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MONEY 10 ABOUT 1 PER CENT FALL IN SENSEX, NIFTY AMID TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

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Iran's Ali Khamenei adds fuel to West Asia fires



PTI/AP ■ TEHRAN/ BEIRUT

Iran's supreme leader on Friday praised the country's recent missile strike on Israel and said it was ready to do it again if necessary, state TV reported. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in his first appearance as leader, in about five years, at Friday prayers, called the missile strike a "shining" job by Iran's armed forces. On the other hand Israel carried out a series of massive airstrikes overnight, hitting suburbs of Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing Israeli bombardment. The Israeli military said Friday

Peace crucial for global economy: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made oblique reference to the widening conflicts in the Middle East and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, saying the two regions were crucial for the global economy and energy security. His comments came amid fears of further escalation of conflict in the Middle East if Israel were to retaliate and attack Iran, potentially

its nuclear and oil facilities. "India is more than 85 per cent dependent on the import of crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel, and about half of its gas needs. A bulk of these come from the Middle East, and in scenarios of Israel-Iran getting into prolonged conflict, the supplies could be impacted," PM Modi said.



that a strike in Beirut the day before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafti, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafti was "a senior Hezbollah terrorist who was responsible for the communications unit since 2000" and was "closely affiliated" with high-up Hezbollah officials. On Tuesday, Iran launched at least 180 missiles at Israel, the latest in a series of rapidly escalating attacks between Israel and Iran and its allies that threaten to push the Middle East closer to a region-wide war. Israel said it intercepted many of the missiles, and officials in Washington said US destroyers assisted in Israel's defence. Iran said most of its missiles hit their targets. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Khamenei, 80, said in a 40-minute speech to thousands of people at the Mosalla mosque, the main prayer site in Tehran, that the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel nearly a year ago on Oct 7, 2023, was a legitimate action by the Palestinian people. He said Tuesday's missile barrage was based on international law, the country's law and Islamic beliefs.

Continued on page 8

30 Naxalites killed in Bastar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DANTEWADA/NEW DELHI

In the largest such operation in Chhattisgarh's 24-year history, at least 30 Maoists were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Abujmahad, Dantewada district, on Friday. The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thulthuli and Nendur villages in Abujmahad on the Narayanpur-Dantewada inter-district border, when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxal operation. According to the police, the Districts Reserve Guards (DRG) from Dantewada and Narayanpur, acting on specific intelligence inputs on the presence of Maoists in the area, set out on an operation from different police camps. The DRG is a specialised force that includes Maoists who have

surrendered. Along with the 30 bodies, a cache of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle and one SLR (self-loading rifle), were also recovered from the encounter spot. Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai told the media that around 30 Naxalites were killed in the gun battle. Abujmahad straddles between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, and is called the 'unknown hill' as the 6,000 sq km thick forest has not been surveyed since the British era. The jungle is the epicentre of Maoist activities and about a dozen senior cadres of CPI (Maoist) are said to be still camping there. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said the 'double engine' government (BJP government in the state and at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

In a post on X, CM said, "There is news of 28 Naxalites gunned down in an encounter with security forces in the border area of Narayanpur-Dantewada districts. The great success achieved by the soldiers is commendable. I salute their courage and valour. Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will end only after reaching its conclusion. Our double engine government is determined for this. Eliminating Naxalism from the state is our aim." According to police, with this latest encounter, 185 Maoists have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year. The last big encounter from the state was reported on September 3, when nine Maoists, including six women, were killed on the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts. On April 16, as many as 29 Naxalites, including some higher-ranking cadres, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh in August had said India will be free from Left Wing Extremism (LWE) by March 2026, and a strong and ruthless strategy was required to launch the final assault against the menace.



Bizarre protest at Mantralaya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

In a dramatic development, tribal leaders, including Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, protesting against the demand to include the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribe list, on Friday jumped from the third floor of Maharashtra State secretariat Mantralaya on the safety net just a floor below. The protestors said they did this act for not getting appointment with Chief Minister. No injuries were reported in the incident that saw tense moments unfolding at the six-storey Mantralaya complex. The incident occurred around 12.40 pm. Zirwal, his fellow Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Kiran Lahamate and BJP tribal MP Hemant Savara were among those who jumped from the third floor onto the safety net installed on the second floor, a precaution taken in response to previous suicide attempts at the site. Continued on page 8

PUNE HORROR College student gangraped

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ PUNE/MUMBAI

A 21-year-old woman was gang-raped by three unidentified men. The accused attacked the woman after tying her male friend to a tree in the desolate Bopdev Ghat area in the outskirts of Pune late on Thursday night. The victim, said to be a college student hailing from Gujarat, is being treated at the State-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune. The attack took place around 11 pm in the poorly lit and secluded area of Bopdev Ghat. The police came to know about the incident around 5 am on Friday. With the incident having sparked a major public uproar in Pune, the local police swiftly arrested one person, a 36-year-old resident from Pune's Kondhwa area, in connection with the incident and launched a hunt for the two remaining suspects. The Pune police have formed 10 teams from the Crime and Detection branches to look out for the two remaining suspects. On Friday evening, the police released the sketches of two of the three suspects involved in the alleged gang-rape. The sketches were drawn on the basis of a statement made by the victim girl to the police at the hospital. Talking to media persons, Pune's Additional Commissioner of Police Ranjan Kumar Sharma said, "As per preliminary details, the woman and her male friend had gone to the Bopdev Ghat area on late Thursday night where three unidentified persons allegedly raped her." The preliminary investigations have revealed that three suspects, posing as activists, approached the victim and her friend in a car. They asked the couple what they were doing in



that "prohibited" area. They also took photographs of the couple. After threatening them with dire consequences, one of the suspects forced the girl into a car. They tied the young man to a tree, and took turns to rape the young woman inside the car. The suspects also assaulted the victim's friend before fleeing the crime scene. The injured young man managed to take the victim to the Sassoon General Hospital for treatment. A complaint was lodged with the Kondhwa police Station at around 5 am on Friday. Happening as it did in the run-up to the State Assembly polls, the incident has snowballed into a political controversy. Continued on page 8

Court not to be used as political battleground: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set up a five-member Special Investigation Team under supervision of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director to probe into the allegations of use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will comprise two officials each from the CBI and the Andhra Pradesh Police besides a senior Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) official. "We clarify that we will not permit the court to be used as a political battleground. However, in order to assuage the feelings of crores of people, we find that the investigation should be conducted by an independent SIT consisting of representatives of the state police, the CBI and a representative of the FSSAI," the Bench said. "We don't want this to be turned into a political



drama. There are sentiments of crores of people throughout the world," Judges observed during the hearing. The order was on the PILs filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board (TTD) former Chairman YV Subba Reddy asking for a court monitored probe on the allegations by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The CM had accused the former regime led by Jagan Mohan Reddy for the adulterated ghee used in making of laddus. Continued on page 8

Mirzapur road mishap claims 10 lives PM, CM condole deaths

PNS ■ VARANASI

As many as 10 people of Ramsinghpur and Birbalpur villages under Mirza Murad police station died on the spot when an uncontrolled truck hit a tractor-trolley near Katka village under Kachwan Bazar police station of Mirzapur district on Prayagraj-Varanasi Highway around 1 am on Friday. Three seriously injured persons were admitted to the Trauma Centre in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). All those on the tractor-trolley were returning home after doing some construction work in Bhadohi district. The deceased were identified as Bhanu Pratap (25), Vikas (20), both of Ramsinghpur village, Anil (35), Suraj Kumar (22), Sanohar (25), Rakesh Kumar (25), Prem Kumar (40), Rahul Kumar (26), Nitin Kumar (20) and Roshan Kumar (20), of Birbalpur. The injured included Akash (15), Jamuni (26) and Ajay Saroj (50). After receiving the tragic news, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the next of kin of each

person who died in the road accident in Mirzapur. The injured would be given Rs 50,000. All the deceased belonged to the prime minister's Varanasi parliamentary constituency as they were residents of Birbalpur and Ramsinghpur villages which are in Sewapuri assembly segment of Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency. In his message, the prime minister expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayed to the almighty to give them strength to bear this pain. He also wished for the speedy recovery of all the injured and said that under the supervision of the state government, the local administration was engaged in helping the victims in every possible way. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the road accident in Mirzapur. He instructed the district administration officials to provide proper treatment to the injured. Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, Yogi prayed to Lord Shri Ram for peace of the departed souls and speedy recovery of the injured.



Historic Kashmere Gate is now a traffic battlefield This stretch is notorious for being a bottleneck 24x7

BY RAJESH KUMAR

Situated close to Civil Lines, where residences of the Chief Minister, Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Cabinet ministers are located, Kashmere Gate has heavy traffic congestion daily. This stretch is notorious for being a traffic bottleneck 24x7. Lala Hardev Marg is the main road in front of Kashmere Gate metro station and the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) where the flyover coming from East Delhi areas, such as Shahdara and Dilshad Garden, merges. Netaji Subhash Marg connecting Kashmere Gate to Chandni Chowk and Daryaganj always choked due to encroachments and narrow lanes. Another major congestion point on the stretch comes between ISBT Kashmere Gate and the Chandgi

Ram Akhara junction. Nityanand Marg stretch connecting Tis Hazari court is another bottleneck here. Interestingly, as the number of vehicles on roads surrounding Kashmere Gate has increased manifold, the condition of roads and traffic management remains the same. In 2018, Delhi traffic police had identified the area around Kashmere Gate as an 'accident-prone' zone due to heavy pedestrian movement and traffic congestion. The situation has worsened since 2018. The authorities seem to be clueless here. The area has illegal parking lots, which have an unregulated private vehicle flow, huge encroachments, that add chaos to the already heavy volume of traffic on the roads. Rajini Kant Verma, former Transport Secretary of Delhi



A Traffic Jam Vehicles move on road at isbt kashmiri gate Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

government, said that traffic congestion is the major problem at Kashmere Gate, due to heavy traffic and illegal parking of auto rickshaws and buses. "Besides,

there are also encroachments surrounding the ISBT Kashmere Gate Metro station, leading to traffic jams here", he said. According to Verma, the problem

will be solved if encroachment is removed and regulate the auto rickshaw and private vehicles. According to transport department's officials, the Delhi

government has taken steps to reduce traffic congestion in the vicinity of the ISBTs by implementing new policies. Under it, parking and bus-bay usage fees for private and govt interstate buses will now be the same to discourage private buses from parking illegally on the roadside which congests traffic. Furthermore, buses will be assigned a fixed parking time slot of 25 minutes at a predetermined rate. If a bus exceeds this allotted time, additional charges will be levied. To ensure compliance, buses without FasTags will not be permitted to enter the terminal. Delhi has three ISBTs - at Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan. Raj Niwas officials said that traffic congestion outside the ISBTs is visibly lower now, and a report from the traffic police has also

been sought to ascertain the impact of reduced turnaround timings on traffic and pedestrian movement outside the ISBTs. At ISBT Kashmere Gate, the average turnaround time has dropped from 45 minutes in August to 29 minutes after the new order, averaging 19 minutes since then. The number of buses to and from the terminal was 1,373 per day on average in August and is now 1,644 per day. Notably, the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has proposed several long-term modifications to the traffic diversion plan to decongest the area around Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT). The CRRI has now suggested reducing the width of the footpath under Yudhistir Setu, which will create more space for buses. Continued on page 8

STF busts multi-crore cryptocurrency scam

Gang leader arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force, in a joint operation with the Lucknow police, on Friday arrested alleged gang leader Sameer Keshari for orchestrating a fraudulent scheme involving a fake virtual coin, 'Ruby Coin'.



NOTICE

It is notified that in the marksheet of my daughter's Divyanshi Srivastava (High School year 2020 Roll Number 23234221) by mistake my name has been mentioned Rajiv srivastava instead of Rajeev Kumar Srivastava. As per Aadhar card should be modified to include the correct name Rajeev Kumar Srivastava S/o Subhash Chandra Srivastava R/o/184 Kasari Masari Rajrooppur Prayagraj.

NOTICE

I Sanjay Verma S/o Ashok Kumar R/o House No. 71, Jarauli Phase-2 Kanpur Nagar has changed my daughter's name from TAKSHVI to TAKSHVI VERMA for all future purposes

NOTICE

No.15827574K NK Diwaker Kumar Residing at Vill & PO Harli, Teh Barkagan, Distt. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825311. actual name and dob of my Father is Ashok saw dob 01/01/1962 instead of dob 04/02/1970 and Mother is Parwa Devi dob 01/01/1963 instead of Parwati Devi dob 05/02/1973 the above amendment is correct.

NOTICE

Being upset from the ill-acts of my younger son Ashutosh Chandra and daughter-in-law Amisha Kushwaha, I have ended relations and disinherited them from my moveable-immovable properties. I and my family will not be responsible for any of their acts. Smt Vimla Maurya W/o Late R B Maurya R/o 4/470, Anand Nagar, Shuklaganj, Gangaghat, Unnao.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Anurag to Anurag Sachan. Anurag Sachan S/o Santosh Kumar Sachan add:-524 Aadhar Shila-1, Flat No. 302 Lakhapur Housing Society Vikas Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE

I hereby declare that in the school documents of my son Mohammd Ayan Ghazi his father's name is wrongly registered as IJARAT ALI which is incorrect while in Aadhar Card his father's name is registered IJARAT which is correct. Hence, from now in the educational documents of my son his father's name will be known and written as IJARAT only. Ijarat S/O Hajrat Ali R/O 182, 2nd Bn. PAC, Tehseel and District-Sitapur

NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Shailesh Singh, S/o Mr. S.N. Singh, R/o 2/847, Vivek Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, was allotted a 3BHK flat (No. C-3/102) under the Vrindavan Yojna in Himalayan Enclave. The registry of the flat has been completed in my name. The allotment letter, numbered 3641 and dated 17.07.2019, has been misplaced and could be misused by someone. I have obtained a duplicate copy of the allotment letter from the office on 05.09.2024. Any use of the original allotment letter by another party will be considered illegal.

NOTICE

This is to inform everyone that my real name is Reema D/o Kamlesh Ram which is mentioned in my educational records. By mistake, my name Riya has been mentioned in my Aadhar card number 836628228334 which is wrong. In future I should be known and recognized by my correct name Reema D/o Kamlesh Ram. Hence, all the legal formalities regarding the above have been completed by myself. Name- Reema Add-Saraiya Post-Tarighat P.S.- Suhwal Dist- Ghazipur

and attempted to flee abroad after converting their funds into cryptocurrency. As the kingpin of the operation, Keshari defrauded thousands by falsely claiming to offer investments in Ruby Coin and presenting fake licences from various global virtual currency exchanges. He managed to raise approximately Rs 150 crore from unsuspecting investors.

Keshari, a resident of Dwarka, Delhi, originally hails from Malda, West Bengal, and was living in Sushant Golf City at the time of his arrest. Authorities recovered a laptop, an iPhone, a passport, a PAN card, an Aadhaar card, and other documents during the operation, which took place near Gol Chauraha. Deputy Superintendent of Police, STF, Deepak Kumar Singh stated that intelligence led to a raid on Keshari's location. He noted that Keshari and his associates lured victims by promoting Ruby Coin as a safe investment, claiming that the principal amount would remain secure and could be withdrawn after three years with prior notice. Keshari promised investors tour packages to various desti-

nations in exchange for their investments.

To further legitimise the scheme, Keshari operated through a purported coin exchange, CTS Cola, which he claimed was based in Dubai. However, all transactions were managed on a local server controlled by him. Investors' accounts were created using their details, displaying fictitious balances in Ruby Coin. When investors requested withdrawals, Keshari used various excuses—such as server or software updates—to delay payments, often deactivating accounts that showed significant liabilities. Keshari had plans to convert all the funds into virtual coins and escape to Dubai amid an ongoing investigation by the Sushant Golf City police station. Upon further interrogation, it was revealed that Keshari previously worked for Angela Agrotech Company in Kolkata, where he quickly rose to the board of directors due to his sales skills. However, he was jailed in 2016 for fraud in Durg, Madhya Pradesh. After his release, he relocated to Raipur, Chhattisgarh, where he initiated the Ruby Coin scheme.

Couple found dead

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, a man and his wife were found dead in a suspected case of double suicide in Thakurganj police station area on Friday.

Amit Arya (45) was found hanging from the ceiling fan in a room, while his wife Monika Arora (47) is believed to have poisoned herself to death shortly afterwards. According to the police, the couple was childless. Amit, a rickshaw driver, was discovered hanging, while Monika's body was found lying on the bed. During a search of the premises, police found a packet of pesticide, a bottle of liquor, and a glass laced with poison. Foam-like residue was observed around their mouths, indicating poison ingestion. Initial investigations revealed that Monika, who had been suffering from a severe kidney condition, had worked at the Deaf and Dumb School in Misri ki Baghia, Thakurganj. It is suspected that her long-term illness, combined with financial hardship from mounting medical expenses, may have led to the couple's despair. The bodies have been sent for the post-mortem examination. ADCP Vishwajit Srivastava stated that the police are investigating all possible factors, including financial distress and Monika's chronic illness.

YOUTH KILLED IN FIGHT WITH FRIEND

A youth was killed in a dispute with his colleague in a disputation with his colleague in the Talkatora police station area on Friday, police said. The victim was identified as Anmol Singh from Hardoi, and his colleague as Somendra aka Lahu. The two reportedly argued over an old financial issue while cooking, which escalated into a violent confrontation. During the altercation, one attempted to strangle the other, and Anmol was allegedly hit with a stone. As per reports, Anmol (30) worked at a tent house in Alamnagar. On Thursday night, a dispute over a previous financial transaction broke out between him and Somendra, leading to a fight. Anmol sustained severe head injuries during the struggle and fell to the ground, bleeding. Hearing his screams, tent house owner Aslam Ali, along with other employees and nearby residents, rushed to the scene. Anmol was taken to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. Anmol's brother Alok alleged that the tent house operator, Rehan, initially misinformed the family, stating that Anmol was ill, only to report his death ten minutes later. Inspector Mahendra Kumar, present at the hospital, avoided media questions regarding the case.

Model House puja pandal themed on Vatican City

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Model House Durga Puja, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is setting up a unique pandal inspired by the Vatican City. Chief patron Vinod Kumar Tewari said that they wanted to create something special for the golden jubilee celebrations. "We got the idea for this pandal from Kolkata, which is known for its innovative Durga Puja celebrations. In 2022, a Vatican City-themed pandal was constructed in Kolkata and received widespread acclaim. We loved the concept and decided to replicate it here," Tewari explained. The pandal, currently under construction, will feature 2,000 poles and is being built by Asim Matya from Meghnapur, Bengal. Tewari noted that this isn't the first time the organisation has introduced novel ideas for the puja, mentioning previous themes such as the Ram Mandir pandal and the Meenakshi Temple pandal.

"We design our pandals with budget constraints in mind," he added. When asked about the potential appeal of the Vatican City pandal to the Christian community, Tewari emphasised his commitment to the city's harmonious culture. "There is a mazar nearby that I always ensure is cleaned and decorated. Our pandal aims to convey a message of unity among all religions," he said. The Goddess Durga idol will be adorned in golden hues to reflect the golden jubilee celebrations. "The idol is being crafted on-site by artists from Kolkata," Tewari mentioned. Regarding the prasad to be distributed to devotees, Tewari said that special golden boxes are being prepared to commemorate the 50 years of the puja. The bhog will be served on Saptami, Ashtami, and Navami, culminating in a cultural programme on October 12 featuring saxophone and flute performances. Tewari reflected on the journey of the Model House Durga Puja

over the past 50 years, stating, "There have been ups and downs, but I have remained committed to my responsibilities and kept the puja alive. I believe that if you approach your work with honesty and purity of mind, success will follow. We have faced no shortages during the celebrations." Nitesh Tewari, also part of the organising committee, expressed their desire to bring something different to the puja with the Vatican City theme. "We feel that new themes should be introduced for the devotees," he said. Having been associated with the puja since childhood, he described the experience as fulfilling. "Last year, we featured women dhaki players, and this year we are hosting a cultural programme. We welcome around 20,000 to 25,000 devotees each day," he added. Asim Matya, the pandal's architect, mentioned that it is being constructed by a team of 37 artists, covering an area of 75 feet by 45 feet, with a height of approximately 85 feet.

Cow slaughter accused killed in encounter

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man accused of cow slaughter was arrested during an encounter with police in Malihabad on the night of Thursday and Friday.

Police shot the accused in the leg before pinning him down. According to police, the encounter began late at night after officers warned some suspects to surrender. "The suspects opened fire on the police. In the retaliatory firing, one suspect was shot in the leg and has been admitted to the district hospital for treatment," a police spokesman stated. The police claimed that on September 30, the suspects fled after killing a cow in the bushes near the turn of Kanar village in the Malihabad police station area. On the night of October 4, the police received information about another cow

slaughter in Badhi Garhi village and initiated a search operation. When officers attempted to stop a car near Badi-Badi village, the suspects exited the vehicle and allegedly opened fire. The police returned fire and one of the suspects was shot, while the others managed to escape. The injured accused was identified as Ishtiaq, son of Abbas, a resident of Jhabaniya in the Sandila police station area of Hardoi. ADCP, West, Vishwajeet told reporters that Ishtiaq was wanted in connection with the September 30 incident. The police also claimed to have recovered a .315 bore bullet shell and live cartridges from him, along with the vehicle used in the incident. Additionally, an axe, knife, and screwdriver believed to have been used in the crime were also seized. Those who fled were identified as Wasim from

Kakori, Sufian from Hardoi, and Mohammed Ahmed from Saadatganj.

YOUTH SHOOTS SELF

A youth, identified as Ankit from Sarojini Nagar, allegedly shot himself in the head on Friday while walking near Indra Dam under the BBD police station after calling his friends to bid them farewell, police said. The bullet entered below his eye and exited from the back of his head. According to the police, Ankit made a video call to two friends, Sameer and Rahul, just before the incident. He informed them of his decision to end his life and then turned off his phone. Alarmed, his friends quickly notified Ankit's family and the police control room. The police later recovered a country-made pistol and a bike from the scene.

Inspector Ajay Narayan Singh, leading the investigation, said that Ankit was known to be a spiritual person who ran a garment shop in Sarojini Nagar. His father Brijesh Pathak works in a private company in Rampur, and Ankit was the only child. His family revealed that he was engaged and set to be married in four months. The news of his suicide has left family and friends in shock, as no clear reasons have emerged to explain his actions. Friends disclosed that Ankit had become increasingly spiritual in recent years, with spiritual slogans written on his shop and bike. One slogan read, "What is salvation? It is the end of the fear of losing anything and the desire to get anything." Police have sent the body for autopsy while further investigations are ongoing.

Congress launches Indra fellowship to empower women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Launching the Indra fellowship programme here from Uttar Pradesh Congress headquarters on Friday, state president Ajay Rai said that it was an initiative of the Indian National Congress, launched in memory of former prime minister Indra Gandhi, to empower women in the political field. The Indian National Congress has always made efforts to encourage and empower women in various fields of governance, especially in political representation. The Congress has implemented policies and initiatives that ensure greater participation of women in politics and decision-making processes. Addressing the press conference, Ajay Rai said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

was deeply interested in the idea of ensuring large-scale participation of women in politics and nation-building and had urged women to join this revolution called 'Shakti Abhiyan'. Rai said the Indra fellowship was a vital part of the Shakti Movement and was designed to provide a platform for women who aspire to make a lasting impact in their communities. As a political tool, the movement is based on the fundamental ideas of 'Ventilometer, stake and identity', he added. Rai informed that in a short span of just one year, more than 300 fellows have established 4,300 Shakti Clubs comprising 31,000 members in 28 States and 350 blocks, which have become the main centres for establishment and operation of Shakti Abhiyan.

KGMU doctors fix eye of road mishap victim

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 74-year-old man from Lucknow was injured in a road accident on September 26 last. "His right eye was severely damaged in the accident; it dislodged, breaking the nasal bone and shifting below the nose," said KGMU spokesperson Sudhir Singh. After initial treatment at the Trauma Centre, the patient was transferred to the ophthalmology department. Examination revealed that both the right eye and eyelid were torn, and the eye had shifted from its original position. A team led by the head of the department of ophthalmology, Prof Apjeet Kaur, was formed to manage the patient's care. The team included Dr Virendra Verma from the ENT department, Dr Manish Kumar Singh from anaesthesia, and other doctors: Dr Nibha Mishra, Dr Neeraj Kumar Yadav, and Dr Anjali Gupta. "This was a complex surgery that needed to be completed without compromising the patient's eyesight. The doctors demonstrated remarkable skill in successfully completing the procedure. The patient is now stable; the eye has been repositioned, and both movement and vision are gradually returning to normal," said Sudhir Singh. KGMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Soniya Nityanand congratulated the entire team.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No. MD/ACCTS/MWR-08/2024/1217 Date: 27.09.2024
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (E-TCN)
Name of the Work: Hiring of 01 no. Mooring Launch along with operational crew for daily one shift operation for a period of 07 (Seven) years. Total Estimated cost (including Hire Charges and Fuel Cost) :- Rs.12,11,88,139/- excluding GST. Estimated cost put to tender for hire charges only: Rs.5,16,20,976/- Excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is: 17:00 Hours on 18/10/2024. Date & time for opening of technical Bid is 15:30 hours on 02.22.10.2024. For further details please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. PPA/PR/41/24-25 Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Ittd.03.10.2024 Paradip Port Authority

Army soldier accused of deception, abuse by wife

Lucknow (PNS): A woman has accused her husband, an army soldier, of marrying her while concealing his marital status, police said on Friday. The incident occurred in the PGI police station area. In her complaint, the woman stated that the accused listed himself as unmarried on a matrimonial site, despite already being married. She alleged that when she confronted him about this, he became angry and physically assaulted her. As per reports, the woman, from Telibagh, met the accused, Sachin Kumar from Unnao, through a matrimonial website where he introduced himself as an army soldier. They married on December 14,

2022, in a ceremony attended by both families, during which she provided Sachin with approximately Rs 20 lakh and jewellery as dowry. After the marriage, Sachin allegedly began to harass her. Initially, she tolerated his behaviour, but he continued to stay away from home for extended periods, sometimes not returning at all. Concerned, the woman visited his military unit, where she discovered that he had registered his wife's name as Vandana Singh. When she confronted Sachin with this information, he allegedly demanded Rs 25 lakh to include her name in official documents. Inspector, PGI, Brajesh Chandra Tiwari stated that a

case has been registered based on the victim's complaint.

HINDU MAHASABHA LEADER, AIDES BOOKED

Hindu Mahasabha national spokesman Shishir Chaturvedi and his aides have been booked for breach of peace after allegedly threatening the priest of Om Namō Narayan Janta Mandir in Hazratganj. They reportedly demanded the removal of the Sai Baba idols, threatening to destroy them if their demands were not met. In his complaint, priest Badri Nath Pandey stated that on October 2, Chaturvedi, accompanied by 5 to 7 individuals, arrived at the temple and threatened the priests residing there regarding the Sai idol.

Fire breaks out in house

Lucknow (PNS): Two fire incidents were reported from Old Lucknow's Chowk area on Friday. Luckily though, no casualties were reported following hours of firefighting efforts. In the first incident, fire broke out in a house in Bazarkhaala around 2:30 pm. The explosion of two gas cylinders created chaos, blowing off the tin shed of the house. A short-circuit in Santosh Pandey's home near Bazarkhaala SK Motors in Motijheel ignited the fire. The second incident was reported from an electronic goods warehouse in Thakurganj. Firefighters contained the blaze with the assistance of three fire tenders.

4 schoolgirls escape kidnapping attempt

Lucknow (PNS): Four schoolgirls in Meetha Nagar village, Malihabad, narrowly escaped an alleged kidnapping attempt on Friday morning while on their way to Kasamandi Primary School. The girls, walking to school, were allegedly stopped by men in an unidentified loader driver, offering to drop them off to school. When the girls refused, the accused attempted to forcefully pull them into the vehicle. Sensing danger, the girls raised an alarm, drawing the attention of a passerby on a motorcycle. The biker intervened, and the accused sped off the scene. The shaken girls ran to their school and reported the incident to the principal, Vimala Chandra, who informed their families and sent the students home. Jai Karan Maurya, a local resident, stated in his complaint that the accused attempted to kidnap his niece Akanksha, along with classmates Ananya, Vanshika (all in Class VIII), and Sonam (Class VI). According to the girls, one of the accused even gagged Sonam and threatened her with a knife. The vehicle reportedly contained a knife, a syringe, an injection, a box of medicines, and a mattress with a woman seated on it. Upon receiving the complaint, the police began their investigation. The vehicle was spotted moving on Kasamandi Road.

Females play lead roles in Mahanagar Ramlila

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mahanagar Ramlila is a unique celebration in the city where the lead roles of Ram, Laxman, Bharat, and Shatrughan are portrayed by female actors. Bhuvan Chandra Joshi, a member of the Uttaranchal Mahaparishad, stated that this initiative aims to promote women empowerment. The Ramlila will commence on October 7 and conclude on October 13. Joshi explained that in recent years, female actors have increasingly taken on the main characters in this production. "Lord Ram is being played by a female who has trained for the role for two months," he said. When asked about the traditional practice of men portraying female characters in other Ramlilas, especially since these performances often run late into the night, Joshi noted that they successfully managed with female actors in male roles. "These are children from the community who play various characters, which makes it feasible. Additionally, there is a

special pious atmosphere during this time that supports the inclusion of female actors in these roles," he added. Regarding voice modulation for male characters, he mentioned that children, regardless of gender, often share similar vocal pitches, making it less of an issue. "Characters like Angad and Hanuman are still played by male actors. The age group for the roles is between 12 and 15 years. The female actors perform exceptionally well after thorough training," he explained. Mahanagar Ramlila is an offshoot of the Ramlila that was organised in Muralinagar over 50 years ago. "Participants from that Ramlila have since moved to other venues, such as Mahanagar, Kalyanpur, and Pantnagar, each hosting their own Ramlilas. The Mahanagar Ramlila has been running for 25 years," he noted. He highlighted that this Ramlila is based on classical music and features influences from Purvanchal and Kumaon, evident in the dialogues.

CITY BRIEFS

SEMIFINISHED SHOPPING COMPLEX DEMOLISHED

As part of its ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) demolished a semi-finished shopping complex on Sitapur Road on Friday, reclaiming 15 bighas of public land valued at Rs 40 crore. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh stated that the land had been illegally occupied a decade ago. Despite previous awareness of the encroachment, no action had been taken against the offenders until a recent meeting on land grabbing prompted a survey to confirm the situation. Led by Shashi Bhusan Pandey, the demolition squad reached the site near Mohibullahpur at 9:30 am. Although locals and others attempted to obstruct the operation, they retreated in the face of police presence. The demolition began at 11:30 am and concluded by 4 pm.

risk neonates of the region admitted to NICU. This human milk bank will cater to the babies where mother's milk is not available immediately for various reasons. Scientific research has proven that babies who are given exclusive breast milk feed have better immunity and good neurological outcomes when compared to alternative feed. She also visited the Oncology Ward, Prerna Cell, Early Intervention Centre (EIC) and Surya Sainik Niwas and interacted with the patients and their families. She also applauded the efforts of the team 'Surya Healers' in providing quality care to the patients.

FOUNDATION DAY

The department of anaesthesiology at SGPGMS will celebrate its 37th Foundation Day on Saturday. The chief guest will be head of cardiac anaesthesia at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, Prof Praveen Kumar Neema, who will deliver the 5th Prof Soma Kaushik Oration, named in honour of the department's first head. The event will feature CME lectures on emerging frontiers in anaesthesiology, including the use of artificial intelligence to improve patient

outcomes during surgery. Ethical issues, work-life balance, and future prospects in anaesthesiology, guiding post-graduate students in their education will also be discussed.

AWARDED



Parth Pallav, a Class IV student of DPS, Gomti Nagar Extension, secured the first position at the all-India level in the 'BOB Wonderkid-2024'. The competition was organised in and the result was announced on October 2. Parth was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 10,000.

ब्रह्मानन्द कालेज, माल रोड, कानपुर-4 संशोधित विज्ञान
:- आवश्यकता है :-
01- प्रयोगशाला सहायक -- भौतिक विज्ञान -- 01 पद (अनारक्षित)
02- प्रयोगशाला सहायक -- जन्तु विज्ञान -- 01 पद (अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग)
उपरोक्त पदों की न्यूनतम योग्यता सम्बन्धित विषय के अंतिम वर्ष की अनिवार्यता के रचनात्मक उत्तीर्ण तथा कम्प्यूटर संचालन में डोयक (DOEACC) सोसाइटी अथवा नाम नाहलेट सोसाइटी द्वारा प्रदत्त CCC प्रमाण पत्र अथवा सरकार द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त संस्था के सम्पन्न स्तर का प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त किया हो।
सम्स्त पदों का वेतनमान व आयु सीमा शासन के नियमानुसार। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी कार्यालय अधीन महाविद्यालय से आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 05/ 10/ 2024 से 19/ 10/ 2024 तक निर्धारित शुल्क रु. 100/- देकर प्राप्त करें। आवेदन पत्र महाविद्यालय में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 22/10/2024 तक जमा करें।
विशेष सूचना -दिनांक 04 अक्टूबर, 2024 को प्रकाशित विज्ञान निरस्त सम्झा जाए।
प्राचार्य/ प्रबन्धक

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. USCL/352 Tender ID: 2024_UAD_374105_1 Dated 04.10.2024
Ujjain Smart City Limited invites interested parties for "Selection of Agency to Establish, Operate and Manage an Incubation Centre under Ujjain Smart City". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	2,00,000/-
Cost of Document	10,000/-
Probable Amount of Contract	NA
Purchase of Tender Start Date	04.10.2024
Pre-Bid Date	14.10.2024
Last Date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	24.10.2024 up to 17:00 PM

For more details, please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.
For Ujjain Smart City Limited

UP by-elections: Cong, SP at loggerheads over seat sharing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Notwithstanding the bonhomie generated by the stellar performance of the INDIA bloc in the recent Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh in which the Samajwadi Party-Congress combine collectively won 43 of the 80 constituencies in the state, both the parties are at loggerheads over sharing of seats in the UP assembly by-elections. The bypolls are to be held for 10 UP assembly seats. Though fighting the Bharatiya Janata Party remains the glue for keeping the SP and Congress together, the battle for control over the Muslim vote bank remains the point of contention between the two parties. Sources in the two parties say that both have staked claim

to the Meerapur assembly seat in Bijnor district of western UP as well as Phulpur and Majhawan in the eastern part of the state. Congress sources say the party has begun preparations in all 10 constituencies where bypoll are to be held but it is not pushing hard on the five - Karhal, Kundarki, Sisamau, Milkpur and Katheri - that the SP won in 2022. Sources in SP say the party is ready to leave Ghaziabad and Khair assembly seats for the Congress, which means that Bijnor, Phulpur and Majhawan seats remain the bone of contention. Out of the 10 UP assembly seats - Meerapur, Ghaziabad, Khair, Kundarki, Karhal, Phulpur, Sisamau, Milkpur, Katheri and Majhawan - going

to bypolls, five were won by the SP in 2022. While the BJP won three, the Rashtriya Lok Dal and NISHAD Party won one seat each. Leaders from the Congress and SP have their own arguments on why they want these three seats. Claiming that the SP wants to keep all the minority-dominated seats for itself, a Congress leader said that Meerapur, where the bypoll has been necessitated after sitting RLD MLA Chandan Chauhan won the Bijnor Lok Sabha seat, has a significant population of Muslims and this would prove to be an advantage for any party in the 2027 assembly polls. The bypoll in Phulpur has been necessitated after sitting BJP MLA Praveen Singh Patel won the recent Lok Sabha

election. Here, the SP leaders are citing the party's performance in recent elections to stake its claim, while the Congress is eyeing the seat to revive its voter base there. The SP, which last won the seat in 2012, gave Patel a run for his money in the 2017 and 2022 assembly polls, with its candidate MM Siddiqui losing by a narrow margin of 2,700 votes in 2022. "The Congress is getting ambitious. The call (on the alliance) will be taken by the national leadership of both parties," an SP leader said. However, sources within the Congress say that the minority communities are firmly behind it and the party's chances of winning Phulpur are brighter than that of the SP this time.

CM addresses concerns of 300 individuals at Janata Darshan

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met around 300 individuals during the Janata Darshan at Gorakhnath temple on Friday morning. Attentively listening to their grievances, he handed over the applications to the officials concerned, assuring the public that their concerns would be promptly addressed. Assuring those seeking financial assistance for the treatment of serious illnesses, the chief minister said, "The government will also cover the

Darshan, CM Yogi Adityanath directed officials to approach every grievance with sensitivity and ensure prompt and satisfactory resolutions. He emphasised that no negligence would be tolerated in handling these issues. The CM further stated that strict legal action must be taken against anyone indulging in land encroachment or harassment, ensuring that the concerns of every victim are addressed impartially and resolved to their satisfaction. On Friday morning, while visiting the Gorakhnath temple complex, CM Yogi



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath feeds cows at a cowshed in Gorakhpur on Friday. PTI

treatment costs for needy individuals who do not possess an Ayushman card. For this, a treatment cost estimate should be obtained from the hospital and submitted to my office. Full assistance will be provided from the discretionary fund." Upon hearing the concerns of a woman, he directed officials to admit her to the hospital and obtain an estimate for her treatment, stating that the government would cover the expenses. He further emphasised the importance of ensuring that every eligible person receives an Ayushman card so that no one faces difficulties in accessing healthcare. During the Janata

Adityanath warmly interacted with children visiting the temple with their families. He invited the children over, spoke with them, asked their names, and enquired about their studies, encouraging them to excel in their education. Before bidding them farewell, the chief minister gifted them chocolates as a gesture of affection. During his stay at Gorakhnath temple, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath followed his traditional routine and visited the temple's gaushalas and spent time tending to the cows, personally feeding them jaggery and demonstrating his commitment to cow service.

CM Yogi plays chess with 'Little Champ'



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath plays chess with country's youngest FIDE rated player 'Little Champ' Kushagra Aggarwal during a meeting in Gorakhpur. PTI

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

During his visit to Gorakhnath temple on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took the opportunity to play chess with Kushagra Agrawal, a young resident of Gorakhpur and the country's youngest FIDE (World Chess Federation) rated player. Chief Minister Yogi engaged in a thoughtful conversation with the 'Little Champ', discussing various chess moves and strategies. Kushagra, who visited the temple to seek the chief minister's blessings, is just 5-year and 11 months old and is currently a student in UKG. Despite his young age, his accomplishments are impressive. With a Rapid FIDE rating of 1428, he holds the title of India's youngest FIDE-rated player. Having started chess at

the age of 4, Kushagra earned his FIDE rating within a year, thanks to his exceptional talent. His initial training came from his sister Avika, a skilled chess player herself. He has participated in various international FIDE-rated tournaments across Patna, Bengaluru and Pune, earning accolades along the way. At the Gorakhnath temple, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath not only blessed Kushagra with a bright future but also inspired him by playing a game of chess and discussing the finer points of the game. The chief minister assured that the Uttar Pradesh government would extend full support to further nurture Kushagra's talent, expressing confidence that this young international chess player would bring pride to Gorakhpur, the state and the nation in the years to come.

18th instalment of PM-Kisan to benefit 2.25 crore UP farmers

Lucknow (PNS): In a significant move aimed at supporting the agricultural community, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release the 18th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) at a special event in Washim, Maharashtra, on Saturday. Over 2.25 crore Uttar Pradesh farmers are set to benefit from the 18th instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, as ₹4,985.49 crore will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of 2,25,91,884 farmers across Uttar Pradesh.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana has played a key role in improving the financial condition of farmers by increasing their incomes and bringing more stability to agriculture. In coordination with the Narendra Modi-Yogi Adityanath governments, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are continuously benefiting from this scheme, which is increasing their incomes and bringing stability in the agriculture sector. The Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has made

tremendous progress by promptly implementing the schemes of the Central government. In a press conference, Uttar Pradesh's Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi shared that from the start of the scheme in the state up until July 2024, farmers have received a total of ₹74,492.71 crore through 17 instalments. During this time, 2.76 crore farmers have benefited from the scheme at least once. The 17th instalment of this scheme was distributed on June 18, 2024, at an event in Varanasi,

where Rs 4,831.10 crore was given to 2,14,55,237 farmers. Additionally, Rs 46.70 crore was paid to farmers whose installments had been delayed due to data issues. Nationwide, 9.51 crore farmers will benefit from the upcoming 18th instalment of the scheme, with ₹20,552 crore being transferred directly to their bank accounts. Launched in December 2018, the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana aims to increase farmers' income by providing them ₹2,000 every four months, totaling ₹6,000 per year.

Mission Shakti 5.0 to empower women

Lucknow (PNS): In its continued efforts to enhance the safety, dignity and self-reliance of women in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government is preparing to roll out the fifth phase of Mission Shakti. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch this phase during the Sharadiya Navratri, with a renewed focus on women's empowerment and expanding the impact of the mission. The fifth phase of Mission Shakti, which will run through December, includes a wide array of large-scale activities aimed at not only supporting women but also involving children. This initiative covers key events such as International Girl Child Day, Operation Mukti, Bal Carnival, Veerangna Day and Swavalamban Camp. These programmes are designed to raise awareness about various government schemes and services, ensuring that women and children fully benefit from the state's welfare initiatives. As part of the upcoming Mission Shakti campaign, the Women and Child Development department of Uttar Pradesh has outlined a series of impactful activities

scheduled from October to December. One of the key events is the celebration of International Girl Child Day, which will be observed until October 11. It will include seminars on gender equality, talk shows with successful women, 'Ek din ki Jiladhihari', celebrations of girl child birth, discussions on child marriage and awareness on topics like domestic violence and sexual harassment of women at the workplace. On October 11, the International Girl Child Day will culminate in special rituals, including 'kanya puja' and 'prasad grahan', at every Anganwadi and government-run balika grih/shishu grih across the state. Later in October, from the 21 to the 31, the Operation Mukti campaign will be conducted. This initiative will focus on raising awareness and rescuing children from the perils of child marriage and child labour. A coordinated effort between various departments and authorities will be made to rescue affected children, who will then be presented before the Child Welfare Committee and linked to the Uttar Pradesh Bal Seva Yojana, ensuring their protection and rehabilitation.

UP completes 80 pc digital survey for Kharif crops

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has successfully completed 80 per cent of the digital crop survey for Kharif crops in the 2024-25 season across the state. Launched in over 84,000 revenue villages, the initiative has seen survey work finalised in more than 47,000 villages, covering over 4.5 crore plots, which represent 80 per cent of the total estimated 5.5 crore plots. Notably, out of the completed surveys, over three crore plots have received approval, accounting for 82 per cent of the surveys conducted. Among the state's top ten districts participating in the survey, Jaunpur has emerged as the leader, with Ghaziabad following in second place. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently launched a digital crop survey to help increase farmers' income and improve their lives. This survey involves creating a digital map of 5,81,23,573 plots in 91,609 villages across 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Link all police personnel to e-pension, says Yogi

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday directed that all police personnel be linked to e-pension to ensure timely promotions and accurate records in their character registers. He stressed the importance of posting officers according to their qualifications and skills, ensuring that all dues are settled promptly upon retirement. The CM also called for the provision of modern equipment and improved training for police personnel. During a special meeting with ADG-level officers, he reviewed their work, innovations, and achievements. He emphasised the necessity of enhanced communication and coordination among various police units, including logistics, intelligence, and crime, to maintain law and order in the state. The CM mandated that senior officers arrive on time and that no file remain pending for more than three days. If issues arise, officers should coordinate with the DGP office, the home department, or directly with him. He also noted the need for increased

field visits by ADG-level officers to influence subordinates positively. Logistical support for the police force must be adequate, with regular reviews to ensure modern equipment is provided, he said. There is an urgent need for 40 additional horses for the Kumbh, with expedited purchasing and training processes. The careful disposal of condemned weapons is also a priority, he added. Given the rise in cybercrime, the CM underscored the importance of awareness and education through seminars for various community groups. Cybercrime police stations are to be established in all districts without delay, and human resources must be aligned with requirements. The CM highlighted the effectiveness of the PRV 112 service, which has reduced response times significantly, and called for further improvements. He urged a comprehensive approach to enhancing the utility of the Women Power Line 1090 and emphasized the need for effective prosecution of cases.

Assailant eliminated teacher's family single-handedly

Police yet to confirm arrest of killer

Lucknow (PNS): The assailant involved in the sensational murder of a teacher's family in Amethi on Thursday executed the crime single-handedly. He fired nine bullets from a country-made pistol to eliminate the entire family of four members. Sources said that during interrogation, Chandan Verma disclosed that he killed all the four family members of the teacher on his own. However, the police authorities in Amethi and senior officials at the DGP headquarters here have so far not confirmed his arrest. The cops have picked up Chandan Verma's sister, brother-in-law and two more kin, including the owner of the mobile shop where the accused had parked his motorcycle and later fled on it after the killing. It is being said that Chandan Verma came alone on a motorcycle and entered the teacher's house and shot Sunil Kumar, his wife Poonam Bharti and two minor daughters, Drishti (5) and Mickey (2). He fired nine shots? three bullets hit Sunil, two were found in his wife's body and one each

hit the two children. The police also found that Chandan Verma was having an affair with Sunil's wife. Sources said that police interrogation so far revealed that when Chandan reached Sunil's house, he knocked on the door and then perhaps Sunil or his wife opened the door. After this, Chandan started firing with the country-made 32 bore pistol, due to which Sunil and Poonam died in the courtyard of the house. Chandan then entered the other room and shot Sunil's two innocent daughters and fled. The police have also received important information about Chandan's WhatsApp chat. Chandan had written in the chat that five people will die. It is suspected that he intended to commit suicide after killing all four. Sunil's father has lodged an FIR against Chandan. Sunil's mother-in-law has also accused Chandan of murder. She said that Chandan used to threaten to kill her daughter-in-law because she had filed a case against Chandan for molestation. Chandan was also pres-

surising Poonam for a settlement in the molestation case. When Chandan went to jail in the molestation case, he had threatened the family. The family said had the police acted promptly, the lives of all the four members could be saved. Meanwhile, on Friday morning, UP's Minister of State and local MLA Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh reached the spot and met the officials. While talking to the media, he said that the government was working with a zero tolerance policy against crime and criminals and in this case too, the criminals would not be spared. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had expressed grief over the incident on Thursday and said in a post on X, "The incident in Amethi is highly condemnable and unforgivable. My condolences are with the bereaved family. In this hour of grief, the UP government stands with the victim's family." The chief minister said that the culprits of this incident would not be spared at any cost and strict legal action would be taken against them.

Opposition targets govt over Amethi killing

Lucknow (PNS): The opposition leaders, on Friday, targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government, raising questions over the law and order in connection with the murder of four members of a Dalit family in Amethi. The opposition condemned the murder of the Dalit family. Congress MP from Rae Bareilly and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, spoke to the victim's family over the phone. Amethi MP KL Sharma helped the victim's father talk to Rahul Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi assured justice to the victim and punishment to the culprits. He also assured all possible help and compensation. Amethi MP KL Sharma also reached Sudama Pur village on Friday morning. He talked to the family members and assured them of full support. "The entire Congress party and MP Rahul Gandhi are with you and all kinds of help will be provided," he said. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said on X, "The brutal murder of four members of a Dalit family in Amethi district of UP is very sad and worrying. The government should also take strict action against the culprits and policemen so that the criminals do not remain fearless."

UP Congress president Ajay Rai said on X, "The murder of husband-wife and two innocent children inside the house in Amethi shows the poor law and order in the Yogi government; a person is not safe even inside the house." Rai said there was no rule of law in the state. The flag of terror of goons, miscreants and criminals was flying high in UP and no step of the government was visible in the direction of ending this terror. Rashtriya Shoshit Samaj Party president Swami Prasad Maurya condemned the incident. The former minister said, "I am with the victim's family in this hour of grief. I demand the immediate arrest of the culprits of the four murders." Azad Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar Azad said, "The Amethi incident shows that there is no rule of law in Uttar Pradesh but jungle raj. The murder of the whole family in Amethi district is the real picture of the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh... The truth is that there is no guarantee for the lives of Dalits in Uttar Pradesh, no one knows whose turn will come tomorrow, and the propaganda is that the law and order situation is very good."

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Notice Inviting Tender

e- Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Stainless Steel cans with elongated neck. i. 5 Ltr. ii. 10 Ltr. iii. 20 Ltr. iv. 30 Ltr. v. 40 Ltr. vi. 50 Ltr.	Annual/ 1700 Pcs 1100 Pcs 900 Pcs 150 Pcs 1300 Pcs 150 Pcs
2.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Hiring of: i. Cold Store for storing white butter at (-18°C). ii. Transport vehicle for supply of Panjiri, WMP, Ghee and other milk products for various stations. b) Allotment of Milk Bars (Civil Hospital Gurdaspur, Batala, Pathankot, Kotli Surat Mahli, Beant State University, M.C.C. Kalanaur, Sports Stadium Village Pahra Gurdaspur).	Annual 02 Years/ 1MT, 2MT, 4MT, 8MT and 13.5MT capacity for various stations 02 Years

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/25768/2023/38191 Dated CHD :- 10/4/2024
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office: 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- 9B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110060

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGCL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. LNMEBRK000125659 (Old) 8090000554738 (New) of our Barabanki Branch) Amitabh Tripathi (Borrower) Mrs. Tanuja Tripathi (Co-Borrower)	All that piece and parcel of property being land and building constructed on plot admeasuring area 640 Sq. Ft., i.e., 59.47 Sq. Mts., situated at Tikait Nagar, Pargana Dariyabad, Tehsil Sirauli Gauspur, District Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh - 225415, Bounded By- East: Plot of Ram Devi, West: Road, North: Road, South: Plot of Gena Devi	01-02-2024 Rs. 20,24,394/- Amount to Be Paid Rs.19,41,150/- As On 25.09.2024	01.10.2024

Place: Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh) Date : 05-10-2024 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांक-61 / मूभि-2024-25 सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना दिनांक- 04.10.2024

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विभिन्न स्थलों पर यूनियोप / होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबन्ध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 22.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक ई-0 निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

क्रम सं०	मार्ग का नाम	यूनियोप / होर्डिंग हेतु कुल साईट	निगम द्वारा विज्ञापन हेतु आरक्षित निविदा धनराशि
1	दर्शन लाल चौक से राजपुर रोड किशनपुर तक 68 साईट, मसूरी डाईवर्जन से मेन राजपुर तक-02 साईट, घन्टाघर से बल्लूपुर चौक चकराता रोड-39 साईट, बल्लूपुर चौक से जी०एम०एस०रोड सेन्ट ज्यूड चौक तक 14 साईट, बुद्धा चौक से गांधी रोड-13 साईट, रेलवे स्टेशन से सहारनपुर रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर तक 14 साईट, हरिद्वार बाईपास रोड-01 साईट, कर्जन रोड से रायपुर रोड डील फेक्ट्री तक-03 साईट, क्रासिंग से आई०टी० पार्क चौक सहस्त्रबाग रोड-11 साईट, रैसकोर्स एण्ड रैस्ट कैम्प-03 साईट, ई०सी० रोड-08 साईट पर यूनियोप / होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने सम्बन्धी कार्य।	176	6,84,09,264 / -

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में निर्धारित धनराशि कार्य प्रतिभूति रू०-68,40,927/-की एफ०डी०आर० / सी०डी०आर० जो वरिष्ठ वित्त अधिकारी नगर निगम, देहरादून के नाम ज्ञेज होगी। निविदायें ई०निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। निविदादाता को निविदा में अंकित निर्धारित धनराशि कार्य प्रतिभूति एफ०डी०आर० / सी०डी०आर० को मूल रूप में दिनांक 21.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा जिसका परीक्षण दिनांक 22.10.2024 की सांय 4.00 बजे गठित समिति के समक्ष किया जायेगा। तकनीकी निविदा के परीक्षण के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में सफल निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें विज्ञापित प्रकाशन की तिथि से यू०के० टैन्डर की वेबसाईट से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है अथवा किसी भी कार्यदिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ई०निविदा के माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

Couple dupes people of ₹35 cr

PTI/PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A "time machine", the clock back four decades and a couple that went into hiding after making around ₹35 crore by duping those desperate to be young. It may sound like a plot of a Bollywood potboiler but it is straight out of the Kanpur crime files. Rajeev Kumar Dubey and his wife Rashmi Dubey opened a therapy centre, Revival World, in the Saket Nagar area in Kanpur where they claimed to provide "hyperbaric oxygen therapy" inside the "time machine" that could undo years of ageing within months, according to police. Rajeev and Rashmi introduced a pyramid scheme. They lured new customers with the promise of handsome concessions and high returns in a short span of time, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankita Sharma said on

Friday. They also distributed pamphlets and put up hoardings claiming that the polluted air of Kanpur was causing people to age rapidly and their age-reversing "time machine" could transform 65-year-olds into 25-year-olds, the DCP said. The accused couple offered several packages ranging from ₹6,000 for 10 sessions to ₹90,000 for a three-year reward system, she added. The fraud came to light after one of the victims, Renu Singh, lodged a police complaint alleging that she was duped of ₹7 lakh by Rajeev and Rashmi. In her complaint, Singh expressed apprehension that the accused might have fled abroad after being exposed. Based on the complaint, a case was registered against the couple under Section 318(4) (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), DCP Sharma said. During the investigation, it came to light that the couple duped several others

and amassed more than ₹35 crore on the pretext of turning the elderly into 25-year-olds with their therapy, she said. The machine used by the accused at their therapy centre is being examined by experts, the officer said. **LEATHER MELA INAUGURATED**: The annual Leather Mela, organised by the Council for Leather Exports was inaugurated on Thursday. Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) is the official sponsor of the Mela 2024, promoting local industry under the theme "Vocal for Local." In addition to its sponsorship, UPMRC is actively participating in this four-day fair. Lok Sabha MP Ramesh Awasthi inaugurated the event around 7 pm and visited the Uttar Pradesh Metro stall. The Uttar Pradesh Metro stall is beautifully adorned with information about various metro rail projects of UPMRC. Visitors can purchase souvenir items, including leather keychains.

CM to visit Prayagraj tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be visiting Prayagraj on October 6. He will be visiting to Sangam city to know the reality of preparations going on for Mahakumbh here. On the information of his arrival, the administration has started other preparations, including construction of helipad at the parade ground. Information related to his programme reached the officials of Prayagraj late on Thursday evening. Yogi will stay in the city for about six hours and will talk to the office-bearers of various akharas. This information was given by Information Officer PN Dwivedi. The chief minister will inaugurate the logo, mobile app, website of the world's largest Mela to be held in January 2025. Yogi will reach Parade Ground by helicopter at 10 am on Sunday. From there he will go straight to Qila Ghat, after



which he will go to Sangam by motorboat. He will get information about all the work to be done here. He will also visit Akshayvat, Patalpuri and Bade Hanuman Temple. He will hold a meeting with officials in the ICCO auditorium located at the Mela office and will review the works of Mahakumbh. Earlier, the chief minister had come to Prayagraj on September 3 and had attended the Rozgar Mela organised at IFFCO in Phulpur.

Man stabs wife to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A man allegedly stabbed his wife to death at her parents' house in Dwarikapuri under Sisamau police station area. On being informed by her mother the police rushed to the spot along with forensic team and sent the body for an autopsy after investigation. Police teams have been deputed to nail the absconding assailant. Puja Devi of Dwarikapuri, Sisamau, said she had married her daughter Shivani Rajput (23) to an e-rickshaw operator Aman of Chacha Nehru Children Hospital, Bansmandi, campus four years ago. They had an 18-month-old son. Due to alleged humiliation by husband for dowry, Shivani had arrived at her parents house a few months ago. On Thursday night, Aman reached there and started an argument over dowry. He also threatened to marry another woman after divorcing Shivani. This led to an argument

between the couple. Aman then slammed Shivani on the floor and brutally beat up her. Thereafter, he stabbed in the abdomen and escaped. Puja Devi said she had given first aid to Shivani at home. On Friday morning, Shivani had severe pain in her abdomen and died. At the hospital doctors declared her dead. Police recovered a blood-stained knife from the spot. ADCP (Central) Mahesh Kumar said as her parents took the knife injury lightly on Thursday night, Shivani died on Friday morning. After lodging an FIR against Aman for murder, raids are being conducted to nab him, he said. In another incident a cyclist was fatally knocked down by a speeding school van in Naubatpur village under Safipur Kotwali police station area of Unnao on Friday morning. Police sent the body for an autopsy. Pramod Kumar was going on the bicycle when he was knocked down by the school van due to which

he was seriously injured. He was immediately taken to the Safipur CHC where the doctors declared him dead. Meanwhile a farmer was electrocuted in Konch Kotwali police station area of Jalaun on Friday afternoon. **SEALED**: The KDA squad sealed a gym illegally being operated in basement of house No 88/443, Humayun Bagh, Chamanganj, owned by Shaqueel Qureshi alias Shaqueel Ahmad on Thursday. Under the directives of KDA Vice-Chairman Madan Singh Garbhal, the squad led by the OSD (Enforcement Zone 1) Sat Shukla and SHO Chamanganj Vineet Singh Bisht rushed to the spot and sealed the gym. The squad also comprised junior engineer Janardan Singh, staff members and local police officers. The KDA initiated action against the gym owner under relevant sections of the UP Nagar Niyojan Evam Vikas Adhiniyam 1973.

NSI foundation day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The foundation day of National Sugar Institute (NSI) was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Friday. Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, Director (Sugar) Sangeet and Director, National Sugar Institute, Dr Seema Paroha were present on this occasion. The programme was inaugurated by garlanding the statue of Maa Saraswati and lighting the lamp. The purpose of this programme was to honour prominent farmers, sugar and distillery industry experts and other stakeholders who have played a significant role in the development and modernisation of the Indian sugar industry. As the premier institute of the country, dedicated to sugar technology and related research since its foundation, NSI has remained a major centre of innovation, training and development in this field. The chief guest, in her address lauded the efforts of the Institute in research, innovation and training. She particularly mentioned the Institute's work in the area of ethanol production and bio-fuels which are in keeping with the government's future vision of clean and green energy. Since its foundation, the NSI has been playing a vital role in shaping the technological landscape of the Indian sugar industry to new heights. The



institute has continuously worked on providing technical expertise, increasing sugarcane yield and developing advanced processing techniques. Now, the institute is recognised for its contribution not only in India but also globally. On the occasion of foundation day, the foundation stone of the tissue culture lab was laid by the Minister of State amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. She lauded the leadership and skills of Director of NSI and praised the tireless efforts of the entire team of NSI. Director (Sugar) Sangeet said that the entrepreneurs receiving SHARKARA-SHRI award on this occasion are a proof that the talented students of this institute have brought laurels to it with their excellent performance. He lauded the efforts of the Institute in the field of bio-fuel and ethanol. The chief guest felicitated leading farmers and industry experts for their exceptional contribution. Various activities like technical

sessions, exhibition and student-interaction were organized on this occasion. Director Dr Seema Paroha mentioned about the agreements regarding consultancy and training with 12 countries. She also informed about the MoU with IIT-Kanpur and the steps taken by the institute towards the Centre of Excellence. She thanked the Secretary and Joint Secretary (Sugar), Director (Sugar) for the invaluable patronage of the Ministry. In the foundation day celebrations, Shailendra Kumar Trivedi, Ashok Kumar Garg, Dr Ashok Kumar, Sanjay Chauhan, Anoop Kanaujia, Dr Vinay Kumar, Virendra Kumar, Dr Anantlakshmi, M Mandal, Anoop Kanaujia and Brijesh Kumar Sahu along with other officers, employees and students were present. The programme was conducted by Assistant Director Official Language, Mallika Dwivedi. The vote of thanks was proposed by SK Trivedi, Secretary Old Boys' Association.

10-yr-old girl murdered

Prayagraj (PNS): A 10-year-old girl was murdered by some unidentified assailants in a village under Soraon police station. She was missing since Thursday morning. Her body was found in a paddy field 200 metres away from her house on Friday. On receiving information about the recovery of girl's body the police and forensic team reached the spot. According to the police, there are injury marks on the girl's head and hand. Many evidences have been collected from the spot. The police is also scanning the CCTV. According to the family members, the girl had left the house to get medicine at 6:30 pm on Thursday. When she did not return after a long time, they first inquired at home but could not find her anywhere. After this, they started searching in the entire village, but to no avail. They called the relatives too. But they too denied having any information about the girl. When they

returned to the village a villager told them that their daughter has gone to see the Durga Pandal. They went there to look for her but could not find her there either. They said some villagers told them that a body was found a little distance away when they were about to go out early in the morning to report the girl's disappearance. When the relatives reached there they saw that a large number of villagers had gathered near the paddy field and the girl's body was lying there. DCP (Ganganagar) Kuldeep Singh Ganawat said information was received on Friday morning that the body of a girl was found in a paddy field in a village in Soraon. A case of murder has been registered on the complaint of the family. The family said the girl had gone to get medicine on Thursday evening and was missing since then. Prima facie there are marks of injury from a stick on the hand and head.

CRS conducts safety inspection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In order to upgrade passenger facilities and expand the infrastructure to provide ease of operation and faster speed by the railway administration, after the completion of doubling and electrification of Khorasan Road-Shahganj (21.6 km) rail section on Mau-Shahganj route of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER), Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern (NE) Circle, Pranveer Saxena conducted a safety inspection of 14 km rail section on Friday. The CRS will do the inspection of 8 km long Khanja Halt - Shahganj rail section on Saturday. After that speed trial will be done from Shahganj to Khorasan Road by CRS Special. On the occasion Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Construction Abhay Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi division Vineet Kumar Srivastava, along with the branch officers concerned of NER headquarters and Varanasi division, along with officers of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) were present with the CRS. Saxena first inspected Khorasan Road railway station and checked the safety of complete block working of the station as per the standard of double section, interlocking of signals in standard II (R), colour light signalling, station panel VDU system with elec-



CRS P Saxena conducting safety inspection on Mau-Shahganj route of Varanasi division of NER on Friday.

tronic interlocking system with points and signals route setting, yard plan as per standard, neutral section, power substation, station working rule, foot over bridge, platform clearance, point crossing, height of overhead traction, block overlap, fouling mark, sand hump, feeder power supply distribution system and control feeder isolation etc. Thereafter, he left by motor trolley inspecting the Khorasan Road-Didarganj Road block section, conducted safety inspection of minor bridge numbers - 60, 61, 62 and 63 in the section, checked the sleeper spacing and measured the height of the traction line, reached Didarganj Road station and after comprehensive inspection of the station as per the standards of doubling

and then left for Khanja Halt. In Didarganj Road-Khanja Halt block section, he conducted safety inspection of bridge No. 65, reached level crossing No. 63 while measuring the standard distance of sleepers and conducted safety inspection of the gate and also conducted safety test of boom lock space and key transfer process as per the standards of doubling. After this, he measured the tripartite acceleration of the traction line and track and the standard distance between them on the vertical curve at km-89/120. After this, he inspected major bridge No. 70 situated at km no-89/4-5. During this he also tested the foundation of the bridge, track fittings, overhead traction pole fittings and load of the bridge.

G-20 Summit re-established India's importance across world: Puri



Former diplomat MS Puri addressing a seminar on G-20 at DAV College in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Manjeev Singh Puri, who has been India's ambassador to many countries, said the G-20 Summit re-established India's importance across the world. "The G-20 Summit was successful in making the global world as well as Indians realise how important India is for the world", he said, while expressing his views as the keynote speaker in a one-day national seminar on 'India's Rise as a Global Soft Power: G-20 Summit a Case Study' sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, under the aegis of the Department of Political Science of DAV PG College here on Thursday. Former diplomat Puri said public participation in the G-20 Summit gave the world an idea of India's emerging power. He said the most important achievement of this conference was the agreement of all the countries on the declaration of India which could not be done in the last Bali conference. Responding to a question during the interaction with the students, the former diplomat said small countries never expect to become powerful, rather they always try to fulfil their economic ambitions.

Chief guest and member secretary of ICSSR Dr Dhananjay Singh said G20 was an opportunity for India, which we did not lose, rather India also got recognition as a big power in Global South Asia. The manager of the college Ajit Kumar Singh Yadav called the G-20 conference historic. Presiding over the function, the acting principal Prof Satyagopal Ji said the form of soft power has developed due to India's increasing diplomatic reach, India's non-violent nature has also left an indelible mark on the world. The programme was coordinated by Dr Priyanka Singh and conducted by Dr Pratima Gupta and Dr Mahima Singh. The vote of thanks was proposed by the Head of the Department, Dr Swati Sucharita Nanda. The other speakers who also expressed their views in various sessions were Dr Alok Bansal, Dr Shiv Bahadur Singh, Dr Punita Pathak, Dr Prashant Kumar, Dr Manisha Mishra of India Foundation, New Delhi etc. On the occasion Prof Anoop Mishra, Prof Richarani Yadav, Prof Indrajit Mishra, Prof Vinod Chaudhary, Prof Meenu Lakra, Dr Vikas Singh, Dr Gaurav Mishra along with professors of other departments and students were also present.

Teacher should have passion: Rathore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The two-day training programme for 'Teach for BHU' (TFB) Fellows was inaugurated in the committee room of Laxman Das Guest House of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the topic 'Skills for professional excellence in higher education' here on Friday. Presiding over the inaugural session, Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh said the teacher should be responsible towards his/her duties and there should be a tendency of inclusion in education. "Today there is a need for introspection that researchers prepare for clerical and other competitive examinations during research and ignore research which affects its quality," he said. Chief guest and former Vice-Chancellor of Central University, South Bihar, Gaya, Prof Harish Chandra Singh Rathore said that the teacher should have passion. "Only a passionate teacher creates an enthusiastic and excellent generation," he said. In the programme, 25 TFB scholars presented the college song and the



Registrar Prof AK Singh addressing fellows at BHU in Varanasi on Friday

national anthem in unison. Coordinator Prof Sunil Kumar Singh welcomed the participants and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr PC Abhilash. In the four sessions of the programme, Prof HCS Rathore, Prof Madhulika Agarwal (former faculty Dean, Science faculty), Prof MS Pandey (faculty Dean, Arts faculty) and Prof Rakesh Raman (Economics department) respectively delivered lectures and interacted on the topics of teaching and research skills for excellence in higher education, multidimensional roles of a teacher in university education, linguistic communication and competence and selection of best teachers - desire and process.

Singh highlights significance of extracurricular activities

Varanasi (PNS): The Department of Physical Education, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), witnessed the grand inaugural ceremony of the Literary Club for the academic year 2024-25. The event was graced by the chief guest and Joint Registrar of BHU Dr Mayank Narayan Singh, along with distinguished special guest Prof Dinesh Prakash Sharma from IGIPSS, University of Delhi. The inaugural function was held at Prof Karan Singh

Hall, Department of Physical Education, on Friday afternoon. All the dignitaries and students were welcomed by the department head Prof Vikram Singh. Dr Mayank Narayan Singh highlighted the significance of extracurricular activities such as literary pursuits in the holistic development of students. His words inspired attendees, stressing the importance of nurturing creativity alongside academic excellence.

Competitions held in BLW

Varanasi (PNS): Under the three-month long vigilance awareness campaign being run on the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission, special painting and essay competitions were conducted in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Friday. The contests were organised under the aegis of the Vigilance Department of BLW in which children gave the message of vigilance through painting and essay competitions.

Devotees offer prayers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of devotees thronged Brahmacharini Devi Temple located near Brahma Ghat in Kotwali area on the second day of Shardiya Navratri here on Friday. Since morning long queue of devotees was seen in the nearby narrow lanes and only a few devotees were allowed to enter the temple premises at a time. The devotees waited for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers.

A huge crowd of devotees was seen throughout the day at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund). Rush was also seen at some other temples of goddesses. This holy city is a rare place where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and Devis where the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Vasantik (Chaitya) and Shardiya Navratri respectively. Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhychal in Mirzapur district by Roadway

buses or other vehicles to offer prayer on this auspicious occasion. Rush was also seen at Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheelta Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others. Due to the high water level in the Ganga the devotees found it tough to reach Sheelta Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat. Elaborate security arrangements were made at both Durga Kund and Brahmacharini Devi temples.

19th convocation of IIT-A today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

As many as 673 students will be awarded degrees at the 19th convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) to be held in the main auditorium on October 5 (Saturday) at 3 pm. Kiran Deshpande, co-founder - Mojo Networks, former CEO TechMahindra, Pune, will be the chief guest while Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe, a distinguished academic and administrator will grace the occasion as the guest of honour. Talking to media persons at a press conference at Jhalwa campus on Friday, Director, IIIT-A, Prof Mukul Sharad Suataone, said besides 673 degrees, the institute will award 22 different medals to the merit scholars. The director said Kiran Deshpande is a seasoned leader with over 40 years of experience spanning corporate leadership, entrepreneurship and sustainability-focused non-profit work. As a TIE Global Trustee since 2022, he has played a pivotal role in shaping global mentoring initiatives, including organising the TIE

Nurture program and chairing master classes for the TIE Global Summit. Deshpande is a founding member of the TIE Pune Nurture program, where he has mentored over 60 startups across various domains such as sales, market strategy and artificial intelligence. His efforts have extended Nurture to chapters in cities like Hubli, Nagpur, and Surat making it a flagship programme for TIE globally. The director further informed that Prof Sahasrabudhe has held significant leadership roles, notably as director of the College of Engineering Pune (CoEP), where he revitalised the 150+ year-old institutions, and as chairman of AICTE, implementing groundbreaking reforms in technical education. His contributions include mandatory student induction, faculty certification, development programmes and the creation of India's first MOC platform, SWAYAM. He also pioneered examination reforms, the innovation movement through hackathons and the inclusion of Indian knowledge systems in curricula. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the National

Educational Technology Forum (NETF), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and National Board of Accreditation (NBA). Prof Sahasrabudhe has been honoured with numerous accolades, including the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award (2019), Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar (2019) and John Mathai National Fellow Award (2021). He is a Fellow of ISTE, IE, IET, and INAE, reflecting his significant contribution to the field of technical education in India. Giving details, Prof Suataone said a total of 150 girls will receive their degrees this time. As many as 262 B.Tech (IT), 128 B.Tech (Electronic Communication Engineering) and 42 students of B.Tech (Business Informatics) will get their respective undergraduate degrees for the session 2024. Besides, 195 postgraduate degrees, including M.Tech, MBA and other branches will be conferred upon on the occasion. Inder Sonu (IIT2020195) will be awarded the Chairman's Gold Medal for the Year -2024 for his overall academic performance. The Institute Gold Medal for B.Tech IT will be given to Inder Sonu, silver to

Kajal Kaushal and bronze to Kartik Gupta. The Institute Gold Medal for B.Tech (ECE) will be awarded to Tarun Singh, silver to Shubhi Pandey and bronze to Supriya Patidar. Manyata Harishankar Yadav will be awarded gold, Deepali Pahuja - silver and Smriti Tripathi bronze for getting highest marks in MBA. Mohd Faiz Ansari, Harsh and Dipankar Karmakar will receive gold, silver and bronze respectively for M.Tech IT while Swapnil Dubey, Deep Shriya and Mudit Gupta will receive the same medals in M.Tech (ECE) category. Besides, six endowment medals will be awarded to Kajal Kaushal, Joshi Khyati Mahesh, Inder Sonu, Medha Tiwari, Anjali Sahu and Tarun Singh. Also, eight students will be given merit certificates on the occasion. "The institute since its inception in 1999, has been catering to excellence in the field of academics specially IT and related science. It is expected that the pass-out with their various degrees on the 19th convocation will join their predecessors and earn wide recognition and acclaim to their alma mater", director said.

Jaishankar to lead Indian delegation to Pakistan for SCO summit: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation to Pakistan mid-October for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced here on Friday. The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16. "The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the

SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the SCO summit. In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO's summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a major decision on New Delhi's part. The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO which has been playing a key role in boosting regional security cooperation. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes

pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement. The SCO council of heads of government conclave is the second-highest platform in the grouping. The SCO heads of state summit is the top



most forum in the grouping that is generally attended by the Indian prime minister. The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is

an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India was the chair of the SCO last year. It hosted the

SCO summit in the virtual format in July last year. India's association with the SCO began in 2005 as an observer country. It became a full member state of SCO at the Astana summit in 2017. India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017. Jaishankar's Pakistan visit will

take a place nearly a month after he called out the neighbouring country over cross-border terrorism at the United Nations General Assembly. "Many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, but some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences. A premier example is our neighbour, Pakistan," the minister said on September 28. "When this polity instills such fanaticism among its people, its GDP can only be measured in terms of radicalisation and its exports in the form of terrorism. Today we see the ills it sought to visit on others consume its own society. It can't blame the world. This is only karma," Jaishankar

added in a strong statement. Referring to Pakistani prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at the UNGA a day before, Jaishankar said, "We heard some bizarre assertions from it at this very forum yesterday. So let me make India's position perfectly clear. Pakistan's cross border terrorism policy will never succeed, and it can have no expectation of impunity. On the contrary, actions will certainly have consequences." Shehbaz Sharif while addressing the UNGA compared Jammu and Kashmir to Palestine. "Similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and right to self-determination."

Former MP Ashok Tanwar officially inducted into Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former MP Ashok Tanwar was officially inducted into the Congress on Friday and urged all sections, especially Dalits and backward classes, in Haryana to ensure a "big mandate" for the party in the assembly polls to send a message to the entire country. Tanwar had informally joined the Congress at Rahul Gandhi's rally in Mahendragarh district in Haryana on Thursday, dealing a setback to the BJP ahead of the October 5 assembly polls. Hours before joining the Congress, the former Sirsa MP was campaigning for the BJP candidate in Safidon assembly constituency and exhorting voters to bring it back to power for a third time. Tanwar was officially inducted into the Congress at the AICC headquarters by party treasurer Ajay Maken. Later, Tanwar, accompanied by party MP Deepender Hooda, also met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "We are with 36 communities in Haryana. Our resolve is for everyone. We will always raise



the voice of Dalits, tribals, backward classes, minorities and the poor," Kharge said in a post on X. He also shared pictures from the meeting. Addressing a press conference, Tanwar said, "I began my political career with the Congress. In the last few months I was with the BJP, the environment that I saw, I was hurt over a number of issues, the faith that should be there in Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution is not there (in the BJP)." "On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi is working on strengthening Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution and

ensuring that people get their rights and unity in the country is strengthened," he said. Tanwar credited the Congress for his political career. "I request all Dalits and backward classes of Haryana that to make the state number one and to ensure people of Haryana get their rights... All sections, I request them to give a big mandate (to the Congress) to send a message to the country," he said. The Dalit leader had on Thursday described his decision to return to the Congress as the "will of God". "It's all circumstances, destiny and will of the people. Let bygones be bygones," Tanwar

had told PTI on phone. "I am joining the Congress exactly five years after I left it. That was the will of God then, today also it is the will of God... Sometimes, there is not much in your hands," he had said. Asked on Friday about allegations of opportunism and losing from Sirsa parliamentary constituency on a BJP ticket, Tanwar said, "If Ashok Tanwar was an opportunist, he would have gone to the BJP five years ago. So, from this platform, because today we want to start on a positive note, I would not like to say anything negative but the BJP itself knows that Ashok

Tanwar did not lose there, the BJP lost there and the BJP's policy lost there." Tanwar accused the BJP of disrespecting the Constitution and Dalit leaders. Asked if there was a guarantee that he would now remain with the Congress, Tanwar replied with a Hindi idiom which loosely translates to if a person who loses his way in the morning returns home in the evening, he is not called lost. "When you also leave home, no matter where you go in the world, you will come back and stay at home. When a person leaves home, then he realises the value of home more... Now I have understood the entire political system 360 degrees and that is why today I am standing with Rahul ji," he said. At the rally in Bhawaria on Thursday, Tanwar shook hands with Gandhi and greeted former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who welcomed him into the party fold and patted his back. Congress leaders K C Venugopal, Bajrang Punia, Rao Dan Singh and political scientist Yogendra Yadav were also present on stage.

Maldives President to visit India to restore strained ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu will pay a five-day visit to India beginning Monday with an aim to reset ties that came under some strain since November last year. Though the Maldivian president attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it will be his first bilateral visit to India. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing Muizzu's trip, said it is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people to people ties between the two countries. "President of the Republic of



Maldives Mohamed Muizzu will be travelling to India on a state visit from October 6 to 10," it said. During his visit, Muizzu will hold discussions with Modi on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, it said. Muizzu is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu. Besides Delhi, he will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru where he will be attending business events. "The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and holds a special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's

'Neighbourhood First Policy,' the MEA said in a statement. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives in August that prepared the grounds for Muizzu's upcoming trip. "The visit of President Muizzu to India after the recent visit of the external affairs minister to Maldives is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its relations with the Maldives," the MEA said. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

Moon replica to be unveiled in Assam to commemorate success of Chandrayaan mission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A stunning 10-meter high replica of the moon is set to be unveiled in Guwahati in Assam to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan mission, coinciding with the four-day India International Science Festival (IISF) from November 30. This 1:50,00,000 scale model will be prominently displayed in the city, crafted by British artist Luke Jerram, said a statement here by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. Measuring seven meters in diameter, the moon features intricate 120dpi NASA imagery of its surface, with each centimeter of the illuminated sculpture representing five kilometers of the lunar landscape. He said that the festival aims to



This is for the first time the Ministry is holding the IISF at the Northeast to be hosted at IIT Guwahati. The event is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the region as a key player in India's growth story, said Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh here at a press conference. He said that the festival aims to

celebrate India's achievements in science and technology. The much-sought after event will attract participants from around the globe, featuring discussions on visions for a developed India by 2047, specialized sessions on science and technology in the Northeast, workshops for educators. The event will also have a focus on nuclear energy for self-reliance, alongside a science literature festival.

Rajnath Singh reaffirms Government's commitment to empower India's defence industry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reaffirmed the Government's commitment to empower India's defence industry by working hand-in-hand with them, and realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making the country a global manufacturing hub. Addressing the seventh annual session of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) here, he described the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as a reminder to build a strong defence industrial base, which can be bolstered and expanded with time. The defence minister asserted that the Government, in its third consecutive term, will provide a renewed thrust to its ongoing efforts towards developing a robust, innovative and self-reliant defence ecosystem. He enumerated



the steps taken to attain 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, including creation of defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, issuance of positive indigenisation lists (PILs), corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board, handholding of private industries by DRDO, and unveiling of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020. On the 10 PILs notified with

over 5,500 items, he stated that the idea is to equip the Armed Forces with platform/equipment manufactured on Indian soil. Terming the lists as dynamic & not static, he exhorted the industry to achieve complete self-reliance for these items within the stipulated time, and keep shortening the list. He also urged them to assess and identify products that

can be added to the PILs in view of the rapid changes being witnessed in the field of defence across the globe. The defence minister emphasised that due to the Government's efforts, an environment conducive to ease of doing business in the country has been created, and a target set for making India's defence industry export-oriented. While he lauded the major contribution of the private sector in taking the defence exports to a record high of over Rs 21,000 crore in Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, he called upon the industry to keep in mind the export and import figures, and strive to reduce the ratio between the two with a target-oriented approach. Recognising the potential of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups in the defence sector, he acknowledged the challenges they face in achieving ease of doing

business. He urged SIDM to work closely with the government to address ground-level issues & help these enterprises to play a larger role in defence manufacturing. "It is important to ensure that our policies translate into ease of doing business at the ground level. SIDM can help in identifying the practical challenges faced by start-ups and SMEs so that we can address them," he said. Rajnath urged the industry to invest more in cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), cyber defence, & autonomous systems. "India's defence industry must keep pace with global trends and focus on high-end technology. There is a need to increase investments in areas like AI & autonomous systems, which will define the future of warfare. The government is ready to provide all necessary support," he said.

Government introduces Ecomark certification to promote environment friendly goods

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To promote environmentally friendly products, the Government has introduced the 'Ecomark' certification, aimed at a variety of categories, including cosmetics, food items, and electronics. The move aims to empower consumers to make informed choices while encouraging manufacturers to adopt sustainable production practices, ultimately fostering the growth of green industries. The initiative also aims to prevent misleading claims about a product's environmental impact, according to a statement from the Union Environment Ministry issued on Friday here. "Eco-labelling of products enables consumers to make informed purchase decisions as well as encourage manufacturers to transition to the production of environment-friendly products, leading to the promotion of green industries," said the notification



signed by Union Environment Ministry Joint Secretary Nameeta Prasad. The Ecomark initiative which aligns with the 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) principle, focusing on lower energy consumption, resource efficiency, and the promotion of a circular economy will cover a wide range of products. "These include products that reduce pollution by minimising or eliminating the generation of waste and environ-

mental emissions; products that are recyclable or made from recycled material or both. "...products that reduce the use of non-renewable resources, including non-renewable energy sources and natural resources; and products that reduce the use of any material that has adverse impacts on the environment," as per the notification issued late last month. These include cosmetics such as skin powders, tooth powder,

toothpaste, creams, oils, shampoos, soaps, nail polish, and lipsticks and soaps and detergents, food items will cover edible oils, tea, and coffee to name a few while electric/electronic goods include TVs, refrigerators, food mixers, geysers, irons, toasters, and fans. Textiles will cover sustainable fabric products. Once granted, the Ecomark will remain valid for three years, with annual reports required from holders to ensure continued compliance. A dedicated Steering Committee, headed by the Union Environment Secretary, will oversee the implementation of the Ecomark rules, recommend products for certification, and periodically review the criteria to support ongoing research and development in sustainable practices. While developing criteria for the grant of 'Ecomark' to a product, the production process, including the source of raw material, will be considered.

Apart from this, the use of natural resources, environmental impact, the effects and extent of emissions or waste arising from the production process, the utilisation of waste and recycled materials, the suitability for recycling, and the use of non-hazardous substances will also be considered. Talking about the implementation procedure, an official said that an application for 'Ecomark' will be required to be made to the CPCB. After that, the Board will, either by itself or through a verifier, verify whether the product complies. Once this is done, a report will be prepared. Once the Board is satisfied that the product meets the conditions mentioned in the guidelines, it may grant 'Ecomark'. This mark will be valid for 3 years or until there is a change in criteria, whichever is earlier. The certificate can be renewed, as per the notification.

ICMR inks pact with NVVN to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to cut down carbon footprint and energy costs as the Government sets a target of Net Zero Carbon emission by 2070, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has inked a pact with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), aiming to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide. Under the agreement, NVVN will provide, install, test, and maintain rooftop solar panels at 15 ICMR institutes, totaling a capacity of 4,559 KW. Additionally, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) will secure a fixed solar tariff for the next 25 years, enhancing long-term cost efficiency and sustainability for ICMR operations. Last year's total electric unit consumption of ICMR institutes was 24,181,811 kwh, as per the ICMR official. The move to empower these institutes with solar power is the part of the Modi-led



Government at the Centre to achieve the target of adding 50 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity every year for the next five years i.e. 2030. A senior official from the ICMR said that the emphasis is on energy conservation and pollution-free environment aiming to reduce the dependence on conventional sources of energy, and replacing them with renewable sources. Seven institutes are already benefiting from solar power under earlier projects, and the MoU with NVVN will extend solarisation efforts to additional facilities. States are already stepping up

efforts to help significantly reduce their carbon footprint and energy expenditure. For instance, Rajasthan is expected to attract investments worth Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next five years, Minister of State Heera Lal Nagar said recently at the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2024 organised by Informa Markets in India. "The Minister said that, 'Rajasthan has transformed its geographic challenges into an energy boon. Currently, we produce 20,000 MW of solar energy, of which only 5,000 MW is used locally, while the rest is supplied across the country. Additionally, we have taken steps to further scale this, with planned investments of Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next 4-5 years,' Nagar said. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh has taken initiatives for 600 MW of solar and 880 MWh of battery storage, aiming to integrate renewable energy with energy storage solutions.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

How secular is India?

As India grapples with internal strife and external criticism, the debate surrounding its commitment to secularism intensifies

India, a nation characterised by its rich tapestry of religious diversity, has long championed the values of secularism and pluralism. However, the landscape of religious freedom in the country has come under scrutiny, particularly with the recent designation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) of India as a "Country of Particular Concern." This designation has ignited a contentious debate, leading to a sharp rebuke from the Indian government, which labeled the USCIRF a "biased organisation with a political agenda." In its 2024 report, the USCIRF highlighted alarming trends regarding religious freedom in India. The commission reported instances of violence against individuals based on their religious identity, citing cases of killings, beatings and lynchings carried out by vigilante groups. It also noted the arbitrary arrests of religious leaders and the demolition of homes and places of worship, characterising these actions as severe violations of religious freedom. The report further pointed to changes



in India's legal framework that, according to the USCIRF, target and disenfranchise religious minorities. These changes include the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the implementation of a uniform civil code. Such measures, the USCIRF argues, contribute to a climate of fear and marginalisation for non-Hindu communities. In response to the USCIRF's assertions, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs firmly rejected the report. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the commission's narrative as a "motivated" misrepresentation of facts aimed at maligning India's image on the global stage. The ministry's statement emphasised that the USCIRF's reporting is unscientific and driven by an agenda that fails to reflect the realities of India's democracy.

It is true that no external agency or country has right to give us lessons in religious freedom and tolerance as we have practiced it since ancient times. Moreover, they have skeletons in their own cupboard which they would better take care first. The trigger happy policemen in the US don't think twice before shooting a black guy for not pulling over his car. But having said that it is time for us to reflect and introspect. To be fair, religious freedom has eroded in the recent years. There have been lynching incidents and that is not a made up thing. We may say that they are isolated incidents but they are enough to send a message to the community. Moreover, the attacks on churches and other religious places have been reported from across the country all this while the police looked the other way or just took mild action. It is time to ensure one and all that India is safe as it has been for ages for people of all religions and castes. And India as a State does not discriminate people for the religion they practice or food they eat. The concerns raised by the USCIRF may be exaggerated and they may make isolated incidents look mainstream but the government must maintain zero tolerance for such incidents so that no outside agency dare raise a pointing figure at us.

PICTALK



A child looks at dolls depicting scenes from Ramayana during the Dussehra Doll festival, in Bengaluru

NATO's eastward march threatens Asian stability

For Asia, aligning with NATO's expansionist policies risks destabilising the region and eroding cultural values of peace and coexistence



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

NATO's expansion into Asia poses a monumental danger that threatens not only regional stability but also the core values of peace and coexistence that many Asian countries uphold. The recent change in NATO leadership, with Mark Rutte taking the helm, may suggest a potential for new strategies, but the underlying policies and militaristic attitudes of the alliance remain unchanged. The illusion of progress is merely that—an illusion—while NATO's intentions to maintain a prolonged battlefield in Ukraine serve as a reflection of its true objectives. As observed, the US weapons sales surged dramatically in 2023, reaching a record total of \$238 billion as the demand for arms skyrocketed due to the ongoing conflict. Profiting from the sale of weapons on one hand and exploiting the suffering of unarmed civilians across Europe and West Asia is becoming increasingly reprehensible. This reflects a strategic mindset where war is not an unfortunate circumstance but an industry. This is, however, not a new phenomenon. This is how we "civilisations" behave. The history of military alliances has consistently illustrated a paradoxical truth: nations often proclaim peace while simultaneously preparing for war and engaging in it. The recent rise of Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who has advocated for an 'Asian NATO', is nothing but a sign of a looming storm ahead. Ishiba's call for deeper ties among Asian nations and the establishment of a NATO-like grouping echoes sentiments that prioritise militarisation over diplomacy. This vision stands in stark contrast to the scepticism expressed by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted India's unique historical position and its reluctance to embrace the treaty alliances that such a framework would entail. Ishiba's proposition to station Japanese troops on the US soil and share control of nuclear weapons highlights the extreme lengths to which some leaders are willing to go in the name of security, yet it has not received significant backing from



the US administration, signalling the complexities and limitations of this vision.

While NATO presents itself as a bastion of defence, its actions betray a far more sinister agenda.

The alliance has not only prolonged conflicts but has also turned them into battlegrounds for competing ideologies and geopolitical power plays. This relentless devastation not only lays waste to nations but also serves the insatiable appetites of the arms industry, which reaps substantial profits from the chaos of ongoing warfare. Evidence reveals that the US government perceives conflicts as lucrative ventures rather than humanitarian crises. Nations that align themselves with NATO risk becoming collateral damage in a power struggle that has little regard for their sovereignty or cultural identity. The allure of NATO's promises can be enticing, but history teaches us that aligning with powerful military alliances often leads to disastrous outcomes. Karl Marx posited that "history repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." NATO's past interventions, from the Balkans to Afghanistan, and today's Ukraine showcase a pattern of destruction that is all too familiar.

The question remains: will Asia fall into this trap once again, sacrificing its autonomy

for the sake of Western agendas? Moreover, the political discourse surrounding NATO often ignores the implications of its militarisation on social stability and development. This is particularly relevant as Asian nations find themselves increasingly pressured to align with NATO's militaristic strategies. The focus on military expenditure detracts from addressing pressing social issues, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The growing arms race in Asia, driven by NATO's expansion, threatens to spark regional conflict with catastrophic consequences, echoing the historical precedent set before World War I.

The belief that increased military presence fosters stability is fundamentally flawed, often leading to insecurity and competition as nations rush to arm themselves against perceived threats. This environment heightens the risk of miscalculations and unintended escalations, with incalculable costs in human lives and economic stability. Additionally, engagement in militaristic alliances under NATO's banner risks placing Asian nations in a moral quagmire, contradicting the region's philosophies that prioritise peace, harmony, and cooperation, as espoused by Confucianism, Hinduism, Islamism, and Buddhism. The very qualities that were undermined by colonialism, after

years of suffering and the sacrifices of millions, must be protected and promoted, as aligning with NATO may ultimately undermine these cultural values in favour of a destructive path centred on military solutions.

Moreover, the consequences of such an alignment are not limited to immediate military conflicts. Long-term geopolitical ramifications could destabilise the entire region, further entrenching power struggles that lead to conflict. Embracing a militaristic alliance may offer a temporary illusion of security but ultimately leads to self-inflicted wounds—akin to harakiri. The path toward a more peaceful and stable future lies not in militarisation but in diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect. Instead of succumbing to the pressures of NATO's warmongering agenda, Asian countries should seek to forge their paths, grounded in their cultural philosophies and values that prioritise harmony and coexistence. The rhetoric of security and defence masks a more insidious agenda—one driven by the military-industrial complex that thrives on conflict and arms sales. For Asian nations, the choice to align with NATO is a perilous one, fraught with the potential for self-destruction.

(The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed are personal)



THE HISTORY OF MILITARY ALLIANCES HAS CONSISTENTLY ILLUSTRATED A PARADOXICAL TRUTH: NATIONS OFTEN PROCLAIM PEACE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PREPARING FOR WAR AND ENGAGING IN IT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEN YEARS OF SWACHH BHARAT

Madam — Swachh Bharat Mission, one of the first programmes announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he took office in 2014, completes 10 years on October 2. The aim was to equip all households with individual toilets, ensure communities have cluster toilets to eradicate the open defecation system followed in villages, and ensure that schools and anganwadi toilets have waste management systems for both solid waste and liquid waste. To achieve this, the government's assistance was increased from Rs 10000 to Rs 12000 under the SBM scheme. Amazingly, over 10 million toilets have been constructed in rural households in 6 lakh villages till date, benefiting 50 million people, and many of these villages have been designated as open-defecation-free, which is essential for a healthy environment. Before launching SBM, unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhoea annually, with 3 lakh deaths.

Also, a UNICEF report indicates that women in Indian villages feel safer after the installation of toilets in rural households. Also in villages declared ODF, the risk of groundwater contamination due to human waste has been reduced a lot. Though villages benefitted a lot due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, a survey has emphasised the urgent need for action against plastic pollution and air pollution in rural and urban lands. Motivating the communities against air pollution and water pollution for adopting a proper sanitation model for a healthy life is the urgent need of the hour.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

LAWRENCE'S FUNERAL CONTROVERSY

Madam—Apropos of the story 'The battle over CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence's final journey,' October 3, 2024. The Communists globally are political chameleons with unequal rules for the comrades. Most of the Communists,

Indian PhD system needs revamp



The Indian education system, especially the higher and research-oriented education system, has gone through so many structural changes from the past till now. But the research-oriented PhD programme still lacks somewhere to provide ease to the people vis-à-vis their admission to the doctoral program. There exist some of the undoubted systematic flaws in the UGC-NET examination score as a mandatory requisite

for taking admission in a PhD. The research work and PhD are all about deep understanding instead of memory strength of the very field of students' specialisation and interest area, in which root learning from UGC-NET could merely assist.

Already, the PhD course demands a minimum of a five-year time period for its completion, and mandating a UGC NET score as a prerequisite to taking admission in a PhD only extends the time period for aspirants interested in becoming research scholars. UGC needs to make either systematic changes in its examination pattern or needs to enhance critical thinking and innovative thinking tests for the students interested in doing PhDs from the reputed academic institutions of India. Otherwise, India will continue to bear the cost of losing some fantastic minds to non-Indian universities that offer research ease, especially at the time of admission.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

though they claim to be non-believers in God in public, may be passionate believers in God in private.

The unfortunate Lawrence episode points to the chaos the Communist ideology can create in a Communist family by vertically dividing its members into two warring factions. It also shows that even the deceased Communist may not be allowed to rest in peace by the comrades merely to accommodate their political ideology, what may to the grieving family. Once an individual is bitten by the Communist ideology, there is no escape from it, even if she/he desires to change his ideology after being convinced about the utopian Communist goals. If the die-hard comrades learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate Lawrence episode and the Party's insensitive handling of the entire episode, it would be better for the comrades.

Bichu Muttathara | Pune

STARVATION AMID GROWTH

Madam — India is the fifth-largest economy in the world. At the same time,

the Global Hunger Index-2023 ranked India 111th out of 125 countries, with the level of hunger falling in the serious category. Though the Union government had rejected this index as erroneous, it cannot be rejected altogether, as evidently West Bengal agricultural migrant labourer Samar Khan, 35, died of starvation in Chennai as he reportedly did not have money to buy food. He was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital after he collapsed owing to starvation. He had not eaten for six days.

His colleague, another agricultural labourer, Satya Pundit is still in the hospital. Even having a buffer stock; people dying of starvation is a slur on the country, especially when we are talking of the fifth largest economy in the world. Besides, hollow slogans of the government that nobody will be allowed to die of starvation are belied.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Double-edged sword of social media: Impact on relationships

While it offers the promise of community and instant communication, the allure of curated perfection can lead to unrealistic expectations and strain relationships

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, connecting people from all corners of the globe. While it offers numerous benefits, such as facilitating communication and fostering community, it also poses significant challenges to relationships and mental health.

One of the most significant ways social media can impact relationships is by creating unrealistic expectations.

The carefully curated images and posts that people share online often portray an idealised version of their lives. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and comparison, as individuals may feel pressure to measure up to the perceived perfection of others. Additionally, the constant stream of information and updates can make it difficult to maintain deep and meaningful connections with loved ones.

Social media can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. The anonymity and lack of accountability that the internet provides



can create a breeding ground for cyberbullying, harassment and online infidelity. These behaviours can erode trust, damage relationships and have a devastating impact on mental health.

Furthermore, the constant pressure to be online and connected can lead to feelings of anxiety and stress. The fear of missing out (FOMO) can drive individuals to spend excessive amounts of time scrolling through social media feeds, neglecting their relationships and other important

aspects of their lives. This can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness and low self-esteem.

The impact of social media on mental health can be particularly severe for young people, who are often heavy users of these platforms. Studies have shown that excessive social media use can be linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts.

This is in part due to the exposure to negative content, such as cyberbullying and hate speech, as well as

the constant comparison to others. On the other hand, social media can also have positive effects on relationships and mental health. It can provide a platform for connecting with like-minded individuals, building supportive communities, and sharing experiences. Social media can also be a valuable tool for staying in touch with friends and family who live far away. To mitigate the negative impacts of social media on relationships and mental health, it is important to use it mindfully.

Set limits on your social media usage, be mindful of the content you share, take breaks from social media, prioritize real-life connections, and seek support if needed. By using social media in a healthy and balanced way, individuals can reap its benefits while minimising its risks.

(The author is an award-winning poet, novelist, writing retreat curator, and founder of TheWriteScene.com, based in Dubai; views are personal)



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The human mind should be open to positivity and confidence, to harness intelligence and knowledge



RAVI VALLURI

Two thousand five hundred years ago, a prince from the formidable Sakya dynasty, in the quest for reality and truth, discarded his monarchical apparel to adorn ochre robes and went on to become Gautama the monk. He and his mind incessantly wandered till the attainment of truth and insight. Upon attaining enlightenment after performing arduous tapas, Gautama the monk became Buddha the Enlightened and Compassionate One. The mind of the prince turned Bhikkhu had become hollow and empty from within and without realise the pristine verisimilitude. There is also the story of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu.

Once a young evangelist who cast away the traditions and rituals of the Catholic order, only to serve the poor and infirm (particularly those afflicted by leprosy), she was first to become a sister, then Mother Teresa, after rendering selfless yeoman service to the populace of Kolkata (then Calcutta) and humanity at large. She was the fourth Indian to be canonised on September 4, 2016, and was set in stone as St Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis for the phenomenal work and the miracles that have taken place. Buddha and St Teresa were not confined to monasteries and convents respectively to live their lives as ascetics in contemplation, meditation, chastity and poverty. Both were prototypical individuals who transcended boundaries to carve a niche for themselves by providing an alternative ideology.

Meanwhile, way back in the year 1943 a young Swedish national, Ingvar Kampard set up a company called IKEA. IKEA is an acronym for Ingvar Kampard Elmtyard at Agunnaryd. Today it is one of the largest ready-to-assemble furniture companies in the world. These are individuals, who with their mettlesome moves hold the ordinary traveller's gaze in askance. What differentiates them from the rest of the pack? It is not the opaci-



ty of their thought process, but looking for out-of-the-box solutions. While IKEA sets up furniture in our households, and Jio and WhatsApp provide the necessary seamless connectivity in communication, it is intriguing to decipher the letters of the acronym IKW.

I stand for Intelligence, K signifies Knowledge and W represents Wisdom. Intelligence, Knowledge, and Wisdom need to be harnessed by humans in ample measure to metamorphose our minds and lives to become true achievers. In the wired world today, we are girdled with far superior technology in comparison to a few decades ago and are surrounded by a plethora of gizmos at our disposal. The product and service should necessarily be flexible, adaptable, and positively meant for the public good. Only in such a scenario will the longevity of the article in question be ensured and assured.

Siddhartha with his superior intelligence grasped that he was encumbered by misery and suffering; he gained knowledge through the various techniques of pranayama and meditation and ultimately wisdom dawned on him in the form of enlightenment. Today a seeker without living in the monastic order, living like any ordinary individual could attain and experience bliss and enlightenment by practising the technique of Vipassana.

Similarly, in the Art of Living, through the regular practice of the Sudarshan Kriya, a seeker can live in the present moment by banishing antipathetic thoughts. St. Teresa of Kolkata too possessed enormous intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom to establish the order of the Missionaries of Charity to serve the distressed sections of humanity. The human mind should be developed into a sacred place, which is malleable to embrace positivity and confidence to harness the skills of intelligence and knowledge so that the Gods bestow us with a bounty of wisdom.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Bangladesh's interim Govt's crackdown on secularists



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Shahriar Kabir's arrest, amid controversial charges linked to his long-standing fight for secularism reflects Bangladesh fundamentalists working behind the interim government



It is important to examine in some detail Shahriar Kabir's arrest in Dhaka on September 17, 2024, and the subsequent related developments, to understand the forces driving Bangladesh's interim government and direction in which it is taking the country. To start with, one must briefly look at who Kabir is. Author, journalist, film-maker and an internationally respected champion of human rights, secularism and democracy, he has also been at the forefront of the struggle to bring to justice those who had collaborated with the Pakistanis during Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971 and were their accomplices in the perpetration of crimes against humanity including mass murder and rape. He played an important role in the formation of the Ekattor Ghat Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for the Uprootment of the Killers and Collaborators of Seventy-One) under the leadership of Jahanaara Imam whose husband and one of whose sons were savagely killed by the Pakistanis in 1971. Kabir, who subsequently became the organisation's president, was, at the time of his arrest, president of its advisory committee. Second, one needs to look at the circumstances of his arrest, the charges against him and his accusers and their ties with the interim government. According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune, datelined September 17, 2024 and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka," Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat), filed, on August 20, 2024, a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, against Sheikh Hasina and 23 others—one of them being Kabir—accusing them of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013. Further, according to a report in The Daily Star, datelined September 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir placed on 7-day remand," Kabir, along with Mozammel Babu, was produced before the court with a 10-day remand plea by the police, in a case concerning the death of a domestic help, Liza Akter, during the quota



TO START WITH, ONE MUST BRIEFLY LOOK AT WHO KABIR IS. AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, FILM-MAKER AND AN INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY

reform protests. The report cited a sub-inspector of police present in the court as saying that Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Sanallah, passed the orders remanding him custody for seven days.

A report datelined September 17, 2024, and published in *Prothom Alo* English under the heading, "Shahriar Kabir, Nurul Islam arrested," cited sources as saying that Kabir was an accused in several murder cases filed with Jatrabari and other police stations in Dhaka. According to information available with this writer, seven murder cases have so far been levelled against him besides the one the ICT. The levelling of murder charges against a person of Kabir's stature is not only laughable but suggests, as in a number of other cases, planned and coordinated behind-the-scenes effort.

As seen, the case before the ICT has been filed by Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) accusing Sheikh Hasina and 23 others, including Kabir, of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune (August 19, 2024) under the heading "Hefazat rally in Shapla Chattar: Odhikar publishes list of killed people," Odhikar, a human rights organisation, published on Monday (August 19) a list of people allegedly killed during the Awami League-led government's crackdown on the Hefazat's rally on May 5-6, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka. The list, originally published in 2013, had led to action against the organisation by the Awami League government.

Citing persecution by the latter government, Odhikar, according to the

report, urged the interim government to immediately form an independent inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge and conduct an impartial investigation into the extrajudicial killings committed on May 5 and 6 of 2013 and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The *Dhaka Tribune* report did not mention whether Odhikar had named the perpetrators. As seen above, Hefazat's complaint was filed on August 20, 2024, the day after Odhikar's post. Three questions arise here. What was the number of people killed? Was the rally peaceful?

What was the context in which it was held and what were the Hefazat's demands? Against the Odhikar's figures, a BBC report, datelined May 6, 2024, stated that at least 27 persons had been killed and dozens hurt in the clashes. It also said that at least two of the dead were policemen. Also, the fact that the police, according to the report, "used stun grenades and rubber bullets" to disperse the protestors indicates an effort to keep the casualties to minimum.

The rally was extremely violent. The report cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent... the police had no option but to respond". The witness further told the BBC, "Rioters vandalised markets and set fire to bookshops where the Holy Koran is sold. Thousands of Koran and religious books burned. They also attacked the ruling party's political office and national mosque."

The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for death penalty, exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam," cancellation of

Bangladesh's policy for women's development, bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses," besides declaring Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims." Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Grievously injured, she was rescued by other journalists.

It is not surprising if all this reminds one of the Taliban's agenda, a DW report (May 9, 2013) by Graham Lucas under the heading "Bangladesh Chaos," cited Maulana Habibur Rahman, one of the Hefazat leaders, as boasting of his role in the 1980s Afghan war and his support to the former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The interim government has close and warm relations with the Hefazat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The advisor for religious affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on August 31, 2024, with Mamunul Haque, the organisations head. The Hefazat is holding rallies and processions all over the country.

It is in this context that one has to see Shahriar Kabir's arrest and continued detention, in the teeth of demands for his release by international human rights activists and organisations.

The idea is to send a clear message to people in Bangladesh: do not champion secular democracy and humanism and oppose Islamic fundamentalism. If we can send Shahriar Kabir to jail, we can also send you there.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

Legal tussles over EWS quota violations undermine RTE Act in Delhi

The violation of the Economically Weaker Section quota under the Right to Education Act continues to plague India's education system

The consistent violation of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has become a troubling issue across India, particularly in major cities like Delhi. Despite clear legal mandates, several private schools continue to deny admissions to children who rightfully qualify under this provision, creating a barrier to equal educational opportunities for underprivileged communities. Recent legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court have once again brought this issue to the forefront, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of the law to safeguard the rights of EWS students. A case in point is Master Ayan



B K JHA

Saifi, a 4-year-old son of Shahid who had been allotted a seat through a computerised draw of lots conducted by Delhi's Directorate of Education (DoE) for the academic year 2024-25. But, a leading private Senior Secondary School in Rohini denied the admission and that ensued a legal tussle. Shahid approached to Delhi

High Court with his plight and sought justice. It is misconception that lawyers are reluctant to take up such cases especially for people coming from lower strata of society. Credit goes to a young Delhi lawyer Aman Sharma who took up the case for the kid and secured provisional admission for Ayan Saifi to the school. The Delhi High Court, under the guidance of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, acknowledged the violation of the RTE Act and in an interim order granted provisional admission to the child, emphasising the school's legal obligation to comply with the EWS quota. The RTE Act 2009 is a landmark legislation that ensures free and compulso-

ry education for all children aged 6 to 14. One of its key provisions mandates that 25 per cent of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG). This quota is intended to promote inclusive education and bridge the gap between socio-economic disparities. However, despite the importance of this provision, its implementation has been met with resistance from many private schools, not only in Delhi but schools across the country. The refusal of admission highlights the ongoing challenge in enforcing this law. It violates a child's fundamental right to education under Article 21-A of the Constitution. "Denying chil-



dren from economically weaker sections the education they are entitled to, despite a confirmed allotment, not only goes against the spirit of the Right to Education Act but also creates unnecessary hurdles for families already facing socio-economic challenges," argues advocate Sharma. A pattern of non-compliance

can easily be seen and unfortunately, it has become pervasive across private educational institutions. Ayan's case is not an isolated incident. Private schools in Delhi have repeatedly been found guilty of disregarding the EWS quota, prompting legal battles that seek to restore the rightful educational opportunities for

underprivileged children. In March 2024, the Delhi High Court revised the income threshold for EWS admissions, reinforced eligibility criteria and offered clearer guidance. However, schools have continued to evade their responsibilities. A similar ruling in 2022 in the case of Rameshwar Jha v. Principal Richmond Global School set a precedent for punitive action against schools that refuse EWS admissions.

The Delhi High Court had then warned that schools could face severe consequences under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, for non-compliance with the RTE Act. Yet, schools still engage in tactics that delay or deny admission to EWS

students, forcing families to take the matter to court.

The larger issue at hand is the erosion of trust in educational institutions and the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights. Advocate Sharma urges the Directorate of Education (DoE) and the judiciary to take stringent actions against schools that defy the RTE Act, calling for penalties and stricter enforcement measures.

It becomes imperative for policymakers, educators, and civil society to collaborate in upholding the principles of the RTE Act and to work towards a more inclusive education system.

(Author is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

Banned e-cigarettes worth ₹2 crore seized in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Banned e-cigarettes worth over Rs 2 crore have been seized and eight members of inter-state gangs involved in importing and selling them arrested, Delhi Police said on Friday.

On Thursday, information regarding the import and transportation of prohibited electronic cigarettes in the north district was received, they said.

These e-cigarettes were being transported from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur to Delhi, the police said in a statement.

A team conducted a raid near a private hospital and upon checking, 24 cartons containing 4,740 units of e-cigarettes made in China were recovered, Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena said.

Tempo driver Sadiq Ali (47) revealed that e-cigarettes were being taken to a godown in Karol Bagh area to be deliv-



ered to Nitin through his associate, Sheikh Kamal, the statement said.

Subsequently, Sheikh Kamal (30) and Nitin (25) were apprehended, it said, adding that on the instance of Nitin, eight boxes of 1,600 e-cigarettes were also recovered from his godown.

"Search of a Gujarat-based kingpin and his other associates is going on," said the DCP.

In another incident, the Delhi Police apprehended five people for allegedly storing, transporting and selling e-cigarettes in the national capital. According to the police, 257 e-cigarettes worth around Rs 5 lakh were recovered from their possession along with Rs 4 lakh in cash.

At around 2 am on October 2, a team out on night patrol spotted an Ertiga car parked at an abandoned place near

the Ashok Park Main Metro station, which raised suspicion, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said.

Soon another car stopped near the vehicle and people started to shift boxes into the Ertiga, he said.

The police apprehended both the drivers and seized 20 boxes containing 10 e-cigarettes in each of them. They also seized Rs 4 lakh in cash from their possession, the DCP said.

"The duo has been identified as Ritik Uppal (22) and Sabi Kumar (32). During interrogation, they named three others -- Aniket (32), Pawan Chaurasia (42) and Dikshant Kumar (28) -- who also stored and sold e-cigarettes," the officer said.

"All three have been arrested and 57 e-cigarettes were recovered from their possession," the DCP said.

Manufacturing, importing, advertising, or selling e-cigarettes has been banned in India since September 2019.

DU to allow students to pursue two degree programmes simultaneously

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University has decided to allow students to pursue two degree programmes simultaneously within the university, according to an official notification.

As per the notification, the students can pursue one degree in regular mode from the DU colleges or departments and the other in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from the School of Open Learning. Under this new policy, the students already enrolled or in the process of enrolling in a degree programme at the university can opt to pursue two degrees at the same time. However, they will not be allowed to pursue two similar academic programmes at once, such as B.Com (Hons.) and B.Com (Pass), even if one of them is taken in the ODL format.

Those who choose to pursue two degrees simultaneously will need to meet all academic requirements for both pro-



grammes separately. This includes attending classes, completing internal assessments, submitting assignments, giving presentations and meeting promotion criteria for each degree.

To avoid studying mandatory courses twice, the students are required to complete the compulsory courses for the programme they enrolled in first -- whether it's regular or ODL Mode.

The corresponding mandatory courses in the second programme will be replaced with appropriate alternatives. For

example, if a student first enrolls in a regular programme, they will have to complete the mandatory courses for that programme. If enrolled in an ODL programme first, the compulsory courses for that programme will take precedence.

For undergraduate programmes, the students must complete mandatory courses such as Environmental Science (EVS) or Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC) for the programme they enroll in first. If these courses are also required in the second degree pro-

gramme, they will be replaced with suitable alternative courses.

For instance, a student pursuing two undergraduate degrees will study the AEC language and EVS courses as part of their regular programme, while for the second ODL degree, they can either choose a different AEC language or opt for a Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) or a Value Addition Course (VAC).

Similarly, if a student is pursuing two B.A. Programmes, instead of repeating a Generic Elective (Language) course, they may select courses from the open Generic Elective (GE) pool to avoid duplication.

The research theme or project work required in the fourth year of the UG programme will need to be different for each degree pursued. Furthermore, the students will not be allowed to combine credits earned from the two different programmes to obtain a major or minor in any discipline.

Kejriwal vacates Delhi CM's residence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday vacated the CM's residence -- his home for nine years -- and moved into bungalow number 5 on Ferozeshah Road near Mandi House in the Lutyens' zone.

Kejriwal, his wife, son, daughter and parents left in two vehicles for the new bungalow, which is officially allotted to AAP's Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab Ashok Mittal. Before leaving, the Kejriwal family was given a sentimental farewell by the staff of his old house, with the former chief minister hugging them in a gesture of affection.

His wife Sumita Kejriwal handed over the keys of 6, Flagstaff bungalow, which is a CM's residence in north Delhi's Civil Lines, to a government official. The property is maintained by the Delhi government's Public Works Department.

The Kejriwal family entered the Central government's bungalow number 5 on Ferozeshah Road after performing a 'Grih Pravesh' ritual.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders said the household goods of the family were transported to the bungalow in two mini trucks.

Hours after the AAP chief shifted to a new property, BJP leader Vijay Goel said that he would lodge a complaint with



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Thakur in the matter since the 5, Ferozeshah Road Bungalow has officially been allotted to a Rajya Sabha MP.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor

slammed Kejriwal, saying that his attachment to the bungalow contradicts his earlier statements.

Kapoor, who wrote to Kejriwal on Friday, demanded that the AAP supremo publicly burn the affidavit

dated June 7, 2013 in which he had promised never to take a government bungalow, vehicle or security.

"When Kejriwal was the chief minister of Delhi, it was part of protocol and security concerns for him to take a bungalow, security and other facilities. However, now that he has stepped down from the CM's post and is only an MLA, his attachment to the bungalow contradicts his earlier statements and proves the promises in the affidavit to be false," he said.

Senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj hit back at the BJP and said Kejriwal on his own decided to resign from the chief minister's post and give up facilities attached to it.

"Arvind Kejriwal's resignation was his voluntary decision, he did not resign under the pressure of the lieutenant governor or BJP leaders.

When he resigned, he also decided to give up the facilities attached to the CM's position," said Bharadwaj.

"He did whatever he felt was right. If the BJP has so much issue with this, the party should ask its all seven MPs of Delhi to vacate their bungalows first," he added.

Another AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said there are many leaders in the country who cling to bungalows and other government facilities even after losing power.

Meanwhile, former Delhi BJP chief Vijay Goel, along with his party workers, staged a protest against Kejriwal, accusing him of unauthorised occupation of a government bungalow allotted to his party MP.

Goel said that he would lodge a complaint with the Rajya Sabha chairman in the matter. During the protest outside Kejriwal's new residence, the BJP leader criticised the AAP chief for "betraying" his earlier promises of not using government luxuries.

"This is the same Arvind Kejriwal who had given an affidavit saying he wouldn't use a government bungalow, car or security upon becoming the chief minister..." Goel said.

Kejriwal resigned as the chief minister last month, saying he would hold the post again only after he gets a "certificate of honesty" from the people of Delhi in the assembly polls in February.

He said earlier that he would vacate the chief minister's residence during the auspicious Navratri period, which began Thursday.

The BJP has accused him of corruption in the excise policy and in the reconstruction of Chief Minister bungalow. After spending over five months in Tihar Jail, the AAP supremo was released on September 13 after the Supreme Court order gave him bail.

TMC, BJP fight for credit on classical language status for Bangla

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP has strongly criticised Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for claiming credit for Bangla getting the "classical language" status.

A day after the central Government decided to confer the classical language status on Bengali along with other languages like Assamese, Marathi, Pali etc, Banerjee claimed that it was she who had "first made the move to extract the high status for the Bangla language."

Banerjee who was out inaugurating Durga Puja pandals all across Kolkata said this while addressing meetings. "We are extremely happy that Bangla has won the Classical Language status ... it was me who had first made the move to snatch this status for our language ... we had given the Centre such well-researched and concrete papers that they had to grant this status to Bangla," Banerjee on Friday said adding "the people of Bengal will be extremely happy to learn this achievement of ours."

Earlier Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on the X that "I am very happy that the great Bengali language has been conferred the status of a Classical Language, especially during the auspicious Durga Puja. Bengali literature has inspired countless people for years. I congratulate all the



Bengali speakers all over the world on this."

Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar soon reacted to Banerjee's statement saying it was not the Chief Minister but "two martyrs of Bengali language of recent times who should get the credit for dying for the language."

Thanking the Prime Minister for the step taken by his Government Majumdar reminded how two school children Tapas Sarkar and Rajesh Burman of Dandibhit village of North Dinajpur district were shot dead by the Bengal Police while they were agitating against imposition of Urdu in place of Bengali "to satisfy the Chief Minister's vote bank politics" highlighted by minority appeasement.

"If these students were alive today they would have been extremely happy and proud," he said complaining, how Urdu words were being allowed to

silently creep into Bengali language that was being followed in the school text books.

Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari too thanked the Prime Minister saying that the "people of Bengal are extremely happy to see their beloved language getting included in the list of classical languages" under the leadership of the honorable Prime Minister.

When asked to comment on the Chief Minister claiming the credit for the feat he said, "one must ignore the lies peddled by her ... by now the people of Bengal have learnt to accept her statements with a pinch of salt."

The initiative of providing Indian languages the Classical Language status in 2004 when a Linguistic Experts Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Culture under the Sahitya Akademi to examine the eligibility of the Indian languages to get such status.

Pune Horror: College...

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In his sharp reaction to the incident, NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar said: "On one hand, we have the Ladki Behan Yojana announced by the BJP-led government, while on the other hand there are atrocities on women. On one hand, there is an attempt to provide financial assistance to women through the Ladki Behan Yojana and on the other hand, there is a lot of anger among the people due to the increasing atrocities on

women." Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly Vijay Wadetiwar said: "Ahead of the State Assembly polls, the Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers are engaged in branding themselves as Bhai, Bhau and Dada. And on the other hand, in the last two days, shocking incidents of abuse of women have come to light in Pune."

Wadetiwar's "Bhai, Bhau and Dada" comment was made in apparent reference to chief minister Eknath Shinde,

deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar. Fadnis is the state Home Minister, while Ajit Pawar is the state Finance Minister and Guardian Minister of Pune.

"Unfortunately, I am constrained to say that Maharashtra is not safe for women. The government should arrest the accused in the said incident and take strict action against them," the NCP (SP)'s national working president and Baramati MP Supriya Sule

said. Meanwhile, local people said that a young woman who had gone for a stroll in Bopdev Ghat earlier this week had been threatened and molested by a person claiming to be a human rights activist.

The Forum for IT Employees Maharashtra said in a social media message that an IT couple was attacked on the Nandewale road in Hinjewadi recently around 1 am, and has urged for a police check-post in the vicinity.

Bizarre protest at...

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The protest, which involved two MLAs and an MP from the ruling Mahayuti alliance, highlighted escalating tensions over the Government's handling of tribal issues.

After the police personnel removed these leaders from the net, these tribal representatives then gathered in the ground floor passage and began a sit-in claiming that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was not meeting them to discuss the quota issue.

Dhangar or shepherd community in the state is demanding ST category inclusion for the purpose of reservation.

But Zirwal and other tribal leaders are protesting against this demand.

"I am an adivasi first and then an MLA and a deputy speaker," Zirwal told reporters when asked what led him to resort to such a protest. "CM Shinde should meet the protesters," he added. BJP MLC Gopichand

Padalkar said Zirwal holds a constitutional post and there is no need to take such an extreme step.

Zirwal said the Government should offer protection to students who have been protesting since a fortnight against the halt to recruitment under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) in Maharashtra. Speaking in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar about the incident, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said, "Zirwal is in the

Government and a responsible person...The protesters should have spoken to other leaders who are present there.

The Chief Minister meets everyone after the cabinet meeting. Instead of doing such agitations, they should have spoken to the CM first. This kind of protest by Zirwal is unacceptable." "Caste-related agitations are going on across the state. The CM and two deputy CMs do hold talks with those who wish to discuss issues," he said.

Court not to be used as...

From page 1

The YSR Congress Party has accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the state circulating a laboratory report to back its claim. The Bench clarified that it has not gone into the allegations and counter allegations made in either of the petitions or the stand of the respondents, including the State Government.

The SC clarified that its order be not construed as any reflection on the fairness of the officers of the state-appointed SIT. It said the apex court was passing the order of entrustment of probe to an independent agency only to assuage the feelings of crores of people having faith in the deity.

"The SIT appointed by the state government is substituted as under..." the Bench said. The SC said that two officers of the CBI will be nominated by the Director of the probe

agency while two officers of the Andhra Pradesh state police will be nominated by the State Government. While disposing of the petitions, it said the chairperson of the FSSAI will nominate one senior officer of the authority to be a part of the independent SIT.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Bench that if there was any element of truth in the allegations, it was unacceptable. He suggested that the probe by the SIT can be supervised by some senior official of the central government. Hearing the matter on September 30, the top court asked Mehta to assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the state-appointed SIT should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent agency.

On September 30, the Bench had observed that Gods should be kept away from politics as it questioned Naidu's public statement that animal fat was

allegedly used in making Tirupati laddus under the previous Reddy-led regime. The apex court had said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and it prima facie indicated that "rejected ghee" was subjected to the test.

"It could thus be seen that a statement was made by the Chief Minister on September 18, which was even before the FIR being lodged on September 25 and the SIT being constituted on September 26," the Bench had said.

"We are, prima facie, of the view that it was not appropriate on the part of a high constitutional functionary to go in public to make a statement which can affect the sentiment of crores of people and when investigation to find out adulterated ghee was used to make laddus was underway," said the Bench, criticizing Chief Minister Naidu for making allegations without checking the facts.

Historic Kashmir Gate...

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Another key change is the closure of the Nigambodh Ghat U-turn. To increase the space for buses going towards Pataleshwar Mandir, CRR has suggested reducing the width of a mostly unused footpath. The changes also include directing buses towards the Shastri Park DMRC depot on Grand Trunk Road so that the buses coming from Haryana and Punjab don't wait on Ring Road to enter the ISBT and cause congestion.

Meanwhile, locals and those commuting to the area will soon have to deal with another traffic hurdle. Roshanara Road in north Delhi will remain closed for traffic and pedestrian movement for over a month due to the Delhi Metro's twin tunnel construction. The Delhi traffic police issued an advisory on Friday, stating that the road will remain closed to traffic/pedestrian

movement from Friday midnight, till November 18. The twin tunnel construction work by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is going on Roshanara Road. The work is underway on both carriageways from roundabout Roshanara to Pul Bangash metro station. Buses and heavy vehicles coming from ISBT and going towards Shakti Nagar via Roshanara Road will be diverted towards Shamnath Marg, Civil Lines, Mall Road till Khalsa College, towards Shakti Nagar Chowk and vice versa, the advisory stated. Light motor vehicles will be diverted from Barfkhana Chowk, Lala Jagan Nath Marg up to Clock Tower, Chaudhary Nand Lal Marg, Dinanath Marg via Parshuram underpass and vice versa, it added. The police have requested the commuters to cooperate by avoiding these roads and if possible use public transport, especially metro services.

Iran's Ali Khamenei...

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He urged nations from "Afghanistan to Yemen and from Iran to Gaza and Yemen" to be ready to take action against the enemy, and praised those who had died doing so. "Our resisting people in Lebanon and Palestine, you brave fighters, you loyal and patient people, these martyrdoms and the blood that was shed shouldn't shake your determination but make you more persistent," he said.

Khamenei gave half of the speech in Arabic as he addressed his comments to Arab nations. Khamenei's last appearance at Friday prayers was after the death of Revolutionary Guard Gen Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in 2020 in a United States drone strike in Baghdad. A ceremony commemorating the death of Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was held before

Khamenei's speech. Most high-ranking Iranian officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and top Revolutionary Guard generals, attended the ceremony. Iran is Hezbollah's main backer and has sent weapons and billions of dollars to the group.

Also on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, where he was expected to discuss ongoing fighting between Israel and Hezbollah with Lebanese officials. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, said Iran sent a shipment of aid to Lebanon, including 10 tons of food and medicine.

The blasts in Beirut's southern suburbs by Israel sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings km (miles) away in the Lebanese capital. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on what the

intended target was, and there was no information immediately available on casualties. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported there were more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the area.

The new wave of strikes came after Israel warned people to evacuate communities in southern Lebanon, including but also beyond an area that the United Nations declared a buffer zone after Israel and Hezbollah fought a month-long war in 2006.

Israel declared war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip in response to their Oct 7 attack. More than 41,000 Palestinians have since been killed in the territory, and just over half the dead have been women and children, according to local health officials. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in Lebanon in that time, most of them since Sept 23, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Malaysia's Anwar in B'desh for talks

AP ■ DHAKA

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Bangladesh's capital on Friday to meet with interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who took over in August after the former prime minister fled during a mass uprising. Anwar's hours-long visit will focus on trade and investment, migrant workers and the Rohingya refugee crisis, officials and media reports said. Yunus received Anwar in Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport where he was welcomed with gun salutes and a red carpet reception. It is the first visit by a foreign leader to Bangladesh since Yunus took over on Aug 8 after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. It is also the first state visit by a Malaysian leader to Bangladesh in 11 years. Anwar, who is arriving from Pakistan, is leading a 58-member delegation. Next year, Malaysia will chair the Association for Southeast Asian Nations, and

Bangladesh is eager to increase its trade with that region. Bangladesh is also pursuing a policy of increasingly involving ASEAN in resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis. More than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar live in camps in Bangladesh. Bangladesh was Malaysia's second-largest trading partner in South Asia in 2023, with total trade reaching \$2.78 billion, according to official figures. Malaysia is also one of the leading destinations for Bangladeshi migrant workers. About 800,000 Bangladeshi workers are employed as low-skilled workers in Malaysia's construction, manufacturing, plantation and services sectors. But the recruiting process is often corrupt, and allegations of rights violations by Malaysian employers and Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are rampant. More than 6,000 Bangladeshi students study at Malaysian higher education institutions, according to 2023 figures.



This photo provided by Bangladesh Press Information Department shows Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, left, speaking with Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday. AP/PTI

Japan's new leader vows stronger defence

AP ■ TOKYO

New Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba opened his first policy speech in office Friday by expressing deep regrets over the governing party's slush funds scandal that dogged his predecessor. Ishiba replaced Fumio Kishida on Tuesday with the paramount mission of quickly pacifying public anger over financial misconduct in the Liberal Democratic Party and regaining support ahead of an Oct 27 parliamentary election. "I will achieve politics that is not for politicians but for the people," Ishiba said, pledging to provide sincere explanations and ensure that lawmakers abide by the rules. He set five policy pillars to uphold, including security, economy and disaster resilience. Ishiba said he will bolster Japan's military capability to defend itself from threats from China, Russia and North Korea

under the framework of the Japan-US security alliance. He did not mention two goals he advocated before taking office — making the Japan-US security alliance more equitable and establishing a NATO-like collective defense system in Asia — apparently to avoid controversy ahead of the election that the LDP must win. Omitting those goals also saves him from possibly irking Washington, but may disappoint those who saw him as willing to speak up even when he risked disagreement with his own party. Ishiba noted violations of Japanese airspace last month by Chinese and Russian warplanes and North Korea's advancing missile technology and testing as examples of the worsening security environment that Japan faces and stressed the need for a further buildup of Japan's military. He said he will promote a "strategic, mutually beneficial relationship" with China and

increase communication on all levels to build "stable and constructive" ties. He also said he will further strengthen and expand Japan's ties with South Korea and the trilateral cooperation Japan has with it and the United States. He called the Japan-US security alliance a cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and security as well as the foundation of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and international society. The first public support ratings for Ishiba as prime minister were around 50% or even lower, the lowest levels for a new leader, according to Japanese media. Opposition leaders have criticized him for rushing to hold an election after only adding a new face and fresh image to the party without any concrete results. He plans to dissolve parliament next Wednesday for an election on Oct 27, allowing only a few days of debate on his policies.

EU vote to impose duties on China EVs ahead of deadline

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union countries on Friday voted to impose duties on imports of electric vehicles from China, as talks continued between Brussels and Beijing to find an amicable solution to their trade dispute before an end-of-October deadline. Electric vehicles have become a major flash point in a broader trade dispute over the influence of Chinese government subsidies on European markets — which has forced the undercutting of EU industry prices — and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to the bloc. The European Commission, which manages trade on behalf of the 27 member countries, welcomed their majority approval of its plan to impose the duties, even though EU automotive powerhouse Germany and Hungary voted against it. Those duties will come into force on Oct 31 unless China has a solution to end the standoff.

EU tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles part of an 'economic cold war: Orban

Budapest (Hungary) (AP): The European Union is doing an "economic cold war" with China, Hungary's prime minister said on Friday, pledging to vote against an EU plan to impose higher tariffs on the import of Chinese electric vehicles. EU countries are set to vote on Friday whether to finalise the tariffs, part of a broader trade dispute over Chinese government subsidies and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to the 27-nation bloc. The tariffs are expected to pass the vote. But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday that his country will oppose them, and warned that Europe's tendency toward economic protectionism would destroy the EU's economy. "What they're making us do, what the European Union is doing, is an economic cold war," Orban told state radio. "This is the worst thing that can happen to Europe. ... If this continues, the European economy will die," he said. The EU in July imposed the provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on EVs made in China, saying they unfairly benefit from government subsidies. Beijing, in response, filed a complaint with the

World Trade Organization in August, saying the tariffs violate WTO rules and undermine global cooperation on climate change. China also launched retaliatory investigations into French cognac exports and European pork in what some analysts fear could develop into an economically harmful trade war with the EU. Hungary under Orban has pursued close ties with China and Russia while its Western partners increasingly seek to distance their economies from those countries. Moscow's war in Ukraine and fears that a flood of inexpensive Chinese products could disrupt Western markets have accelerated those efforts. Meanwhile, Hungary has sought major investment from Beijing, opening a series of Chinese EV battery manufacturing plants across the country. Late last year, it announced that BYD, one of China's largest EV makers, will open its first European production factory in southern Hungary. Orban on Friday said that EU protectionism represented a "huge danger" to Hungary's export-oriented economy. His government has declared a policy of "economic neutrality" that favors trade with all willing countries regardless of alliances or geopolitical considerations.

Minister Wang Wentao, as well as at the level of technical experts. The China-EU technical teams are due to resume negotiations on Oct 7. The duties on Chinese manufacturers, if applied, would be 17% on cars from BYD, 18.8% on those from Geely and 35.3% for vehicles exported by China's state-owned SAIC. Geely has brands including Polestar and Sweden's Volvo, while SAIC owns Britain's MG, one of Europe's best-selling EV brands. Other EV manufacturers in China including Western companies such as Volkswagen and BMW would be subject to duties of 20.7%. The commission has an "individually calculated" rate for Tesla of 7.8%. The retaliatory duties have run into opposition in Germany, which has Europe's

biggest economy and is home to major automakers. Germany's auto industry association, the VDA, said the German government sent the "right signal" by voting against them. Hildegard Müller, who chairs the group, called the decision "a further step away from global cooperation." She acknowledged that there is a need for negotiations with China and said that they "must prevent an escalation — ideally avert the tariffs, so that we don't risk a trade conflict." Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban warned that the EU risks starting an "economic cold war" with China, and pledged to vote against the duties. "This is the worst thing that can happen to Europe... If this continues, the European economy will die," he told state radio. According to the commission, Chinese-built

electric cars jumped from 3.9% of the EV market in 2020 to 25% by September 2023, in part by unfairly undercutting EU industry prices. Brussels says companies in China accomplished that with the help of subsidies across the production chain. They ran from cheap land for factories from local governments to below-market supplies of lithium and batteries from state-owned enterprises to tax breaks and easy financing from state-controlled banks. The rapid growth in market share has sparked fears that Chinese cars will eventually threaten the EU's ability to produce its own green technology to combat climate change, as well as the jobs of 2.5 million auto industry workers and 10.3 million more people whose jobs depend indirectly on EV production.



A sanitation worker of Kaohsiung city government clears debris in the aftermath of Typhoon Krathon in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, Friday. AP/PTI

Heavy floods hit large parts of Bosnia, killing at least 14

AP ■ KISELJAK

A severe rainstorm struck Bosnia overnight Friday, killing at least 14 people and flooding several towns and villages in central and southern parts of the country. Rescue services in the south of the country reported several people missing and called on volunteers and the army to assist as roads were closed and houses left without electricity. Darko Jukan, a spokesman for the local administration in the southern town of Jablanica, said at least 14 people had died. Defense Minister Zukan Helez told N1 regional television that troops have been engaged to help and that the casualties were reported. Helez said that "hour after hour we are receiving news about new victims ... We sent everyone we could. Our first priority is to save the

people who are alive and buried in houses where the landslides are." Rescue services in the towns of Jablanica and Kiseljak said the power was off overnight and cellphone service was down. Mobile phones lost their signal. The Jablanica fire station said that the town was completely inaccessible because roads and trainlines were closed. "The police informed us that the railroad is also blocked," the state rescue service said in a statement. "You can't get in or out of Jablanica at the moment. Landline phones are working, but mobile phones have no signal." It urged people not to venture out on the flooded streets. Human-caused climate change increases the intensity of rainfall because warm air can carry more moisture. This summer, the Balkans were also hit by

long-lasting record temperatures, causing a drought. Scientists said the dried-out land has hampered the absorption of floodwaters. Drone footage broadcast on Bosnian media showed villages and towns completely submerged under water, while videos on social networks showed dramatic scenes of muddy torrents and damaged roads. Photos show that one of the busiest roads linking Sarajevo with the Adriatic coast via Jablanica was swept into a river together with a railway line in a huge landslide. "Many people are endangered because of big waters and landslides. There is information about victims and many injured and missing persons," said the civic protection service. Authorities urged people to stay on upper floors.

S'pore tycoon charged in ex-Indian-origin minister's case

Singapore (PTI): A Singapore-based property tycoon was charged on Friday over his involvement in a case linked to former Indian-origin transport minister S Iswaran who was sentenced to jail in a corruption case. Ong Beng Seng, 78, faces one count of abetting a public servant in obtaining gifts and another charge of obstructing justice. Iswaran, who was sentenced to one year in jail on Thursday, pleaded guilty to obtaining items such as Formula 1 tickets and a trip to Doha from Ong. According to court documents, Ong in December 2022 instigated Iswaran to obtain a valuable thing by offering him a trip from Singapore to Doha on his private plane with a value of about USD 7,700 (Rs 6,46,582). He also arranged a one-night stay in a hotel in Doha with a value of SGD 4,737.63 (INR 3,06,922) and a business class flight from Doha to Singapore with a value of SGD 5,700 (INR 3,69,206) for Iswaran, the Channel News Asia (CNA) reported. The charge sheet states that Iswaran knew this was connected to the facilitation agreement for the Singapore Grand Prix 2022 to 2028, between Singapore GP and the Singapore Tourism Board, the report said. Iswaran was the chairman of the F1 steering committee and the chief negotiator with Singapore GP on business matters relating to the race. Ong, who is the chairman of Formula One (F1) race promoter Singapore GP, was among several individuals called up by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) over the Iswaran probe. Court documents for Iswaran's case showed it was Ong who alerted him that the anti-graft body had seized the flight manifest for the trip in December 2022, prompting the former 62-year-old Cabinet minister to ask the tycoon to bill him for the flight to avoid investigations into the gifts.

Security beefed up in Pak ahead of protest by Imran Khan's party

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's authorities sealed off the capital Islamabad on Friday to foil a planned protest by the Tehreek-i-Insaf of former premier Imran Khan to show solidarity with the judiciary and increase pressure to release the former prime minister from the jail. The call for protest was given by a 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician who has been incarcerated at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for more than a year. He asked his followers to converge at the iconic D-Chowk of the capital to register a protest. It is the same venue where Khan held a sit-in for 126 days in 2014 against alleged rigging in the elections. The government responded by imposing Section 144 in the city to outlaw all sorts of protests and gatherings and blocked all major entry points to the capital by putting shipping containers on the roads.

Pillion riding was also banned for two days and the Metro bus service between Islamabad and Rawalpindi was suspended. Similar measures were also taken to stop protestors from entering Rawalpindi, which borders Islamabad, where section 144 was imposed and the main roads leading to the city were blocked. Also, all major intercity roads were blocked. Police were deployed along with paramilitary Rangers to keep the peace and stop the protestors from crossing the hurdles put in place to seal the capital city. Interior Minister Moshin Naqvi said that elaborate measures had been taken to control the protestors who would not be allowed to enter Islamabad and urged PTI to postpone its protest as the Malaysian prime minister was in the city while the government was preparing to hold the SCO summit on October 15-16.

Kim threatens to destroy South Korea with nuclear strikes if provoked

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported on Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms. The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders. During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his mil-

itary "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons", if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name. Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-

US alliance. Kim responded that Yoon's address fully betrayed his "bellicose temerity" and showed "the security uneasiness and irritating psychology of the puppet forces". In a derisive comment, Kim called Yoon "an abnormal man", saying that "the puppet Yoon bragged about an overwhelming counteraction of military muscle at the doorstep of a state that possesses nuclear weapons". On Thursday, Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, also ridiculed South Korea's showcasing of the Hyunmoo-5 missile, saying there is no way for South Korea to counter the North Korea's nuclear forces with conventional weapons. Since adopting an escalatory nuclear doctrine in 2022, Kim has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively. But many foreign experts say it is still unlikely that he would use his nuclear arms first because his military is out-

matched by the US and its allied forces. In July, South Korea and the US signed a defence guideline on integrating South Korea's conventional capabilities with the US nuclear forces to better deal with North Korea's advancing nuclear programme. South Korea has no nuclear weapons. Animosity between the Koreas are at the worst point in years with Kim's provocative run of missile tests and the South Korean-US military exercises intensifying in a cycle of tit-for-tat. All communication channels and exchange programmes between the rivals remain stalled since 2019, when a broader US-North Korea diplomacy on ending the North's nuclear programme collapsed. In January, Kim called for rewriting North Korea's constitution to eliminate the idea of a peaceful unification between the war-divided countries and to cement the South as an "invariable principal enemy".

Pak approves Rs 45 bn for armed forces to protect Chinese interests

Islamabad (PTI): The Pakistan government decided to provide an additional Rs 45 billion budget for the armed forces mainly to strengthen their capacity to protect Chinese commercial interests in the cash-strapped country and manage the fencing along international borders. The decision was taken in the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Thursday, which was chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, reported The Express Tribune. The paper said that out of the Rs 45 billion, an amount of Rs 35.4 billion will be given to the military and Rs 9.5 billion to the navy for various purposes. The ECC considered and approved a proposal submitted by the Defence Division for a technical supplementary

grant of Rs 45 billion for the already approved projects of defence services during the current fiscal year. It is the second major supplementary grant approved for the armed forces after the approval of the budget in June. Earlier, the ECC gave Rs 60 billion for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. These supplementary grants are over and above the Rs 2.127 trillion defence budget. Due to the increasing number of terror attacks, China has demanded the signing of an agreement on anti-terrorism cooperation to address its security concerns. China has also proposed the establishment of a joint company to ensure the security of its citizens already working in Pakistan or will be engaged during the CPEC phase II. Under phase I, both sides have completed 38 projects worth USD 25.2 billion.

Modi releases 18th installment of ₹ 20,000 crore under PM-KISAN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release Rs 20,000 crore as the 18th instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday, benefiting over 9.4 crore farmers across the country. Disbursements will be through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during an event in Washim, Maharashtra, an official statement said. Maharashtra farmers will receive an additional Rs 2,000 crore under the state's Namu Shetkari Mahasman Nidhi Yojana. With the 18th instalment, the total amount disbursed under PM-KISAN will exceed Rs 3.45 lakh crore, supporting more than 11 crore farmers nationwide. The PM-KISAN scheme, launched on February 24, 2019, provides Rs 6,000 annually to landholding farmers in three equal



instalments. Maharashtra has received about Rs 32,000 crore in 17 instalments, benefiting around 1.20 crore farmers, the second highest among all states. Around 91.51 lakh farmers in Maharashtra will receive over Rs 1,900 crore in the 18th instalment. Modi will also launch an indigenous sex-sorted semen production technology, aimed at reducing costs by approximately Rs 200 per dose. The Prime Minister will

introduce a Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and buffalo, developed by the Animal Husbandry Department. Five solar parks with 19 MW capacity will be dedicated under the MSKVY 2.0 scheme, providing farmers daytime electricity and additional income through land leasing. The event will see the dedication of 9,200 Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) and e-distribution of awards for 3,000 MW under the KUSUM-C scheme. Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan, Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnis will attend the event. Around 2.5 crore farmers will participate through webcasts at various centres nationwide. States and UTs will celebrate the day as PM-KISAN Utsav Divas.

About 1 per cent fall in Sensex, Nifty amid tensions in West Asia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slumped nearly 1 per cent in a topsy-turvy trading session on Friday, dragged by intense selling in FMCG, auto and energy stocks amid escalating tensions in West Asia and persistent foreign capital outflows. Besides, a spike in global crude prices on supply uncertainty due to geopolitical tensions dented market sentiments, traders said. Falling for the fifth day running, the BSE Sensex tumbled 808.65 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 81,688.45. The benchmark hit a low of 81,532.68 and a high of 83,368.32 during the day, reflecting a wild swing of 1,835.64 points. The NSE Nifty slumped 235.50 points or 0.93 per cent to 25,014.60. Intra-day, it hit a low of 24,966.80 and a high of 25,485.05. From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Nestle,



Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. In contrast, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded

equities worth Rs 15,243.27 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory. Markets in mainland China are closed due to a holiday. European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. The US

markets ended lower on Thursday. "The last three days have witnessed huge FII selling of Rs 30,614 crore in the cash market. FIIs are moving money from expensive India to cheap Hong Kong on expectations that the monetary, and fiscal stimulus being implemented by the Chinese authorities will stimulate the Chinese economy and improve the earnings of Chinese companies. "It remains to be seen how this Chinese recovery hopes to play out," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.99 per cent to USD 78.39 a barrel. Falling for the fourth straight session on Thursday, the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 1,769.19 points or 2.10 per cent to settle at 82,497.10. During the day, it plummeted 1,832.27 points or 2.17 per cent to 82,434.02. The Nifty slumped 546.80 points or 2.12 per cent to 25,250.10.

US, India Dialogue advances semiconductor, minerals cooperation

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo held the 6th Commercial Dialogue here on Thursday during which they reviewed the progress made in semiconductor supply chains, innovation handshake, energy-industry network and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. A day earlier, the two leaders signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector. Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually-beneficial commercial development of the US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling and



recovery, a media release said. During the commercial dialogue, Goyal and Raimondo praised the two sides' continuing efforts to facilitate resilient, secure and sustainable semiconductor supply chains. Since the signing of the MoU establishing a semiconductor supply chain and an innovation partnership under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue, the US Semiconductor Industry Association and the India Electronics Semiconductor Association have completed their private sector "readiness assessment",

benefit both countries, the Department of Commerce said in a statement. The two leaders welcomed the success of the two roundtables convened in San Francisco in November 2023 and in New Delhi in March 2024, bringing the two countries' startup ecosystems closer together and carrying forward their ambitions under the MoU to enhance innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue. They praised the work done on the EIN Roundtable organised during the Clean EDGE and Environmental Technologies Business Development Mission in New Delhi in March. The trade mission brought 12 US companies to India to help grow sustainable and secure clean energy markets and accelerate the adoption of environmental solutions in India. Views exchanged during the EIN Roundtable helped inform the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership

(SCEP) ministerial convened by the US secretary of energy and the Indian minister of petroleum and natural gas in Washington on September 16, the media release said. They also commended the significant progress announced at the virtual IPEF ministerial meeting last month, including the work being done to improve supply chain resilience under the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement for the IPEF partners. They highlighted their commitment to collaborate initially in the critical areas of semiconductors, chemicals, critical minerals with a focus on batteries, and potentially healthcare products, as agreed to by the IPEF Supply Chain Council. Goyal and Raimondo reviewed other joint efforts that have been made, including under the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and the Standards and Conformance Cooperation Program (SCCP). Looking ahead, they discussed several priorities for future collaboration, including critical minerals.

Apple to open four new stores in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Phone maker Apple on Friday said it will open four more stores in India, located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. The company said it will also roll out its first-ever "made in India" iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max series devices this month. "We're thrilled to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India because we're inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across this country. We can't wait for them to have even more opportunities to discover and shop for our amazing products and services, and connect with our extraordinary, knowledgeable team members," Apple's senior Vice President of Retail, Deirdre O'Brien, said in a statement. In April 2023, Apple opened its two stores in India, one in Delhi and the other in Mumbai. "Future Apple Retail stores are planned in Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi-NCR and



Mumbai," the statement said. According to people aware of the development, the stores are likely to be opened next year. The company announced that it will now manufacture iPhone 16 series smartphones in India. "Apple is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India," the statement said. Apple began manufacturing the iPhone in India in 2017. "Manufactured in India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max will soon be available for our local customers and for export to select countries across the world," the statement said. According to sources, supplies of the high-end, Made-in-India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max are expected to begin this month.

Vedanta reports mixed production results for Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mining giant Vedanta Ltd on Friday reported a rise in production of aluminium, zinc and iron ore in the September quarter. However, the production of steel, mined metal overseas and oil and gas dropped during the quarter. The aluminium output grew 3 per cent to 6,09,000 tonnes in the second quarter compared to the same period last year, Vedanta said in a filing to BSE. At Zinc India, the saleable metal output grew to 2,62,000 tonnes from 2,41,000 tonnes. While at Zinc International the mined metal output dropped by 34 per cent to 44,000 tonnes, from 66,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Meanwhile, oil and gas output dropped 22 per cent



to 1,04,900 boepd (barrels of oil equivalent per day), average daily gross operated production during the quarter from 1,34,100 boepd a year earlier. The production of saleable iron ore rose to 1.3 million tonnes from 1.2 million tonnes in the year-ago period. The total saleable steel production dropped 22 per cent to 2,96,000 tonnes and power sales rose 7 per cent to 4,322 million units from 4,047 million units in the July-September period of the last financial year. The company said that the

PFC secures record foreign loan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Friday announced that it has secured the largest-ever foreign currency term loan of USD 1.265 billion. This landmark transaction was executed through a facility agreement with multiple banks based in IFSC GIFT City, Gandhinagar, a company statement said. According to the statement, PFC announced successful closing of issuance of largest-ever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU amounting to USD 1.265 billion. The loan will primarily be deployed towards financing assets other than thermal

generation projects, furthering PFC's strong commitment to decarbonization and the transition to green energy. The multi-currency funding will enable PFC to expand its operations, enhance its market presence, diversify its funding sources and maintain a competitive edge. The floating rate loan, presently at an average rate of 4.21 per cent per annum, denominated in G3 currencies -- USD, EUR, and JPY -- has a 5-year tenor and is linked to external benchmark rates such as Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) for USD, Euro Interbank Offered Rate (EURIBOR) for EUR, and Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA) for JPY.

BMW group sales rise in India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group on Friday said its BMW and MINI brands recorded a 10 per cent year-on-year increase in sales, at 10,556 units in India during the January-September period of 2024. The number of cars (BMW and MINI) sold in the nine months of 2023 was 9,580 units. Besides, the group also sold 5,638 units of Motorrad brand of motorcycles, the group announced here on Friday. BMW Group comprises three brands BMW, Mini and Motorrad. Of the 10,556 units, BMW Group said, it sold 10,056 units of BMW and the remaining 500 units of the



MINI brand. "The highest ever car deliveries during January to September this year, reflects the synergy between a successful strategy and an unparalleled customer experience," said Vikram Pawah, President and CEO at BMW Group India. BMW Group India is changing the game with its long wheelbase product portfolio and a strong electric mobility offensive, he added. Key models like the BMW 7 Series Long Wheelbase, BMW 3 Series Long Wheelbase and BMW X1 are leading in their segments and demand for the new BMW 5 Series Long Wheelbase is overwhelming, Pawah stated. BMW Group India maintains its top position in the electric mobility space with 725 units of fully electric BMW and MINI cars getting delivered YTD (Year To Date) Q3 2024, it said.

Home cooked meal prices rise in September

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Home-cooked meals became dearer in September compared to a year ago as prices of onion, potato and tomatoes shot up, a report said on Friday. A vegetarian meal cost went up 11 per cent over year to Rs 31.3 in September from Rs 28.1 in September 2023, and inched up from Rs 31.2 in the preceding August, as per the report by domestic rating agency Crisil. Attributing the rise to firming up in the vegetable prices that account for 37 per cent of a thali cost, the "roti, rice, rate" report elaborated on the factors affecting the overall cost. "Prices of onion, potato and tomato rose 53 per cent, 50



per cent and 18 per cent on-year, respectively, in September because of lower onion and potato arrivals, while heavy rainfall impacted tomato output in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra," it explained. Prices of pulses jumped 14 per cent on year due to a drop in production, while fuel dropped 11 per cent due to a price cut earlier in the year, the report said. In the case of a non-vegetarian thali, the meal cost dropped by 2 per cent on year to Rs 59.3 on a 13 per cent decline in broiler prices which have a 50 per cent weightage. A non-veg meal cost, which also includes the payouts on vegetables but dal gets replaced with broiler, was flat compared to the rate in August, the report said.

India to invite bids for battery storage projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will soon invite bids for 10 gigawatts of battery energy storage projects, an official said on Friday. The move will strengthen India's position in the energy storage segment, which is in a developing stage. Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, said, "The ministry will soon come out with a 10 gigawatt RFP (request for proposal) for those who are working on the energy storage part of it for grid-scale energy storage systems. So that we have...Indigenous capability for manufacturing of battery energy storage system compatible with advanced chemistry cells."

The official was addressing the 'Summit on Lithium-Ion Batteries', organised by industry body India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), virtually. The ministry is leading the mission of indigenous manufacturing of chemistry cells in the country as part of electric vehicle (EV) initiative. The goal is to achieve net zero by 2070 and reduce the need for imports of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, addressing environmental concerns, he said. Mittal further said that the government has allocated over 40 gigawatt-hours out of 50 gigawatts to various original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for indigenous manufacturing of advanced chemistry cell under



ACC-PLI scheme. IESA Chairman Rahul Walwalker said, "Many countries are looking for an alternative to relying solely on China, creating a potential market opportunity of up to 2,500 gigawatt hours for the supply chain in India. The goal is to scale up manufacturing in India, with the initial target being 50-gigawatt hours set up by the ACCPLI, and a larger vision set by the IESA for India to have a minimum of 550-gigawatt hours of cell manufacturing by 2035."

INBRIEF

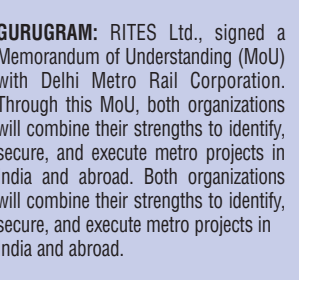
SRM IHM, SRM IST SIGN MOU

KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM IHM) at the Kattankulathur, Ekkatuthangal, and Sonipat campuses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Konyang University, South Korea, on October 4th, 2024.



RITES, DMRC SIGN MOU FOR EXPLORING METRO WORKS

GURUGRAM: RITES Ltd., signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Through this MoU, both organizations will combine their strengths to identify, secure, and execute metro projects in India and abroad. Both organizations will combine their strengths to identify, secure, and execute metro projects in India and abroad.





A NIGHT OF MUSICAL TRIBUTE

CELEBRATING JAGJIT SINGH'S GHAZALS

The timeless melodies of Jagjit Singh continue to resonate with audiences, and the recent concert, *Salaam-e-Jagjit*, featuring Nisschal Zaveri at the Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, celebrated his enduring legacy. Fans united to honour the ghazal maestro, reliving the magic of his songs in a heartfelt evening of nostalgia, says

SAKSHI PRIYA

Howon se chhu lo tum, mera geet amar kar do" - these beautiful lyrics by Jagjit Singh capture the heart of his music, expressing deep love and emotion. As a master of ghazals, he transformed Indian music with his soulful voice and meaningful lyrics, creating a legacy that continues to touch people today. His songs are anthems of love and nostalgia, connecting listeners across generations. During *Salaam-e-Jagjit*, the excitement in the auditorium was visible, reminding everyone that they were celebrating a beloved artist whose music resonates with their own stories. The recent concert, *Salaam-e-Jagjit*, held at the Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, was a powerful tribute to the legendary Jagjit Singh. From the moment the audience entered, there was a noticeable excitement in the air, a sense of collective anticipation that hinted at the emotional journey they were about to embark on. It was clear that everyone present had come not just to enjoy music but to celebrate the legacy of an artist who had touched their hearts.

As Nisschal Zaveri took to the stage, the auditorium erupted with applause, a heartfelt welcome from fans eager to honour Jagjit Singh's memory. Dressed impeccably, Zaveri carried an aura of confidence and reverence, and the love for Singh's music shone through every performance. With his first notes of "Pyaar Ka Pehla Khat," he immediately captivated the audience. They sang along, creating a beautiful chorus that filled the auditorium, merging their voices with his in a shared



ONE PARTICULARLY TOUCHING MOMENT WAS WHEN ZAVERI PAID TRIBUTE TO LATA MANGESHKAR BY SINGING "LAG JA GALE" IN HONOUR OF HER BIRTHDAY. THE AUDIENCE RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM, MANY SINGING ALONG AND CLAPPING TO THE RHYTHM, AS IF THEY WERE AT A CLOSE FRIEND'S GATHERING RATHER THAN A CONCERT

celebration of the beloved ghazal. When Zaveri transitioned into "Aahista Aahista," the mood shifted. The audience fell silent, completely absorbed in the haunting melodies and poignant lyrics that had defined Jagjit Singh's music. At that moment, time seemed to stand still. Each word resonated, and the emotional weight of the song was felt throughout the hall. It was a moment that bridged generations, as listeners, young and old, connected with the timeless themes of love and longing that Jagjit Singh so eloquently expressed.

The presence of notable figures like Ustaaad Amjad Ali Khan and his wife, Mrs. Subhalaxmi Khan, added to the

significance of the evening. Their appreciation for Zaveri's performances was unmistakable. Ustaaad Khan stood in support, leading the audience in a standing ovation as the final notes echoed through the auditorium. This act of respect and admiration encapsulated the spirit of the night, a powerful acknowledgment of Jagjit Singh's enduring impact on music and culture.

One particularly touching moment was when Zaveri paid tribute to Lata Mangeskar by singing "Lag Ja Gale" in honour of her birthday. The audience responded with enthusiasm, many singing along and clapping to the rhythm, as if they were at a close friend's gathering rather than a concert. This gesture highlighted the interconnectedness of these legendary artists, demonstrating the deep respect they had for one another and how their legacies intertwine.

As the evening progressed, it became clear that *Salaam-e-Jagjit* was more than just a concert; it was a heartfelt tribute to Jagjit Singh's contributions to Indian music. The audience's engagement, singing along, applauding and responding to the music, highlighted how deeply Singh's work resonates with people across generations. It was touching to see how music can bring everyone together in celebration of a shared love, creating a sense of community among fans.

The concert concluded with a wave of applause and appreciation, with the audience clearly moved by the performances. Zaveri's heartfelt connection to Jagjit Singh's music was evident as he expressed, "Performing Jagjit Saheb's music is always a deeply moving experience for me." The crowd's reactions showed that they weren't just passive listeners; they were engaged participants, each clapping and cheering as a tribute to their love for Singh's work.

As the concert drew to a close, the audience remained in the moment, enveloped in a sense of nostalgia and gratitude. The evening served as a reminder of how music can touch our lives in profound ways. *Salaam-e-Jagjit* was a fitting celebration of not just the songs of Jagjit Singh but also the very spirit of an artist whose influence remains ever-present. The shared claps, cheers and emotional responses from the audience spoke volumes about the lasting legacy of Jagjit Singh, reminding everyone that music has the power to unite and heal. It was an unforgettable evening that will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to be part of it.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

MYSTIC MINIATURES

A Journey of Introspection

BY TEAM VIVA

Anuj Prasad's solo exhibition, *Mystic Miniatures*, is an evocative dive into the realms of spiritual reflection, displayed at the India Habitat Centre's Visual Art Gallery. With intricate precision and an ethereal touch, Prasad offers viewers a chance to encounter mysticism in a way that feels personal rather than grandiose. As visitors enter the gallery, they are immediately transported into the artist's inner world, where the 150 artworks in ink, watercolour and oil invite a deeper exploration of self. Each piece, though small in scale, possesses a monumental capacity to provoke thought and contemplation. The exhibition showcases Prasad's ability to distill complex ideas into minute details, encouraging the viewer to engage intimately with each artwork.

At first glance, the intricate lines and vibrant colours create a sense of overwhelming complexity. However, as one spends time with the pieces, the seemingly chaotic forms begin to reveal hidden patterns and meanings. This slow unfolding mirrors the process of self-reflection, where confusion gradually gives way to clarity. The exhibition invites viewers to embark on a journey of discovery, probing the hidden meanings and symbolism work into each piece. The tactile nature of Prasad's work enhances this experience, allowing visitors to connect with the depth and intricacy of his artistry on a personal level.

Prasad's connection to mysticism is evident in his exploration of spiritual themes through art. He describes mysticism as a natural instinct and each piece reflects this



things. This appreciation for the natural world is evident in every stroke, as Prasad captures the minutiae of life with a deft hand. The handmade textures of his paintings further emphasise this connection, inviting viewers to consider the beauty in the smallest details.

The titles of Prasad's artworks add another layer of meaning, prompting viewers to engage with the themes presented. Names such as "Soul Gateway," "Duality," and "3 Layer Orbit" hint at deeper spiritual explorations, while "Treasure Hunt" and "Balloon Above the Sky" evoke a sense of adventure and freedom. Other titles like "Net Zero," "Moving Goals," and "Boundary-less" challenge viewers to contemplate concepts of balance, change and the fluidity of existence. Each title serves as an invitation to interpret the work through one's own experiences, making the exhibition a deeply personal journey.

Mystic Miniatures go beyond the traditional art exhibition; it serves as an invitation to slow down and reflect on the often-overlooked details of life. In a world that constantly demands our attention, Prasad's work acts as an antidote to the fast pace of modern living. His unique artistic vision encourages audiences to immerse themselves in the spiritual and meditative verses present within each piece. By doing so, he reminds us that profound discoveries often lie in the intricate details we may overlook if we do not take the time to look closely. Through *Mystic Miniatures*, Prasad invites viewers not only to appreciate art but also to engage in a transformative exploration of their inner selves.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



Taiwan and India Unite Through Music

BY TEAM VIVA

The India Habitat Centre was alive with the sounds of both East and West in a concert that crossed cultural boundaries. The Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir and The Neerana Music Foundation came together for an evening titled "Eastern & Western Music Treasures", filling the Stein Auditorium with music that connected continents and traditions. More than 50 singers from Taiwan and India performed a stunning blend of Western classical pieces alongside Indian and Taiwanese musical traditions. It wasn't just a concert, it was a celebration of shared human experience, showing how music can unite us, no matter our origins. This extraordinary event was made possible with the support of the Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturer's Association and the India Habitat Centre. Their collaboration ensured the evening was an unforgettable success. Ferdinand Ta-Ming Ting, Executive

Director of the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation, captured the spirit of the event perfectly, saying, "Music transcends borders and through this collaboration, we hope to deepen the cultural bond between Taiwan and India." Since its founding in 1988, the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation has represented Taiwanese music on the global stage, performing in over 30 countries. Meanwhile, The Neerana Music Foundation has been pivotal in promoting Western classical music in India, nurturing young talent and bridging cultures through the arts. Aude Priya Wacziarg, Managing Trustee of The Neerana Music Foundation, reflected on the collaboration, "This concert is a beautiful testament to the longstanding friendship between Taiwan and India. It's an honour to bring our musicians together in this celebration of unity." The evening was not just about music, it was a celebration of how art unites people, breaking down borders and creating connections beyond words.

WE CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS JUST BY OUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS: SHAFALI ON MANDHANA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shafali Verma, the significant other of the blockbuster Indian opening pair, says her no-holds-barred approach goes well with Smriti Mandhana's elegance and both can "sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions" while batting.

One of the factors behind the Indian women's cricket team's dominance in recent times has been the success of its openers, and Shafali admits they know how "important" they are to the team's fortunes.

"I've been opening with Smriti for the past two-three years, and now we can sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions while batting. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses, and we give each other positive vibes," Shafali told Star Sports when asked about her on-field



relationship with Mandhana. "We understand how important we both are to the team, especially during the

powerplay, so we try to perform well for ourselves, our teammates, and the country." The younger partner added,

"Smriti di is an exceptional timer of the ball, and she knows how to build an innings. These are the two

things I admire most about her batting -- her timing and her ability to construct a big innings."

India will begin their campaign in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup with a game against New Zealand on Friday, and Shafali said it has been a dream of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur to win the tournament, in which they finished runners-up in the 2020 edition.

"Harmanpreet di is very passionate about the game. Winning the World Cup has always been a dream for her, and I hope we can make that dream come true. She's a great player, a great teammate, and a fantastic captain who inspires and motivates us all the time," Shafali said of the skipper. Shafali made her World Cup debut as a 16-year-old and having missed the trophy by a whisker then, she is hoping to change that this time around.

"It was a big deal for me to debut at 16, and I loved being in Australia. It wasn't just the cricket; I also enjoyed exploring the country. "The tournament was special, and I performed well for the team. Thinking back to that World Cup always brings a smile to my face. We were so close to winning, but hopefully, we can change that this time around." Playing the final against home team Australia, in front of a packed crowd at the iconic MCG, is an experience that has helped her in learning to handle pressure better. "I couldn't hear anything because of the massive crowd. It was a completely new experience for me to play in front of such a big audience. "I was lost in the atmosphere and the noise, but I've learned to focus more now. I wouldn't feel the same pressure if I were in that situation again."



No. 1 Iga Swiatek parts ways with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski

AP ■ WARSAW

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek is separating from her coach Tomasz Wiktorowski. The Polish tennis player announced the split Friday, saying the decision was taken together.

During the three years Swiatek worked with Wiktorowski, the Polish player won four of her five Grand Slam titles and rose to the top of the women's rankings.

"After 3 years of the greatest achievements in my career, together with my coach Tomasz Wiktorowski we decided to part way," Swiatek wrote in a post on Instagram. "I want to start with a big thank you and appreciating our work together."

Swiatek appointed Wiktorowski as coach at the end of the 2021 season. He helped her capture 19 of her 22 career titles and an Olympic bronze medal in Paris in August.

"Coach Wiktorowski joined my team for three seasons, when I strongly needed changes and a fresh approach to my game," Swiatek continued. "His experience, analytical and strategic attitude and enormous knowledge about tennis helped us to achieve

things I've never dreamed of only a few months after we started working together. "Our main goal was to become No. 1 player in the world and coach Wiktorowski was the one who said it first." Swiatek hasn't competed since losing to Jessica Pegula in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open. She withdrew from this week's China Open in Beijing - where she would have been defending champion - citing personal reasons. The 23-year-old Swiatek also pulled out of the recent Korea Open in Seoul, citing fatigue.

"Due to this important change on my team, I give myself a couple of weeks to start a cooperation with a new coach," Swiatek wrote. "I'm in the middle of first talks with coaches from abroad (non-Polish) because I'm ready to take the next step of my career. I will let you know when I make a decision." Wiktorowski was voted the WTA's Coach of the Year by his peers last year. "Coach, THANK YOU, I wish you all the best," Swiatek wrote. "I know that you would like to rest after these 3 years of hard work and traveling a lot and spending some well deserved time with your loved ones and I hope you'll get what you need."

Buoyant Mohammedan Sporting gear up for Mohun Bagan challenge



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Fresh off their maiden ISL victory in an away match against Chennaiyin FC, debutants Mohammedan Sporting will aim to carry the same momentum when they square off with heavyweights Mohun Bagan in a lesser known 'Kolkata Derby' this Saturday.

With bragging rights as well as points on the line, Mohammedan Sporting will be eager to prove themselves against one of Indian football's most dominant forces and resume their rivalry in the ISL. The black and white brigade secured their maiden win in the ISL by defeating Chennaiyin FC 1-0 last week with Lalremnunga Fanai scoring the decisive goal. Despite Chennaiyin's attempts to fight back in the second-half, Mohammedan's defence led by Joseph Adjei and Vanlaluzidika Chhakchhuak remained resolute to take home full three points that has kept them ahead of the city rivals on goal difference. Mohammedan, who are the League Shield winners, on

the other hand are coming on the back of a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC as they will be looking to regroup and infuse fresh energy to their attacking duo of Dimitri Petratos and Jason Cummings. Petratos is on the brink of his 50th ISL appearance for the Mariners, and his experience will be vital in guiding the team through in pressure cooker scenario. The key for the midfield marshalled by Greg Stewart and Manvir Singh will be to dominate possession, pressing high up the pitch and using their full-backs to provide width. Lalengmawia Ralte has been flawless defensively, winning all 14 of his attempted tackles this season, which will be crucial in stopping Mohammedan's attacks. Despite their attacking prowess, Mohun Bagan head coach Jose Molina has expressed concern about his team's defensive frailties. The Mariners have conceded seven goals in their three matches so far, which has put pressure on their ability to secure results. Molina has identified that many of their defensive issues stem from mistakes in attack, emphasising that improving their offensive play will help tighten the defense. "We're conceding too many goals, and some of them are due to mistakes at the back, but most are because of errors in attack. To improve defensively, we need to attack better," Molina said. Mohammedan Sporting, however, may opt for a more cautious approach as they are likely to sit back, absorb pressure, and hit on the counter using the pace of Alexis Gomez and Franca up front.

Retired IPS Sharad Kumar appointed new head of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar, who headed anti-terror organisation NIA for four years, has been appointed as the new chief of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, bringing extensive experience to the role. Hailing from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, the appointment of 68-year-old Kumar was done on October 1 in the cricketing body. BCCI's ACU head is appointed for a three-year term. His name was finalised in the BCCI's Annual General Meeting on September 29, a Board source told PTI. He is a 1979 batch IPS officer from the Haryana cadre and has had a distinguished career especially as the chief of the National Investigation Agency from 2013 to 2017. He will take over from KK Mishra, also a former Haryana cadre IPS officer, who was appointed last year but did not complete his term due to unspecified



reasons.

After serving in the NIA, Kumar was appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission from June 2018 to April 2020, where he

also held the interim position of Central Vigilance Commissioner. In his new role, Kumar will play a crucial part in addressing corruption issues, including match-fixing and betting scandals, thereby reinforcing the BCCI's commitment to maintaining integrity of the game. During his tenure as NIA Director General, Kumar oversaw several high-profile investigations and operations. Kumar played a pivotal role in enhancing the NIA's capabilities and infrastructure. During his tenure, the NIA investigated several major terror attacks in India, including the Pathankot airbase attack by terrorists of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed. Kumar's efforts were instrumental in disrupting terror financing networks. His contribution to law enforcement has been recognised with the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Services in 1996 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services in 2004.



Bopanna-Dodig pair advances to second round of Shanghai Masters

PTI ■ SHANGHAI

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig cherished their first win after joining forces, moving to the second round of the ATP Shanghai Masters with a straight-set victory over Pablo Carreno

Busta and Pedro Martinez, here Friday. The fifth-seed Indo-Croatian pair won 6-4 6-3 in the opening round match that lasted 63 minutes. Bopanna and Dodig fired five aces to none of their rivals, and converted three of the eight break points they faced. They also saved four break chances on their ser-

vice games, dropping serve only once in the match. India's singles challenge has already ended with both Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan making first round exits. Ramkumar had made it to the main draw through qualifying round while Nagal had earned a direct entry.

EU's top court finds FIFA rules contrary to bloc's law

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The European Union's top court said Friday that some FIFA rules on player transfers are contrary to European Union legislation relating to competition and freedom of movement, in a ruling that will likely lead to a shakeup of the soccer market's regulations and change the sport's economy. The court's ruling came after former France international Lassana Diarra legally challenged FIFA rules following

a dispute with a club dating back to a decade ago. Diarra argued that FIFA's restrictions meant he was unable to find a new club after his contract with Russian club Lokomotiv Moscow was terminated in 2014. FIFA's rules state that if a player terminates his contract without "just cause," the player and any club wishing to sign him are jointly liable for paying compensation to the previous club. "Those rules hinder the free movement of players and competition between clubs," the court said in a statement.

Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

It feels like Groundhog Day for Manchester United and Erik ten Hag. Another season has hit crisis point after only a few games. Perhaps that's why the United manager was so dismissive of the renewed pressure on him after last week's humbling 3-0 loss to Tottenham. "Nothing is easy, but this is nothing for me to panic about because I experienced it so often with my teams during seasons that you are facing those problems," he said this week. He is right. United's record of three losses after six English Premier League games is in keeping with his two previous campaigns at Old Trafford.



In 2022, he lost his opening two and three of the first seven. In 2023 it was even worse, as United lost three of five at the start.

Both of those seasons ended with a trophy, but the feel-good factor provided by the most recent silverware - May's FA Cup triumph against Manchester City -

has long evaporated in the face of the likelihood that United's 11-year wait for the league title is set to go on. There is little sign of progress in the league despite spending around \$750 million on transfers. On Sunday, United travels to Aston Villa, which has been transformed by manager Unai Emery, who has worked on a fraction of that budget. The Spaniard has spent around \$270 million to turn Villa from a team that was battling relegation when he took over in October 2022 to one that beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday. In contrast United needed a stoppage time goal from Harry Maguire to salvage a 3-3 draw with Porto in the Europa League on Thursday, having led 2-0 after

20 minutes. Defeat against Villa would intensify questions about Ten Hag's position ahead of the October international break, which has traditionally been a time when clubs look to make managerial changes. Emery's success at Villa is evidence of what can be achieved in a short period of time. Villa was three points above the relegation zone when he was hired. In his first full season, he led the Midlands club to fourth, eight points ahead of United and qualified for the Champions League. He is yet to deliver silverware, but the trajectory is clearly upward. United is 13th heading into the weekend, having finished last season in eighth and the previous year third.

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank

CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE LUCKNOW
10, Vibhuti Khand, Gomtinagar Lucknow 226010 Email: cs8272@pnb.co.in

Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

All of you the under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the bank has initiated proceedings against each of you under the SARFAESI Act and the notice u/s 13(2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by registered post dated below mentioned date but the notice was returned un-served/undelivered. Hence each of you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay jointly and severally the outstanding amount, as detailed below, within 60 days from the date of this Notice failing which bank will proceed against the below mentioned properties u/s 13(4) of the said Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the bank. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned below and any dealing with these properties will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Mortgaged property	Dt. of Notice	Amount of notice (Rs.)
Borrower-M/S Yashvee Infotech, Prop. Mrs Ruchita Mahajan W/o Mr Kamal Kumar, Address Shop No. 21 First Floor Ratan Plaza Arya Nagar Road Naka Hindola Lucknow-226004.	Shop No. 21, First Floor Building No 147, 148 Ratan Plaza, Arya Nagar Road, Naka Hindola Lucknow in the name of Mrs Ruchita Mahajan and Mr Kamal Kumar Mahajan Area 6.50 Sq. Mtr. Boundary (as per Deed): East-Gurudwara, West-Gallery North-Shop FF 1 South-Stair & Shutter	18.09.2024	as on 17.09.2024 Rs. 41,52,417.33 + further int from 18.09.2024 & Other Charges until payment in full
Guarantor/Mortgagor-1. Mr Kamal Kumar Mahajan S/o Mr Dev Raj, (1) Shop No. 2, 12, 13 Ratan Plaza Arya Nagar Road Naka Hindola Lucknow - 226004 (2) H. No. 177-b Sector B, Hind Nagar Colony, Kanpur Road Yojana Lucknow-226012, 2. Mrs Ruchita Mahajan W/o Mr Kamal Kumar Mahajan, R/o H. No. 177-b Sector B, Hind Nagar Colony, Kanpur Road Yojana Lucknow-226012	Equitable Mortgage of 466/047(060)/6A Peer Bukhara Lucknow. Owner: Umesh Kumar Rastogi S/o Late Mr. Nawal Kishor Rastogi. Area: 3672.50 Sq Ft Boundary (as per Deed): East-Arazi Imambada, West-Road, North-Arazi Min Mukira South-Arazi Smt. Svitri Mishra	18.09.2024	as on 29.06.2024 Rs. 9,34,891.04 + further int from 30.06.2024 & Other Charges until payment in full
Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor-M/s N.F.FASHIONS, Address 15-16 Aminabad Lucknow (U.P.) 226018 Prop. Mrs Nupur Rastogi Dio Mr. Umesh Chandra Srivastava R/o 468/6A (Old No. 466/47) Peer Bukhara Chowk Lucknow (U.P.) 226003 Account No. 0266250036458 and 0266300014146 BO: LUCKNOW Aminabad (026620)	Equitable Mortgage of 466/047(060)/6A Peer Bukhara Lucknow. Owner: Umesh Kumar Rastogi S/o Late Mr. Nawal Kishor Rastogi. Area: 3672.50 Sq Ft Boundary (as per Deed): East-Arazi Imambada, West-Road, North-Arazi Min Mukira South-Arazi Smt. Svitri Mishra	18.09.2024	as on 29.06.2024 Rs. 9,34,200.78 + further int from 30.06.2024 & Other Charges until payment in full

You are advised (1) To collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and if returned by postal authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details and (2) To pay the balance outstanding amount interest and costs etc., within 60 days from the date of notice referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act.

Date-04.10.2024, Place Lucknow AUTHORISED OFFICER