that India's the emissions will increase for a while, then peak, and eventually decline. Right now, there's а lot of misunderstanding in the West about India's willingness to reduce emissions, which is not true," he said. Sunita Narain, the director general of the Centre for Science and Environment, echoed this sentiment, saying that India is currently dependent on coal, as it remains the cheapest form of energy available.

PTI LUCKNOW

 $T_{government}^{he}$  Uttar Uttar Pradesh will commence procurement across the state starting October 1 and payments to farmers will be

processed within 48 hours of the sale. The process will roll out in phases, beginning in western Uttar Pradesh and extending to the eastern districts later in

the month, according to an official statement issued here on Monday.

Procurement will start on October 1 in the districts of Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur. It will be followed by procurement in Lucknow, Rae Bareli and Unnao from November 1, among others, the statement added.

"Paddy procurement will continue until January 31, covering various districts Meerut, Moradabad, Bareilly, Agra, Aligarh and

The minimum support price (MSP) for paddy has been set

Centre's fiscal deficit touches 27 per cent

of full-year target in first five months



at Rs 2,300 per quintal, while the price for grade A paddy stood at Rs 2,320 per quintal. Additionally, farmers will receive a reimbursement of Rs

20 per quintal for unloading, sieving and cleaning their produce, it added.

To facilitate this extensive procurement process, the Food and Civil Supplies Department has established around 4,000 purchase centers statewide.

Minister Chief Yogi Adityanath has directed that payments to farmers be processed within 48 hours of the sale, ensuring timely financial support, according to the statement. "The Yogi government has

purchase scheme commenced on September 1, with approximately 32,000 farmers already registered within the first month. The Agriculture Department estimates that the paddy cultivation area for the Kharif marketing year 2024-25 is 61.24 lakh hectares, with an anticipated production of 265.54 lakh metric tonnes and an average yield projected at 43.36 quintals per hectare.

Solex Energy announces investment for Vision 2030



including

# paddy

Saharanpur, Jhansi," it stated.

Global energy think tank Ember said the closure of the UK's last coal plant means that more than a third of OECD countries are now coal-free, with three-quarters expected to eliminate coal power by 2030, in line with global climate goals aimed at limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) "Net Zero by report recommends 2050" that developed countries phase out unabated coal by developing 2030. while countries should aim to do so by 2040 to remain on track for global net-zero emissions by 2050

The term "unabated" in this context refers to electricity production that does not use technologies designed to capture and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

These developments occur as developed countries push their counterparts in the developing world to accelerate the phase-down of unabated coal power.

India, the world's secondlargest consumer of coal for



### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first five months of the current fiscal touched 27 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Monday

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit the gap between expenditure and revenue was at Rs 4,35,176 crore as of August-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

The deficit stood at 36 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at Rs 16,13,312 crore

#### during the current fiscal.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first five months of 2024-25, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 8.7 lakh crore or 33.8 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 34.5 per cent at July-end 2023.

The central government's total expenditure in the four months through August stood at Rs 16.5 lakh crore or 34.3 per cent of BE. The expenditure was 37.1 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, Rs 13,51,367 crore was in the revenue account and Rs 3,00,987 crore was in the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 4,00,160 crore was towards interest payments. Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing that is needed by the government. | fully

#### PNS NEW DELHI

 $S_{\rm Monday\ announced\ an}^{\rm olex\ Energy\ Limited\ on}$ investment exceeding Rs 8,000 crore as part of its Vision 2030 strategy. The initiative reflects Solex's initiative reflects commitment to advancing solar technology and scaling operations, positioning the company as a fully integrated solar player. Solex is exploring the development of a new cell manufacturing facility with an initial capacity of 2 GW, designed to scale up to 5 GW. Its module manufacturing capacity will also be increased from 1.5 GW to 15 GW. Solex aims to expand its workforce to over 25,000 to support this growth.Chetan Chairman & Shah, Managing & Director of Solex Energy Limited, said, "Vision 2030 represents a key milestone in our journey to becoming a integrated solar

the With company. N-Type introduction of TOPcon Technology featuring Rectangular Cells, Solex Energy is raising the bar for efficiency and reliability."

A major component of Vision 2030 is the launch of the Tapi-R series. This revolutionary solar module incorporates N-Type TOPcon Technology and a rectangular cell design, setting a new standard for solar energy generation in India. The series, named after the Tapi River, a symbol of vitality in the region where Solex is headquartered, and the "R" for its rectangular cell design, significantly enhances efficiency power and reliability. In addition to technological advancements, Solex Energy Limited is committed to supporting India's national goal of achieving 500 GW of nonfossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity by 2030.

# RED reduces losses by 41 per cent

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

redit card bill payments └app CRED on Monday reported 66 per cent year-onyear increase in revenue to Rs 2,473 crore in FY24, on the back of growth in monetised members and a drop in user acquisition costs.

Operating losses were reduced by 41 per cent from Rs 1,024 crore in FY23 to Rs 609 crore in FY24, a company statement said.

Ōur

cent.

"This came on the back of some very exciting sort of pieces of execution that we always had as a thesis, but it's always good to see that play out in action. The number of members that we monetised



rew 58 per cent year-on- year. CAC (customer acquisition costs) came down significantly by 40 per cent," CRED founder Kunal Shah said during a press briefing. Total Payment Value (TPV) for the platform surged 55 per cent to Rs 6.87 lakh crore, while monthly transacting users (MTU) rose by 34 per "Members used CRED for a

wide range of payments beyond credit card bills, with wide range of strong adoption of P2P UPI payments. They also expanded adoption of CRED Pay across online merchants, boosting transaction volumes by 254 per cent during the year," the statement said.

Organic growth contributed to a high-quality user base and dropped customer acquisition costs by 40 per cent, Shah said,

adding that 70 per cent of its behaviour. customer acquisition now comes through organic or referral channels. The unicorn fintech launched its in-app vehicle management feature--CRED Garage--in

September last year. "We managed to cross close to 4.2 million vehicles in the last

financial year and now touching close 6.5 million vehicles on the platform. And it kind of demonstrates the power of the platform coming together where we are squarely focused on an audience segment," Shah said.

In July 2024, it introduced CRED Money, a tool that enables users to track, analyze and reflect on their financial

The entrepreneur also hinted

at new products in the

"When you think from a capital investment and capital allocation perspective, there's a lot of exciting things coming up on the road map. A significant amount of our capital utilization is towards research and development costs, for example, things on products, investments on products that are in the works, and will come out pretty soon,"

he said. Responding to whether CRED plans to go public, Shah said the company's still in its growth phase and doesn't intend to list anytime soon.

### Tata Power inks pact with Rajasthan Government for investment in green energy

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Monday said it has inked an initial pact with the Rajasthan government for investment of Rs 1.2 lakh crore, including Rs 75,000 crore in green energy, in the state's power sector. The 10-year plan aims to Rajasthan's support transformation into a power surplus state, providing 24/7 clean, affordable, and reliable power supply. Investments will be made in renewable energy projects and manufacturing, transmission, distribution, nuclear power, rooftop installations, and EV charging, a company statement said.

The MoU was signed during the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investor Meet in New Delhi on Monday.An amount of Rs 20,000 crore will be invested in the state transmission and distribution area to modernize the grid infrastructure, reduce energy losses, and improve power quality across the state. Besides, Rs 10,000 crore will be invested for transmission systems exploring opportunities to develop

An investment of Rs 1,000 crore has been earmarked for setting up 1 lakh EV charging points across Rajasthan. Rooftop solar power for 10 lakh households will support the PM Surya Ghar Yojana. The MoU will have a transformative socioeconomic impact, creating over 28,000 direct jobs in the state. Tata Power already has a significant footprint in Rajasthan, with a robust portfolio of energy projects. The company has

nuclear power plant. Nearly Rs 75,000 crore will be for renewable energy projects. projects in the state.

commissioned 1 GW of solar projects and 185 MW of wind



## sports 11

# **USHA SLAMS EC MEMBERS FOR NOT FELICITATING OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS**

### PTI NEW DELHI

ndian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha on Monday said it is "deeply concerning" that the Executive Committee members failed to honour Olympic medallists and accused the Finance Committee of blocking funds intended to support Indian athletes' preparation for the Paris Games

India secured six medals, including two historic bronze by young shooter Manu Bhaker, but Usha said the "EC does not want to celebrate their success" and it makes her "very sad."

"These athletes have made the nation proud, and it is the responsibility of the IOA to celebrate their achievements with the respect they deserve. It is deeply concerning that, even after returning home in mid-August, the EC has failed to discuss or take any steps towards organizing a formal felicitation ceremony," she said in a statement.

She revealed that a proposal for a

preparatory grant of Rs 2 lakh for each Olympic-bound athlete and Rs 1 lakh for each coach had been blocked by the Finance Committee, notably by IOA Treasurer Sahdev Yadav.

"I strongly believe that this grant would have given our athletes and their coaches the support they needed in the crucial period leading up to the Olympic Games.

The refusal to disburse these funds reflects a lack of understanding of the needs of athletes and shows a complete disregard for their preparation and well-being," she stated.

Highlighting the contrast with previous leadership, Usha pointed out that a successful felicitation ceremony was organised for the seven medallists from the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If my predecessors could celebrate the achievements of our athletes during a global pandemic, what is stopping the current EC members from doing the same? These medallists have worked tirelessly to



bring honour to our nation, and they deserve to be acknowledged." Usha questioned the commitment of some EC members, particularly those who are former athletes.

"As someone who has represented India on the world stage, I understand the importance of recognising the hard work, sacrifices, and victories of our athletes. It is disheartening to see that others in positions of power, especially those who have also worn the national colours, are failing to

uphold this duty." The IOA had planned to award each individual medallist between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore, with coaches receiving Rs 15 lakh to Rs 25 lakh as part of the official felicitation.

<sup>\*</sup>By not following through on these plans, the IOA is letting down the athletes who have made our country proud. I urge the Executive Committee to take immediate action and ensure that our athletes receive the honours and recognition they deserve?

She reaffirmed her commitment to stand by the athletes, saying: "Our

athletes are the heart and soul of Indian sport. I will not rest until they are given the due respect, support, and acknowledgment they have earned."

On Saturday, 12 members of the Executive Council had sent a letter to senior International Olympic Committee (IOC) official Jerome Poivey, accusing Usha of running the organization in an "autocratic' manner after she rejected their demand to remove Raghuram Iyer as IOA CEO during a contentious meeting.

Usha called the accusations "malicious and false," asserting that they aimed to undermine her leadership and the efforts to improve Indian sports. On Sunday, she criticized the dissenting council members for prioritizing personal power and financial gain over the welfare of the sport.

In a press release, Usha on Sunday alleged that several of these EC members have questionable track records, including accusations of gender bias and instances of sexual harassment against them.

World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann retires from international soccer after 10 years with France



### AP PARIS

World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann took the soccer world by surprise on Monday when he announced the end of his international career with France.

The 33-year-old Atletico Madrid player has played 137 matches with Les Bleus, scoring 44 goals during a successful 10year tenure.

Griezmann started with France in 2014 in a friendly match against the Netherlands then quickly established himself as a

stalwart of the team coached by Didier Deschamps with his versatile talent and influence as both a goalscorer and an assist provider.

Only two players, Hugo Lloris and Lilian Thuram, have played more international

games with France than Griezmann. "It's with a heart full of memories that I close this chapter of my life," Griezmann said in a message posted on Instagram.

Thank you for this wonderful tricolor adventure and see you soon." Griezmann is fourth on France's list of alltime scorers behind Olivier Giroud, Thierry Henry and Kylian Mbappe. He won the 2018 World Cup and the Nations League three years later with his France teammates

"After 10 incredible years, marked by challenges, successes and unforgettable moments, it is time for me to turn a page and make way for the new generation," he said. "I was lucky enough to experience some incredible moments alongside some exceptional teammates. We have shared victories that will remain forever engraved in our memories?

After a disappointing showing at the European Championship earlier this year, where France lost in the semifinals, Griezmann had lost some of his influence in Deschamps' team. His final appearance in the France kit was in September in a 2-0 win over Belgium in a Nations League match when he came on as a late substitute. Although Griezmann has admitted he struggled at the Euros, he was expected to keep on playing with France until the 2026 World Cup.

In his retirement message, Griezmann thanked Deschamps for his support over the last decade despite the coach's decision to make Mbappe France captain ahead of him last year following Lloris' retirement. Griezmann had Griezmann had previously said Deschamps' snub had been difficult to stomach.

Griezmann didn't say how long he'll continue with his club career.

Arteta talks up Enrique's 'unbelievable power' as Chennaiyin FC aim for strong show



### Young Indian shuttler Raksha Kandasamy wins titles in Croatia and Belgium

### PTI 📕 MUMBAI

Young Indian badminton player Raksha Kandasamy continued her brilliant run as she clinched back-to-back titles in the Croatian International and Belgium Junior tournaments. The 16-year-old remained

unbeaten throughout the two tournaments as she won each of her five games en route to her title wins. Raksha defeated England's

Leona Lee 21-9, 21-5 in the final of the Croatian International played at Samobor on Sunday. She had

against winless Hyderabad FC

earlier defeated Bulgaria's Stefani Stoeva 21-14, 21-23 in the semifinal and Poland's Joanna Rudna 21-11, 21-10 in

the quarterfinal. Earlier, Raksha had crushed the challenge from Tammi van Wonterghem of Belgium 21-5,

21-8 in the quarterfinals of the Belgium Junior event. Flynn Ireland's Siofra presented a strong fight against

Rakha but the Indian prevailed 21-8, 19-21, 25-23 in their lastfour clash.

Raksha beat Germany's Gloria Poluektov 21-14, 10-21, 22-20 in the final played in the Belgian city of Herstal.

Hampshire in county cricket

Delhi Capitals co-owner

GMR group takes over

PTI LONDON

The GMR Group, co-owners of IPL franchise Delhi Capitals, on Monday completed an agreement with Hampshire to buy majority stake in the English county club.

Initially, the GMR Group will hold 53 percent stake in Hampshire, thereby making it the first county team to have an overseas ownership.

In a phased manner through place. Rod Bransgrove will continue the next 24 months, the Indian onglomerate will acquire 100 as (

champions," world Granthi.

Currently, GMR holds a 50 percent stake in the Delhi Capitals (IPL and WPL), the Dubai Capitals (ILT20) and the Pretoria Capitals (SA20).

Additionally, the GMR group has invested in the Seattle Orcas in the Major League Cricket, USA.

Under the new ownership

structure, Hampshire's existing leadership team will remain in

### AP LONDON

Days after professing his "love" and "respect" for Pep Guardiola, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has spoken in an equally effusive manner about another influential Spanish coach he will face in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Luis Enrique takes his Paris Saint-Germain team to Emirates Stadium for the most high-profile fixture in the second round of games in the new-look competition.

Arteta and Enrique go way back, having been together at Barcelona in the late 1990s and early 2000s when Arteta was starting out his professional career and Enrique was coming toward the end of his. Arteta said he "learnt a lot of things" from Enrique as a player and now as a coach, saying Monday his compatriot "brings a smile on my face."

"I am a huge admirer of him," Arteta said. "I remember his personality, huge character, huge energy, very supportive of his young players. What I love about him is that wherever he has been, as a player or as a manager, his fingerprints are all over place. You can see it's



his team. You can see PSG is in the end, players appreciate that? Arteta described PSG, where

he enjoyed a spell on loan in

2000-01 alongside players like Ronaldinho and Nicolas

Anelka, as a team "probably at

the highest level you can find

Enriques side leads the French

league with five wins and a

draw from the opening six

games of its title defense and

began the Champions League

in European football?

minute own-goal.

at Atalanta.

his team. "He has this unbelievable power ... Then there's his approach to life, his profession - it's something to really look at and I learnt a lot of things from him." Arteta spent much of last week

Arsenal hosts PSG in Champions League game

talking about Guardiola and Manchester City amid the fallout from Arsenal's feisty 2-2 draw at the Premier League champions that appears to have ignited a rivalry between the teams.

He has long been viewed as a protégé of Guardiola, yet it seems that Enrique has been an influence, too. "I love his honesty - he is very

straightforward, he looks you in the eyes and tells you what he thinks," Arteta said. "I think on Monday.



Hyderabad FC would look for their first win of the season while Chennaiyin FC seek to move up the standings when the two sides face each other in an Indian Super League match here on Tuesday

previous match. In their Hyderabad lost 0-2 to Punjab Chennaiyin while FC, succumbed to a 0-1 defeat to Mohammedan debutant Sporting. Hyderabad have a strong

defensive structure that could trouble Chennaiyin. The two teams have clashed against each other on 10 occasions in the ISL and have registered four wins each, while two matches ended in a draw. Meanwhile, CFC have scored

in their previous four away matches. Their previous longest goal-scoring run in away games was 16 contests between January 2020 to

with a 1-0 win over Girona -February 2023. Ahead of Tuesday's fixture, albeit courtesy of a 90th-Hyderabad head coach Thangboi Singto hoped to Arsenal started with a 0-0 draw draw inspiration from last Arteta said Arsenal will check season when his side triumphed over Chennaiyin. on the fitness of fullbacks Ben White and Riccardo Calafior "I can see that the boys have gelled with each other in the



last few weeks of training. So far, we have played only away games, and our next match will be at home," Singto said

on the eve of the game. "Chennaiyin FC were the only team that we beat last season. Are we going to defeat them again? I wish. 'It won't be easy because of

the kind of foreigners that they have brought in, and the Indian players are there; they are much better in terms of physicality and experience. It will be tough, but the only thing we can do is train and keep trying."

Chennaiyin head coach Owen Coyle said while their start has been better than the last

season, there are still some grey areas that need to be worked upon.

"I'd love to be sitting here with six points, for sure. We're obviously on three, which is better than we were this time last year. But six was achievable. So, we have to take that punch to the nose and look to bounce back quickly," he stated.

Farukh Chennaiyin's Choudhary has taken eight shots from inside the box this season. Hyderabad's Abdul Rabeeh's 50 touches inside the opposition's box since the beginning of the year is the most by any player from the side so far.

percent stake.

'Hampshire Sport & Leisure Holdings Limited, owner of the Utilita Bowl site and Hampshire Cricket, has signed and exchanged definitive agreements with GMR Global Pte Ltd (GGPL), marking the start of a significant strategic partnership," the club said in a statement in its website.

"As part of the agreement, GGPL will initially acquire a majority stake in Hampshire Sport & Leisure Holdings Limited, with the completed acquisition of 100% ownership expected within the next 24 months," the statement added. Kirankumar Granthi

Corporate Chairman of the GMR Group, said his aim will be to cultivate "value creation" and providing opportunities to budding talents.

"With this acquisition, along with our investments in the US, Dubai, and India, GMR is focused on engaging and connecting with the global youth. We are committed to financial prudence, value and creation, creating opportunities for young talent. "Our vision is to transform sports into a platform that unites people and cultures,

drives global excellence, and

nurtures the creation of future

least September 30, 2026, and David Mann will retain his role as the Group CEO.

'This is the fulfilment of a dream for me and, I hope, for Ćricket Hampshire all supporters. After a thorough selection process, we chose GGPL (the parent company of GMR) as our partners due to their shared values and

commitment to our vision. "Becoming the first English cricket club to join an international cricket group will open exciting new opportunities as we embrace the globalization of this great sport," said Bransgrove.

Richard Gould, ECB Chief Executive Officer, welcomed the acquisition.

"This is an exciting time for Hampshire Cricket. I am pleased to see GGPL's commitment to continuing to develop Hampshire's cricket teams and pathways and enhance facilities at Utilita Bowl, and their respect for the traditions of the game in this country.

This announcement also demonstrates the global interest in investing in cricket in England and Wales, and underlines the continuing appeal of county cricket," said Gould.

# Atletico equalises late against Madrid in derby interrupted after objects thrown on the field

### AP MADRID

Angel Correa scored in Astoppage time and Atletico Madrid drew 1-1 with Real Madrid in a tense Spanish league derby that was interrupted for more than 15 minutes in the second half after Atletico fans threw objects onto the field. Correa equalised for Atletico in a breakaway five minutes into added time with a goal that was initially disallowed for offside but was awarded after video review. Éder Militão had given Madrid the lead in the

The draw left Madrid in second place, three points behind leader Barcelona, which lost 4-2 to Osasuna on Saturday to end its seven-game winning streak. Atletico was third, two points behind Madrid after eight rounds. "I always think positively," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti

said. "We moved closer to the leader and we have been playing well." The derby was interrupted shortly after Madrid's goal at the Metropolitano, with the

the locker rooms after Atletico fans kept throwing objects onto the field.

Militão had celebrated near the sideline in front of Atletico fans, and Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was seen appearing to provoke Atletico fans after Militão scored. 'What the fans did wasn't right but we are not helping when

we provoke them," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. "I'm not justifying what the fans did, but we need to help as well? It was Courtois who alerted the

referee sending the players to referee about the objects -



including lighters - being thrown onto the field near him.

Atletico defender José María Giménez and midfielder Koke Resurrección went to talk to the fans in the section behind Courtois' goal. That section is where usually the more radical Atletico supporters are located. Atletico coach Diego Simeone also asked several times for the fans to behave.

A message over the stadium loudspeakers said the match was being interrupted for 15 minutes, and that it would be suspended if the problem

continued.

The interruption came a day after the Spanish league said it would ask police to act against the promoters of a social media campaign which the league said was aimed at promoting racist acts against Madrid star Vinícius Júnior at the derby. The social media campaign was based on a hashtag encouraging Atletico fans to wear face masks, apparently to make it more difficult for authorities to identify individuals who participate in racist chants or insults.

Social media videos showed

Atletico fans before the match chanting "Vinícius is different." Vinícius occasionally clashed with Atletico players at the Metropolitano.

Atletico's Marcos Llorente was

sent off in stoppage time. OTHER RESULTS: Fourthplace 10-man Athletic Bilbao conceded a stoppage-time equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Sevilla at home, while Giovani Lo Celso scored an 85thminute goal in Real Betis' 1-0 home win over Espanyol. Iago Aspas got an 81st-minute

equaliser for Celta Vigo in a 1-draw against visiting Girona.



## sports 12

# INDIA PUSH FOR VICTORY WITH T20-STYLE BATTING

#### PTI KANPUF

Trying to force a result in the limited time available, India played a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run first-innings lead against Bangladesh in the second Tort, infusing life into the second Test, infusing life into the rain-hit contest here on Monday.

The sun shone bright in the Kanpur sky after two gloomy days and the on-field action finally began after losing eight sessions. India had six sessions to force a win, and the hosts did everything they could on the fourth day of the match.

The pitch hardly offered assistance to India bowlers but the hosts still bundled out Bangladesh for 233 in their first innings, built around Mominul Haque's patient unbeaten 107.

India then unleashed their batting might on the visitors, striking at 8.22 runs per over to reset the records for fastest team 50 (18 balls), 100 (74 balls) and 200 runs (24.2 overs) in Test cricket. India declared their second

innings at 285 for nine to have another go at the visiting batters. At stumps, Bangladesh were 26 for two with Zakir Hasan and Hasan Mahmud becoming off-spinner

Ravichandran Ashwin's victims They were trailing India by 26 runs

India are going for the kill as an outright victory will consolidate their top position in the World Test Championship (WTC) table. Considering the tougher assignments ahead, especially the Australia Tour, India need to log as many wins as possible against comparatively easier rivals to get some cushion before the tough overseas rubbers.

Young opener Yashsvi Jaiswal (72 off 51 balls) set the tone with three boundaries in the opening over bowled by Hasan Mahmud and skipper Rohit Sharma (23 off 11) bludgeoned Khaled Ahmed for two consecutive sixes - one landing on the roof of the stadium. It was clear that India were showing an urgency to surpass the Bangladesh total quickly after more than two days' play was lost to bad weather.

The onslaught surprised the rival attack but the home fans were rewarded for visiting the stadium. Adopting a see-the-ball and hitthe-ball approach, India completed the fastest team fifty in three overs.

Realising the ineffectiveness of his pacers, Bangladesh skipper



Naimul Hossain introduced spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and he responded to the call by castling Rohit.

Jaiswal completed his fifty with a single off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam and continued in his aggressive fashion. His innings, which contained 12 fours and two sixes, was cut short by Mahmud.

The young opener added 72 runs for the second wicket with Shubhman Gill (39).

Rishabh Pant did not last long but there was no change in approach for the hosts with Virat Kohli and KL Rahul building on the foundation with their swift 87-run stand for the fifth wicket.

In a breathtaking show, Indian batters hit 28 fours and 11 sixes, collecting 158 runs in boundaries. In the process, Kohli became only the fourth player in history to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket across formats.

Ravindra Jadeja also cherished a rare double of 300 Test wickets and 3000 Test runs. He is the second quickest to complete the double behind England great Ian Botham. He also became only the seventh Indian to take 300 Test wickets when he dismissed Khaled Mahmud.

# Samit Dravid misses India U19 first fourday game against Aus

PTI 📕 CHENNAI

Injured Samit Dravid was ruled out of the opening four-day game between India U-19 and Australia U-19 and is also unlikely to be fit in time for the second match of the series.

The series opener began here on Monday.

Samit is currently at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) recuperating from a znee iniury t nim to hat for

### Good to get some overs under the belt at home as we would need to bowl a lot more in Aus: Bumrah

### PTI KANPUR

PTI SHARJAH

asprit Bumrah is gradually increasing his workload at home as the India pace spearhead knows he would be required to bowl a lot more overs during the five Test series in Australia.

After the two Test series against Bangladesh, India will host New Zealand for three games before departing for Australia.

"You have to be smart (to stay fit for Australia) and it's good to get some overs under the belt here although the number of overs to be bowled will be a lot more in Australia," Bumrah told host broadcaster ahead of the fourth day's play.

Day two and three of the Kanpur Test were wiped out due to a wet outfield at the Green Park stadium here.

"Weather is not in your control, it is the way it is. Good to get some time to relax. You've to quickly adjust to the changing conditions here after Chennai, quickly adapt and communicate with others, like



about changing lines and lengths," said Bumrah.

The five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins in Perth on November 22.

'Bumrah relishes playing Test matches and is determined to give his best in the format.

"My favourite format is the Tests, I've always said that. I'm trying to give my absolute best in this format," said the champion bowler who has featured in 36 Tests since making his debut in

PAKISTA

samajh kar (thoughtfully),"

"They have a very good

them Champions Trophy) because

they have a balanced team," the

Hailed as the 'Asian Bradman'

for insatiable appetite for runs,

Abbas was one of the most

resilience, mental strength,

technique, and consistency.

2572

77-year-old said.

and

## Comparing Kohli and Babar baseless, the Indian star way ahead: Zaheer Abbas

"There is a very good chance of

#### behind this are many to come up with something ... "Something like you have to play at least 5 or 6 Test matches a year then you can play ODI or T20s. Every year a minimum number of Test matches need to be allotted," he added.

LOSS TO BANGLADESH WAS A HUGE SETBACK: cketing powerhouse Once a cr Pakistan now find themselves in a difficult situation. Their downward spiral began with the Asia Cup last year which was followed by the team's early elimination from the ODÍ World Cup in 2023 and the T20 World Cup this year. Earlier this month they suffered their first-ever Test series loss to Bangladesh. "Bohot bada dhakka tha (It was a huge setback) that Pakistan lost to Bangladesh. We never thought that not only Pakistan will lose but it will lose so bad. "Pakistan cricket abhi daamadol hai (is not doing great). The performance has dropped. I am hopeful that it will get better. The reasons

"It happens, the West Indies used to be the best in the world, that's not the case now. But I'm hopeful that Pakistan cricket returns to the top, the boys are working hard." Pacer Shaheen Ăfridi replaced

Babar as skipper in T20Is after the 2023 ODI World Cup but the former was reappo the captain earlier this year. Abbas urged the PCB to take some action before the issue escalates further. 'Yes, there have been rivalries in the Pakistan teams in the past but the board should take note of the rivalry between Babar and Shaheen fast. The faster the better because it will

make him ineligible for playing for India in the ICC 2026 Under-19 World Cup. "His MRI scan was done during the one-day matches. We thought of giving him a go at the four-day game but let's consistent than the under-fire Pakistan batter. Pakistan batter. Once regarded as part of the 'Fab Five' including Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root, and

at the four-day game, but let's see how he progresses at the NCA. We are waiting for their report. We also have a second match," a source close to the Kane Williamson, Babar is currently enduring extended slump in form. development told PTI.

"Yeh fizool ki baatein hai (the The second four-day match comparisons are pointless). will start from October 7 at Virat Kohli scores in every Chepauk hence Samit has match the other player (Babar another week to recover from the knee injury Kanitkar said playing four-day red-ball game at the Under-19 stage will help the development of players. "It's a great initiative to play here. Test games because red-ball [cricket] really tests you. There's enough time for the

Dakistan great Zaheer Abbas P feels the comparisons between Virat Kohli and Babar Azam are baseless as the Indian superstar is a lot more

an

said Ábbas.

captain, who understands cricket very well. So, when everything is going in your favour it is smooth sailing. That's the case with India right now.

sit out of the three-match youth one-dayers against the Aussies recently. He was expected to make his

India Ū-19 debut at Puducherry but did not feature in any of the three matches. India had won the series 3-0. "As of now he's at the NCA, recovering from his knee injury. So, I don't know yet. It looks unlikely," head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar was quoted as saying by ÉSPNCricinfo.

In fact, for Samit, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, this is the last chance to represent India at the U-19 level.

He is set to turn 19 on October 11 this year, which will also

bowlers to plan and make strategies. So, for both batters and bowlers and even for fielders it's the ideal challenge to see where you stand. 'To be able to play against a

foreign side is a great thing. I know a lot of people, including myself who played Under-19 cricket against foreign teams and it really helped us a lot," Kanitkar added.

doesn't score in any match so then how can you compare. The person who scores, he is the bigger player," Abbas told PTI on the sidelines of the Cricket Predicta Conclave Kohli has 80

elegant batters of his time. He played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs international hundreds to his name while the much younger for Pakistan, accumulating Babar has scored 31 centuries 5062 respectively. across formats.

Abbar also acknowledged the consistency displayed by India across formats and said the Rohit Sharma-led team will be a strong contender for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "Indian team overall is very good. Their batters are doing well and the bowlers both are

'Test cricket is real cricket. That it is the real Test of any good. It is a very balanced team, one that plays soch player, bowler. At one point India and Pakistan's Test team



used to be good. And now the boards are realising that we can't go on without Test cricket.

"How many T20s can you runs play? How many white-ball TEAMS IN T20S CAN WIN tournaments can the ICC BY FLUKE, NOT IN TESTS: organise? Maybe 2 or 3 but in The 77-year-old strongly the end you have to return to believes that Test cricket truly ODI or Tests. "If you continue Test cricket tests the players' character,

the cricket will last longer. I know people like to get results fast but slowly they will get bored of T20s and we need Tests and ODIs." increasing number of An

players are turning down central contracts from their boards to focus on careers in T20 franchise leagues, a worrying trend that Abbas believes should be addressed. Test cricket is ultimate. Anyone can win in T20. Teams can win by fluke. But that is not the case in Test cricket as it has two innings. You have the scope to do well in one innings. Test cricket teaches you a lot.

"I know a lot of the players don't want to play Test cricket and play T20 instead. That needs to be stopped. They need

keep on escalating. "Rivalry is good, but it should not become serious, if it does, it harms the team," said Abbas. Abbas, former Pakistan player Mudassar Nazar and former Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore spoke at the conclave to celebrate the the centenary episode of Cricket Predicta, the largest cricket live stats based

show in Asia.

We've players who will help India dominate cricket for 10 years: Laxman

### PTI BENGALURU

e accepted the job with Htrepidation but batting great VVS Laxman says he is now a content man as head of BCCI's Centre of Excellence, having played his part in creating a "supply chain" that will help India dominate world cricket across formats for at least the next decade. Laxman took over as the head of the erstwhile National Cricket Academy (NCA) in 2021 from his one-time teammate Rahul Dravid, and built on the excellent platform that was already laid out. NCA has been refurbished into a CoE by the Board and was inaugurated on Sunday. Laxman got a one-year extension into the position after his original tenure ended earlier this

year. "I can say with a lot of confidence, barring a couple of skillsets, I think, for the next 10 years, we've

our country proud. I'm not only talking about men's, but also women's (cricket) as well. We're blessed to have that kind of talent,' Laxman told a select media gathering at the Centre of Excellence.

He said India's dominance in world cricket is a perfect reflection of its steady "supply chain."

"We won the (T20) World Cup (2024) in the West Indies which was a great result. But if you see all the three formats, we have dominated. Not only the rankings, we have dominated (other aspects too).

"There is a supply chain as far as cricket is concerned. That means the amount of players we have at our disposal, it is a real blessing." The 49-year-old said grooming the players without tinkering with their natural game, was essential to maintain that supply chai.

"The whole idea is to monitor got a lot of players who will make them, how to groom them, so that



they realise their potential. It's not that we dictate them (players) that you have to do this or you have to change (technique).

"Ultimately the player should feel comfortable, acknowledging and accepting that option. We don't want the player to suddenly feel the burden of whose advice he has to listen to."

The former India batter then explained how monitoring of the "targeted" players was done at the CoE

"When Rahul was the head coach of the Indian team, he used to take care of the contracted players and we at NCA used to take care of the targeted players, emerging players and the under-19 players," he recalled.

For this purpose, Laxman said he and the other support staff created a wonderful synergy with various state associations to ensure and similarity continuity in coaching.

professional. They understand what is needed for them to be in "...Because ultimately the state association coaches spend a lot the best mindset when they are more time with a player than what we do. We also have an athlete competing at the highest level. As management system. A profile is created for all the players who come and attend the ZCA and the far as the junior cricketers are concerned, we have got mental conditioners who spend 8 to 10 NCA camps...right from their reports of skills to the fitness to the days with the players," he said. IMPORTANCE OF 'A' TOURS: musculoskeletal screening report. Laxman described the significance "Now, we are going to even request of A' tours in preparing a player to the state association to follow that tackle all kind of conditions. process. So, at least 50 players of each state association — 25 men and 25 women — should be there on the watch list.

"We will know how the player has progressed and it will become very easy for anyone who is taking care of that player to know what the player has gone through every year," he elaborated on the process. Along with skill enhancement, Laxman said keeping the players in a good mental state is also important for their growth.

The players themselves are so

"Every year we make sure that we have at least two A Series. Sometimes it can be challenging because we want to have an A Series whereas the other boards will be busy with their own domestic cricket. Or they may not be ready to accommodate us.

"But at least we try to have two A Series. The A programme allows us to go to different parts of the world and get experience. So that when they graduate to the national team, it is not a surprise to them," added Laxman.

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