



OPINION 6 REVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY AMIDST CALLS FOR STATEHOOD

WORLD 9 THREE SHARE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

MONEY 10 SENSEX, NIFTY DECLINES AS RBI CHANGES STANCE TO NEUTRAL

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 2024; PAGES 12 3

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## MOODS SWING, TONES CHANGE



### Congress practises politics of hate: PM

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI:

Fresh from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) record third consecutive win in the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday went hammers and tongs at the Opposition Congress, accusing it of practising "politics of hatred" in its desperate bid to return to power. Dubbing the Congress as the "most irresponsible" party, Modi charged that the grand old party devised its winning formula by dividing the Hindu community and spreading seeds of poison in the society to consolidate its voter banks. Inaugurating 10 government medical colleges across the state and laying foundation stone for Rs 7600- crore projects through video-conferencing from New Delhi, Modi said that the Congress practised divisive politics to win elections and it had become a most "irresponsible party" which was coming up with 'new narratives to divide the country'.

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### Congress 'analysing' Haryana disaster

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the party was analysing the "unexpected" results in Haryana and will apprise the Election Commission about complaints received from various constituencies of the state. In his first reaction after the defeat in Haryana, the former Congress president also thanked the people of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir for their support. "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said. The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

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### Who will be Haryana CM?

Nayab Singh Saini meets party bosses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retained power for the third time in Haryana Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence in Delhi and top leadership of the party on Wednesday. Saini also met Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadda. After meeting with Saini, Modi said on X that he congratulated Saini on the party's historic win and expressed confidence that the role of Haryana will become more important in the resolve of building 'viksit Bharat'. People aware of the developments said that while it was a courtesy call made to the Prime Minister by Saini, the formation of the next government in the state would have also been discussed. The meeting came amid the possibility of Nayab Singh Saini being asked to continue in his post after the BJP's success in Haryana, where it won a majority with 48 of 90 Assembly seats.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. Senior BJP leader Anil Vij is also eyeing for the chief ministerial post. Sources in the Haryana BJP said that important issues, including the date and venue for the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, had to be discussed. The BJP leaders had earlier indicated that it would take place on Dussehra on Saturday. Later they indicated that the grand victory ceremony would take place after Dussehra. The venue is yet to be decided. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Saini credited Modi's policies for the party's success. Terming his meeting with the PM as a courtesy call, Saini said, "I have told Pradhan Mantri ji about the landslide victory of BJP in Haryana. I told him that the people of Haryana have a lot of affection for you which resulted in the formation of the double-engine government in Haryana for the third time.

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## Will demand restoration of statehood: Omar Abdullah

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After winning a historic mandate in the first Assembly polls, held after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah Wednesday set the agenda of the incoming government by announcing that the alliance government will pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood in its first Cabinet meeting. Omar also claimed his party would keep the issue of restoration of Article 370 alive and continue to raise it. He shared his thoughts with the media, assembled at his residence, where a large number of party workers and elected public representatives converged on Wednesday to celebrate their party's big victory in the assembly elections. A delegation of the Congress party leaders led by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hamid Karra and All India Congress Committee (AICC) incharge Bhartsinh Solanki also visited the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah and greeted him. Listing out the priorities of the incoming government in office, Omar told reporters, "My suggestion to the incoming government will be that the first business of the cabinet should be to pass a resolution asking for statehood to be restored to J&K and the CM should travel to New Delhi with that resolution. Call on the senior leadership of the country and ask them to fulfil their promise. It is the Prime Minister, Home Minister and others who have promised the people of J&K statehood. Nowhere did they say that statehood would be restored



Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) President Farooq Abdullah with his son and party Vice President Omar Abdullah during celebrations after the victory of JKNC-Congress alliance in the J&K Assembly elections at their residence, in Srinagar, Wednesday

only to a BJP government or a government that has BJP members. They said the statehood would be restored to J&K and that is what we hope will be done." Responding to a question related to his party's stand on the issue of Article 370 Omar said, "Our political stand will not change. We have never said that we will remain silent on Article 370 or that Article 370 is not an issue for us now. I have said this many times before the elections that hoping for the restoration of Article 370 from the people who snatched it will be foolish." "But we will keep this issue alive. We will continue to talk on this and hope that tomorrow there will be a change of government in the country, there will be a new setup with whom we can discuss this and get something for J&K," he added.

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## RBI maintains repo rate at 6.5 per cent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'. The monetary policy committee, which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate - which governs the interest rate of home, auto, corporate and other loans - at 6.5 per cent for a 10th straight policy meeting.



The panel, however, unanimously decided to change the policy stance to 'neutral' - the first since June 2019 - from 'withdrawal of accommodation' amid signs of a slowing economy. Interest rates were last changed in February 2023 when they were hiked to 6.5 per cent from 6.25 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the committee changed the stance but will remain unambiguously focused on the durable alignment of inflation to target while supporting growth. Food inflation, he said, may ease in coming months, while the core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy costs, appears to have bottomed out. India's economic growth outlook remained intact, with private consumption

investment growing in tandem. The change of stance signals a possible move to cut interest rates in forthcoming MPC meetings, the next being due in early December. The RBI will join other central banks in a policy pivot that was led by the US Federal Reserve easing rates last month. Annual retail inflation eased below the central bank's target of four per cent for a second consecutive month in September and will, as per RBI expectation, rebound again this month, largely due to base effects. The RBI kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5 per cent for the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal year. It also kept its GDP forecast unchanged at 7.2 per cent. Das said the prevailing and expected inflation-growth balance has created conditions for a shift in the monetary policy stance as there now is greater confidence on the last mile of disinflation.

Detailed story on page 10

## Missing soldier's body recovered

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While several parts of Kashmir were witnessing celebrations to mark the victory of the National Conference (NC) candidates in the recently held Assembly polls, a pall of gloom descended upon the residence of a missing soldier hailing from the Nowgam area of Anantnag. His bullet-ridden body was recovered from the forest area of Patherial on Wednesday. The soldier went missing during a counter-terrorist operation launched in the forest area of Kokernag in Anantnag on October 8.



In a post on social media platform X, Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said, "Based on intelligence input, a joint counter-terrorist operation was launched by the Indian Army along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and other agencies in Kazwan Forest in Kokernag on October 8.

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India's Nitish Kumar Reddy plays a shot during the second T20 International cricket match between India and Bangladesh at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi, Wednesday

## Delhi Chief Minister's bungalow awaits new occupant

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's official bungalow, rather the lack of one at the moment, has sparked yet another verbal clash between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Delhi Chief Minister's official residence at 6 Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines is now an issue over which both parties are launching allegations and documents to support their case. In yet another round of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vs CM, the Chief Minister's Office on

Wednesday alleged that "Delhi Chief Minister's residence was forcibly vacated at the behest of the BJP as Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who wants to allot to BJP leader. The bungalow was sealed by the Public Works Department on Wednesday," the CMO stated. The Public Works Department (PWD) said that after Arvind Kejriwal vacated the residence, the keys were supposed to be given to it, instead they were directly given to Atishi. Earlier, the CMO alleged that Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar



Saxena got all the belongings of CM Atishi removed from the official residence at Flag Staff Road bungalow at the behest of the BJP as he wants to allot it to a saffron party leader. Reacting to the CMO's allegations, sources at Raj Niwas said that the bungalow was never earmarked for the official residence of the Chief Minister of Delhi. "The 'owner' of this house is the PWD. The PWD only takes possession of the house when it becomes vacant, makes its inventory and then duly allocates it" sources said.

"Former CM Arvind Kejriwal pretended to vacate the house but did not give possession of the house to the PWD. What were you hiding? This house has not been allotted to CM Atishi yet and her allotted residence is still 17 AB Mathura Road. How did the two houses get allotted? CM Atishi herself kept her belongings in that house without allotment and then removed it herself. This bungalow will be allotted to the CM immediately after duly preparing the inventory," the sources added.

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## In Central Delhi, traffic jams have a ripple effect

When the main roads become clogged, traffic trickles into the service lanes

A surge in heavy public movement due to the ongoing Navratri festival was supplemented by the T 20 match between India and Bangladesh at Arun Jaitley cricket stadium on Wednesday. Adding to the vehicular traffic were sport fans who trekked on foot to reach the stadium on time, as well as early bird vendors who set up small stalls before the match began. When the main roads became clogged, traffic trickled into the service lanes. The massive traffic clogged Delhi for the seventh day on Wednesday with thousands of motorists having to negotiate heavy congestion on the city's

arterial roads, in most parts of the capital mostly in South, Central and East Delhi during the day. Traffic was affected during the peak hours on Rajghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Tilak Bridge, Mandi House, IP flyover crossing, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, Darya Ganj, Netaji Subhash Marg, Kashmere Gate, Asad Ali Road, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and Shanti Van marg due to India - Bangladesh T 20 cricket match at Arun Jaitley stadium, till late on Wednesday night. In its advisory, the traffic police had asked commuters to avoid the



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg from Delhi Gate to ITO Chowk and JLN Marg from Rajghat to Delhi Gate from 5 PM to 11:30 PM IST. Besides, breakdown of buses during the peak hours and constructions on roads have added to the congestion on several stretches. Repair work carried out by the Indraprastha Gas Limited on Ring Road in the carriageway from ISBT towards Hanuman Setu near Nigam Bodh Ghat also added to the commuters' woes. Meanwhile, traffic continued to be affected on Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Nangloi towards Tikri Border and vice versa due to potholes and water

logging. "Moreover, a loaded trolley has also overturned under Mundka Metro Station in the carriageway from Tikri Border to Peeragarhi. Kindly avoid Mundka and take alternate routes accordingly", traffic police posted an advisory on X. A cluster bus broke down on MB Road in the carriageway from Pul Prahladpur towards Badarpur near Railway Bridge which caused traffic snarl during the peak hours. Slow-moving traffic is also seen at other key locations, such as Mahipalpur, Vasant Kunj, Kapashera and Dhaula Kuan, due to ongoing construction.



# Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad injured in mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh's cabinet minister Sanjay Nishad met with a road accident in Pratapgarh district on Wednesday. It was reported that the minister suffered minor injuries in legs in the accident. Many vehicles in his convoy were damaged in the accident. After the accident, Nishad was taken to the district medical college hospital in Pratapgarh. The incident happened on Wednesday morning when the UP Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad was going to Pratapgarh with his convoy. As soon as he entered Karhiya market, the escort vehicle going ahead of the minister's car suddenly applied brakes due to which Nishad's

vehicle collided with it. After getting treatment at the hospital, the minister spoke to reporters, saying he was fine and nothing serious happened to him. He said the accident happened due to the sudden application of brakes as someone was crossing the road. Meanwhile, Dr Manoj Khatri, who treated the minister, said that Nishad had an injury in his right leg. His X-ray was done in which he was examined by an orthopaedic specialist due to a problem in the new joint. During the treatment, his blood pressure also increased and that was also treated for it. After about an hour of treatment, the minister was discharged and he left for his programme.

# First day of Durga Puja brings festive spirit



The pratima at Shatabdi Foundation Durga Puja pandal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first day of Durga Puja which started with the 'shashti puja' early on Wednesday morning brought both Bengalis and non-Bengalis to the beautifully decorated puja pandals of the city, kindling a festive spirit. A sense of peace and calm prevailed at the Durga Puja pandal in Gontinagar as the puja was performed with ritualistic fervor, infusing life into the pratima of Goddess Durga. Devotees who had gathered on the occasion offered their prayers to the deity. Shiv Prakash Yadav, a salesman at a popular sweet shop, had come all the way from Barabanki to attend the Durga Puja. "I was making my way to the office but decided to come here first and attend the puja. Being a non-Bengali makes no difference as caste, creed or religion holds no ground in the worship of the goddess. It gives

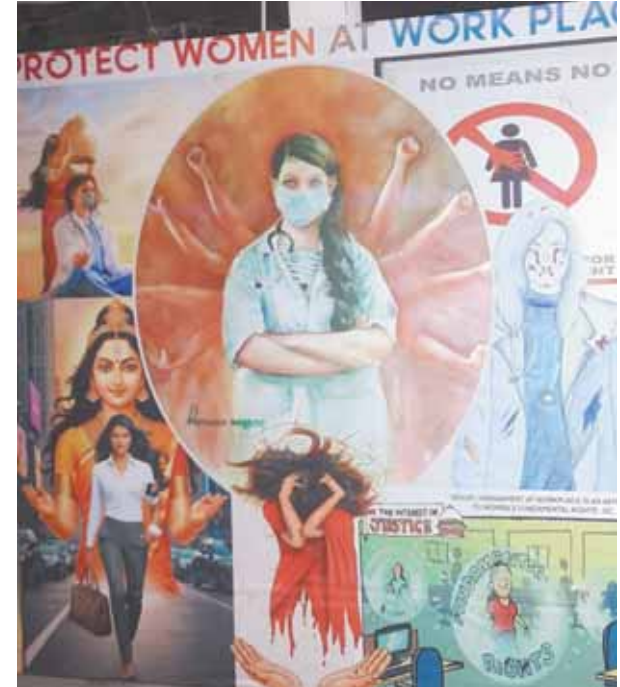
me a deep sense of peace to come here and spend a few minutes in the pandal. I will bring my family from the village also," he added. He said that he was taking time out to visit the pandal in the evening too. "The Durga Puja comes once a year and so it is necessary to take time out and visit the Mata," he said. Seema Chakravorty, a native of Lucknow whose husband has been transferred to Haldwani, came all the way from Haldwani to celebrate Durga Puja in Lucknow. "Even before the start of Durga Puja, a lot of excitement prevails in the atmosphere. On the first day I am extremely happy to be attending the puja in the pandal and watching the beautiful pratima of Durga Puja," she said. Chakravorty said that the Goddess had fulfilled her wish and she hoped that the Goddess would fulfil her wishes in the coming days too. Abhijeet Mukherjee, a retired

officer from the State Election Commission, said that the celebration of the Durga Puja forms the soul of Bengalis. "For several months we wait for the arrival of the Goddess which is considered extremely auspicious by the Bengalis. All the exchanges which take place happen at the Durga Puja alone. All the marriages are finalised during these days itself. The girls who visit the pandal bring in a natural beauty and they do not realise that they are being watched and marriages also get fixed here," he said. He said that even the poorest person wears new clothes on this festive occasion. "This is one time when all the people step out of their houses and hence everyone meets and greets each other at the pandals," he said. Jayant Pratap Singh, a security guard, said that he was visiting the Durga Puja pandal for the past 10 years. "It seems that the Goddess beckons me to come here. I feel a divine experience

when I visit the pandal," he added. Subroto Bose, a member of the Gontinagar Durga Puja committee, said that there were several Durga Pujas in the city but they restricted themselves to Gontinagar. "We stay in the pandal right from the morning till night. We have 42 stalls in the Durga Puja grounds and a Rs 12-lakh budget. It is because of the support of the people that we are able to organise this community puja," he said. Manoj Bose also from the Gontinagar Durga Puja Samiti said that unlike other festivities which people celebrate at their homes, the Bengalis always celebrate Durga Puja in pandals. "For all the four days we remain at the pandal, spending time in puja and socialising with the other people and enjoying the festival along with our families," he said.

Medical College in Kolkata has shaken the conscience of the nation, raising critical questions about the safety of women at the workplace. In response to this alarming concern, Bondhu Mahal has chosen 'Protect Women at Workplace' as the central theme for this year's Durga Puja, which is being celebrated at Rajendra Park in B Block of Indira Nagar. Bondhu Mahal Samiti secretary Sushanto Ghosh emphasised the importance of this initiative. "Maa Durga is a manifestation of feminine power or Shakti. Through this initiative, we pray to the Goddess to invoke strength and protection for all women," Ghosh said. He further shared that a temporary pavilion is being set up at the puja site where hoardings and displays highlighting the challenges and dangers women face in the workplace will be showcased.

Richa Mitra, a women volunteer of Bondhu Mahal, expressed her support for the theme. "In an era where women are advancing in every field, ensuring their safety at work is not just a legal obligation, but a moral one. Bondhu Mahal's theme this year will hopefully raise much-needed awareness," Mitra said. The pavilion was inaugurated on Thursday, followed by Chandni Paath, which began in the evening. Bondhu Mahal president Manoj Bhadra said their initiative aims to stir the conscience of the public and provoke a much-needed conversation on the protection of women in professional spaces. Through the powerful symbolism of Durga Puja, the organisation seeks to raise awareness and inspire action for a safer, more secure environment for working women, he added.



CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

NOTICE Sunil Diwvedi S/o Gyanendranath R/o Jurakhn Khera, I have lost, house No. 175/11 Original Chain deeds which is executed in favour Smt. Neetu W/o Chandra Shekhar & Chandra Shekhar S/o Sri Krishna (B. 1 Vol. 3 Page 269 to 282 Sl. 724 dt. 27.01.1992) & H.No. 220/1 & Sale deed Himanshu Dixit Regd. at SRO, Unnao Vol. 3255 Page 225 to 242 Sl. 2158 dt. 23.05.2005 at Regd. at SRO, Unnao, have not used or mortgage the said sale deeds in any financial institution.

### आवश्यकता है

माँ शीतला देवी त्रिजुगी नारायण महिला महाविद्यालय अदालत नऊकपुर रोड, काणपुर - 209202

### NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Be informed that my client Ajay Gupta S/o Shyam Kishore Gupta is the absolute owner of Plot No. - 48-B being portion of Khasra No. 53/4/1 situated at Hasanganj Bawali, Ward-Saadatganj, District- Lucknow. That a previous document in the chain of aforesaid property in the name of Smt. Anita Devi Gupta D/o Late Ram Shankar Gupta duly registered at office of sub-registrar Lucknow vide Bahi No.-1, Jild No.-74 on pages 39/46 at serial no. 2480 & Bahi No. 1, Jild 20 at serial no. 2480 dated 24.12.1992, is allegedly lost and misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within 7 days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against purchaser shall be void and ineffective. Arun Prakash Srivastava, Advocate, Office: Near Old Campus of High Court Masjid, Civil Court, Lucknow, Mob: 6389096294

### NOTICE

NOTICE This is to inform that Original relinquishment deed bearing document no. 4151, dated-27/10/1979, which was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Lakhimpur, regarding the property shop No. 43 (house-tax khata no. 225/209), Situated at Mohalla Raniganj, City, Tehsil Lakhimpur, Pargana & District Kheri was lost with my client namely Sovit Gupta S/O Sri Shrawan Kumar Gupta R/O Mohalla Punjabi Colony, City, Tehsil Lakhimpur, Pargana & District Kheri on 08.10.2024. If any person or any financial institution or bank has objection/claim in this regards, kindly inform within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and after the completion of above time period, no claim of any kind will be considered. B.N. Tripathi Advocate, Res: C-15, Nehru Vihar, Kalyanpur, Lucknow, Mob: 9336127853.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Shabnam to Shabnam Ansari for all future purposes, Shabnam Ansari W/o Asad Parvez R/o Word No 22, Jatwara, Kaimganj District Farrukhabad

### आवश्यकता है

मदरसा दारुल उलूम गरीब नवाज मिर्जा गालिब रोड प्रयागराज (उच्च अलिया) में स०अ० अलिया का एक पद रिक्त है। स०अ० अलिया हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता फाजिल अथवा अरबी / फारसी / दीनयात से स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि तथा फौकानियॉ कक्षाओं का तीन वर्ष का शैक्षणिक अनुभव। वतनमान 44900-142400 लेवल-07 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 21 वर्ष। इच्छुक अय्यथी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें। प्रबन्धक मदरसा दारुल उलूम गरीब नवाज मिर्जा गालिब रोड प्रयागराज

DIED In Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow, a young man died after falling from the stairs. According to the information, Om Prakash (40) of Bari Jugauli, fell from the stairs of his house at around 11 pm on Monday night. He was taken to Lohia Hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead

CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

It is to inform that my name as per my Aadhar card is BrijNandan Kumar Pandey, whereas in the Transfer Certificate (T.C.) of my son Anuj Kumar, it has been incorrectly mentioned as BrijNandan Pandey.The correct name should be BrijNandan Kumar Pandey.BrijNandan Kumar Pandey,Vill-MahurahanPost-KarsiDistrict -Ballia

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### NOTICE

Be it known to all the I Hawaldar (14676979 Y HAV) Raj Mangal Yadav Permanent Address Adampur, Atrampur, Prayagraj, U.P. Pin 229412. The name of my son is recorded wrongly as SAKASHAM YADAV whereas, the correct name is SAKSHAM YADAV. And the correct name is also registered in the Aadhar Card. He be known as his correct name SAKSHAM YADAV for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

I, IRSHAD holding Indian Passport No: T2884896 issued at LUCKNOW on 20/08/2019 and Permanent Resident of 66 VILL AND POST SIKRI SULTANPUR PIN 227815 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA and presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from IRSHAD to IRSHAD AHMAD with immediate effect

### NOTICE

It is to inform that my son's name has been incorrectly recorded as Sohamb Babu in the school records. The correct name is Atray Babu Singh. Kindly consider this correction for all future references. Tarakeshwar Nath Singh, Mohalla-Midhdi City-Ballia, District-Ballia

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Shabnam to Shabnam Ansari for all future purposes, Shabnam Ansari W/o Asad Parvez R/o Word No 22, Jatwara, Kaimganj District Farrukhabad

### NOTICE

I have changed my son's name from Zohair Ahmed to Zohair Ahmed Khan for all future purposes. Shadab Ahmed Khan R/o 103/2 A -1 heera Lal compound bakar Mandi, Kanpur-208001

### NOTICE

This is to inform to all that the correct name of my father is Manoj Kumar Nigam as mentioned in educational certificates, Aadhaar card and PAN card. Due to mistake, his name has been mentioned as Rinku Nigam in my highschool supplementary marksheet (Enrollment 23197974) and intermediate's (Enrollment 23682503) which is wrong. Aryan Nigam R/o 67 F/2, Rampuram, Shyam Nagar, Kanpur Nagar.

# Poor woman ends life

Lucknow (PNS): Depressed over her poor finances, a 40-year-old woman hanged herself after sending her son out to play in Alambagh area of Lucknow. She was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck in a room at her house. The police conducted the post-mortem and handed the body over to the family. The woman, identified as Lalita of Azad Nagar in Alambagh, was at her house after her husband, Raj, a plumber, left the house for routine work on Monday. Lalita was at her home along with her son Yogesh whom she sent out of the house to play. Her son Yogesh told police that he was watching a movie on TV with his mother till 3 o'clock in the afternoon. After an hour, at around 4 o'clock, his mother sent him out to play even though he was reluctant to go outside leaving his mother at home. When he returned home, the door was locked from inside. After knocking a lot, there was no response from inside. Then his father Raj also came home. With the help of neighbours, they broke open the door. Lalita was found hanging from the fan's hook with the help of a sari noose. The family brought the body down from the noose and took her to Lokbandhu Hospital where the doctors pronounced her dead. The Inspector Alambagh said that the family members had not been able to tell the cause of death. Further action will be taken on the basis of the post-mortem report, he added.

# Rajajipuram Ramlila boasts originality

The Rajajipuram Ramlila being organised by the Dharma Uthtan Samiti in the city is over 37 years old and has artists from Ayodhya and Kannauj. Ashutosh Agnihotri, a member of the samiti, said that the Ramlila was staged in its original form sans the use of technology and special effects. "There is so much use of technology in Ramlilas staged today but we stick to the natural Ramlila with no usage of technology," he said. He said that the audience comes to watch their Ramlila because of this reason precisely since they want to have a look at the natural Ramayana and listen to the dialogues which are a mix of Hindi and Awadhi. He noted that the message to the public is to follow the dharma and to work for



women empowerment. "The women in the Ramayana are showcased in a similar manner for the immense respect they command," he said.

He said that the Ramlila commenced on October 3 and would run till October 12. "On October 13 we have the Bharat Milap programme

# Rash driving leaves six injured

Lucknow (PNS): Rash driving left five persons injured at Sadatganj in the state capital on Wednesday morning. As per reports, around 8:30 am, the local police received information that a car driver had hit and injured 6-7 people near the Chor Ghati petrol pump. The injured were sent to KGMU Trauma Centre. The driver fled from the spot. The injured were identified as Moolchand (25) of Nevada, Hardoi, (works at a sweet shop), Narendra Singh (35) of Malihabad, Kishori Lal, (45) of Maal, Pawan Kumar, (22) of Sitapur and Imran Khan, (31) of Sadatganj. A spokesman said the car's registration number had been identified and it had been taken into police custody. Meanwhile, two youths suffered injuries after a car hit their bike around 10:00 pm in Ghazipur police station area on Tuesday. The injured were identified as Abhishek Kashyap aka Bhola (22) riding a KTM bike along with Tushar Kashyap (21), residents of Indira Nagar.

wherein a Shobha Yatra is taken out all though Rajajipuram and on October 14 the artists who have performed at the Ramlila are felicitated by the samiti," he said. He further stated that this Ramlila was organized in the Postal Colony of Rajajipuram. "We call groups from other districts to perform Ramlila on our stage and this time it is a group from Ayodhya and Kannauj which will be performing. The groups bring their musicians and their costumes," he said. He said that every day different leelas are performed for the audience. "Among the various scenes the Ravan samvad is much appreciated by the people. Our Ramayana is based on Ramcharitramanas," he said. He said there were separate sitting arrangements for the females in the audience.

# Woman found murdered was raped

The widow who was found murdered at the servant quarters behind a famous bakery in an area under Manak Nagar police station area was killed after she was subjected to sexual assault by her lover and his friends. This stunning fact surfaced during investigation of the case. The prime accused and woman's lover Ramu, who is a divyang, is at large. The body of the woman was found in a semi-nude condition in the room. The missing woman was murdered after rape in the servant

quarters of Sleeper Ground Railway Colony in Manak Nagar, Lucknow. The assailants killed her by hitting her head with a heavy object. This has been confirmed in the post-mortem report. The panel of forensic experts and women doctors also made slides of the body during the post-mortem under videography. Only after the investigation of the slides, rape or gang-rape can be confirmed. Surprisingly, the role of a woman from the area also surfaced in the crime. The police suspect her to be vying with the deceased woman. The family of the slain woman from Para, after the post-

mortem, kept the body in front of the house and demanded the arrest of the accused e-rickshaw driver Ramu and his aides. The family has accused Ramu as well as eight other people, including a woman from the area, of murder. They said that Ramu along with his other female friend carried out this murder therefore, the last rites of the body would be performed only after everyone was arrested. Para Inspector Brajesh Kumar pacified the protesters by assuring action against the accused. He said that on the complaint of the woman's daughter, a case of murder had been registered

against Ramu, a native of Rae Bareilly, and seven-eight unknown people. Raids are being conducted to search for them, he added. According to police sources, Ramu had called the woman on the pretext of giving her ration. After that, he took her to his house where they both had sexual relations while under influence of alcohol. During this, his friends raped her also and in fear of being caught she was killed. The mobile phone's call details revealed that the deceased had left the house only after talking to Ramu on phone and she had told her daughter that she was going to get ration

# BJP MLA manhandled in Kheri

Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Yogesh Verma was slapped by an advocate during a controversy over the election of the Urban Cooperative Bank Management Committee in Lakhimpur Kheri. The advocate has been identified as local Bar Association president Awadhesh Singh. The MLA's supporters later beat up Awadhesh Singh, following which the police tried to intervene. Verma later said, "First Raju Agarwal of our Vyapar Mandal was beaten up, his form was torn. When I went to see him, lawyer Awadhesh Singh tried to raise his hand on me. Lawyer Awadhesh Singh has been a broker all his life and

atmosphere became heated. After Awadhesh slapped Yogesh Verma, the MLAs supporters also beat him up. During this, the police tried to intervene. This dispute has come to the fore at a time when the letter of BJP's Lakhimpur unit district president Sunil Singh and Yogesh Verma have gone viral. In the letter, it is being claimed that they have demanded the postponement of the elections. However, ADM Sanjay Singh has clarified that the elections will not be postponed. Meanwhile, it was alleged that someone tore the voter list for the election. It may be mentioned that the process for this election is to start from October 14. The

counting of votes will also take place on the same day. According to the information received, there are 12,000 shareholders who vote in this election. Nominations started on Wednesday and the date of withdrawal of nominations is October 10. The final voter list would be made public on October 11 and the election symbol would be allotted. ADM Sanjay Singh has stressed that the election will be held on time and with a fair process. However, Yogesh Verma has expressed fear of rigging in the Urban Cooperative Bank election. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also reacted to this incident, saying injustice gives birth to violence.

Corporate and Services Department, Star House, Vibhuti Khand, Gomi Nagar, Zonal Office, Lucknow-226010, Ph. No. : 0522-2306039

PPGCL NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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Requirement Of Premises For Shifting Of Rahimnagar Padiyana Branch



# Massive fire breaks out in electronic goods warehouse



Firemen stand near debris after a fire broke out in a warehouse in Lucknow on Wednesday.

PTI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A huge fire broke out in the warehouse of Great Eastern Company in Madaion here on Wednesday. The entire area reverberated with deafening sound of explosions as the compressors in the warehouse kept blasting intermittently. The blasts caused cracks in the nearby buildings and the smoke from the fire was visible from about 10 kilometers away. As many as 14 fire-tenders

from four fire stations fought with the flames for about five hours but the fire was still flaring up intermittently. The fire broke out in the Great Eastern Private Limited warehouse in Madaion at around 10:30 am on Wednesday. The warehouse is located near Bhargava State Bithauli intersection. Chief Fire Officer Mangesh Kumar reached the spot after getting information about the fire. He said that efforts were being made to control the fire

but it was spreading rapidly due to the explosion in the compressors of washing machines, refrigerators and other electronic goods kept in the warehouse. Kumar said due to excessive smoke, rescue work was getting difficult. The cause of the fire is not yet known. It is suspected that a short-circuit sparked the fire. A team of experts from the Air Force also joined the fire-fighting operation. The fire-fighters engaged in

extinguishing fire with the help of hydraulic machines. The thick layered smoke emanating from the fire filled into many homes in the area. The exact loss caused by the fire is yet to be assessed. A day earlier, fire had broken out in an electronics goods warehouse in Sairpur police station area in Lucknow. As many as 16 fire engines and hydraulic machines were deployed to douse the fire, even then the warehouse had kept blazing for seven hours.

# CM's Diwali gift: 728 consolidation lekhpals promoted to kanungo

## Decision expected to strengthen agricultural sector

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has extended a significant Diwali gift to the state's consolidation lekhpals by granting long-awaited promotions after an 8-year gap. A total of 728 consolidation lekhpals from 68 districts have been elevated to the position of kanungo. This crucial move not only marks a milestone in the careers of these officers but is also set to expedite the resolution of land disputes, benefiting farmers across the state. The decision is expected to strengthen the agricultural sector and bring greater prosperity to farmers' lives. Consolidation Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami stated that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is committed to fast-tracking the resolution of



land disputes and consolidation issues. "Since 2016, several kanungo positions have remained vacant in various districts, creating bottlenecks in

the land reconsolidation process and delaying the settlement of land-related disputes. Recognising the severity of this issue, Chief Minister Yogi took prompt action and directed the filling of these vacancies. Following his instructions, a departmental promotion committee was formed, leading to the promotion of 728 eligible consolidation lekhpals," he said. In this promotion process, Bareilly district leads the state with 60 consolidation lekhpals elevated to the position of kanungo. Following Bareilly, 41 lekhpals have been elevated to the position of kanungo in Kannauj, 35 in Moradabad, 32 in Gorakhpur and 25 in Lalitpur. This decision is set to inject new momentum into the consolidation process in these districts, enabling quick-

er resolution of farmers' land-related issues. The appointment of kanungos will play a key role in ensuring the smooth execution of land reform and consolidation efforts in the state. Land reconsolidation, or consolidation, is vital for farmers as it allows them to optimise the use of their land by consolidating fragmented fields. Proper consolidation will boost agricultural productivity, contributing to the state's development in the agricultural sector. This move by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is not only a boon for farmers. It is also being hailed as a significant success in advancing revenue administration and land reform in Uttar Pradesh. It will accelerate the resolution of land disputes and bring greater prosperity to the agricultural sector.

# Yogi to lead special rituals and worship at Gorakshpeeth

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Starting Thursday, Gorakshpeethadhishwar and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will engage in three days of continuous rituals and worship at Gorakshpeeth. On the evening of Ashtami (Thursday), he will participate in the traditional Nisha Puja at Gorakshpeeth, followed by Kanya Puja on Navami (Friday). After the conclusion of Navratri, on Dussehra, the Gorakshpeethadhishwar will perform a special worship of Guru Goraknath before leading the Vijayadashami procession from Gorakshpeeth. On the first day of Shardiya Navratri, Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath performed the 'Kalash Sthapna' ritual at the Shaktipeeth within the Gorakshpeeth temple. Following this, the regular Navratri rituals are performed by Yogi Kamalnath, the head priest of the Gorakshpeeth temple, as the representative of the Gorakshpeethadhishwar. However, from Ashtami to Vijayadashami, the Gorakshpeethadhishwar himself will lead the worship and rituals. On Thursday, Yogi Adityanath will perform the Mahanisha Puja and havan on Ashtami, praying for the welfare of all. On Friday, October 11, at 11 am, the sacred Kanya Puja will take place at Gorakshpeeth. As

part of this age-old tradition, Yogi Adityanath will wash the feet of nine young girls representing the nine forms of Goddess Durga, and apply tilak of roli, sandalwood, curd and 'akshat' on their foreheads. After serving them food with utmost devotion and offering gifts and 'dakshina', he will receive their blessings. Additionally, the ritual of Batuk Puja will be observed according to tradition. Finally, on Saturday, October 12, following the special worship of Guru Goraknath and the Tilakotsav of Gorakshpeethadhishwar, a grand Vijayadashami procession will be taken out in the evening, marking the culmination of the festivities. The Vijayadashami procession is a key highlight of Gorakshpeeth's festive tradition. Led by the Gorakshpeethadhishwar, the procession that starts from Gorakshpeeth temple on Dussehra is a symbol of this rich cultural heritage. It serves as a powerful example of social harmony, with participation from people across all sections of society. Notably, the procession is given a grand welcome by the minority community, including Muslims and the weaver community. Chaudhary Kaifulwara, the outgoing chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy, who has been welcoming the Vijayadashami procession for three generations, shares that the entire city eagerly awaits the

procession, but the most enthusiasm comes from the minority community. He explains that hours before the procession, they gather with garlands near the temple's main gate, ready to welcome the Gorakshpeethadhishwar. "This year, too, preparations are underway for a grand reception. The moment when the convoy pauses for this welcome highlights the deep social harmony within the city," he added. As per the tradition of Gorakshpeeth, this year's Vijayadashami procession will once again be celebrated with grandeur on Saturday evening. After receiving blessings from Guru Gorakshpeeth, the peethadhishwar will embark on the procession, accompanied by the sounds of trumpets, drums and music, as it moves toward the Manasarovar temple. There, Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath will offer prayers to Lord Mahadev, who is closely associated with the Gorakshpeeth. Following this, the procession will reach the Manasarovar Ramlika ground, where the peethadhishwar will perform the 'Raj tilak' of Lord Shri Ram in the ongoing Ramlika, along with offering aarti to Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman. On Vijayadashami, Yogi Adityanath will also bless devotees during the traditional tilakotsav ceremony at Gorakshpeeth temple. In the evening, a grand feast

will be organised at the temple, where people from all communities, irrespective of social or religious differences, come together to participate in this age-old tradition. The day of Vijayadashami holds additional significance at Gorakshpeeth for another unique reason. On this day, a special court of saints is convened, with the Gorakshpeethadhishwar presiding as the magistrate. According to the traditions of the Nath sect, every year on Vijayadashami, the peethadhishwar mediates and resolves disputes among the saints at Gorakshpeeth. Chief Minister and Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath, who also serves as the president of the Akhil Bharatvarshiya Avdhoot Bhash Barah Panth Yogi Mahasabha, the highest institution of the Nath Panth, takes on this role as the magistrate during these proceedings. On this occasion, the sacred ritual of Patra Puja is held at Gorakshpeeth temple, during which Yogi Adityanath is worshipped by the saints as Patra Dev. In this revered role, he adjudicates disputes with fairness and wisdom. It is believed that no one speaks falsehoods in the presence of Patra Deva. The Patra Puja ritual is also known for reinforcing discipline within the community of saints, underscoring the deep respect for order and tradition within the Nath Panth.

# SP announces six candidates for UP assembly bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In less than 24 hours after the Congress failed to secure a majority in the Haryana assembly elections, Samajwadi Party, on Wednesday, announced its candidates for six of the 10 Uttar Pradesh assembly constituencies where bypolls are expected to be held in November. Though the National Conference in alliance with the Congress won a comfortable majority in Jammu and Kashmir, the grand old party emerged as a weak link in the alliance as its tally was limited to single digit. Among the six candidates announced by the Samajwadi Party on Wednesday are party chief Akhilesh Yadav's cousin Tej Pratap Yadav from Karhal, Irfan Solanki's wife Nasim from Sisamau, and Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad's son Ajit from Milkipur. The party has fielded Mustafa Siddiqi from Phulpur, Shobhawati Verma from Katherhi and Dr Jyoti Bind from Manjhwa. The Samajwadi Party said that the Congress' claim to five of the 10 assembly seats where bypolls are to be held was unfounded. SP spokesperson Ashutosh Verma, in a post on X, shared data of the previous assembly elections to underline that the Samajwadi Party either won or came in second on all 10 assembly seats where bypolls are due. "The Congress should under-

## Congress taken aback

Lucknow (PNS): The Congress was taken aback by the unilateral announcement of candidates for the Uttar Pradesh assembly bypolls by ally Samajwadi Party on Wednesday. Indian National Congress in-charge of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit, Avinash Pandey, said, "The Samajwadi Party has not discussed (seat-sharing) with the INDIA bloc coordination committee nor were we taken into confidence (before releasing the names)." Reacting to the SP move, Pandey said the Congress was not given any information about announcement of candidates of the UP assembly bypolls nor had there been any discussion on it with the INDIA coordination committee. He said as far as the announcement of seats and contesting elections was con-

cerned, whatever decision the coordination committee took would be accepted by the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee. Pandey said, "We are not overconfident but fully confident in Uttar Pradesh and due to this, along with strengthening and empowering the organisation, the work of preparing for the elections has also started. The possibilities (of alliance) always remain till the end, it cannot be denied." UP Congress president Ajay Rai said that he would talk to the party leadership on this issue and further decisions would be taken on the basis of what the party high command says. "Nothing is finalised yet. Our negotiations on seat-sharing are still going on. We were expecting five seats but they have already announced candidates for six seats; we will try

to get the remaining four seats," UP Congress president Ajay Rai said. He, however, was quick to add, "The only surety as of now is that we will contest the bypolls together. Seat distribution will be sorted out soon." Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party took a jibe at the announcement of candidates by SP for UP assembly by-elections. BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said the SP-Congress alliance was shaky. He said the list of candidates released by the SP was the effect of Haryana assembly election results. "SP has shown Congress its status by declaring candidates on the seats claimed by Congress. The Haryana result has increased the morale of BJP workers. BJP alliance will win all the seats in the UP by-elections," he said.

stand its ground reality before thinking of bargaining for seats. I think they must support the SP unconditionally," Verma said. The Election Commission of India is yet to announce the dates for the UP assembly bypolls. Sources close to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the party was willing to give one or two seats to the Congress "if they request for it politely". Among the seats the SP is willing to part with

is Ghaziabad, where the Congress candidate came in second in the Lok Sabha elections. However, it is no secret that the unilateral declaration of six candidates by the Samajwadi Party has landed Congress in a fix. Some political observers see this as a sign of the Congress losing its bargaining power in the aftermath of its poor showing in the assembly elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. The Samajwadi Party had in fact

sought two seats in Haryana but the Congress refused to consider the request. Bypolls are due in 10 Uttar Pradesh assembly seats. They include Katherhi in Ambedkar Nagar district, Karhal in Mainpuri district, Milkipur in Ayodhya, Meerapur in Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Majhawan in Mirzapur, Sisamau in Kanpur Nagar, Khair in Aligarh, Phulpur in Prayagraj and Kundarki in Moradabad.

# 2 killed in road accidents

Bhadoli/Gonda (PTI): A 32-year-old man was killed after he was hit by a speeding Bolero here, police said on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Ravindra Gautam, police said. The incident occurred late on Tuesday night when Gautam was relieving himself by the roadside in front of his house, Suriyawa SHO Sunil Kumar Singh said. "A Bolero, heading from Gyanpur Road toward Suriyawa, veered off course and hit Gautam before speeding away. The vehicle later crashed into a tree." Due to the late hour, the incident went unnoticed, and Gautam died from excessive bleeding, according to the officer. "The body has been sent for post-mortem and efforts are under-

way to trace the Bolero using CCTV footage from the area," Singh added. Meanwhile, in another incident in Gonda district, a 17-year-old boy, Himanshu, who was relieving himself outside on Tuesday night was hit by an unknown vehicle in the Dhanepur police station area. A police team rushed Himanshu to a medical college where he was pronounced dead, SHO said.

Corporate and Services Department, Star House, Vikhiti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Zonal Office, Lucknow-226010, Ph No. : 0522-2306039

**Bank of India BOI**

**Requirement of Premises For Opening of Jagdishpur Branch**

Detailed Notification inviting offers for Premises required for Opening of New Branch Jagdishpur, Lucknow Zone (within the radius of Jagdishpur Town Area, Dist- Amethi) is available on our web site [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in). Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained from our Office at Bank of India, Star House, Gomti Nagar, 1- Vikhiti Khand, Lucknow 226010 OR may be downloaded from our Website [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in). Last date for submission of offer is up to 01.11.2024 up to 5.00 PM.

Date : 10.10.2024  
Place: Lucknow

Deputy Zonal Manager  
Lucknow Zone

# 'BJP, Cong, SP obstacles to Bahujan samaj pursuit of self-esteem'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Wednesday termed Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress and Samajwadi Party as obstacles in the path of the movement for self-respect and self-esteem of Bahujan Samaj. She also claimed that her party was struggling to make this section of society the 'ruling class'. Mayawati posted a series of posts on X, paying tribute to BSP founder Kanshi Ram on his 18th death anniversary. "Hundreds of salutations and

immense respect to the founder of BAMCEF, DS4 and BSP and Bahujan leader Shri Kanshi Ram ji on his death anniversary today," the BSP chief's post read. She also expressed gratitude to all the people and followers of the party who paid tribute to Kanshi Ram in Uttar Pradesh and across the country. The BSP chief, while targeting the opposition parties, said that Gandhian Congress and RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), BJP and SP were not well-wishers of Bahujan Samaj but were obstacles in the path of their self-respect and self-



estem movement. "Ambedkarite BSP was their true destination, and it is struggling to make them a ruling class that gives instead of beggars," she added. Mayawati said that millions of

people in the country were forced to live a troubled and helpless life due to poverty, unemployment, caste hatred, injustice and oppression, which proved that the governments of Congress and BJP and woters that were been in power for most of the time, had neither been true constitutionalists nor are they true patriots. Meanwhile reacting to her party's defeat in the recent assembly elections, Mayawati said that this time in the 18th Lok Sabha elections in the country, especially the Congress' INDIA bloc misled

the innocent SC, ST and OBC people of the country and strengthened the alliance by taking their votes on the plank of 'saving Constitution and 'saving reservation' due to which other parties like BSP suffered a lot. She said in the assembly elections of Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana the BSP could not get its people out of their other tactics and conspiracies, due to which it suffered a lot in these elections. "Now we have to make our special strategy and keep warning people about all such tactics and conspiracies from time to time," she added.

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Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/201/K/1 Sneh Nagar V.I.P Road Opp Awadh Hospital Alambagh Lucknow

**Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power of conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower/legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors 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. Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Amt. due as per demand notice Date of Possession
<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor: Mrs. Deepika Pandey W/o Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Plot at land Khasra No. 356 Sarai Sheikh, New Nandi Vihaar Colony, Post-Chinhhat, Lucknow-226028</b>	<b>Residential Property:</b> Residential Plot area minj of Khasra No. 356, Vill-Sarai Sheikh Pargana, Tehsil & District- Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 12.06.2014, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Deepika Pandey W/o Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Boundaries:	<b>Rs. 2,14,327.60 and interest thereon</b>
<b>Co-Borrower: Mr. Abhishek Pandey S/o Mr. Prabhakar Pandey, Plot at land Khasra No. 356 Sarai Sheikh, New Nandi Vihaar Colony, Post-Chinhhat, Lucknow-226028</b>	<b>East- Rasta 20 Feet wide, West: Bhawan Deegar, North: Plot Seller, South: Plot Preeti Singh</b>	<b>12.06.2024</b>
<b>Guarantor: 1. Mr. Anjan Kumar Mishra S/o Mr. Vashistha Mishra, HN-55, New Nandi Vihaar Colony, PO-Chinhhat, Lucknow-226028</b>	<b>AREA- 1160 Sq.feet., 107.806 Sq.mt.</b>	<b>05.10.2024</b>
<b>2. Mr. Basdeo Pandey S/o Mr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey, HN-57, New Nandi Vihaar Colony, PO - Chinhhat, Lucknow-226028.</b>		
<b>Branch : Chinhhat</b>		
<b>Date : 10.10.2024</b>	<b>Place : Lucknow</b>	<b>Authorised Officer</b>



# Durga Puja pandals in Varanasi attract huge crowd on Saptami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Huge crowd of people thronged the Durga Puja pandals in different parts of the city, glittered with attractive lighting arrangements on the auspicious occasion of Saptami here on Wednesday. Traditional gaiety and religious fervour prevailed as a good number of people gathered to see the idols of Goddess Durga in different areas of the city. Elaborate security and other arrangements have been made on the occasion as 250-odd pandals have been installed only in the city areas. The pandals were also installed in various rural markets in the district. The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Sigra, Luxa, Godwalia, Sonarpura, Bhelupur, Maidagin and many areas in the trans-Varuna area, including Shivpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadiya and some others. In many pandals, all the traditional rituals were performed by the puja samiti members. The Bangiya Samaj, which generally focuses on its idols, performed all its rituals with traditional gaiety. At many pandals, on the beat of nagaras, the people were seen dancing to please the Goddess of Shakti (strength). Bhajans and other programmes were presented apart from offering 'prasad' to the people.



On the occasion, at several pandals Dandiya and other cultural programmes were also organised. Various religious and cultural programmes were organised at the pandals of Bharat Sevashram Sangh (Sigra), Ramkrishna Advait Ashram (Luxa), Golden Sporting Club (Devnathpura), Kashi Durgotsav Samiti (Shivala), Jim Sporting Club (Bhelupur), Eagle Club (Jangambadi), Har Sundari Dharamshala (Girjagarh), Boys Sporting Club (Hathua Market) and many others. With the installation of idols of Goddess Durga at all the puja pandals, festive mood gripped the city on the occasion of Saptami. Durga Puja began in the city even on the first day of Shardiya Navratri when idols were installed in several pandals for the nine-day long festival. But the real mood started

## Devotees offer prayers at Kalratri Devi Temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the seventh day of the auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratri, thousands of devotees thronged the Kalratri Devi Temple, situated in Kalika Gali, behind Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir here on Wednesday. Elaborate security arrangements have been made in and around the temple to avoid any untoward incident. The devotees started thronging the temple since morning for 'darshan' and perform 'puja' and continued to arrive there till late night. Long queues of devotees were seen throughout the day as usual at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund). Rush

was also seen at some other temples, including Navdurga temple at Navapura. Barricading was done at Kalratri Devi and Durga Kund temples to ensure the convenient 'darshan' for the devotees. Hundreds of devotees through various vehicles also rushed to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district to offer prayers on this auspicious occasion apart from Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheeta Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others. Kashi is a rare city where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and Devis where the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Vasantik (Chaitiya) and Shardiya Navratri respectively.

ed from Shasthi when the idols were installed at some leading pandals. Later, on the occasion of Saptami with the installation of idols in all pandals, the festival reached its peak. In the district, as many as 601 Durga Puja pandals are being made in the 28 police stations' areas but out of them, 250-odd pandals are in

the city areas. The district administration and police department have made all the arrangements to ensure peaceful conduct of the festival. Besides, the Fire Brigade department has also issued necessary fire safety guidelines to the puja pandals in view to avoid any untoward incident.

# Akhara body to ban food stalls by 'non-Sanatani' in Kumbh

PTI/PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

## Maa Kali procession ends

The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) on Wednesday said it has decided to not allow "non-Sanatani" from putting up food stalls in the Kumbh Mela and rename terms 'Shahi Snan' and 'Peshwai' as 'Rajsi Snan' and 'Chhavni Pravesh'. The parishad said it has proposed the change of the Urdu terms to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who would soon make an announcement on the matter. The seers' body said it will pass a resolution on the food stall criteria after Diwali and submit it to the chief minister for approval. It added that it will also pass a resolution to allow deployment of only 'Sanatani' employees and officers in the Kumbh Mela so that the fair's integrity is maintained. "In a meeting held recently at Niranjani Akhara in Prayagraj, a proposal has been passed to change the names and the chief minister has been informed about it. He may soon make a formal announcement in this regard," Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chief Ravindra Puri told PTI. Last month, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav had announced to call Mahakal's procession in Ujjain as 'Rajsi Sawaari' instead of 'Shahi Sawaari', after which the Akhara Parishad also stressed on the use of Hindi words

instead of Urdu. The bath of the saints of the Akharas is called 'Shahi Snan' and the procession from the ashram of the Akhara to the fair area is called 'Peshwai'. This tradition has been going on for centuries. Puri opposed the setting up of food stalls by people of other religions in Kumbh Mela, citing the recent incidents of adulteration of food items at various places in the country. The Akhara Parishad chief said, "Recently, many incidents have come to light such as mixing of urine in juice and spitting in food, among others. All Sanatanis will be Hindus in the Kumbh Mela... so it will not be tolerated if someone defiles things and feeds them."

Preparations are made several months in advance for the special event to be held in Daraganj area here. The event of Maa Kali Swang or dance begins from the fourth day of Navratri. Artists prepare for this several months in advance. Thousands of devotees reach to see the procession of Maa Kali. The procession ended on the morning of Saptami of Navratri.

after Diwali and pass a resolution which will be submitted to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," Puri added. He said the Akhara Parishad also wants the employees and officers deployed in the Kumbh Mela area to be 'Sanatanis', so that the fair's integrity is maintained. A proposal will also be passed in this regard, he said. Meanwhile, the body has decided to put on Kumbh duty such policemen who do not consume meat and alcohol. Senior Superintendent of Police (Kumbh Mela) Rajesh Dwivedi said Maha Kumbh is a religious festival and when the consumption and sale of meat and alcohol is prohibited in the entire fair area, the policemen, too, are expected not to consume them. The police personnel will be

deployed after checking their background, Dwivedi said. The Akhara Parishad has 13 main Akharas, including Nirmohi, Nirvani, Digamber, Mahanirvani, Atal, Bada Udasin, Nirmal, Niranjani, Juna, Avahan, Anand, Agni and Naya Udasin. **PROJECTS REVIEWED:** Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant reviewed the projects of PDA. He expressed great displeasure over the lack of workers in the work of many roads, incomplete information of the contractors about the daily target and negligence being shown in completing it. All the engineers and contractors concerned were instructed to complete the daily target at any cost. The contractors were asked to complete the works within the stipulated time by providing the revised weekly micro plan again. He warned that due to the upcoming festivals, there should be no impact on the number of labourers and night shift work, otherwise strict action will be taken against the contractor concerned. The secretary and chief engineer of PDA were instructed to complete the target of the microplan every day. **MISHAP:** A 45-year-old woman was killed while her son suffered injuries when the scooter on which they were going was hit by a tanker near Chakia crossing under Khulabad police station on Tuesday night.

# Researchers unveil device capable of detecting urea contamination in milk

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a groundbreaking advancement for the dairy industry, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-BHU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) have unveiled a novel bioelectronic device capable of detecting urea contamination in milk with high sensitivity. This revolutionary technology harnesses an unexpected resource, watermelon seeds and utilises the enzyme urease to create a cost-effective, easy-to-produce and highly efficient biosensor. Led by Dr Arvind M Kayastha, senior professor at BHU's School of Biotechnology and Dr Pranjal Chandra, associate professor of Biochemical Engineering at

IIT-BHU, the team discovered the enzyme urease in watermelon seeds, which breaks down urea. The breakthrough came from a simple conversation between the two scientists, which sparked curiosity and eventually led to the development of a urea-detecting biosensor that outperforms commercial alternatives. "Our innovation began with something as simple as a casual remark about not throwing away watermelon seeds," said Dr Kayastha. "From that small idea, we've developed a technology with the potential to dramatically improve food safety in the dairy industry." The idea that stayed with Prof Kayastha and Prof Chandra was executed to a realistic technology by

the PhD students Prince Kumar at BHU and Daphika S Dkhar of IIT(BHU)). The watermelon urease enzyme was immobilised on a nanohybrid system consisting of gold nanoparticles and graphene oxide. This gave the device enhanced electrochemical and bioelectronic properties, enabling rapid and accurate urea detection in milk samples without complex preparation. The developed sensor is not only highly sensitive but also meets the detection standards of regulatory bodies such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This technology could potentially transform on-site testing in dairy farms and processing

facilities, ensuring faster and more reliable urea level monitoring. The team has filed a patent for this innovative biorecognition element-based nano-sensor. Their research has also been published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society (ACS), USA, further validating the sensor's effectiveness compared to the current gold-standard DMAB method. This breakthrough highlights the immense potential hidden in agricultural byproducts and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. The team's success serves as a reminder that sometimes the most transformative ideas come from everyday observations like the value of watermelon seeds most people throw away.

## DM inspects barracks, buildings in Central Jail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam inspected the barracks and buildings built in the Shivpur Central Jail here on Tuesday and gave necessary instructions to the officials of the working agency and the department concerned. The district magistrate directed the Project Manager of Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) to complete the remaining work by October 15 by increasing the number of workers. The Project Manager of the working agency UP Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) said that the structure of 48 houses in a total of eight blocks for the jail (prison) security personnel to live has been completed and only finishing work like plumbing, painting and coating work is going on.

The DM also took information about the number of people working as masons, labourers, painters and plumbing etc on the spot. He went to the rooms of the barrack and took stock of the arrangement of windows, doors, bathrooms, basins, toilets and checked the quality of plaster etc. During the inspection, Jail Superintendent Radha Krishna Mishra, Jailor Akhilesh Kumar, along with the officers and employees of the Police department and the engineers of the implementing agency were also present. Thereafter, Rajalingam inspected the 'Kaushal Kendra' (skill centre) built in the Government Industrial Training Institute (Women) in Indian Institute of Handloom Technology campus at Chowkaghat and funded by the World Bank. He took information from the principal of ITI about the machines like CNC, paint sparrow booth, etc funded by Tata Technology and the education session of the children there. He also took information about the building under construction in front of the Kaushal Kendra by the implementing agency C&DS. Apart from this, he also inspected the Urban Haat built behind the Girija Devi Cultural Complex Auditorium located at Chowkaghat. He directed the deputy director of the Tourism department to keep the shops clean while the implementing agency to maintain the roads clean. On the occasion, a sculptor presented a clay idol of Lord Ganesh to the district magistrate.

## Minister reviews schemes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari conducted a detailed review of the schemes run by the central and state governments for the handloom and powerloom weavers and works of Textiles department of Varanasi region for the overall development of weavers at a meeting with the departmental officials at Circuit House here on Tuesday. The minister also reviewed the progress of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Weavers Flat Rate Electricity Scheme. He said that the government will soon take positive steps in accordance with the demand of powerloom weavers. According to

the minister, from Varanasi region, a total eight block level Cluster Development Scheme proposals were sent to Central government after the approval from state level committee, out of which proposal of Ramnagar Cluster has been approved by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, through which workshop construction, handloom, jacquard, lighting unit and equipment etc are being made available to weavers. Ansari stated that under the Uttar Pradesh Textile and Garmenting Policy-2022, a total of 99 MoUs were signed from the Varanasi region in the UP Global Investors Summit - 2022-23 for ₹1617.40 crore, out of which 24 MoUs worth ₹298.80 crore are ready for GBC.

## Camp to spread awareness about consumer rights

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Pro Bono Club, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, successfully conducted a Consumer Rights Awareness Camp at Vishwanath Temple, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), to educate citizens about their rights and the legal avenues available for addressing consumer grievances. The event witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and the general public, who engaged in discussions about consumer rights and shared their personal experiences. The primary objective of the

camp was to spread awareness about consumer rights and guide attendees on how to file complaints through the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and its e-Dakshil portal, which provides an easy and digital way to address consumer complaints. The session also covered various consumer rights issues such as misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, defective goods, and poor service delivery. Practical demonstrations were provided on filing complaints using the consumer forum website, ensuring that participants were equipped with the knowledge to take necessary

actions when required. During the camp, the Pro Bono team received 10 consumer complaints from the attendees, which varied from service-related disputes to grievances involving defective products. Each complaint will be thoroughly examined by the club, and for the appropriate cases, e-Dakshil applications will be filed to initiate the legal process and ensure proper redressal for the affected consumers. The Pro Bono Club was established in the Faculty of Law, BHU, under the Nyaya Bandhu programme, in affiliation with the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. The club

aims to promote access to justice by providing free legal services to marginalised and underrepresented sections of society. Its mission is to bridge the gap between law and justice by ensuring that no person is deprived of their legal rights due to a lack of awareness or resources. The Pro Bono Club not only provides legal assistance but also conducts awareness programmes, workshops, and community outreach initiatives to educate people about their fundamental rights and legal remedies. Through these efforts, the club endeavors to build a legally empowered society where justice is accessible to all.

## PMG's appeal to students to adopt philately as hobby

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A philately workshop was organised under the aegis of Varanasi Postal Region on Tuesday under Philately Day in the premises of JDS Public School, Babatpur. The programme was presided over by the Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Col Vinod Kumar and Director of the school Major SR Singh. The philately workshop was inaugurated by the PMG by cutting the ribbon. On the occasion, he made available his philately collection to display the postage stamps in the auditorium for the knowledge enhancement of the students. The Indian Postal department is celebrating National Stamp Week from Oct 7 to 11 across the country. Philately Day was organised on October 8, the second day of Postal Week. The students participated enthusiastically in the programme. In

the workshop, the world's first postage stamp 'Penny Black', India's first postage stamp 'Shinde Dak', sandalwood and rose scented postage stamps, postage stamp on Sachin's 200th Test match, postage stamp on Manipuri horses, postage stamp on Ustad Bismillah Khan, postage stamps issued in America, Nepal, Bhutan, Netherlands, Vietnam were the main attractions among the students. Col Vinod Kumar explained in detail to the curious students about each postage stamp displayed in the workshop. He said these postage stamps have been displayed from his infinite collection to increase the knowledge of the students. Appealing to the students to adopt philately as a hobby, the PMG said that by opening a philatelic deposit account in the post office for just ₹200, the postage stamps issued by the Postal department can be

obtained. On the occasion, Major SR Singh praised the services of the Indian Postal department. Principal Vandana Singh praised this unique initiative of the Postal department and said that such an event has been organised in her school for the first time. During the Philatelic Workshop, the Postal department also organised a quiz competition based on philately in which Rishabh who got first place while Manoj Kumar finished second and Umang Yadav was placed third and they were awarded by the PMG. On the occasion, Assistant Director MM Hussain, Assistant Superintendent Pallavi Mishra, Inspection Inspector Aniket Ranjan, vice-principal of the school, teachers Akanksha, Mamta and Soni, Manish Kumar, Saurabh Kumar and students were present.

# Students made aware of stress mgmt techniques

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A two-day workshop on "Psychological preparedness and stress management" jointly organised by the Personal Counselling Cell, Department of Psychology and Department of Physical Education of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, concluded on Wednesday. It was conducted by counsellor Dr Abha Saxena, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Jagran College Kanpur. The programme commenced with the worship of Lord Ganesh and Maa Saraswati and lighting of lamps. In the welcome speech, Principal Professor Anju Chaudhary, praised the organisers for conducting a workshop on such an important topic related to student's welfare. She addressed students as Shakti Swaroopa and inspired them to recognise their inner power and energy. Professor Pratibha Srivastava, Head, Department of Psychology,



advised the students to always keep their spirits high and to be mentally strong to face adverse circumstances. On the first day of the workshop, counsellor Dr Saxena, referring to the topic 'How to prepare yourself psychologically for self-defence', gave various important suggestions to be used for self-defence such as do not get influenced by false information rather confirm the reality before doing action, to learn effective communication skills and to understand the importance of fami-

ly acceptance and cooperation, to avoid shortcuts to success etc. She also explained the concept of psychological immunity. The students asked their personal queries on nameless slips and got satisfactory answers from the counsellor. Students thoroughly enjoyed the entire session. The topic of the second day's workshop was stress management. While successfully conducting the workshop, the counsellor Dr Saxena made the students aware of various tech-

niques of stress management which are useful to meet out the challenges of protecting one's well-being and mental health in present times. Further, she added to focus attention on achieving small goals in life instead of spending all the energy achieving bigger ones at a stretch. While explaining the tips of success she advised the students to stay positive and learn from every adversities and failure of life. She also suggested to initiate and explore new avenues in every failure and start a new beginning. The programme was conducted by Dr Deepali Nigam, Head of Physical Education Department and coordinator of 14 days' self-defence workshop. The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Neeta Mishra of Psychology department. On both days about 100 students of the college participated in the workshop and benefited from it. At the end of the programme Principal Professor Chaudhary distributed certi-

fications among the participating students. Other faculty members of the college also graced the programme. Pramil Kumar, Vinod Srivastava and Lakshmi Kant of Psychology department contributed significantly in making the programme successful. **CONFERENCE:** Dr Jitin Yadav, Senior Cancer Surgeon from Regency Health Kanpur, departed for Istanbul on Wednesday to participate in the International Breast Cancer Conference, to be held from October 10 to 12. Dr Yadav has been invited to present his paper titled, "Transposition Flap: A Simple Solution for Partial Breast Reconstruction in Resource-Limited Settings." **PLAYERS EXCEL:** The EWS players of The Sportz Hub excelled and won several medals in the district karate championship held at Seth Motilal Kheria School on Tuesday. The performance of players not only reflects their skills in the game but also better training system and dedication of TSH.



# Congress demands EVM probe in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana assembly polls and demanded that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the inquiry. Earlier, Election Commission, in a letter addressed to the Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, noted the statements of Congress leaders and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, who called the results of the Haryana polls "unexpected" and proposed to analyse the polls. "Proceeding on a fair assumption that the statement of the Party President is the formal party position on the electoral outcome, the ECI has agreed to meet the delegation today at 6 PM," the letter reads. A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhopinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam



Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera, besides Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials in the evening. The delegation handed over a memorandum to the officials along with specific complaints from various constituencies in Haryana. Senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi joined the meeting online. The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints, including seven in writing, from as many assembly constituencies, with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent

battery capacity during counting. The party has alleged "glaring discrepancies" related to some EVMs in the Haryana polls and urged the EC to conduct a probe. "There are doubts about vote counting as Haryana results are surprising. Everyone believed that the Congress would be forming the next government in Haryana. When the counting of postal ballots took place, the Congress was winning, but when the counting of EVMs started, the opposite happened," former chief minister Hooda told reporters after the meeting. He said the Congress will submit more complaints to the EC in the next few days. "The EC has assured

us of looking into the matter," Hooda said after meeting the CEC and other election commissioners. Bhan also said that doubts have been created about the veracity of the counting exercise in Haryana and they should be cleared by the EC. Khera said party leaders Maken and Singhvi have urged the EC to conduct a thorough probe, pending which it should ensure that the EVMs with discrepancies are sealed and secured till then. "We apprised the Election Commission about 20 complaints that have come to us, including seven written complaints from seven constituencies with some EVM machines functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity, while some EVM Machines were functioning below 60-70 per cent battery capacity," he said aken and Singhvi have demanded that the EVMs for which complaints have been made be sealed and secured till the inquiry into the whole matter is completed. We also told the EC that in the next 48 hours, we will make available to them other complaints that

are being compiled. "All the machines for which complaints have been made should be sealed and secured till the inquiry is completed. The EC has told us that they will give a written reply to us on all constituencies after consulting the respective returning officers," Khera added. "Counting of votes in a fair, transparent and accountable manner is the hallmark of any electoral process that claims to be in consonance with the principles of free and fair elections and the doctrine of the level-playing field as envisaged by the Constitution," the party memorandum to the EC said. "Considering that the said issue could potentially alter the results for some Assembly constituencies, we request that this Hon'ble Commission take urgent measures and order for an enquiry on this issue. In fact, subject to the enquiry report, the Hon'ble Commission should issue requisite directions regarding the counting of polls and final results," it also said.

# Mayawati criticises Jat votes shift in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati on Wednesday rued that the Jat community in Haryana did not vote for her party in the assembly polls and felt there was a need to change their mindset about Dalits. In the national capital to observe the death anniversary of party founder Kanshi Ram, she lamented that the BSP's alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) did not bear fruits for her party. Mayawati said in a bid to defeat the BJP and to keep it out of power, the Jat community in Haryana voted for the Congress but in the process ditched the BSP. While the Dalit votes shifted to the INLD, the Jat votes did not come to her party. "BSP candidates got only Dalit votes. Had we got even two to three per cent Jat votes, we would have



managed a few seats," she told reporters. She said while the mindset of the Jat community about Dalits has undergone a change in Uttar Pradesh, it is yet to happen in Haryana. While the INLD won two seats in the state, the BSP drew a blank. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the assembly elections. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated

and the INLD managed to win just two seats. The AAP had contested on its own. Referring to the assembly polls in Delhi expected in February next year, Mayawati hoped that her party would do well. She said a triangular contest among the ruling AAP, and BJP and Congress will help the BSP do better. She admitted that the BSP suffers losses in direct fights, apparently in states beyond Uttar Pradesh. The former UP chief minister also said the BSP would also contest polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand likely next month.

# Army Commanders' Conference to address key security issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army top brass will review issues including the prevailing situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China, security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hezbollah during two-day conference starting Thursday. Giving details, army officials said here on Wednesday the second Army Commanders' Conference for this year will be organised in a hybrid mode, with the first phase planned on October 10-11 in a forward location at Gangtok, Sikkim. In the second phase, the senior hierarchy of Indian Army will congregate at Delhi on October 28-29. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will deliver a keynote address to



the senior leadership at Gangtok and will be briefed on the emerging security challenges and the response of the Army in the security domain. As the nation faces numerous regional security challenges, the upcoming Army Commanders' Conference scheduled to commence in Sikkim on Thursday, assumes significance. Conducting the conference of Senior Commanders at a forward location underlines Indian Army's focus on

ground realities. The conference will serve as a forum for Senior Commanders to review current operational preparedness, deliberate on critical strategies and outline future directives. During the first phase of the conference, discussions will focus on critical national security issues and strategic aspects aimed at sharpening Indian Army's war fighting capabilities. Major issues to be deliberated during the two-day session

will include the growing importance of a multi-pronged national security strategy that incorporates integration of Civil Military Fusion and the Diplomatic, Information, Military, and Economic (DIME) pillars to counter contemporary threats besides the need for developing low-cost technologies and alternate strategies to counter the rapidly evolving character of warfare. Aligned to Indian Army's goal of Technological Absorption, the senior hierarchy will deliberate on various issues including infusion of technology in Professional Military Education and explore the possibilities of recruiting domain specialists in niche domains. He will also celebrate Dusshera with troops there.

Other issues under deliberation will focus on enhancing the overall organisational health and easing the processes of the Field Army to make them more resilient and responsive. The second phase of the conference will feature a discussion on evolving geopolitical landscape followed by brainstorming on operational matters and meetings of various Boards of Governors. They will deliberate upon welfare measures and schemes for financial security of serving soldiers, veterans and their families. The senior hierarchy of the Army will also be addressed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

# Congress hits back at Modi over political speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the party while virtually inaugurating development projects for Maharashtra, saying taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a "political speech". A day after the Congress' defeat in the Haryana polls, Modi called the opposition party irresponsible and a factory to "spread hatred". He said the Congress wanted to divide Hindus and pit one community against another. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) wants to weaken Maharashtra to gain power, but the ruling Mahayuti will strengthen the state, he said after virtually inaugurating various projects



worth more than Rs 7,600 crore for the state. In a social media post, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Why should the @PMOIndia use a government platform and a government programme to make a political speech and attack the opposition?" "Taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a political speech? For that, he can use the BJP's platform," Khera said. Modi said the BJP winning the Haryana Assembly

elections shows the mood of the country. He added, "In Maharashtra, we have to get a bigger victory." Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly are likely to be held next month. Modi said never before has Maharashtra seen the expeditious development of projects. Under the Congress regime, the same speed and scale was witnessed in terms of corruption, he said. "The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to spread hatred. The Congress is not concerned about development and legacy, we have paid attention to both," he said. "Our goal is Viksit Bharat with the development of poor, farmers, youth and women," the prime minister said.

# PM Modi to attend ASEAN summits, bilateral meetings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the prime minister of Lao PDR and other leaders on the margins of two key summits he is slated to attend in Vientiane on October 10-11, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday. Modi will attend the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit in Lao PDR, the current Chair of the 10-nation grouping. "We attach great significance to all ASEAN-related mechanisms. This will be PM's tenth attendance at an ASEAN-India Summit," Secretary (East) in the MEA, Jaideep Mazumdar said at a briefing here. In 2023, Modi had made efforts to be there for the ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta before the G20 Summit in New Delhi, he added. The Summit in Vientiane will review the progress in India-ASEAN ties and "chart the future direction of our relationship", Mazumdar said.



At the invitation of Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, he said. He will have a bilateral meeting with Siphandone, the Secretary (East) said. India has "close, friendly, historical and civilisational relationship" with Lao PDR, which includes a whole host of different areas, such as restoration of cultural sites, capacity building, and power projects, he added. When asked if Modi will also have bilateral meeting with

leaders of other countries, Mazumdar said, "As is normal and usual, on the margins of international conferences and meeting, the prime minister will have bilateral meetings with a number of leaders. These are all in the works, and you will get to hear of them as they happen." Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967. The member States are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam.

# President Murmu to visit African nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a state visit to three African nations Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, starting October 13, which is a reflection of India-Africa "growing partnership", Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA, Dammu Ravi, at a briefing here said the visit comes after the African Union became a member of the G20 at its summit last year under the Indian presidency of the grouping. "This visit should be seen in the context of Africa as a continent and how India wishes to engage, and is looking at having a stronger partnership with Africa. It's a reflection of India-Africa growing partnership," he said. Africa includes 54 countries and forms the "core of the Global South", Ravi said. The first leg of President Murmu's three-nation visit will begin from Algeria, then onward to Mauritania, and it will end with Malawi.



Secretary (CPV & OIA) in the MEA, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, said President Murmu will visit Algeria at the invitation of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, from October 13-15. "This will be the first-ever visit by the President of India to Algeria and a visit at the level of a head of state or a head of government after 39 years. Also, this visit will take place within a month after President Tebboune's swearing-in for his second term in office," he said.

India and Algeria have "very strong bonds of friendship", and the bilateral relations have been "warm and cordial", Chatterjee added. The next leg of her visit would be Mauritania where she will also interact with members of the Indian community, and four MoUs will be signed, the MEA said. She will reach Malawi on October 17, Ravi said, adding this three-nation visit will be an opportunity to "deepen and broaden" relations with Africa and also bilaterally with these countries.

# INS Talwar joins IBSAMAR VIII exercise in South Africa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar, arrived at Simon's Town, South Africa, on October six to participate in the eighth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy scheduled from October six-18, navy said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said the exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies. The broad concept is based on Blue Water Naval Warfare, encompassing the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare. The harbour phase of IBSAMAR VIII will include professional exchanges, Damage Control and Firefighting drills, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure drills, cross-boarding, aviation safety lectures, joint diving operations, an Ocean Governance seminar, sports interactions, cross-decks visits, and interaction among Special Forces and Junior Officers.



Multi-lateral interactions are crucial bridges of friendship that increase mutual trust and enhance interoperability among navies of like-minded littoral nations towards the common goal of a peaceful maritime domain and positive maritime environment. Defence cooperation between India and South Africa is on an upward trajectory. Operational Sea Training and Submarine Rescue Support have been commenced between both navies since the 12th edition of Navy-to-Navy talks held on August 26-28 here. The visit of INS Talwar aims to further strengthen the ties and reaffirm India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth.

# CJI DY Chandrachud reflects on legacy before retirement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with "utmost dedication" amid "fears and anxieties" as to how history will judge his tenure. The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end on November 10. "I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?" he said. The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third

convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan. "The answers to most of these questions lie beyond my control, and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication," added CJI Chandrachud. During the event, the CJI sought "pardon" for being "vulnerable" at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was "heavily preoccupied" with fears and anxieties for the future and



past. "As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: 'Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself?' The difference is subtle, yet profound. After all, the world needs leaders who are driven

by purpose and not just ambition," he said. According to the CJI, once someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes. The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a difference in the world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders. "However, over the years, I have come to realise that our ability to contribute to our community is deeply rooted in our self-perception and capacity for self-care," he said.

The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said. "As someone who is a few decades older than you, I can tell you that these fears are not easy to wish away. However, the personal growth lies in being able to address them and tackling them head-on," he told a crowd also comprising law graduates in the neighbouring country. CJI Chandrachud, known for speaking his mind, has pronounced verdicts on crucial issues affecting public life besides kicking off technological, administrative and infrastructural reforms to enhance the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

# Malabar 2024 kicks off in Visakhapatnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Opening Ceremony of Malabar 2024 under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command was held onboard Indian Naval Ship Satpura at Visakhapatnam on October nine. The 28th edition of the multi-national maritime exercise that commenced on October eight and would extend till October 18, navy said here on Wednesday. The Malabar exercise, which was initiated in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the US, gained further traction as a significant maritime engagement, with Japan and Australia joining in subsequently. The ceremony, hosted by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar,



Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, was attended by senior naval and military dignitaries from participating nations. The heads of delegations and other dignitaries participating included General Yoshihide Yoshida, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan, Admiral Stephen Koehler, Commander US Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Katsushi Omachi, C-in-C, Japan Self Defence Fleet and

Rear Admiral Chris Smith, Commander Australian Fleet. The crew and planning staff of participating ships, aircraft and Special Forces from Australia, India, Japan and the USA were also present. The Commanders of all participating navies acknowledged the importance of the exercise in enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement to address common maritime challenges and to create cooperative framework. The exercise will be conducted in two distinct phases both at Harbour and at Sea. It will witness live weapon firings, complex surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and joint manoeuvres.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Mixed bag

The BJP retains Haryana while the regional parties gain in J and K signalling paradigm shift in the valley

The verdict is out and it is not what was predicted by the exit polls. The BJP retains Haryana and National conference resurges in Jammu and Kashmir. The results once again prove that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and peace while the people of Haryana, though have resentment with the farm laws still have faith in the BJP. The election results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir have significant implications for national politics. For the BJP, these results serve as a reminder that national leadership may get it votes but its local leaders must also perform. For Congress and other opposition parties, these results offer a glimmer of hope for future contests. At the same time, the resurgence of regional parties, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, signals the enduring importance of local issues and identity politics in India's diverse political landscape. The outcomes not only redefined local political dynamics but also carried significant implications for national politics, especially for major players like the BJP, Congress, and regional parties. Moreover, the election results starkly contrasted with exit polls, which had predicted very different scenarios in both states.



The first post-Article 370 election in Jammu and Kashmir was keenly watched, given its symbolic importance in the region. While the BJP aimed to make significant inroads, particularly in the Jammu region, it faced stiff competition from regional parties like the National Conference (NC). The results saw a resurgence of regional parties, with the National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah, securing a majority of seats in the Kashmir Valley. The BJP made gains in Jammu but fell short of its ambitious targets of expanding into the Kashmir Valley. The electorate, it seemed, was more aligned with regional issues such as autonomy, identity, and economic distress rather than the BJP's nationalistic agenda. The outcome underscores the challenges the BJP faces in making a deep impact in the region, especially in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. It also highlights the resilience of local political players who continue to dominate the political narrative in the Valley. While Congress failed to reach the majority mark in Haryana, the Haryana elections put it back in the game. Its vote share was almost at par with the BJP at 39.04 per cent. The BJP vote share was 39.94 per cent. Despite the overall success of the BJP, eight out of ten ministers from the Haryana Assembly lost their seats. Of late the BJP though victorious is losing its sheen and needs to put it act together to regain the voters who are drifting away from its fold. It is a good start for the BJP for the upcoming state elections. The party must maintain the momentum into upcoming critical polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi to remain ahead of its opponents.

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### PICTALK



A pandal themed on 'Three dimension of the Universe' during Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

## The strategic role of generative AI in transforming Industries

Generative AI is transforming industries by enhancing customer experiences, boosting productivity and automating processes across sectors

Generative AI has evolved from a novelty in boardroom discussions to a transformative tool across industries. Extending the capabilities of traditional AI in automation and predictive modeling, it's reshaping business processes, customer experiences, and employee productivity. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, airlines, healthcare, manufacturing, and banking are seeing tangible benefits, as generative AI unlocks new avenues for value creation. **Enhancing Customer Experience:** Improving customer experience is a key priority for businesses today. Companies with both physical and online touchpoints are turning to generative AI, leveraging large language models (LLMs) to provide personalised recommendations that enhance buyer satisfaction and drive revenue growth. In the airline industry, Alaska Airlines has harnessed AI to offer customised flight and travel suggestions based on customer preferences such as budget and timing, significantly elevating the booking experience. By personalising



interactions, AI is allowing businesses to delight customers in ways that were previously time-intensive and difficult to scale. **Revolutionising Creativity:** Generative AI is also making waves in content creation, democratising creativity, and improving productivity. It allows companies to generate high-quality content quickly, reducing manual input and turnaround times. For example, Belk Ecommerce utilises generative AI to craft engaging product descriptions, ensuring consistency across marketing channels. This automation not only boosts operational efficiency but also delivers a cohesive shopping experience. Customer service is another area seeing improvements through generative AI. Firms like Klarna, a fintech company, use AI-powered virtual assistants to

handle millions of customer service requests, providing quick resolutions and reducing repetitive inquiries. This AI application results in faster, more accurate service and improved customer satisfaction. **Boosting Productivity:** Generative AI's ability to enhance employee productivity is becoming increasingly evident, especially in automating routine tasks. By freeing employees from monotonous work, AI enables them to focus on higher-value tasks that require strategic input. This shift is particularly significant for industries where frontline workers are pressed for time. Home Depot's US stores provide a prime example of AI-driven employee enablement. They employ AI-powered apps to assist in decision-making, inventory management, and task prioritisation, resulting in improved store operations and employee satisfaction. Generative AI also enhances documentation processes in sectors requiring high volumes of detailed reports. For instance, Bristol-Myers Squibb has integrated AI into their documentation workflows,

enabling rapid processing of clinical trial data and transforming complex, time-consuming tasks into streamlined operations. Such innovations are revolutionising sectors where speed and accuracy are paramount. **Leveraging Data:** With the increasing digitalisation of the world, businesses are relying more on data-driven insights. Generative AI can sift through vast datasets, extracting valuable insights to support better decision-making in areas such as research and data analysis. This capability is exemplified by Spotify, which uses AI to create personalised podcast previews, improving content discovery and user engagement. As generative AI transforms industries, businesses are preparing for widespread changes in operations, AI can augment every function. However, with these advancements comes the challenge of upskilling the workforce. Organizations need to ensure their employees are adaptable and equipped to leverage AI. (The writer is co-founder & chief operating officer, Simplilearn; views are personal)



KASHYAP DALAL

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted its first Assembly elections in a decade. It showcased the peaceful embrace of democracy by its people last week after decades of militancy. These polls were held after the bifurcation of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, following the revocation of Article 370. The BJP claimed that the move was necessary to tackle separatism, enhance economic development and fully integrate the region into the country. Since 1989, the state has faced militancy, violence and a boycott of polls by separatist elements allegedly sponsored by Pakistan. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said, "The peaceful and participative elections are historic, wherein democracy is taking root more profoundly than ever before, driven by the will of the people of J and K." Intense campaigning, peaceful polling and high voter turnout marked the polls. Those afraid to go to the polling booth were allowed to vote peacefully. These were significant not only for political reasons but also because of developments such as the first Legislative Assembly elections in ten years, the abrogation of Article 370, and the restoration of democracy. This time, the Hindu-dominated Jammu and Muslim-dominated Kashmir were united in the demand to restore statehood, which the Centre had promised earlier. The higher voter turnout showed people's desire for democracy. They were tired of gun fights and wanted to live a normal life. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar praised the people of the Union Territory, which recorded 58.46 per cent voter turnout, the highest in 35 years. The security forces ensured a violence-free election. They also stifled the free movement of separatists. These elections differed from the previous polls as the politics of this region is no longer limited to the four traditional political parties NC, PDP, and the national political parties INC and the BJP. The new addition was the participation of separatist elements in these polls, which must be addressed, as they had



chosen the ballot route rather than the bullet route. Despite many poll issues like lack of development and unemployment, the people wanted a revival of statehood and a united Jammu and Kashmir. The other key issues were Article 370, law and order, terrorism, and socio-economic stability. The delimitation panel gave Jammu six additional seats and Kashmir one. The Opposition held that the balance was tilting in favour of Hindu-majority Jammu. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes got nine seats reserved. Kashmir has been under the international scanner. Diplomats from many countries were taken to the state to observe the polls. They got first-hand information from visiting the state. There are several reasons for the peaceful polls this time. The first was the minimal involvement of Pakistan, as it had its internal problems to sort out. India blames Pakistan for training, funding and pushing Islamist militants, targeting the Hindu-dominated Jammu area more than the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley. Pakistan denies the

THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER RAJIV KUMAR PRAISED THE PEOPLE OF THE UNION TERRITORY, WHICH RECORDED 58.46 PER CENT VOTER TURNOUT, THE HIGHEST IN 35 YEARS

charges. Secondly, Kashmiris were tired of living in violent and disturbed situations. Two generations of Children had lost their normal childhood. Thirdly, militants did not call for the boycott of elections this time. On the contrary, separatists themselves entered the poll fray. Many areas once known as terror hotbeds saw brisk polling. The militants probably realised they needed funds and patrons, which they lacked. So, they decided to go through the election route. BJP chief JP Nadda said people had rejected the ballots and chose the ballot route. The election in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a multi-cornered contest for the 90 seats. The National Conference and Congress went for a coalition. At the same time, the BJP and PDP were the other two significant players. The BJP had high stakes but a weak political base in the Valley, while it's strong in Jammu. The party contested only 19 of the 47 seats in the Valley. BJP knew the realistic position in the Valley where it could not hope to get votes. So, the BJP is fighting through proxies. A BJP candidate admitted that the



KALYANI SHANKAR

## Revival of democracy amidst calls for statehood

Following the 2019 revocation of Article 370, these elections were a landmark moment, reflecting the people's desire for normalcy and statehood

party would get support from Engineer Rashid, Sajad Lone, Altaf Bukhari, and Ghulam Nabi Azad - all minor players. Kashmiri pundits are still afraid of returning home. The people in both Jammu and the Valley lament the downgrading of the state to two union territories. There is still unemployment and the drug and narcotic trade menace in the state. The election results are out and the National Conference-Congress coalition has got a clear edge. The BJP, which has no presence in the Valley, propped up some independents and hopes to do well in Jammu. The Centre should take credit for completing the election process, and so should the Election Commission. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve kudos for fearlessly going to the polling booth to vote. They showed the trend in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections too. There is no doubt Jammu and Kashmir want a popular government. But the only worry is that they must vote for a stable government rather than a split verdict. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

Madam — Apropos to the 'Strategic Balancing Act', October 8. With Maldivian President Muizzu making his first state visit to India, New Delhi-Male ties are clearly on the mend. Contrast this with the situation in the beginning of the year when Muizzu declined to make India his first port of call after assuming the presidency, undertook a state visit to China, inked a defence cooperation pact with Beijing, and demanded that New Delhi pull out its small contingent of troops in the archipelago nation. The reality is that both countries need each other irrespective of differences of opinion on certain issues. No country can escape geography and this certainly holds true for both India and the Maldives. India will always remain the Maldives's closest, largest Indian Ocean neighbour and first responder in all crises. China simply can't be a replacement here given its physical distance from the region. Therefore, New Delhi, which also needs Male for better strategic depth in the Indian Ocean Region, and Male have no option but to enhance their cooperative relationship. Muizzu had campaigned on an 'India Out' plank during his election. But fighting elections outside the government and running a country are two different things. Plus, India has always stood by the Maldives. Also, Muizzu has asked Indian tourists to return to the Maldives, something that is vital for that country's economy. Thus, New Delhi-Male relations have once again found equilibrium. That will be a relief for India after the Bangladesh shock. N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

#### Vegetable prices rise in festival season



The prices of vegetables are going through the roof in the market. During Dussehra and Diwali festivals, the prices of essentials and vegetables are skyrocketing. Almost all the vegetables are approaching the century mark. The common man is getting upset with the increased prices. Recently, the increased prices of essential goods have come into force in the context of the central government increasing the import duty on foreign goods imports. Due to this effect, cooking oil prices have gone up. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil have gone up. Till yesterday, the price of tomato was less than 50 rupees, now it has doubled. Recently, due to weather conditions, crops have been badly damaged in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The situation has changed as the tomato coming from these regions has suddenly decreased. In the absence of tomatoes, hotels and fast food centres are reducing the use of tomatoes. Due to this, the people and the hotel managers are facing severe difficulties. Onion prices also seem to be at that level. Onion price is increasing due to insufficient supply from Maharashtra. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man. Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

Hezbollah fired thousands of rockets at Israel, it did not suffer any major damage. But as soon as Israel attacked Lebanon on the ground, more than 10 Israeli security forces were killed within a few hours. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said during the first anniversary that 'Israel will continue to attack its enemies as long as its security is under threat.' I think Netanyahu was probably talking about his own security, not Israel's. Because the day this war ends, Netanyahu's journey to the political pinnacle will end and the Israeli people will immediately oust him from power. Because three-fourths of Jews are extremely angry with him for the way he has handled this war. The way even today hundreds of hostages are in the custody of Hamas for which Netanyahu has done nothing. Several decisions passed by the United Nations this year and the decision given by the International Court of Justice make it clear that what Israel calls a 'terrorist' attack is actually a reaction to an action'. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### UPHOLDING TRUE SECULARISM

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief" (October 7). Far from being a "Hindu nation," India is historically a nation of all ("None can tell, at whose beckoning, vast waves of humanity/in currents unstoppable, from the unknown here arrived/To merge into the Great Sea" - Rabindranath Tagore), and this is the very reason why "Secularism" is embedded right within the Constitution itself. If Hindus indeed "care for everyone" as their own and "embrace all" so as to live in "harmony," then what compels the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat to advise his own religious group to unite by transcending all narrow barriers of race, language, state and caste! This directly proves that Hindus are a highly divided lot in demographic terms and this gets proved through caste-based atrocities upon Dalits and torture upon linguistic/racial minorities in different states! Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## ACHIEVING WORK LIFE BALANCE

A healthy work-life dynamic not only benefits individuals but also strengthens communities



SAKSHI SETHI

In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing socio-economic disruptions. These crises have not only claimed lives but have also altered the very fabric of our daily routines and working environments. Amidst these tumultuous times, the concept of work-life balance has emerged as a crucial necessity, emphasising the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being while fulfilling professional responsibilities. The rising death tolls and widespread fear associated with global crises have taken a toll on mental health. Today, grief, anxiety and uncertainty have become commonplace as people grapple with loss and disruption. There is no denying the fact that fast-paced technological advancements require constant adaptation and learning, which can be overwhelming and contribute to stress. In many Indian companies, there is a culture of overwork, where taking time off is frowned upon. Many executives even end up working extended hours, sacrificing their time and health, which contributes to physical as well as mental exhaustion. Moreover, this can even lead to a toxic environment where employees not only feel they have to prove their worth constantly, but the stigma associated with failure may even drive them to push themselves to unhealthy limits to succeed. Poor diet, lack of exercise and high-stress levels have led to lifestyle-related health issues such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, which are prevalent among high-level executives.



Economic downturns and market volatility add pressure on executives to perform, leading to increased stress and associated health risks. In such a climate, achieving a balance between work and personal life has become essential for fostering resilience and promoting overall well-being. A healthy work-life balance allows an individual to dedicate time towards self-care, family and community, which are vital for emotional recovery and stability. The shift to remote work and flexible schedules, prompted by the pandemic, has underscored the need for a re-evaluation of traditional work structures. If remote work offers flexibility, at the same time it has also blurred the lines between personal as well as professional life, leading to longer hours and increased stress. It's the need of the hour for organisations to recognise this and promote policies that encourage employees to set boundaries, take breaks and prioritise personal time. Addressing the high death toll among executives in Indian companies for instance the Pune CA death followed by a reputed Indian working for NBFC and committing suicide on a similar ground- i.e. work pressure and mental distress from the seniors necessitates a multi-faceted approach. Organisations must prioritise mental health support, promote a healthier work-life balance, and create a culture that values employee well-being. By taking these steps, companies can not only help mitigate the risks associated with high-stress environments but also foster a healthier and more sustainable workplace. By fostering an environment that values work-life balance, employees can enhance productivity and employee satisfaction, thereby leading to lower turnover rates and a more engaged workforce. Achieving work-life balance is not solely a personal endeavour but it also has broader implications for society. When individuals can manage their work and personal lives effectively, they are more likely to engage in their communities, volunteer and support local initiatives. This communal engagement will foster social connections and strengthen the fabric of society, thereby making it more resilient in the face of adversity. By prioritising work-life balance, we as citizens of the nation will contribute not only to our well-being but also to the health of our communities.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

## The key to a sustainable and low-carbon future



ASHOK KUMAR

By adopting energy-efficient practices, the country not only cuts emissions but also saves millions of tonnes of oil equivalent, leading to a more sustainable future

Energy efficiency refers to the practice of using less energy to achieve the same level of output or perform the same task. It is one of the most impactful strategies for reducing energy consumption, cutting costs, and mitigating environmental harm. As global energy demand continues to rise, enhancing energy efficiency has become critical in the fight against climate change, resource conservation, and ensuring a sustainable future. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global rate of energy efficiency improvement has averaged around 2 per cent per year, with some variations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, global energy consumption reached approximately 15,000 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE), as reported in the Enerdata Yearbook 2024. A 2 per cent improvement in efficiency would save about 300 MTOE—an amount greater than India's entire industrial energy consumption, which stands at around 270 MTOE in 2022-23. In 2022-23, sectors such as industry, buildings, and transport consumed 552 MTOE out of India's total primary energy consumption of 850 MTOE. The industrial sector accounted for 49 per cent of this total, while transport and buildings (residential and commercial) contributed 12 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. India is one of the few nations with a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for energy conservation.

The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power are pivotal in driving energy efficiency programmes across various sectors. India's flagship programmes include the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme for energy-intensive industries, initiatives for energy-efficient buildings, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and the star rating and labelling scheme for household appliances and industrial equipment. In 2022-23, these programmes collectively saved around 51 MTOE, equivalent to reducing carbon emissions by approximately 306 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This energy efficiency contribution accounts for about 10 per cent of India's annual emissions, which stands at around 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Energy efficiency is projected to play a crucial role in global climate action.

It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the emissions reductions needed to reach net zero by 2050 must come from energy efficiency measures, many of which offer short payback periods ranging from 3-5 years. Often dubbed the "first fuel," energy efficiency is seen as a vital tool in maintaining a sustainable, low-carbon future. Given the constrained carbon budget outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment, energy efficiency is more important than ever in controlling global temperature rise.

**The Importance of Energy Efficiency:** It is a cornerstone of sustainable development, offering multiple advantages such as cost savings, environmental protection, energy security and resource conservation.

Energy-efficient technologies reduce consumption, which, in turn, cuts utility bills for individuals, businesses, and governments. Reduced energy use decreases greenhouse gas emissions and helps combat global warming. It also diminishes pollutants that harm air and water quality. Additionally, energy efficiency decreases overall demand, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050 MUST COME FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, MANY OF WHICH OFFER SHORT PAYBACK PERIODS RANGING FROM 3-5 YEARS

strengthening energy security, especially for countries heavily reliant on imports. It also reduces the need for new power plants and industrial facilities, conserving natural resources and limiting environmental impact.

**Key Sectors and Strategies Industry:** The industrial sector is the largest global energy consumer, driven by processes such as manufacturing, mining and machinery use. Enhancing energy efficiency in this sector involves optimising processes, recovering waste energy, and implementing energy management systems. Upgrading equipment, improving production methods, and utilising efficient motors and pumps can significantly reduce energy consumption. The National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), launched in 2011, targets energy-intensive industries.

Under its PAT Scheme, industries are assigned specific energy-saving targets (energy use per unit of product), and the market-based approach allows trading of excess energy savings. This initiative has resulted in substantial energy savings, leading to a reduction of approximately 110 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As of August 2024, the PAT scheme covers 1,333 energy-intensive industries and establishments across 13 sectors, including steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizer, petroleum refineries, thermal power plants, and others. As India develops its carbon market mechanism, many of these sectors will participate as "obligated entities" with specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets.

The carbon market will facilitate this transition by implementing a market-based approach to pricing GHG emissions. This mechanism encourages both public and private entities to engage in decarbonisation efforts across various sectors. Entities that reduce emissions below their targets can earn Carbon Credit Certificates, while those that do not must purchase credits to comply.

Additionally, the mechanism will have a voluntary component, allowing non-obligated entities to register projects focused on reducing, removing, or avoiding GHG emissions to obtain carbon credits.

**The Standards & Labeling (S&L) Programme:** launched in 2006, rates appliances based on their energy efficiency, from 1 to 5 stars. This program covers 38 appliances, with 16 falling under mandatory regulations. As of August 2024, the programme has saved 82 billion units of energy, equivalent to cutting 58 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The UJALA Scheme and the Street Light National Program (SLNP) have also been successful in replacing inefficient lighting with LED solutions, leading to significant energy savings and emission reductions. As of September 2024, approximately 370 million LED bulbs and 7.2 million LED tube lights have been distributed through the UJALA scheme. This has resulted in an annual reduction of 39 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. **Buildings:** Buildings are another major energy consumer, particularly through heating, cooling, and lighting. Energy-efficient building design, proper insulation, and smart energy management systems can dramatically reduce energy use.

The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), introduced in 2007, mandates minimum energy performance standards for commercial and residential buildings. Recent updates, such as the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) and the Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) for residential buildings, aim to further reduce energy consumption in large buildings by up to 18 per cent.

**Transportation:** It is a major contributor to global energy use, primarily from fossil fuels. Improving fuel efficiency in vehicles and promoting electric and hybrid vehicles are key strategies. The Indian government has implemented fuel efficiency standards for

passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles and aims to expand the electric vehicle ecosystem including charging infrastructure. As of 2024, India's charging stations are expected to increase to 100,000 by 2030, supporting the growing number of electric vehicles. To create awareness of the benefits of Electric Vehicles (EVs), the "Go Electric" Campaign was launched in Feb 2021. This involves radio jingles, poster/leaflets distribution, awareness through social media platforms, street plays, etc.

**Electricity Generation and Transmission:** Upgrading power plants and incorporating renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are vital for reducing emissions in electricity generation. Under the PAT Scheme, India's thermal power plants have improved their efficiency, contributing to a reduction of 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. As of August 2024, 46 per cent of India's installed power capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, surpassing the commitment made at the Paris COP 21 summit.

**Challenges:** Despite its benefits, the adoption of energy efficiency measures faces challenges like high upfront costs, limited awareness, and policy gaps. These barriers can be addressed through financial support mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of comprehensive, flexible policies. Conclusion Energy efficiency is an essential driver of sustainable development, offering significant economic, environmental, and social benefits.

As technology improves and policies strengthen, energy efficiency will remain crucial in reducing energy demand and mitigating climate change. By adopting energy-efficient practices in our homes, industries, and transportation systems, we can contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

(The writer is DDG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency; views are personal)

## Surya Ghar Yojana: A sustainable alternative to free electricity politics

Unlike conventional freebies, this scheme boosts long-term savings, infrastructure investment and promotes sustainable energy production

In response to the growing trend of political parties offering free electricity to secure votes, the Narendra Modi government has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana. This initiative aims to promote solar energy adoption by providing homeowners with a subsidy ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 78,000 for installing one to three kW solar panels. The scheme is designed to reduce dependence on government subsidies while offering households the benefit of free electricity for up to 25 years.



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

units of electricity per month, covering a significant portion of their energy needs. At the current rate of Rs 8 per unit, this translates to a monthly saving of Rs 2,400. Over 25 years, the total savings per household would amount to approximately Rs 7.20 lakh, ensuring that the initial cost of installation is recovered within one to two years. The government has also made provisions for consumers to finance

the remaining amount at a concessional interest rate of 7 per cent.

**Addressing the Politics of Free Electricity**

In recent years, several political parties have leveraged the promise of free electricity as a means to gain political support. States like Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have implemented such schemes, offering free or subsidised electricity to a significant portion of their populations.

In Delhi, for instance, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government provides up to 200 units of electricity for free and a 50 per cent subsidy for those consuming between 201 and 400 units. However, the cost of these schemes has placed a significant burden on state budgets. In Delhi, Rs

3,250 crore was allocated for electricity subsidies in the 2023-24 budget, out of a total budget of Rs 78,800 crore. Under AAP's rule, the capital expenditure growth rate has declined from 19.6 per cent during the previous Congress government's tenure to 9.2 per cent. Consequently, infrastructure development in Delhi has slowed, with fewer new projects being launched. The situation is similar in other states where free electricity has been promised. Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are all grappling with mounting debts, making it increasingly difficult to sustain free electricity schemes. In some cases, states have had to scale back or abandon these initiatives due to financial constraints.

**A Viable Alternative**

The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana offers a more sustainable solution. By encouraging households to generate their own electricity through rooftop solar panels, the scheme reduces the long-term burden on government finances. The total investment required by households under the scheme is Rs 1.5 lakh,

including the government subsidy. With one crore households expected to participate, this would result in an additional capacity of 30 GW of solar power, significantly boosting India's renewable energy output.

Unlike traditional free electricity schemes, which are funded by annual government subsidies, the Surya Ghar Yojana provides long-term benefits without placing a strain on the budget. By generating their own electricity, households will no longer be dependent on yearly subsidies and will contribute to reducing the country's carbon footprint. This aligns with India's broader goals of increasing renewable energy production and achieving net-zero emissions.

**Environmental Impact**

The Surya Ghar Yojana has far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. First, it provides households with a reliable source of free electricity for 25 years, ensuring significant savings on energy bills. This also reduces the government's reliance on costly subsidies, freeing up funds for essential infrastructure development.

Second, the scheme is expected to generate large-scale employment, with over one lakh people required to be trained to install and maintain solar panels. This will not only create new jobs but also develop a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sector. Third, by increasing solar energy production, the scheme will help India reduce its

dependence on fossil fuels, contributing to the country's efforts to combat climate change. Rooftop solar panels are an environmentally friendly alternative to coal-based power plants, and their widespread adoption will significantly reduce carbon emissions. By encouraging households to invest in solar energy, the scheme not only reduces the burden on state budgets but also contributes to India's renewable energy goals. The widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels has the potential to transform the energy landscape, providing households while helping India move closer to achieving its environmental objectives.

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)



# More than 200 senior doctors resign in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hundreds of senior doctors from various medical colleges including Calcutta Medical College, CNM Medical College, Sagor Dutta Medical, North Bengal Medical College joined their RG Kar Medical College and Hospital colleagues tendering on Wednesday mass resignation in protest against the State Government's "nonchalant approach" towards the eight junior doctors who have been on an indefinite fast for the past 96 hours and whose condition continued to deteriorate. "The condition of the junior doctors sitting in an indefinite fast is deteriorating by the hour and the Government is so arrogant and nonchalant that they have simply not cared to even call them for talks... we the senior doctors could not sit back and enjoy the Durga Pujas while our children suffer

like this for a rightful demand... so we have tendered mass resignation," one of the doctors of Calcutta Medical College said. This, whereas scores of members of Junior Doctors' Association from Delhi, Jodhpur and other places started reaching the fasting site at Esplanade in central Kolkata to express their solidarity with their Kolkata brethren. About 50 senior doctors of RGGKMCH had on Tuesday resigned en masse to express solidarity with their junior colleagues. "This is almost the same place where our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had done a 26-day fast against the setting up of Tata Nano factory at Singur in 2006... she knows the pain and risk of such indefinite fast... yet her Government is not sensitive enough to come and talk to these junior doctors who are



like our children and who are fighting in the interest of the general health set up of the State... it is not the duty of the Government to come and talk to them," said Dr Tamta a senior doctor. Members of the civil society including actor Kaushik Sen, activist Sujata Bhadra too wrote to the Chief Minister requesting her to "take a sympathetic view towards the doctors' demands." The doctors' movement started after the brutal rape and murder of a postgraduate lady doctor of the RGGKMCH on

August 9 inside the seminar room of the chest medicine department of the hospital. Even as the doctors demanded justice for the victim they added in their ten-point demand among other things a centralized referral system, security for all the medical staff inside the hospitals, ending of the threat syndicate and related malpractices that were rampant in most of the Government medical colleges and hospitals, basic amenities like rest rooms and washrooms for doctors, installation of CCTV cameras in all the Government hospitals, real-time monitoring of bed availability, and the establishment of task forces to ensure the proper functioning of essential facilities like CCTV cameras, on-call rooms, and washrooms, etc. The doctors have also been asking for students' body elections --- that had not taken for quite some time now --- to be

conducted in all colleges "so that students nominated by influential people from the ruling party do not get the chance to control the system and perpetrate a threat syndicate and extort lakhs of rupees from students and even subjecting them sexual exploitation, junior doctors said. Meanwhile Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said that the Government had received no official communication of mass resignation, adding such mass resignations were anything but procedural. "Resignations are tendered individually before they are accepted," he said apparently making the Government's intentions clear. Elsewhere, the police on Wednesday stopped the vehicles carrying doctors around Durga Puja pandals where they were likely to raise slogans and sensitize the general people.

# Mumbai cops arrest man for mercilessly beating dog to death

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police have registered an FIR against a man for allegedly beating a dog to death at Juhu in north-west Mumbai. Acting on a complaint lodged by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and a concerned citizen, Jay Sarin that the accused man had mercilessly beaten a dog to death using metal rod, the Juhu police registered an FIR against the accused man. An FIR has been registered against the accused under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. "Those who abuse animals often move on to harming humans. It is imperative that



members of the public report cases of cruelty to animals such as this one for everyone's safety," PETA India Cruelty Response Coordinator Sinchana Subramanyam said in a press statement. "We commend Sub-Inspector Rahul Shinde for his prompt action in registering the FIR

sending a strong message that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated," Subramanyam said. The PETA India recommended that perpetrators of animal abuse undergo psychiatric evaluation and receive counselling, as abusing animals indicates a deep psychological disturbance.

# President emphasises need for investment in research, quality improvement in Ayurveda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday emphasised the need for investment in research and quality improvement in Ayurveda and called for strengthening educational institutions to ensure more qualified Ayurvedic doctors are available, so patients can see knowledgeable practitioners instead of uneducated ones. In her address at the eight foundation day celebrations of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) here, the President also noted that in the past few years, the number of Ayurveda colleges and students has increased significantly. This will ensure, she expressed confidence that in the coming times the availability of qualified Ayurvedic doctors will



increase further. The President also sought strict action against those making false and misleading claims in the name of Ayurveda by taking advantage of the unwavering faith of the people in the traditional system of medicine. "We have an unwavering faith

in Ayurveda from generation to generation. Taking advantage of this faith, some people harm innocent people by making false and misleading claims. They not only harm the health of the citizens but also tarnish Ayurveda. There is a need to take stern action against such people," Murmu said.

# Delhi HC asks DUSU candidates to clean campuses defaced during polls for counting to take place

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the candidates of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) and college elections to clean all campus structures defaced during the polls if they wanted vote count to take place. The high court, which had on September 26 halted the counting of votes and declaration of results of DUSU and college elections, said its purpose was only to send a message that such violations would not be tolerated and not to thwart the election process. "Why don't you clean up the mess? The day the place is cleaned up, we will allow the counting of votes the very next day," a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. "Every day in the city, some crisis or the other



is happening. There is dengue, malaria. It's all because we are littering the place. And this (election) is a festival of democ-

cracy, it is not supposed to be a festival of money laundering," the court further said. The court was hearing an appli-

cation filed by two candidates who contested the college elections in two separate DU colleges, seeking declaration of

results. The counsel for the two candidates submitted that they would ensure the premises of Law Centre II and Ramjas College, where they are studying, are cleaned up and repainted in coordination with the varsity. The application was filed in a pending petition seeking action against the DUSU candidates and student outfits involved in damaging, defacing, soiling or destroying the beauty of public walls. Petitioner Prashant Manchanda, a practising advocate, said the erring candidates and their parties be directed to remove the defacement and refurbish the areas and make efforts to beautify the destroyed portions. The court granted time to the candidates, petitioner, MCD, and DMRC to file their status reports and listed the matter for October 21.

# Missing soldier's body...

From page 1

The operation continued overnight as one soldier of the Territorial Army was reported missing. According to preliminary reports, two jawans of the Territorial Army were reportedly kidnapped by the terrorists from the forest area of Anantnag late Tuesday evening during the counter-terrorist operation. One of the jawans, despite receiving bullet injuries, managed to escape, while the body of another soldier was recovered on Wednesday. The deceased soldier has been identified as Hilal Ahmad Bhat of Nowgam village of Anantnag. The condition of another soldier, who managed to flee, was stated to be stable. The deceased soldier is survived by his wife, five-year-old son, Azaan, and a minor daughter.

# Delhi Chief Minister's bungalow...

From page 1

In a statement, the CMO said that for the first time in the history of the country, the Chief Minister's residence was vacated. Several cartons and luggage were seen being taken out of the official residence. A double lock has been put on the residence, sources said, adding proper paperwork was not submitted to the PWD regarding the handover of the keys. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said "Arvind Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' was sealed" and claimed that "a lot of secrets were hidden in the bungalow". Earlier in the day, AAP MP Sanjay Singh said that in "defiance" of protocol, officers are "not allotting the bungalow to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi due to BJP's pressure, even as it was vacated by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal". Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta accused the CM of "illegally" occupying the bungalow and demanded it be sealed.

However, the Department of Vigilance, which reports to the Lt Governor, claimed that the bungalow has not been handed over to the Public Works Department (PWD) and issued show cause notices to three officials for failing to take appropriate action for the vacation of Chief Minister's bungalow and handed over the possession to PWD. In Delhi, there is no dedicated house earmarked as the official residence of the Chief Minister. Kejriwal has been living in the house since 2015 and renovated the bungalow in 2020-21, inviting controversy over the related cost. The Vigilance Department has issued notices to Pravesh Ranjan Jha, Special Secretary to the then CM, Vijay Kumar, Section Officer and Mukesh Kumar, Section Officer. The department has said that the keys of the house handed over to PWD were taken back after some time are yet to be handed over to PWD to complete the process of handing over. The Vigilance Department has asked for a response

within seven days in this regard. In the notices, the said said the bungalow was never earmarked as an official bungalow/residence of Chief Minister of Delhi. "The building at '6 Flag Staff Road' was constructed without any sanction plan of PWD or any other authority. Further, no completion certificate has been issued in r/o the said structure constructed at '6 Flag Staff Road', Civil Lines. The said structure/building has never been earmarked as official residence for Chief Minister of Delhi," it said. According to Raj Niwas sources, "Former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal never handed over the property to the PWD after vacating it, raising questions about potential hidden motives. While CM Atishi's official residence is currently at 17 AB Mathura Road, she briefly moved her belongings into the 6 Flag Staff Road property without formal allotment. The bungalow will be allotted once the PWD completes its process," the sources added.

# Who will be Haryana CM?

From page 1

"When asked about the oath ceremony, Saini said, "I don't know about it. Our parliamentary board will decide this. The parliamentary board's decision will be acceptable to all. The legislative group of the party will elect its leader." To a question about the Congress raising doubts on EVMs, he said the opposition party has been building up a storm of lies. He said, "The credit of this big win goes to Modi who brought such schemes in the last 10 years that benefited the poor, farmers, youth and women. These helped all sections of the society. People love him, and hence the BJP is coming to power for a third time." With the party set to form its government, two Independent MLAs - Congress rebel Rajesh Joon and BJP rebel Devendra Kadian - announced their support to it. They met BJP leaders, including the party's Haryana state president Mohan Lal Badoli, to convey their support. Another Independent MLA and industrialist Savitri Jindal met Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the BJP's in-charge for the polls in the state, and will be supporting the party, its

leaders said. The BJP, which pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana by bucking anti-incumbency, managed to make significant inroads into the Dalit seats and Jat strongholds. The Congress was heavily banking on the Dalit and Jat votes to make a comeback after a decade of being out of power. Not only this, the BJP also managed to retain seats in the Ahrirwal region and the GT Road belt to shatter the Congress' comeback plans in Haryana, which went to polls on Saturday and results for which were declared on Tuesday. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than those won by Congress in the present elections, parties like the JJP and AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two seats. Proving wrong exit polls which predicted a comfortable Congress win, the BJP will be forming government in Haryana for the third consecutive term. Out of 17 Scheduled Caste (SC) seats in Haryana, the BJP won eight assembly constituencies — Nilokheri, Pataudi, Kharkhauda, Hodal, Bawal, Narwana, Israna and Bawani Khera. From Hodal, Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan lost

to BJP's Harinder Singh. The Congress could secure victory in the remaining nine SC seats — Sadhaura, Shahbad, Ratia, Uklana, Kalanaur, Kalanwali, Jhajjar, Guhla and Mulana — according to the Election Commission data. Among several steps to woo the Dalit community, the Nayab Singh Saini government accepted the report of the Haryana Scheduled Caste Commission after the Supreme Court had held that states were constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the SCs. The sub-classification of SCs into the 'deprived SCs' category comprising Dhanaks, Bazigars, Kabirpanthi, Balmikis, Mazahbis and Mazhabi Sikhs, and other SCs comprising Chamars, Rahgars, Raigars, Ravidassias, Ramdassias and Mochis for the purpose of reservation in government jobs also seemed to have worked in favour of the party. In poll speeches, the BJP leaders targeted the Congress calling it anti-Dalit outfit and accused the previous Congress regime of depriving jobs to people in the reservation category. Not only Dalit seats, the BJP also won a significant number of seats in constituencies which were

considered Jat strongholds, such as in Sonapat, Rohtak and Jind districts. In the Jat stronghold, the BJP won five seats — Gohana, Jind, Safidon, Sonapat and Uchana Kalan. The Congress registered victories in Baroda, Beri, Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, Julana, Meham and Rohtak. Two Independents won Bahadurgarh and Ganaur constituencies. The Congress was heavily relying on the consolidation of Jat votes which constitute nearly 25 per cent of the state's population and Dalit votes which constitute nearly 20 per cent votes. But the BJP made significant gains into both these vote banks. On the other hand, the BJP also focused on its outreach to non-Jat votes and built its narrative around the performance of the Saini government. The BJP dispensation raised the annual income limit of creamy layer of backward classes from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh for the purpose of employment. Replacing Manohar Lal Khattar with OBC face Saini in the month of March was seen as the masterstroke of the BJP to counter the anti-incumbency of the past nine-and-a-half years and realign its focus to woo different castes.

# Will demand restoration of ...

From page 1

Commenting on the scale of mandate Omar said while he is humbled by the mandate of the people, he is also acutely aware of the responsibility that it places upon them. "The people of J-K have gone unheard since 2018. Now the time has come for us to work for the benefit of the people of J-K. I am also acutely aware of the fact that there is a sharp divide between Kashmir and Jammu and therefore, the incoming Government will have a major responsibility of giving a sense of ownership to the people of Jammu," he said. "The Government that comes in the next few days will not be a government of the NC or of the alliance, or it will not be a Government of those who voted for the alliance, it will be a Government for every single individual of J-K, regardless of who they voted for, or whether they voted at all," the NC leader said.

"A special emphasis will be laid to give a sense of ownership and a voice within the government to those areas from where MLAs in this coalition will be less in number," he added. Asked how important was the need for coordination between the new J-K government and Centre, the NC leader said nothing could be achieved by having a confrontation with New Delhi. "Let the government be formed first. This question should be posed to the chief minister. There should be a cordial relationship with New Delhi. My advice to him (CM) will be that we cannot address any issues by having a confrontation with the Centre. "It is not that we will accept the BJP's politics, or that the BJP will accept our politics. We will continue to oppose the BJP, but it is not our compulsion to oppose the Centre. It will be for the benefit of J-K and for the people of J-K to have a good

relationship with the Centre," he said. "The people have not voted for a confrontation. The people of J-K have voted because they want employment, they want development, they want the restoration of the Statehood, they want to address electricity and other issues and that redressal will not happen by having a confrontation with New Delhi," he added. Omar said the NC would call a meeting of the legislative party on Thursday to start the process of Government formation. "I have spoken to NC president Farooq Abdullah and the party will call a legislative party meeting tomorrow. After that, there will be a meeting of the alliance partners where the alliance leader will be elected and then we will go to the Raj Bhavan to stake the claim for Government formation," he said, adding, "I hope the new Government is in place in the next few days".

# Congress 'analysing' ...

From page 1

Rahul said the Congress was looking into the results of the Haryana Assembly polls. "We are analysing the unexpected results of Haryana. We will inform the Election Commission about the complaints coming from many Assembly constituencies," he said. "Heartfelt thanks to all the people of Haryana for their support and to our 'Babbar Sher' workers for their tireless hard work," he said in a social media post. "We will continue this fight for rights, for social and economic justice, for truth, and will keep raising your voice," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said. Further a delegation of the Congress comprising K C Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Ajay Maken, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Pratap Singh Bajwa, Abhishek Singhvi, Udai Bhan, Jaimam Ramesh, and Pawan Khara met the Election Commission on Wednesday at Nirvachan Sadan.

# Congress practises politics...

From page 1

"The Congress believes in dividing Hindus. It tries to make political gains by pitting one caste against another. That's why whenever there are elections, the Congress tries to derive political mileage by driving a wedge in the Hindu community. The Congress fights elections on religious and caste lines," Modi said. Cautioning the people across the country about the "evil designs" of the Congress, Modi said: "Despite having been in power for so many years, the Congress is desperate to return to power. It is so desperate that it practises politics of hatred. It runs the biggest factory to spread hatred in the society. Soon after the Independence, Mahatma Gandhi sensed the vile intentions of Congress, and that's why he wanted to dismantle the party. But, the

Congress not only survived but it is now trying to destroy the country". Accusing the Congress of "feeding on fears" in the minds of Muslims in the country, the Prime Minister said: "Apart from indulging in casteist politics among the Hindus, the Congress induces fears in the minds of Muslims and converts them into vote banks for its electoral benefit". Alluding to the BJP's return to power in Haryana for the third consecutive term, Modi said: "The Congress' ecosystem is that of urban-naxalites. It believes in misleading the people. But the people of Haryana destroyed the conspiracy of the Congress... The Congress tried to create a rift within different sections of the society. But, the people saw through the Congress' game plan and supported the policies and development

governance model of the BJP and voted us back to power for the third consecutive term". Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Rs 7,600 crore worth development projects, including the upgradation of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur and the New Integrated Terminal Building at Shirdi Airport. He inaugurated 10 Government Medical Colleges in Maharashtra, Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), Mumbai and Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in the state. Recalling his visit to Mumbai and Thane to inaugurate projects worth Rs 30,000 crore, including expansion of Metro network, upgradation of airports, highway projects, infrastructure, solar energy and textile parks, Modi said, "Never in the history of Maharashtra has development

taken place at such a fast pace and on such a large scale, in different sectors". The Prime Minister said that going by the manner in which his government was supporting the textile industry, the cotton farmers of Maharashtra would be greatly benefited. Modi said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre was committed to strengthening Maharashtra. He expressed happiness with the state's pace of progress and congratulated the people of Maharashtra for all the development projects of today. Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis were virtually present on the occasion.



# FBI arrests Afghan man for planning Election Day attack in US

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI has arrested an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organisation and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the US, the Justice Department said on Tuesday. Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City told investigators after his arrest Monday that he had planned his attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that he and a co-conspirator expected to die as martyrs, according to charging documents. Tawhedi, who arrived in the US in September 2021, had taken steps in recent weeks to advance his attack plans, including by ordering AK-47 rifles, liquidating his family's assets and buying one-way tickets for his wife and child to travel home to Afghanistan, officials said. The arrest comes as the FBI con-

fronts heightened concerns over the possibility of extremist violence on US soil, with Director Christopher Wray telling The Associated Press in August that he was "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once". "Terrorism is still the FBI's number one priority, and we will use every resource to protect the American people," Wray said in a statement on Tuesday. An FBI affidavit does not reveal precisely how Tawhedi came onto investigators' radar, but cites what it says is evidence from recent months showing his determination in planning an attack. A photograph from July included in the affidavit depicts a man investigators identified as Tawhedi reading to two young children, including his daughter, "a text that describes the rewards a martyr receives in the afterlife". Officials say Tawhedi also consumed

Islamic State propaganda, contributed to a charity that functions as a front for the militant group and communicated with a person who the FBI determined from a prior investigation was involved in recruitment and indoctrination of people interested in extremism. He also viewed webcams from the White House and the Washington Monument in July. Tawhedi's alleged co-conspirator was not identified by the Justice Department, which described him only as a juvenile, a fellow Afghan national and the brother of Tawhedi's wife. After the two advertised the sale of personal property on Facebook, the FBI enlisted an informant last month to respond to the offer and strike up a relationship. The informant later invited them to a gun range, where they ordered weapons from an undercover FBI official who was posing as a business partner of the infor-

mant, according to court papers. Tawhedi was arrested Monday after taking possession of two AK-47 rifles and ammunition he had ordered, officials said. The unidentified co-conspirator was also arrested but the Justice Department did not provide details because he is a juvenile. After he was arrested, the Justice Department said, Tawhedi told investigators he had planned an attack for Election Day that would target large gatherings of people. Tawhedi was charged with conspiring and attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State, which is designated by the US as a foreign terrorist organisation. The charge is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. He appeared in court Tuesday and was ordered detained. An email to an attorney listed as representing him did not immediately return an email seeking comment. It was not immediately clear if he had

a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. A for-sale sign stood in the yard outside a modest, two-story brick home listed as being connected to Tawhedi's family in the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore. A woman who identified herself as Tawhedi's wife declined to discuss the case. "We don't want to talk in the media," said the woman, who did not give her name. Tawhedi entered the US on a special immigrant visa in 2021 and has been on parole status pending the conclusion of his immigration proceedings, the Justice Department said. The programme that permits eligible Afghans who helped Americans despite great personal risk to themselves and their loved ones to apply for entry into America with their families. Eligible Afghans include interpreters for the US military as well as individuals integral to the American

embassy in Kabul. While the programme has existed since 2009, the number of applicants skyrocketed after the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. Shawn VanDiver, the president of #AfghanEvac, a coalition of organisations dedicated to helping Afghans trying to leave Afghanistan, said that though the charges are serious, "it's critical that we do not assign blame to an entire community for the actions of one individual. Thousands of Afghans who resettled in the United States are working to build new lives and contribute to our shared future". "These are the same individuals who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in Afghanistan for over two decades, defending the values we hold dear," he said in a statement. "Now, they are our neighbours, and we must support them as they seek safety and stability in their new home."

# Three share Nobel prize in chemistry for work on proteins

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their breakthrough work predicting and designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life. Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure. "That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said. Baker works at the University of Washington in Seattle, while Hassabis and Jumper both work at Google Deepmind in London. Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said. "The number of designs that they have produced and published, and ... the variety is absolutely mind blowing. It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein with this technology," said Professor Johan Åqvist of the Nobel committee. Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. Linke said scientists had long dreamt of predicting the three-dimensional structure of proteins. "Four years ago in 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature," Linke said. "Another dream of scientists has been to build new proteins to learn how to use nature's multi-tool for our own purposes. This is the problem that David Baker solved," he added. "He developed computational tools that now enable scientists to design spectacular new proteins with entirely novel shapes and functions, opening endless possibilities for the greatest benefit to humankind". Last year, the chemistry award went to three scientists for their work on quantum dots — tiny particles just a few nanometres in diameter that can release very bright coloured light and whose applications in everyday life include electronics and medical imaging.

# Time to evacuate is running out as hurricane closes in on Florida

AP ■ TAMPA (US)

Hurricane Milton churned Wednesday toward a potentially catastrophic collision along the west coast of Florida, where some residents insisted they would stay after millions were ordered to evacuate and officials warned that stragglers would face grim odds of surviving. The Tampa Bay area, home to more than 3.3 million people, faced the possibility of widespread destruction after avoiding direct hits from major hurricanes for more than a century. The National Hurricane Center predicted Milton, a Category 5 hurricane during much of its approach, would likely weaken but remain a

warned. Milton was centered about 485 kilometers southwest of Tampa early Wednesday with maximum sustained winds of 260 kph, the hurricane center reported. It was moving northeast at 22 kph early Wednesday and was expected to continue moving in that direction with an increase in its forward speed through Wednesday night, with landfall expected late Wednesday or early Thursday morning. It was expected to turn toward the east-northeast and east on Thursday and Friday. Heavy rain was beginning to spread across parts of southwestern and west-central Florida ahead of Milton early

expected across central to northern portions of Florida through Thursday, bringing the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding, and moderate to major river flooding. Several tornadoes were likely Wednesday across parts of central and southern Florida. Forecasters predicted the storm will retain hurricane strength as it crosses central Florida on Thursday on a path east toward the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane's precise track remained uncertain, as forecasters Tuesday evening nudged its projected path slightly south of Tampa. Thousands of fleeing cars clogged Florida's highways ahead of the storm, but time for evacuations was running out Wednesday. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor noted that up to 15 feet of storm surge forecast for her city would be deep enough to swallow an entire house. "So if you're in it, basically that's the coffin that you're in," Castor said. Milton targets communities still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida along its devastating march that left at least 230 dead across the South. In the bayside town of Punta Gorda, about 160 kilometers south of Tampa, streets were still filled Tuesday with 5-foot piles of soggy furniture, clothing, books, appliances and other trash dragged from damaged homes.



(From left to right) Myanmar's Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippine's President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Laos' President Thongloun Sisolith, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Indonesian Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, and East Timorese Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao hold hands during the opening ceremony of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Wednesday. AP/PTI

# UK auction house withdraws sale of 'Naga Human Skull' amid outcry

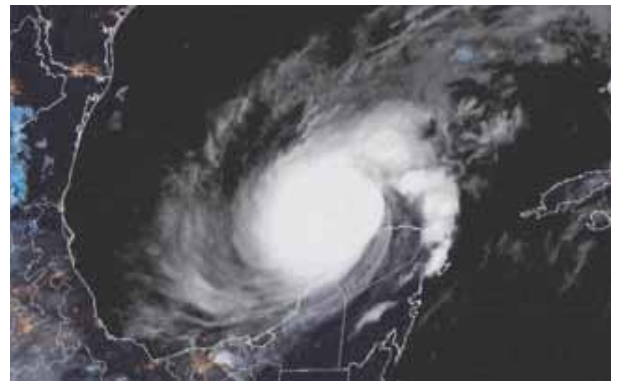
PTI ■ LONDON

A UK auction house has withdrawn a 'Naga Human Skull' from its lots for a live online sale on Wednesday following outcry in India over the issue. The Swan auction house at Tetworth in Oxfordshire had a series of skulls and other remains originating from around the world as part of 'The Curious Collector Sale, Antiquarian Books, Manuscripts & Paintings. The '19th Century Horned Naga Human Skull, Naga Tribe' was

slotted as Lot No. 64 and resulted in protests in Nagaland, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio who sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to stop the hurtful sale. "The news of the proposed auction of Naga human remains in the UK has been received by all sections in a negative manner as it is a highly emotional and sacred issue for our people. It has been a traditional custom of our people to give the highest respect and honour for the remains of the demised," said Rio in his letter. He urged the minister to take

up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter. "This piece would be of particular interest to collectors with a focus on anthropology and tribal cultures," reads the description of the auction lot, listed for an opening bid of GBP 2,100 (Rs 23 lakh approximately) with the auctioneer's estimate expecting it to fetch as much as GBP 4,000 (Rs 43 lakh

approximately). Its provenance is traced back to the collection of 19th century Belgian architect Francois Coppens. The FNR asserted that the auction of the human remains contravenes Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which says: "Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information."



major hurricane when it makes landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday. "Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for west-central Florida," the center

Wednesday, and weather conditions were expected to deteriorate across parts of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day, the center said. Six to 12 inches of rain, with localized totals up to 18 inches, were

# Indian-origin academicians to mentor students in India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian and Indian-origin faculty at renowned US universities will now mentor students and researchers from India under a unique 'MARG' series announced on Tuesday. The virtual mentoring 'MARG' — Mentoring for Academic Excellence and Research Guidance — series is a result of coordination with the Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission of India which hopes to connect the students of Indian Universities, especially those in the smaller cities and towns, with the top American universities, said a statement issued by the Indian Embassy here.

The objective is to expose Indian students and researchers to the latest developments in their fields of study and provide knowledge, career advice, skills, and research opportunities from relevant experts across the US. Indian-origin faculty from renowned US universities like Stanford, Purdue, University of Maryland, George Mason University etc. will participate in the first round of the series, the statement said. Addressing the inaugural session of the series, Deputy Chief of Mission Sripriya Ranganathan highlighted the expanding academic, research, skilling and industrial ecosystem in India in the areas of critical and emerging technology

including Semiconductors, Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), High-Performance Computing, Quantum Science and Technology, Bioengineering, Clean Energy, and Advanced Materials. Ranganathan said these sectors driven by the leadership of both countries would help deepen the academic-research-technology partnership between India and the US. Vice Chancellors and Directors of participating Indian Universities expressed the belief that these sessions would benefit the students and faculty involved in teaching, skilling and research in the areas of critical and emerging technology, the embassy said.

# US plans to end Google monopoly

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Department of Justice is considering asking a federal judge to force Google to split parts of its business in order to eliminate its online search monopoly. In a late court filing on Tuesday, federal prosecutors also said the judge could ask the court to open the underlying data Google uses to power its ubiquitous search engine and artificial intelligence products to competitors. "For more than a decade, Google has controlled the most popular distribution channels, leaving

rivals with little-to-no incentive to compete for users," the antitrust enforcers wrote in the filing. "Fully remedying these harms requires not only ending Google's control of distribution today, but also ensuring Google cannot control the distribution of tomorrow." To that end, the department said it is considering asking for structural changes to stop Google from leveraging products such as its Chrome browser, Android operating system, AI products or app store to benefit its search business. Prosecutors also seem to centre on Google's default

search agreements in the filing and said any remedy proposals would seek to limit or ban these deals. Lee-Anne Muhlolland, Google's vice president of regulatory affairs, said in response to the filing that the Department of Justice was "already signaling requests that go far beyond the specific legal issues" in this case. "Government overreach in a fast-moving industry may have negative unintended consequences for American innovation and America's consumers." US District Judge Amit Mehta ruled in August that Google's search engine has been illegally

exploiting its dominance to squash competition and stifle innovation. He has outlined a timeline for a trial on the proposed remedies next spring and plans to issue a decision by August 2025. Google has already said it plans to appeal Mehta's ruling, but the tech giant must wait until he finalizes a remedy before doing so. The appeals process could take as long as five years, predicts George Hay, a law professor at Cornell University who was the chief economist for the Justice Department's antitrust division for most of the 1970s.

# TikTok addictive to kids, causes harm: US states' lawsuits

AP ■ WASHINGTON

More than a dozen states and the District of Columbia filed lawsuits against TikTok on Tuesday, saying that the popular short-form video app is designed to be addictive to kids and harms their mental health. The lawsuits stem from a national investigation into TikTok, which was launched in March 2022 by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from many states, including New York, California, Kentucky and New Jersey. All of the complaints were filed in state courts. At the heart of each lawsuit is the TikTok algorithm, which powers what users see on the platform by populating the app's main "For You" feed with content tailored to people's interests. The lawsuits note

TikTok design features that they say addict children to the platform, such as the ability to scroll endlessly through content, push notifications that come with built-in "buzzes" and face filters that create unattainable appearances for users. "They've chosen profit over the health and safety, well-being and future of our children," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said at a news conference in San Francisco. "And that is not something we can accept. So we've sued." The latest lawsuits come nearly a year after dozens of states sued Instagram parent Meta Platforms Inc. in state and federal courts for harming young people and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing addictive features that keep kids hooked on their

platforms. Keeping people on the platform is "how they generate massive ad revenue", District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab said in an interview. "But unfortunately, that's also how they generate adverse mental health impacts on the users." The legal challenges, which also include Google's YouTube, are part of a growing reckoning against social media companies and their effects on young people's lives. In some cases, the challenges have been coordinated in a way that resembles how states previously organised against the tobacco and pharmaceutical industries. TikTok, though, is facing an even bigger obstacle, as its very existence in the US is in question. Under a federal law that took effect earlier this

year, TikTok could be banned from the US by mid-January if its China-based parent company, ByteDance, doesn't sell the platform by then. Both TikTok and ByteDance are challenging the law at an appeals court in Washington. A panel of three judges heard oral arguments in the case last month and are expected to issue a ruling, which could be appealed to the US Supreme Court. In its filings on Tuesday, the District of Columbia called the algorithm "dopamine-inducing" and said it was created to be intentionally addictive so the company could trap many young users into excessive use and keep them on its app for hours on end. TikTok does this despite knowing that these behaviours will lead to profound psychological and physiological harms, such as

anxiety, depression, body dysmorphia and other long-lasting problems, the district said. TikTok is disappointed that the lawsuits were filed after the company had been working with the attorneys general for two years on addressing to the issues, a spokesman said. "We strongly disagree with these claims, many of which we believe to be inaccurate and misleading," the TikTok spokesman. Alex Haurek, said. "We're proud of and remain deeply committed to the work we've done to protect teens and we will continue to update and improve our product." The social media company does not allow children under 13 to sign up for its main service and restricts some content for everyone under 18. But Washington and several other states said in their filings that

children can easily bypass those restrictions, allowing them to access the service adults use despite the company's claims that its platform is safe for children. The District of Columbia alleges TikTok is operating as an "unlicensed virtual economy" by allowing people to purchase TikTok Coins — a virtual currency within the platform — and send "Gifts" to streamers on TikTok LIVE who can cash it out for real money. TikTok takes a 50 per cent commission on these financial transactions but hasn't registered as a money transmitter with the US Treasury Department or authorities in the district, according to the complaint. Officials say teens are frequently exploited for sexually explicit content through

TikTok's LIVE streaming feature, which has allowed the app to operate essentially as a "virtual strip club" without any age restrictions. They say the cut the company gets from the financial transactions allows it to profit from exploitation. The 14 attorneys general say the goal of their lawsuits is to stop TikTok from using these features, impose financial penalties for their alleged illegal practices and collect damages for users that have been harmed. The use of social media among teens is nearly universal in the US and many other parts of the world. Almost all teens ages 13 to 17 in the US report using a social media platform, with about a third saying they use social media "almost constantly", according to the Pew Research Centre.

# In-person voting begins in Arizona

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

Early in-person voting begins Wednesday in Arizona, making it the first of this year's presidential battleground states where all residents can cast a ballot at a traditional polling place ahead of Election Day. The start of in-person voting in the closely contested state also is drawing the presidential tickets, with both campaigns scheduling visits there this week. Wednesday's voting overlaps with campaign stops by both vice presidential nominees — Democratic Minnesota Gov Tim Walz and Ohio Sen JD Vance, a Republican — who will hold separate events in Tucson on Wednesday. Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, is scheduled to host a rally in Phoenix on Thursday, while former President Donald Trump will hold one Sunday in Prescott Valley, a Republican stronghold about 144 kilometres north of Phoenix. President Joe Biden defeated Trump by just 10,457 votes in 2020, a narrow margin that set off years of misinformation and conspiracy theories among Republicans who refused to acknowledge Biden's win. It also has led to threats and harassment of election workers, prompting some election offices to boost security for their workers and polling place volunteers. Early voting, particularly by mail, has long been popular in Arizona, where nearly 80 per cent voted before Election Day in 2020, according to the Secretary of State's Office.



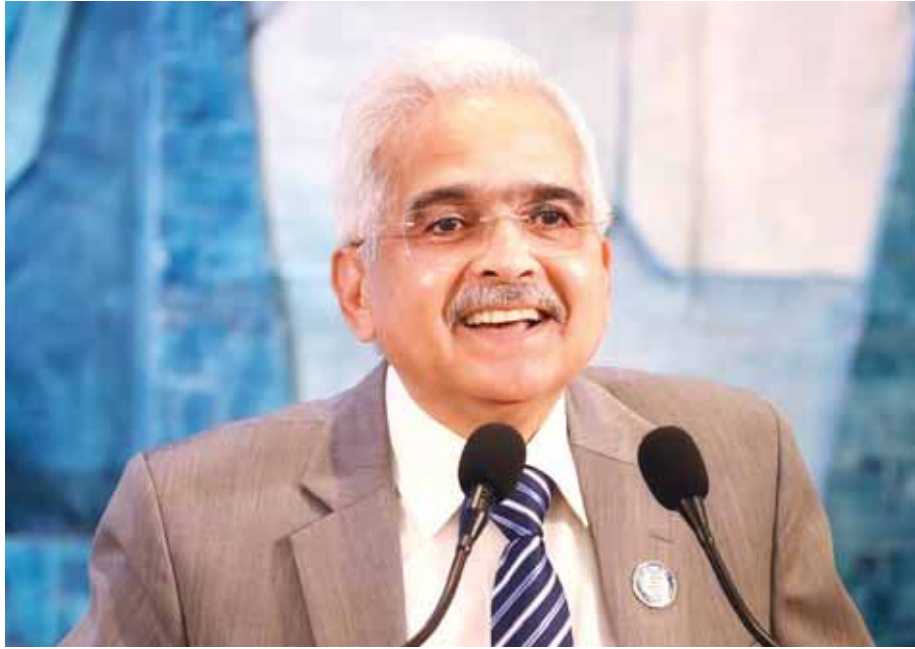
# Not appropriate to speak on rate cut now: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the confidence in inflation cooling down in the near future, resulting in a better balance between growth and price rise, led the central bank to change the policy stance to neutral. He, however, made it clear that there are "significant risks" to inflation like the ones arising out of geopolitical tensions, and it is "not appropriate" to talk about a rate cut for now. On whether the change in stance to 'neutral' from earlier 'withdrawal of accommodation' should be seen as the RBI's pivoting, he said that it is for others to assess.

"We have changed the stance at the moment because we see that growth and inflation, they are well poised, the balance is well poised. So, the MPC (monetary policy committee) considered it appropriate, the timing is appropriate to shift the stance to neutral," he told reporters at the customary post-policy review.

"We have now greater confidence that inflation is moderating, but we are acutely aware that there are significant risks," he said, adding that the change in stance gives greater flexibility and optionality to the rate-setting panel to manoeuvre in the future on rates. Earlier in the day, the RBI



held its interest rates for the tenth consecutive time but changed the stance, igniting hopes of a decrease in rates. There was "no point" and "justification" in continuing with the earlier, as the RBI has achieved what it wanted to, Das said, adding that the future is full of "uncertainties". "These uncertainties and the risks cannot be underestimated. It will be inappropriate, it will not be appropriate to specifically sort of talk in terms of timing of a rate cut," he said. Using the horse bolting out

from the stable analogy deployed earlier to illustrate the inflation fight, Das said the RBI needs to be "very careful" about opening the gate of the stable. When asked if we should look forward to a rate cut at the next policy review in December or even earlier, Deputy Governor Michael Patra said the whole attention is focused on the near-term hump in inflation, wherein the RBI expects the October number to come at over 5 per cent. The RBI will focus on the near-term hump on the inflation before even thinking of the "next move", Patra said. The central bank has decreased its estimate on crude oil prices to USD 80 per barrel from USD 85 per barrel earlier because of the softer medium-term outlook on the commodity. The DG said the oil-producing countries have committed to continue with supply at higher levels into 2025, expectations of lower demand made by the International Energy Agency and growing reliance on renewable energy sources.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, ITC, Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards. On the contrary, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers. European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. "An upward revision in Q3FY25 inflation reiterates that the sticky inflation continues to remain a concern for the RBI and led investors to book profit towards the close. The volatility in input prices and the impact on margin dragged the FMCG stocks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. The change in RBI's stance to neutral was favourable and

# Sensex, Nifty declines as RBI changes stance to neutral

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to settle lower on Wednesday due to late selling in index major Reliance Industries, ITC and HDFC Bank even as the RBI took the first step towards a rate cut in its monetary policy review. Erasing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 167.71 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 81,467.1. During the day, it surged 684.4 points or 0.83 per cent to hit an intraday high of 82,319.21. The NSE Nifty dropped 31.20 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 24,981.95.

In the intraday trade, it jumped 220.9 points or 0.88 per cent to hit a hit of 25,234.05. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'. The monetary policy committee, which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate - which governs the interest rate of home, auto, corporate and other loans - at 6.5 per cent for a 10th straight policy meeting.



expected, but the commentary is not pointing for a rate cut in the near term, Nair added. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,729.60 crore on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,000.68 crore, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul settled in negative territory while Tokyo quoted in the positive territory. Global oil benchmark Brent Crude climbed 0.87 per cent to USD 77.85 a barrel in futures trade.

US markets ended with gains in overnight deals on Tuesday. On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. The NSE Nifty jumped 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to finish at 25,013.15.

# New PLI scheme for drones to boost industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government plans to come out with a new Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the drones sector that will be more effective in terms of implementation, documentation and other aspects. Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlung Vualnam on Wednesday said the government is looking at moving to the next PLI scheme for the drones sector. The first PLI scheme for drones, introduced in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 120 crore for three financial years starting from 2021-22, has ended.

While acknowledging that some procedures under the first scheme were onerous on startups and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the drone sector, the civil aviation secretary said the government will look at a more efficient PLI scheme in terms of implementation, documentation and the processes that are adopted. According to Vualnam, the drone sector has to be segregated into three segments those for civilian use, security/defence forces use, and the



rogue or unregulated use of drones. "We have to be very clear about how we approach the three areas," he said and highlighted that certain incidents of rogue use of drones could become impediments when youngsters, startups and women self-help groups are to use more drones. "We have to be cognisant of that Counter drone technologies are being developed," he said, while speaking at a conference organised by industry body Ficci. In a discussion paper, Ficci

suggested that the government should bring counter drone systems and components under the next phase of the PLI scheme. The outlay under the new scheme should be increased to Rs 1,000 crore to support startups and new entrants to develop drones with more indigenous components and sub-systems. The civil aviation secretary also said tenders are ready for procuring 3,000 more drones under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. The scheme seeks to provide agricultural drones to rural women and 15,000 drones will

be given to women-led self-help groups. The first set of 1,000 drones have been acquired and distributed. The tenders for 3,000 drones under the scheme are ready and will be issued by the agencies concerned soon, Vualnam said. Additional Director General at the Army Design Bureau Major General C S Mann stressed on the importance of indigenisation. "We need to have truthfulness in the claims of indigenous capabilities. Only then will we be able to address the challenges.



# Mercedes-Benz India sees record sales growth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz on Wednesday said its car sales in India grew over 13 per cent year-on-year to 14,379 units in the first nine months of 2024, registering the best-ever performance in January-September period. The company further said the September quarter delivered over 21 per cent more cars at 5,117 units, in comparison to the corresponding quarter of the last year. "With 14,379 new Mercedes-Benz delivered year-to-date in

January-September (+13 per cent) including 5,117 units (+21 per cent) in Q3 '24 alone; Mercedes-Benz continues to buck the industry trend," the company said in a statement. Mercedes-Benz India said the battery electric vehicle (BEV) sales logged 84 per cent growth at 800 cars in the January-April period of the year, over the same period of 2023, which was the highest than any other luxury brand in the domestic market. At the same time, the top-end vehicles grew by 18 per cent, it stated.

# Karnataka CM offers IT growth support to Maldives



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday offered to facilitate the growth of the information technology industry in Maldives, and expressed keenness to promote the state's handicraft and handloom products to tourists visiting the island nation. Addressing a delegation led by Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who was accompanied by his wife Sajidha Mohamed, at Raj Bhavan here, he said Karnataka, known as the Silicon Valley of India, has developed an ecosystem for start-ups, Artificial Intelligence, global capacity building centres and innovation. "I am given to understand that the government of Maldives is interested in having partnerships with the leading IT industry of

Bengaluru," he said. "We will be very happy to facilitate the growth of the IT industry in Maldives," he said. Siddaramaiah said he was pleased to note that Sajidha Mohamed was a student in Bengaluru. He said the State would be happy to have trade ties with Maldives to promote the marketing of its handicrafts and handlooms to reach out to a large number of tourists visiting the island nation. Karnataka, the Chief Minister said, is known for its diversity of nature, culture and rich heritage. Siddaramaiah noted that the state's tourism tagline is: "One State, Many Worlds". "Apart from almost 300 km of coastline, we have the world's second largest 'Shola Forest' hosting Tiger and Bird Sanctuaries. We look forward to a partnership with Maldives to promote educational and cultural exchange," he added.

# RBI enhances UPI Lite wallet limit to ₹ 5,000

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday announced the increase of the UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 and per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000, in order to encourage wider adoption of the popular instant payment system through mobile phones. A limit of Rs 500 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 per UPI Lite wallet, is presently applicable, with the facility of auto-replenishment. Unveiling the October bi-

monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das also said the per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay will be enhanced to Rs 10,000 from the current Rs 5,000. UPI123 was launched in March 2022, with a view to enable feature-phone users to use UPI. This facility is now available in 12 languages. In another customer-friendly initiative, Das announced a beneficiary account name look-up facility for Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and National

Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems will be introduced. Payment Systems like UPI and IMPS provide a facility to the remitter to verify the name of the receiver (beneficiary) before initiating a payment transaction. There have been requests to introduce such a facility for RTGS and NEFT systems, the Governor said. "Accordingly, to enable remitters in RTGS and NEFT to verify the name of the beneficiary account holder before initiating funds

transfer, it is now proposed to introduce a beneficiary account name look-up facility," he said. Remitters can input the account number and the branch IFSC code of the beneficiary, following which the name of the beneficiary will be displayed. This facility will increase customer confidence as it would reduce the possibility of wrong credits and frauds, Das said. The Central bank will also create 'Reserve Bank Climate Risk Information System (RB-

CRIS)' amid climate change emerging as one of the significant risks to the financial system. Das said it is crucial for regulated entities to undertake climate risk assessments for ensuring stability of their balance sheets and that of the financial system. Such an assessment requires, among other things, high quality data relating to local climate scenarios, climate forecasts, and emissions, he said. The available climate-related data is characterised by

various gaps such as fragmented and varied sources, differing formats, frequencies and units. To bridge these gaps, Das said the Reserve Bank proposes to create a data repository RB-CRIS comprising two parts. The first part will be a web-based directory, listing various data sources, (meteorological, geospatial, etc.) which will be publicly accessible in the RBI website. The second part will be a data portal consisting of datasets (processed data in standardised formats).

# Tata Power-DDL urges citizens for safe festivities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) has urged citizens of Delhi to refrain from burning effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna, and Meghanada near electrical installations and overhead power lines during Dussehra celebrations. The company highlights that such activities pose serious safety risks, including potential fire hazards, power outages, and disruptions to essential services, which could cause widespread inconvenience. The discom is conducting a comprehensive safety drive for its consumers and field staff to minimize the risk of electricity-related mishaps during the festive season.

# Deepaknath appointed DDG of BAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deepaknath PJ on Wednesday has been appointed as the Deputy Director General of the Brewers Association of India (BAI), the apex body of the beer industry representing India's largest beer makers such as the AB InBev, Carlsberg, and the United Breweries (a Heineken company). Deepaknath would be based out of Bengaluru and would drive public policy advocacy for the beer industry in the South and West regions of India, besides co-ordinating some pre-designated pan-India initiatives. He has a strong background in beer and public policy advocacy. "With his vast experience in beer, public policy advocacy, and a deep understanding of the regulatory policy on both beer and spirits, I am sure he would add great value to the BAI and play a key role in shaping up public discourse and regulatory policy towards beer, a more responsible and sustainable alcoholic beverage choice," said Mr Vinod Giri, DG, BAI.

## IN BRIEF

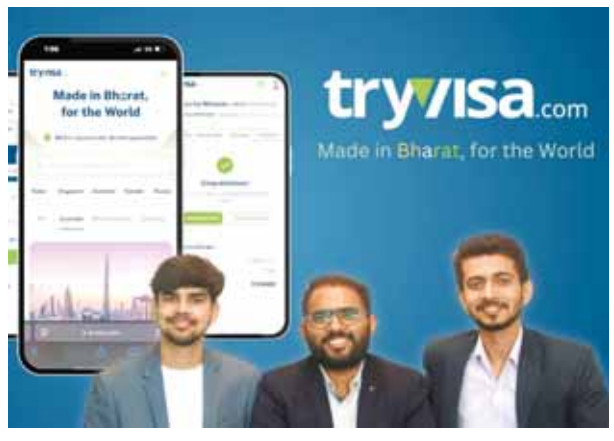
**NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE 2024 CONCLUDES**  
GURGAON: The NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024, a 48-hour hackathon, was successfully conducted on the 5th and 6th of October at the Innovation Incubation Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC), 2nd floor of CB, VIT AP University, Amaravati.

**VIT CHANCELLOR CALLS ON SHRI NARA LOKESH**  
Dr. G. Viswanathan - Hon'ble Chancellor along with Shri Sankar Viswanathan - Vice President, VIT University called on Shri Nara Lokesh - Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and HRD of AP to greet him. Dr.S.V.Kota Reddy - Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University was also present on the occasion.

# Flyzy to invest ₹ 10 crore in new product

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flyzy on Wednesday announced an investment of INR 10 crore in tryvisa, their new product. This platform streamlines online visa applications. Flyzy has already disrupted the traditional B2B travel industry. With this investment, the brand is expanding in the B2C space and aims to make this product into India's largest 'Made in India' visa solutions provider, at par with global standards. At present, the visa



processing sector is dominated by either international players or small scale companies. Tryvisa is a unique, Made in India product which will be a game changer in Indian travel-tech. With this investment, Flyzy will provide a dedicated visa support team for documentation ensuring that the tryvisa users have a hassle free experience. It will offer the best in class customer support, a service, Flyzy is renowned for. With the launch of this new product, Flyzy is forecasted to disrupt the travel-tech sector.



# US Ryder Cup captain Bradley says security will be watching

AP ■ NEW YORK

US Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley has offered a warning about Bethpage Black that does not need a special sign by the first tee: Organisers will have security inside the ropes to make sure the New York crowd doesn't get out of control. Bradley and European captain Luke Donald met in Manhattan for a news conference on Tuesday signally (roughly) a year out from the September 26-28 matches at Bethpage Black, the public course on Long Island with a reputation for rough crowds. "I have total faith in the fans of New York to cheer on their team, proudly and loudly," Bradley said. "I don't want them to cross the line, to do anything that would affect the course of play. But it's going to be a tough atmosphere. It's going to be tough for both teams." Bradley said there would be security "monitoring the situation." "It's really important to us - the US side - that it's a fair place to play for both teams," he said. "Nobody on either team wants this to get uncomfortable or weird out there. But listen, you come into Yankee Stadium, you come into Madison Square Garden, you come into these places, it's a tough place to play, and Luke and the boys know that.

"The PGA of America is going to do a great job making sure everything's right." Bethpage State Park has a sign on the first tee that says, "Warning: The Black course is an extremely difficult course which we recommend only for highly skilled golfers." The skill level won't be an issue. Bradley said he is keeping the same criteria for the American team - six qualifiers through the points list, six captain's picks - and he and Donald said they wouldn't hesitate to take players from Saudi-backed LIV Golf if they are eligible. The crowd is as notorious as the difficulty of Bethpage Black, the first truly public golf course (excluding high-end resorts) to host the Ryder Cup. It previously held the US Open in 2002 and 2009, and the PGA Championship in 2019, when Brooks Koepka heard it from the crowd as he was letting a big lead slip away before holding on to win. Sergio Garcia was heckled so badly in the 2002 US Open, when he was constantly regripping the club, that the Spaniard answered with the middle finger. And now there are American and European flags involved at the most patriotic event in golf. It's tough on the opposing team regardless of which side of the Atlantic Ocean the matches are played, but American crowds



stand out. Europe at least will have fans, unlike the last time on US soil at Whistling Straits when the COVID-19 pandemic made it almost entirely US fan base. "The Ryder Cup is special because it is spirited. Passions are high.

Energy is high," Donald said. "You want to see that amongst the players. You certainly don't want to see the spirit of the Ryder Cup endangered in any way. "But again, the PGA of America have things in place. If there's outbursts or if there's anything

deemed inappropriate, they will deal with that." Bradley, who won the BMW Championship in August and delivered the winning point for the Americans in the Presidents Cup last month, has said he would give up his captaincy to play the Ryder

Cup team only if he made the team on points. That's so far out that he said it's not on his mind, though he would have assistant captains in place to take over if that's how it plays out. Koepka was the only LIV player on the American team that lost last

year at Marco Simone outside Rome. Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton had not yet defected to LIV. Donald said those two, or any other European-born player with LIV, could be considered as long as they met rules for being a European tour member. As for the US points system, it rewards 1 point for every dollar earned at majors and The Players Championship in 2024, and 1 point on the dollar for every tournament in 2025 (except opposite-field events), and 1.5 points on the dollar at the 2025 majors. Xander Schauffele, a double major winner this year, has a narrow lead over Scottie Scheffler, who won the Masters and The Players Championship. Schauffele performed better in the other two majors he didn't win. Europe has won 10 of the last 14 times dating to 1995, though winning on the road is becoming more difficult ever since Paul Azinger persuaded the PGA of America to change its qualifying system to be based off money when he was the winning captain in 2008. Europe's last road win was in 2012 at Medinah, when it staged a stunning rally. "The last few times we've played away, the results have been one-sided towards the US," Donald said.



## PBG Alaskan Knights one win away from GCL final

PTI ■ LONDON

PBG Alaskan Knights were placed at the top spot with 18 match points and a win away from securing their place in the final of the Global Chess League (GCL) here. The Knights have so far registered six victories in seven matches and are six points ahead of Triveni and Alpine SG Pipers. With three matches left before the knockout stage, the Knights are in the pole position to seal a spot in the final. Despite their comfortable standing, the Knights' Anish Giri, on top board, was cautious about his team's position. "It's not done yet, we still need to get to the final and win. But so far it's going well and I'm happy with everything, that's for sure," he said. In a stunning upset earlier on Tuesday, the Mumba Masters defeated the favourites Alpine SG Pipers.

On board one, Magnus Carlsen was left reeling after a blunder in a combination allowed Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to claim victory. Visibly upset, Carlsen stormed out of the venue. The Mumba Masters capitalised on this momentum to secure a dominant 14-5 win and deliver a major blow to the Pipers' chances of closing in on the league's leaders. In the second match of the day, the winners of season one, Triveni Continental Kings were defeated by American Gambits 14-5. The match saw Alireza Firouzja lose the first game in the tournament - blundering in an even rook endgame against the world No 2 Hikaru Nakamura. The day closed with the Knights confidently defeating Ganges Grandmasters 15-4. Playing as Black, the Knights started with a defeat but quickly took control of the match, winning on three boards.

## Nepal's Nima Rinji Sherpa becomes youngest to scale 14 tallest peaks

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's 18-year-old Nima Rinji Sherpa has become the youngest climber ever to scale each of the 14 tallest mountains (over 8,000 meters) in the world with his successful summit of Mt Shishapangma in China. Nima and his partner Pasang Nurbu Sherpa reached the summit of the Shishapangma, which stands at 8,027 meters above sea level, shortly after 6:00am (China Standard Time), which is 3:30am in IST, on Wednesday, the youngest announced on his Instagram page. "Today, as I stand atop my 14th 8000-meter peak, I dedicate this world record to my project, #SherpaPower," he posted. "This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the

traditional boundaries set for us. Mountaineering is more than labor; it is a testament to our strength, resilience, and passion. Nima said he wants to show the younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the "stereotype of being only support climbers." "We are not just guides; we are trailblazers. Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future," he said. Hailing from a family of mountaineers, Nima began his quest to scale each of the 14 tallest peaks in the world at the age of 16 and 162 days when he reached the top of Mt Manaslu (8163m) in September 2022. It was his passion for photography of the mountains that brought Nima into climbing but it soon turned out to be a passion for him to tell the



story of the Sherpa community. "Slowly, I realised, the Sherpas, my community, we have always been in the shadows and all the international athletes that you see, no one is from Sherpa community (in the front), but we are always the ones backing them up," he told PTI in an interview in May this year.

"We're always carrying their equipment, carrying their food, the load, fixing the ropes, looking after the weather condition, looking after their safety, looking for the rescue things." "All those things are being looked after by us, but our names are always somewhere down the line. That's when I decided (that) I want to climb more for this, for my community more, rather than for myself," said Nima, who prefers to go without oxygen support for the first 7,000 metres. Perhaps the biggest achievement for the young mountaineer came when he scaled Mt Everest (8848.86m) and Mt Lhotse (8516) in a span of a mere 10 hours when he was a little over 17 years, in May 2023. Like he did when he scaled Mt Manaslu, Nima became the youngest to climb the Nanga Parbat (8125m) in June 2023.

In his bid to become the youngest ever, Nima went on to climb Mt Gasherbrum I (8068m), Mt Gasherbrum II (8035m), Mt Broad Peak (8047m) and Mt K2 (8611m) in July 2023 while he reached the peak of Mt Cho-Oyu (8188m) in October 2023. Nima had a successful year 2023 scaling the Mt Dhaulagiri (8167m) in September but took a break after four climbers died an avalanche at Shishapangma. "One of them was very close to me, we had climbed five mountains together in Pakistan. He was like a hero to me and a very strong Sherpa. But to know that he got caught in the avalanche and passed away, that was very tough for me," he said. Nima returned to scaling the peaks earlier this year reaching the top of Mt Annapurna I (8091m) in April and the top of Mt Makalu (8485m) in May 4.

## Lakshya Sen enters second round of Arctic Open after opponent concedes match

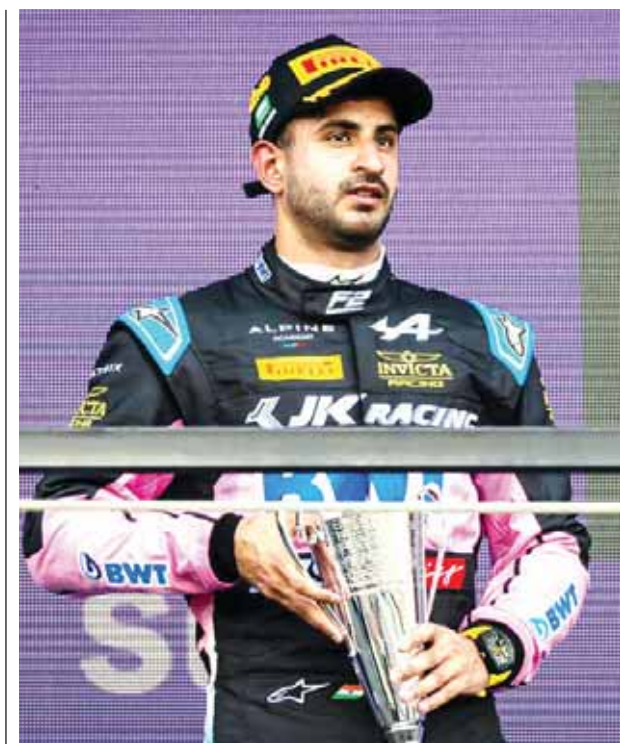
PTI ■ VANTAA (FINLAND)

India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles round of 16 at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament after his opponent Rasmus Gemke withdrew from the opening round match here on Wednesday. Sen, who lost out on a maiden Olympic medal in Paris after defeat in the bronze medal play-off contest, will be up against the winner between seventh seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei and qualifier Arnaud Merkle of France in the next round. Qualifier Kiran George is the only other Indian in action on Wednesday. He will take on Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei later in the day. Earlier on Tuesday, rising Indian shuttler



Malvika Bansod continued her impressive form this year, pulling off a stunning upset against world No 23 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei to advance to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals. The 23-year-old southpaw, who clinched

her first title in over two years at the Azerbaijan International in February, showed her resilience in a hard-fought match, winning 21-19, 24-22 in 57 minutes. However, the challenge will intensify in the next round as the Nagpur shuttler prepares to face a former world champion in Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the second round. Another promising Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda defeated Brazil's Juliana Viana Viera 21-16, 23-25, 21-17 to set up an encounter against Michelle Li of Canada. Rising Aakarshi Kashyap had also progressed to the round of 16 on Tuesday night, beating Germany's Yvonne Li 21-19, 21-14. She will be next to be up against second seed Yue Han of China.



## Kush Maini eyes for F1

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Indian racer Kush Maini, a rising talent in the motorsport world, continues to make headlines with his impressive performances in the 2024 FIA Formula 2 Championship. Driving for Campos Racing, Maini has shown remarkable consistency throughout the season, cementing his place as a strong contender in the highly competitive racing series. In an event IAMGAME CONCLAVE 2024, Maini shared the future of Motorsports in India what challenges one can face if anyone wants to pursue a career in Motorsports talking about himself he shared "he was 12 when he left the country to pursue his career in Motorsports World and his family was supportive enough to make his dreams come true". Currently He is contesting the competition in F2 and a member of the Alpine Academy and also prominent as a reserve driver for Mahindra Racing in Formula E. He started his season off by

getting a pole position and qualifying in third place in Bahrain. In a conversation with Maini on asking about preparation before the racing event maini shared about tackling the climate when it comes it hot race it requires cardio, lot of cycling, sauna, and do neck flexion and extension to counter the G-Force, Personal trainers are there to update the daily training patterns and look after the racers physical condition events after events. Talking about F2 to F1 future Maini stated He'll be in England next week to practicing in F1 simulator hopefully in some way we'll be able to see him in F1 grand prix not on grid but in some way, talks are going well let's see what's going to happen. Kush Maini's journey continues to inspire aspiring racers in India, and his ongoing success in Formula 2 marks him as a driver to watch in the coming years. With dedication and consistent performances, he is well on his way to carving out a place for himself in the upper echelons of motorsport.

## Surprised at your decision to retire: Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya writes to Karmakar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday wrote to Dipa Karmakar conveying his surprise at her decision to retire, a couple of days after the trailblazing Indian gymnast called time on her career. The 31-year-old Karmakar, who became the first Indian woman gymnast to represent the country at the Games in the 2016 Rio Olympics and finished fourth, announced her retirement on Monday. "I got to know about your retirement from gymnastics. While your decision surprised me, I have full faith that you have taken this decision keeping in mind your priorities in life and the experiences that you have had. I completely respect your decision," Mandaviya wrote in a letter to Karmakar. "Your journey in gymnastics, which began at the age of six, has been inspirational. You have scaled the highs in the sport and made the country proud despite facing so many difficulties." "Being awarded with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel



Ratna Award and the Padma Shri is the indication of your unique contribution," he added. Mandaviya said the whole country is proud of Karmakar, who routinely performed the highly-difficult Produnova vault. "You added a new chapter in Indian gymnastics by

participating in the Olympics, which was not only the outcome of our hard work but it is a great matter of pride for the entire country," he added. Mandaviya said Karmakar's journey, who missed a medal at the Rio Games by 0.15 points, has inspired many young girls in the country.

"Your achievements have not only inspired those who love sports but especially our daughters, who have got the strength to fulfill their dreams," said the union minister, hoping that Karmakar would be available to share her knowledge with the young athletes sometime in the future.

## HI ropes in PFC as title sponsor for India versus Germany bilateral series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday roped in Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a state-owned company that provides financial assistance to India's power sector, as the title sponsor for the upcoming two-match bilateral series against Germany on October 23 and 24 in New Delhi. This series marks the return of men's international hockey to the national capital after a decade. The last international match played at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium was the Hero Hockey World League Final - men's round 4, back in January 2014. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, PFC, a public sector undertaking, plays a crucial role in driving growth in the energy sector. The two matches will be free for spectators and a free digital ticketing system will be introduced. Fans will need to visit the official ticketing link and register their details to receive a virtual ticket for

accessing the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "We are delighted to welcome Power Finance Corporation (PFC) as the title sponsor for the highly-anticipated PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024. "This series, being played in New Delhi after a decade, is a significant milestone, not just for the city but for Hockey India as we promote the sport across the country. With the support of PFC, we look forward to creating a thrilling atmosphere at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium." HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are thrilled to have one of the leading state-owned companies, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), as the title sponsor for the PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024." "Their support will strengthen Hockey India's vision to grow hockey's presence in India. With PFC, we look forward to providing a top-notch experience for all hockey fans."



# ROOT SURPASSES COOK AS LEADING ENGLAND RUN-SCORER IN TEST CRICKET

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)

With an exquisite straight drive for four, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer in test cricket.

Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the tank.

"The only reason it (Cook's record) is on my mind is because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing test cricket for a lot longer. It's not

like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, Right, I'm done now! I just want to keep enjoying the game, keep playing."

Root, who is technically excellent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Ben Stokes, the England test captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. Just a great bloke. And an unbelievable feat to score that many runs. "But the non-selfishness that

## HIS NEXT BIG TARGET IS TENDULKAR



he possesses is one thing I think sets him above or sets him apart from anybody else who is going to play for England for a long time."

Root waved to his teammates soon after reaching the milestone before he raised his bat in acknowledgement. He shook hands with Stokes and bowling mentor James Anderson as he walked off the field at the lunch break, with a 35th test century - and a first in Pakistan - in his sights.

Root is playing in his 147th test and came into the Pakistan series averaging more than 50, whereas Cook made 161 test appearances and batted in 291 innings, averaging 45.35.

They are England's third and fourth most-capped players, behind now-retired fast bowlers Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Root has more runs against India than any other opposition - 2,846 in 30 tests. Next is Australia, against whom he has 2,428 in 34 tests, while his best average is against Sri Lanka at 62.54. Root was England captain

from 2017-22. He averaged 52.80 before the captaincy, 46.45 during it, and he is back to his prior level since standing down.

The most prolific year of his test career was in 2021, when he scored 1,708 runs. He has passed 1,000 runs in a year five times.

He has settled at No. 4 in England's batting order and demonstrated during the recent summer tests against the West Indies and Sri Lanka that he has slightly reined in the bold and occasionally reckless approach he and his England teammates adopted early in the so-called "Bazball" era under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. Those risky ramp shots are mostly gone — though he still got himself out attempting one against the Sri Lankans at Lord's — and he is harder to dismiss for it.

Root's next big target is displacing Tendulkar — the "Little Master" — atop the all-time list and, injury permitting, he has a good chance of doing so.



## NZ batter Williamson to miss initial part of Test series against India

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Senior batter Kane Williamson is set to miss the initial part of the upcoming three-Test series in India starting on October 16 due to groin strain, with New Zealand naming Mark Chapman as his cover in the 17-man squad here on Wednesday.

Williamson, who is dealing with a groin strain, will delay his departure to India where New Zealand will play three Tests at Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. While senior batting all-rounder Michael Bracewell has been roped in only for the first Test in Bengaluru, spinner Ish Sodhi will be available only for the second and third Tests. Tom Latham will be leading the Kiwis after Tim Southee stepped aside from the leadership role a few days ago. "Williamson experienced groin discomfort during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle and will require a period of rehabilitation before joining the Blackcaps Test squad in India," New Zealand

Cricket said on their website. New Zealand selector Sam Wells said the decision to delay Williamson's departure to India was to give the former skipper more time to rest.

"The advice we've received is that the best course of action is for Kane to rest and rehabilitate now rather than risk aggravating the injury," said Wells.

"We're hopeful that if the rehabilitation goes to plan Kane will be available for the latter part of the tour. While it's obviously disappointing to not have Kane available from the start of the tour, it provides an opportunity for someone else to play a role in an important series," he added.

Chapman averages above 42 in first-class cricket in 44 matches but is yet to make his Test debut.

"We believe Mark (Chapman) is one of our best players of spin and has a proven track record in the sub-continent," said Wells.

"Mark has displayed an ability to play spin proactively in the international arena, and

combined with his excellent first-class record, we see him as someone who can succeed in the type of conditions we expect to encounter in India," he added.

Bracewell will return home after the first Test for the birth of his second child and will be replaced by Sodhi.

While the opening Test will be held at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from October 16-20, the second will be held at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Gahunje, Pune from October 24-28.

The third and final Test will be held at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai from November 1-5.

**New Zealand squad for Test series in India:** Tom Latham (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell (1st Test only), Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi (2nd & 3rd Test only), Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Will Young.

## Anmoljeet takes 9 on 'debut' as India U19 complete clean sweep vs Australia

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Debutant off-spinner Anmoljeet Singh and leg-spinner Mohamed Eanaan picked 16 out of 20 Australian wickets as India U-19 comfortably won by an innings and 120 runs in the second Youth Test to complete a 2-0 series sweep here on Wednesday.

Australia colts lost as many as 17 wickets on the third day after commencing on their overnight score of 142 for 3 in reply to India's massive first-innings total of 492. The visitors were all out for 277 in their first essay with skipper Oliver Peake (117 off 143 balls) and keeper Alex Lee Young (66) adding 166 for the fourth wicket. After Lee Young was dismissed, the last six wickets fell for 59 runs.

Kerala boy Eanaan (4/60 in 22.2 overs), who had once attended Saqlain Mushtaq's clinic in Dubai and Ludhiana's



Anmoljeet (4/72 in 24 overs), who hero worships Harbhajan Singh, were the wreckers-in-chief.

In four-day cricket, the follow-on can be enforced if the team batting second is trailing by more than 150 runs. India U-19 had a lead of 115 runs.

After being enforced to follow-on, Anmoljeet, who had taken an astounding 65 wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16)

Trophy in the 2023 season, came back to get 5 for 32 in 13.3 overs as Australia were skittled out for 95 in 31.3 overs.

Eight Aussie players failed to reach double digits and four of them didn't bother to trouble the scorers.

While Anmoljeet had match figures of 9/104, Eanaan wasn't left far behind with 7/97 to show for his efforts.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic gold-winning American discus thrower Valerie Allman was on Wednesday named the international event ambassador of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to be held here on October 20.

Allman threw 69.50 meters in the Paris Games this year to set a new American record and win the gold medal. In the previous Tokyo Games, she had finished at the top of the podium with a throw of 68.98 meters.

Her feat ended USA's wait for a gold in discus throw which they had last won in 2008.

Allman, whose personal best is of 71.46 meters, is also a two-

## Valerie Allman named Delhi Half Marathon's international event ambassador

time World Championship medallist, clinching the silver in 2023 and a bronze in 2022. "The start line is not just a race; it's a celebration of camaraderie, determination, and resilience, and a showcase of our ability to push limits and achieve new personal milestones," she said in a release issued by the organisers. Paris Olympic 10,000m champion Uganda's Joshua Cheptegai and Kenya's former world record holder Peres Jepchirchir will headline



a strong elite field in the men's and women's events of the Delhi Half Marathon, which is into its 19th year.

Cheptegai is the reigning world record holder in 5000m and 10,000m events. He also holds the world's best time over the 15km distance.

A three-time world champion in 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2014, finishing second. The event carries a prize purse of USD 260,000.

## France's Tiafoe aims tirade of expletives at umpire after loss at Shanghai Masters

AP ■ SHANGHAI

US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe aimed a torrent of expletives at the chair umpire after losing a match at the Shanghai Masters.

Tiafoe targeted umpire Jimmy Pinoargote with about 10 expletives in a minute-long tirade after his 5-7 7-5 7-6(5) loss against 61st-ranked Roman Safiullin in a third-round match.

The ATP rule book calls for fines of \$60,000 at Masters 1000 tournaments. A tour spokesman said no decision has yet been made on the matter.

The 17th-ranked Tiafoe was angered by being docked his first serve for a time violation



at 5-5 in the decisive tiebreaker. Pinoargote judged that Tiafoe was not making a genuine attempt to serve when he tossed the ball in the air at the baseline. Tiafoe at first protested before continuing to play.

Two points later, the match was over and he congratulated Safiullin at the net before turning toward the umpire's chair and shouting the first expletives.

Tiafoe passed to the other side of the net toward his chair and shouted that the umpire had messed up the match.

The 26-year-old American said he had been battling on court for three hours for his livelihood, peppering his

words with more expletives.

Before leaving the court, Tiafoe added: "Never again."

Tiafoe could face fines for verbal abuse of an official and for using obscenities. The tournament can take away some of his prize money, and the case could also be sent to the ATP Member Fines Committee for further investigation.

Safiullin advanced to face Novak Djokovic in the round of 16.

Tiafoe had a stellar run of form in the summer reaching the final of the Cincinnati Open, where he lost to Jannik Sinner, then reaching the semifinals at the US Open where he lost in five sets to fellow American Taylor Fritz.

## Arshdeep Singh enters top 10 in ICC T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Riding on a string of impressive performances, Indian seamer Arshdeep Singh entered the top 10 among bowlers and was placed eighth in the ICC T20I rankings issued here on Wednesday.

The left-arm seamer, who returned 3/14 in the opening T20I against Bangladesh in Gwalior last Sunday, jumped eight spots with 642 rating points to reach the eighth position. He is the only Indian bowler in the top 10. England's Adil Rashid continues as the

top-ranked bowler in the shortest format followed by Akeal Hossain of the West Indies and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan at the second and third spots respectively.

"Arshdeep is also a big winner in the latest rankings update, with the left-arm pacer rising eight places to equal eighth on the updated list for T20I bowlers and reaching a new career-high rating following his three-wicket haul against Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website. Hardik Pandya, who blasted a 16-ball 39 with five fours and

two sixes, moved up seven places to reach the 60th spot among batters.

The ace Indian all-rounder also returned 4-0-26-1 and moved to the third spot as he rose four positions in the list of top all-rounders, which is headed by England's Liam Livingstone with Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee at the second position. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is not a part of the India squad for the three T20Is against Bangladesh, dropped one position to fifth and was leapfrogged by Pakistan's Babar Azam.

## Ishan Kishan returns as Jharkhand captain

PTI ■ RANCHI

India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand Ranji team as its captain, following his controversial pullout last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract.

The explosive left-hander, who became a regular in India's white-ball squad after Rishabh Pant's road accident in December 2022, took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year.

Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches, which raised a few eyebrows as the board stressed on players prioritising domestic cricket when not on national duty.

The 26-year-old resurfaced this February, playing in the privately organised DY Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL and sparking a debate over balance between franchise cricket and state commitments.

His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts.

**Short Notice Inviting re-tender**  
 No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/276 Dated 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024  
 The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam re-invites bids for "Supply & installation of chairs for conference hall & VidyaSamiksha Kendra at State Mission Office, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19", from authorized dealers of reputed furniture brand.  
 Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) from 09-10-2024 upto 16-10-2024 (1400 hrs).  
 The bidder must be enrolled in [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)  
 Sd/-Mission Director,  
 Samagra Shiksha Axom  
 Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

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 Circle Sastra Centre Lucknow  
 Ground Floor, Zonal Office, 10, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226010 (UP)  
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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property Hypothecated/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the 18.10.2024, for recovery of its dues Rs. 718707/- +intt and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from the borrower (s) and guarantor (s): Smt. Archana Anand W/O Sri Bharat Anand Add-L-403, Yamuna Apartment Gomti nagar Extension Lucknow-226010, Branch-Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow The reserve price Rs. 3,00,000/- and the earnest money Rs. 30,000/- deposit will be against the property.  
 Description of the movable property with known encumbrances, if any  
 CAR (Maruti S-Cross Zeta) Regd.No. UP32JB4129, fuel Diesel/ Aug 2017/ colour - Granite Grey, Chasis No. MA3FNEB1500159426, engine No., D13A-5450597 (Status of Possession Physical) encumbrances: not Known  
 Terms & Conditions:- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale are made available on the website <https://ebkraj.in> & [www.pnbndia.in](http://www.pnbndia.in).  
 Date 09.10.2024  
 Place Lucknow  
 Authorised Officer,  
 Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor