OPINION 6

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.160 Issue 276 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



WORLD 9 ZELENSKYY MEETS POPE, PUSHES HIS 'VICTORY PLAN'

PWC INDIA PARTNERS WITH META FOR AI SOLUTIONS

MONEY 10

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

Established 1865

the pioneer

SLOW START FOR SHUBHANKAR IN FRENCH OPEN GOLF

www.dailypioneer.com

Prime Minister will clean the air for Delhi this winter

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

oncerned over the perennial problem of deadly pollution with the onset of winters in Delhi NCR, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Friday set the degree of engagement of stakeholders, including the NCT Government of Delhi, to combat the air pollution particularly augmented due to stubble burning in neighbouring States.

The meeting comes a few days after the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), for not taking any action on local officers amid a rise in crop burning in north Indian states, which leads to air pollution in Delhi. The SC said not a single committee was formed to tackle the stubble burning issue.

"Every year we see stubble burning. There has been total non-compliance of the CAQM Act. Have committees been

constituted? Please show us a single step taken. Which directions have you used under the Act? You are silent with the purpose where he reviewed short term and long spectators. You are doing nothing," the Supreme Court



File Photo: The Pioneer

Mishra convened a High measures being undertaken to prevent, and abate, air said on September 27, 2024. pollution in Delhi, and a major source of seasonal air Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. PK concern over slow pace of neighbouring states was

clearance of landfill sites in the national Capital and delays in implementation of waste to energy plans by the civic bodies.

Agriculture stubble burning,

addressed. Although Delhi has a relatively small paddy area, Mishra called for the complete elimination of stubble burning in the city as a model for surrounding regions.

According to a senior official, the meeting focused on assessing the readiness of the Delhi Government and other stakeholders in

implementing both immediate and long-term measures to mitigate air pollution in Delhi. The Task Force, comprising senior officials from Central Ministries and the Delhi administration, reviewed current strategies and discussed additional innovative steps to tackle the pollution challenge.

Task Force, consisting of representatives from the Delhi Government, Central including Ministries Secretary MoHUA, Secretary MoEFCC, Delhi Police, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), reaffirmed their collective resolve to abate air pollution in Delhi, especially during the ensuing winter

Nayab Chief Minister for Haryana



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/

After Bharatiya Janata Party's spectacular performance winning a third consecutive tenure. Harvana's incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is likely to take oath as the Chief Minister of Harvana on Tuesday, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union ministers, and CMs of BJP-ruled states, are also expected to attend the

swearing-in ceremony.

According to BJP leaders, Haryana may follow the precedent set by other states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha by introducing two Deputy Chief Ministers.

This dual-leadership model is anticipated to balance party seniority, and caste representation within the Cabinet. The senior-most leader, former Home Minister Anil Vij, is tipped to be one of the Deputy CMs, while the other position may go to a Brahmin MLA, potentially offering a more inclusive leadership structure. In another development, Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma met Saini in Delhi, as his mother, Shakti Rani Sharma, had secured a win from the

the ensuing winter
Kalka constituency.
In another strategic meeting, Rajya
Sabha MP Kiran Chaudhary and her

Omar returns to Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Legislative party Omar Abdullah Friday evening staked claim to form the government, the first since the Centre scrapped J&K's special status in 2019.

Omar, dressed in a traditional salwar suit, drove to the Raj Bhawan to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. During the meeting, he formally presented his claim to form the government in Jammu & Kashmir, following the support from Congress. Omar also presented letters of support from the alliance and independent partners candidates.

Continued on page 8

daughter Shruti Chaudhary, the newly elected MLA from Tosham, met with Union Minister Khattar, indicating a broader coalition-building process within the BJP.

A 10-member committee headed by the Panchkula district commissioner has been set up by the state chief secretary to oversee the arrangements for the ceremony.

The ceremony was initially scheduled for October 12, but was postponed to accommodate the Prime Minister's schedule. According to sources, the Parade Ground had been chosen as the venue as it was adjoining Indradhanush Auditorium Complex, which had a huge secured parking

Continued on page 8



Mahadev app kingpin arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sourabh Chandrakar, one of the main promoters of the Mahadev betting app, is expected to be brought to India soon, following his recent formal arrest in Dubai on the basis of an Interpol issued arrest warrant in a money laundering and fraud case, official sources said Friday.

Chandrakar along with another promoter of the app, Ravi Uppal was detained and put under "house arrest" in that country late last year following theEnforcement Directorate (ED) request for issuance of a Redcorner Notice (RN) against them. The RN is issued by Interpol.
Sources said Chandrakar is expected to be

either extradited or deported to India over the next few days after he was formally placed under arrest in Dubai recently. The ED is in the process of sending relevant documents for his extradition to Dubai authorities following which a competent court there will be approached, they said. Chandrakar is stated to have left for Dubai in 2019 and before that he used to run a juice shop named "Juice Factory" with his brother in Bhilai town of Durg district in Chhattisgarh. The ED has alleged that its probe in the Mahadev Online Book (MOB) gaming and betting app has shown involvement of various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh, the state where Chandrakar and Uppal hail from.

Continued on page 8

Maa Kali decrowned in Bangladesh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India has urged Bangladesh to investigate the reported theft of a religious article that was gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple during his visit in 2021.

In a social media post, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka expressed deep concern over the theft and called upon the

authorities to recover t h

article and take action against the perpetrators of the crime. "We have seen reports of theft of the crown gifted by PM Modi to Jeshoreshwari Kali Temple (Satkhira) in 2021 during his visit to Bangladesh," it said, adding 'We express deep concern and urge Govt of Bangladesh to investigate theft, recover the crown and take action

Separately, Indian government sources said New Delhi is deeply disturbed by the reported incident of theft.

against the perpetrators."

Indian Commission in Dhaka is in touch with Bangladesh authorities on the issue, they said.

Bangladesh law enforcement authorities have been urged to investigate the recover the stolen article and bring the guilty to book, sources said.

As per reports, the gold-plated crown of goddess Kali at the temple in Satkhira's Shyamnagar was stolen on Thursday afternoon. The absence of the crown from the deity's head was noticed by the cleaning staff after temple priest Dilip Mukherjee left around two pm. Prime Minister Modi had visited the Jeshoreshwari Temple on March 27, 2021, as part of his tour to Bangladesh. The temple is considered among the 52 Shakti Peethas (seats of the Goddess) and is believed to have been constructed in the late 12th Century.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Saturday, October 12, 2024 on account of Vijyadashmi. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on October 14, 2024

From Ratan to Naval, the Tata legacy moves on



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a succession that came two days after the death of Ratan Naval Tata, his half-brother Noel Naval Tata was on Friday appointed new Chairman of Tata Trusts, the philanthropic arm of Tata Group. A formal announcement about

Noel Tata's appointment as the head of the Tata Trusts came after the Trustees of various Trusts that come under the Tata Trusts held a joint meeting, condoled Ratan Tata's demise and noted his veoman services not only to the Tata Group but also to nation building.

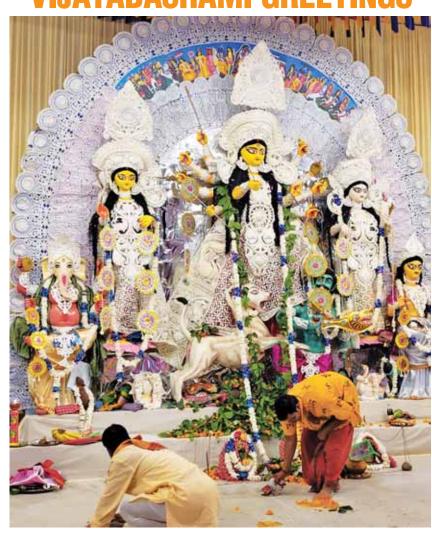
"In separate meetings held immediately, thereafter, it was unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Noel Naval Tata as the Chairman of the

various Trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designate him as Chairman, Tata Trusts," Tata Trusts said in a statement issued here in the afternoon.

Tata's appointment came into place with immediate effect. After being appointed as the new chairman of the Tata Trusts, India's oldest philanthropic institution, Noel Tata said that he was "deeply honoured and humbled" by the humbled" by the responsibility cast on me by my fellow Trustees"and he looked "forward to carrying on the legacy of Ratan N Tata and the founders of the Tata

Group". "I am deeply honoured and humbled by the responsibility that has been cast on me by my fellow Trustees. I look forward to carrying on the legacy of Ratan N Tata and the founders of the Tata Group. Founded more than a century ago, the Tata Trusts are a unique vehicle for undertaking social good. On this solemn occasion, we rededicate ourselves to carrying on our developmental and philanthropic initiatives and continuing to play our part in nation building," Noel Tata

Continued on page 8



Illegal parkings gobble up market roads at peak hours

Commuters leave their vehicles on the roadside, to avoid paying parking fees

BY SANJAY RAI

♦ hat there are traffic jams in and round major markets of the national Capital is now old news for the locals. However, not many talk about what causes these jams in those busy commercial areas.

A PINEER CAMPAIGN

It is also interesting to see that the market associations have not objected to these illegal parkings as the shop owners also park all their vehicles on the road side. even before the market opens. And customers prefer to park on the roads outside the shops as the charges are lower in comparison to the official

parking. These vehicles park for a short

time but block the oncoming traffic as they enter and leave the illegal parking bays constantly. The attendants stand on the road and stop the traffic flow to facilitate that.

The problem is especially severe near big market places where people park their vehicles on the roadside. Regular commuters are left with no choice but to stoplook-and-go every few metres. They say that complaints to the

authorities go unanswered. Visitors park their cars and twowheelers on the roadside and go shopping, and prefer to pay a 'token' parking fee of just Rs 10-20, seldom do they have to pay more even if they park for more than five hours. Usually they



leave within an hour or so after shopping. It is this frequent 'side-movement' that then clogs

the oncoming traffic. For example an underground parking lot has been made by Delhi Municipal Corporation near Subhash Nagar Market, where about 600 vehicles can be parked. But more than 30 percent of the area remains vacant here. The reason behind this is parking charges. An employee working here told The Pioneer that the car parking fee is Rs 20 for every hour. The bike parking fee is Rs 10 per hour while the monthly pass costs Rs 2,000. But people living here or coming to the market always park their cars on the road,

which makes it difficult for pedestrians, other and commuters.

This results in the parking lot incurring losses every month. Apart from this, the condition of market areas such as Kamla Market, Rani Bagh Market, Karol Bagh, Lajpat Nagar, Avantika Market, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden, and Uttam

Nagar is the same.
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has made underground parking on Asaf Ali Road at Delhi Gate, where vehicles gather dust and dirt. The monthly fee here is less compared to other parking lots, however roadside parking is also the norm here too.

Durga Puja pandals attract huge crowds on Navami | Software engineer

Durga Puja pandals across the city attracted huge crowds on the occasion of Navami on Friday, one of the most auspicious days in the Durga Puja celebrations.

The day began with Sandhi puja early in the morning fol-lowed by Navami pushpanjali in which large crowds of Bengalis offered sweets, flowers and sarees to Durga Maa. Non-Bengalis, who broke their fast after nine days, queued up for the delicious bhog at the pandals in the afternoon. In the evening, the crowds swelled up evening, the crowds swelled up to watch the cultural pro-grammes in the puja pandals. Explaining the significance of Sandhi puja which is per-formed at the confluence of Ashtami and Navami, 51-year-old Gautam at a city pandal said it was performed by Lord Ram to defeat Rayana one day Ram to defeat Ravana one day prior to Vijayadashami. "In this puja, Ram sought the blessings of Goddess Durga with an offering of 108 lotuses which are difficult to procure. Ram won the battle against Ravana which followed the puja and it is said that devotees who perform this puja see their wishes getting fulfilled by Goddess Durga," he said.

Incidentally, some Durga Puja samitis celebrated Ashtami on Friday. A number of senior citizens

attended the puja and the bhog and were seen enjoying the celebrations in the company of their loved ones.

SK Mukherjee (81), who retired from the Railways, said that it

Big Fire in

ice-cream

was not known.

burnt in the fire.

worth lakhs of rupees were

NOTICE

I ANANYA SEHGAL S/o Ankur

Sehgal R/o 601 Mansarovar

Appointment, 7/90 D, Tilak Nagar

Kanpur -208002 have changed my name to ANANY SEHGAL for all

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

Mohd Saqib Siddqui To Mohd

Saqib Siddiqui for all future purposes, Mohd Saqib Siddiqui

S/o Anwar Ahmad Siddiqui R/o-

11/120, Maqbara Gwaltoli Kanpur

NOTICE

It is informed to all that before

marriage my name was Mayanka

Vinay Sinha and after marriage my

name has become Mayanka

Srivastava wife of Rohan

Srivastav. In future I should be

known by the name of Mayanka

Srivastava. Mayanka Srivastava

daughter of Vinay Sankar Shinha

resident of -126/98 Bhusa Mandi

Nagar 208001,

was Goddess Durga who beckoned him to the pandal. "All the people in the pandal know me and it is difficult to express how I feel when I visit the pandal for the Durga puja celebrations. I was sick till yesterday and am feeling weak but I still came for pushpanjali. It is a special occasion for us. It happens once a year so we can join the gathering and we can serve Maa," he

Ranjana Pandey (78), a former teacher, who sat with a smiling face in the pandal, said the chanting of mantra at the pushpanjali prayers brought inner peace to her and she made it a point to visit the pandal. "By the grace of God, I have been coming regularly for the puja at

Ashtami and Navami, a habit which I formed by being in the company of my Bengali friends," she said.

Alok Kumar Das (67), wearing a vibrant blue kurta, had come all the way from Dehradun to attend the Durga Puja. He said it was a nice feeling coming down for the puja. "I stay with my son and do not usually step out of the house but for the Durga Puja I am excited to be a part of the celebrations. I especially enjoy the pushpan-jali," he said.

Sudeep Pal (54) who heads sales and marketing of a pharmaceutical company, said that coming to the Durga Puja pandal on Navami was something which he has been following since his childhood.

friends, something which we have been doing for years together. The togetherness is a factor which makes it most enjoyable. Navami is a key day

amongst all the four days and this day we come for the push-panjali and make offerings to the goddess. Till the time of puja, we observe fast and then break it with the bhog. My children are also following similar tradition which makes it even more blessed," he said Yet another senior citizen said

that Durga Puja celebrations brought back the energy in them which made it possible for them to attend the puja. "It is Durga puja which brings back the enthusiasm in us to attend the celebrations. It is a great feeling to be amongst the youngsters, sitting in the pandal and partaking in the bhog. At various pandals special arrangements are made for senior citizens like a sitting area for the bhog which puts us at ease. We also like the youngsters waiting for the four-day celebration which appears to pass away so quickly," he

Meanwhile, on the fourth day,

Mahashtami puja of Maa Durga started with Mangalarti followed by the melody of shanai at Ramakrishna Math Durga Puja pandal on Friday. This was followed by a formal worship of the deity which commenced at 6 am with Mahasnan (elaborate bathing of the deity in the form of a small stone image). Water and mud brought from nearly 50 sources were used for this ritual with appropriate chanting of mantras. Then the Divine Mother with all her family members like Laxmi, Ganesh, Saraswati, Kartik as well as their carriers like lion, mouse, owl, swan, peacock etc. were

Swami Muktinathanand, president of Ramakrishna Math, said that a five-year-old maiden was beautifully decorated and worshipped as the living manifestation of the Divine Mother in front of Maa Durga's idol in the pandal amidst a large number of devotees.

9-year-old Aryama recites Durga Saptashati

worshipped.

Lucknow (PNS): Nine-year-old Aryama Shukla recited the entire Durga Saptashati at the 51 Shaktipeeth located at Bakshi Ka Talab without looking at any book.

The recitation started at 10 in the morning and continued till 12:15 pm. Aryama completed the Akhand Paath without any break. Everyone was astonished to see a small girl reciting the entire Durga Saptashati.



mahamantras in Sanskrit such as Mahishasura Mardini sto-

Sahasranama, Shri Ram stuti, Saraswati vandana, Shiv Raksha stotram, Shri Ramashtakam, K r i s h n a s h t a k a m , Madhurashtakam, Navadurga stotram, Shri Hari stotram. Ashtalakshmi stotram, Rudrashtakam, Shiyashtakam, Nirvana Shatakam, Shiv Shadakshar stotra, Shri Ram Sahastranam, Shrimad Bhagwat and Shri Durga Saptshati etc.

the Durga Puja pandals. I come especially on the occasion of "It's great to be with family and Aryama has memorised many City girl keeps Ramlila tradition alive in Canada

SHARMILA KRISHNA

warehouse A Lucknow girl is helping keep alive the Ramlila tra-Lucknow (PNS): A fire broke out at an ice-cream warehouse dition in Canada. To celebrate the festival of

in Ganeshganj under Naka police station on Friday. Dussehra this year, a grand police station on Friday.
According to information, a fire broke out in the ice-cream warehouse located in the densely populated Ganeshganj around 11 am on Friday.
The people living nearby informed the police and fire brigade about the fire. Initially four fire tenders reached the Ramlila was staged in Toronto in a very magnificent manner. This Ramlila, directed by Somya Mishra, not only captivated the people of Indian ori-gin but also attracted audiences from other diverse cultures. The entire event depicted the life story of Lord Ram in the four fire tenders reached the form of a unique dance-drama which touched the hearts of the spot but seeing the ferocity of the fire, more fire tenders were called from Alambagh, Chowk,

audience. Aminabad and Hazratganj fire stations. A total of eight fire Six years ago, Somya Mishra, a human resources consultant tenders were used to extinguish from Lucknow, decided to the fire. The cause of the fire bring this grand culture alive on Canadian soil. The goal was to inspire the younger tion to embody the character of Lord Ram in their daily lives and work towards the re-establishment of Ram Rajya in soci-

> The team included local Indo-Canadian actors, photographers, and volunteers who ded-



icated countless hours to makthan 35 children and 60 adults participated in this stage show, including 74-year-old Yashpal Sharma and 3-year-old Veer. Somya Mishra presented this divine tale by blending traditional and new theatrical styles. Talking to 'The Pioneer', Somya Mishra said that the idea of staging Ramlila had always been in her mind because she had directed a number of plays

"I had always taken a patriotic theme. After the success of one of the plays presented in downtown Toronto, I told my team that I wanted to stage Ramlila. To me it is a story that auto corrects society in following the righteous path and that is the psychological pur-pose of presenting Ramlila every year. It gives the idea of what a loving father is and the difference between a loving father and an over-attached parent. Six years ago when I was on maternity leave, I decided to set the ball rolling," she

Born and brought up in Lucknow, Somya Mishra stayed in Gomtinagar, Aligani, River Bank Colony and Jankipuram. She studied in Loreto Convent before moving to Canada in

Talking about the features of her Ramlila, Somya said they staged all the major episodes of Ramayana, from Bal Kand to Lanka Kand, while giving background of the main character. In the over 2-hour Ramlila we present, we follow Tulsidas . Ramayana, Ramcharitmanas and Valmiki Ramayana. Most of the dialogues are a literal translation of the chaupais (verses) from these books. We research and wherever we find the better words we use them,"

she added. She said that some of the favourite scenes were Laxman-Meghnad fight in which special effects to show multiple Meghanads, young Ram and Laxman going to Gurukul, Construction of Ram Setu Nirman in with all the Indo-Canadian kids standing in a line as 'vanars' and shouting 'Jai

Shree Ram'. Somya points out that the audience believes that such events not only entertain children but also help them learn about their cultural heritage and moral values. "It is extremely challenging to keep children connected to their heritage and roots in a foreign land with a busy lifestyle," she

investigation. The incident came to light on October 7, when the victim filed a complaint at the police station. She accused her neighbour Imran of molestation. According to the victim, she had left home for college at 9

am and boarded an autorickshaw at Transport Nagar. Her neighbour Imran Khan and an unknown person also boarded the same auto. After travelling some distance, Imran asked the auto driver to change the route. When she protested, Imran tied her mouth with a dupatta and forcibly took her to his room while the auto driver and the other person fled the spot. Imran took her to the room and strangled her. He started beating and molesting her. The student alleged that when he started talking to someone

on the mobile phone, she escaped and reached Krishna Nagar police station and filed a complaint. Imran Khan's father is a head constable in Uttar Pradesh Police. The accused hails from Pratapgarh. Due to his addiction to drugs, his family had turned him out of the house a few days ago. He was living in a rented house in Lucknow and to meet his expenses, he had started driving an electric-rickshaw.

Effigy of Ravan at Sadar Ramlila ground in Lucknow

Two held for kidnapping, molesting girl

PNS LUCKNOW

The Krishna Nagar police arrested two people, including the son of the accused head constable, in connection with kidnapping, molestation and assault on a girl student of a college in Lucknow.

The auto used in the incident has also been seized.

The Krishna Nagar police station officer said that on the information of an informer, Imran Khan and Tanveer Ahmed were arrested from a mango orchard near Ramdas Kheda railway crossing. Imran had forcibly taken the

girl to his room in an autorick-shaw with the help of his friend. On reaching there, he beat up and molested the stu dent. He also snatched her mobile phone so that she could not talk to anyone. On the basis of the complaint, the police registered a case and started an

In another incident, a scooter

on Thursday night. Initial reports said the loader

him dead.

The scooter dri ver has not

killed in road Four cops found

In a tragic accident, a software engineer was killed in a road accident on Shankarpur bridge in Madiaon area.

Software engineer Dhirendra Kumar Roshan (35) of Sasaram in Bihar was going to the rail-way station by a Rapido (hired bike service) to catch a train for Kanpur where he had to attend a meeting, when an unknown vehicle hit them from behind. While the Rapido bike rider was tossed away, the engineer got stuck under the bike and

accident

PNS LUCKNOW

was dragged several feet. Roshan was employed in an electric company in Noida. His company had taken a contract for some work in Shakti Bhawan. In connection with the work, Roshan was living in Palm Paradise Apartment in Madiaon with his wife Sushma and daughter for the last six months.

Around 5 am on Thursday, he was going to the railway station to catch a train for Kanpur and was riding the Rapido bike. He had to attend a meeting in Kanpur. When they reached near Shankarpur, an unknown speeding vehicle hit the bike from behind.

The police reached the spot and took Roshan and the bike driver to hospital where the software engineer was pronounced dead.

Inspector Shivanand Mishra said that a case was registered on the complaint of the victim's wife and the unknown vehicle was being searched with the help of CCTV cameras installed in the area.

rider was killed after a speeding loader hit him in Banthra police station area of Lucknow

hit the scooter rider, leaving him seriously injured. Locals immediately rushed to the spot and took the injured to the community health centre, where the doctors pronounced

been identified yet. The police have started investigating the case and the nearby CCTV footage is being scanned.

responsible for death of property dealer in Banthra

Lucknow (PNS): Four policemen, including an inspector, have been found responsible for the death of property dealer Hrithik Pandey, who had suc-cumbed to injuries in Banthra on the night of July 21 in Lucknow.

The role of these policemen, who have been suspended, in the death of the property deal-er surfaced in the preliminary investigation.

Property dealer Hrithik Pandey had died in a clash between villagers over restoration of electricity supply.
DCP (South) Keshav Kumar

said that departmental inquiry was going on against Inspector Hemant Rai, Sub-Inspectors Subhash Yadav and Sushil Yaday and constable Yogendra posted at the local police station at the time of the incident, and all had been found guilty.

"All four were suspended immediately after the inci-

dent," he said. It came to light in the investi-

gation that the dispute had escalated because the police did not listen to the victim's kin. There was a power crisis in Banthra village in July. Hrithik Pandey (20) had a dispute with his killers over this. On July 21, only four to five houses in the village were getting electricity. Hrithik had asked the electricity workers to fix the line fault. This led to a dispute with Himanshu Singh and his friends from the same village. After this, as soon as Hrithik returned home, Himanshu, Avnish, Pratyush, Priyanshu, Shani Singh along with their friends attacked his house. Hrithik was injured in the attack and he died on the way to hospital.

DCP (South) Tej Swaroop had ordered an investigation into the entire matter. After this, Banthra inspector, two subinspectors and a constable were suspended.

Man accuses retired police officer, son of usurping land

Lucknow (PNS): A man has accused a retired police officer and his son of usurping land of innocent people like him and making an empire by the alleged ill-gotten money in

Jankipuram. The victim, Ramprakash of Gudamba, filed a complaint with the Gudamba police. The accused retired police officer is said to be a close relative of an IAS and former secretary of LDA who is serving jail term at present.

In his complaint the victim said he only knew how to sign and was earning his livelihood by doing agriculture work.

He alleged that the accused and his son, both of Adil Nagar on Kursi Road, Lucknow, had acquired properties more than their known source of income during service and also usurped the land of many peo-

If anyone files a complaint against them, he loses his life. The accused father and son duo are running a hospital in Sector J of Jankipuram out of the illgotten wealth and usurped land and also a water factory in BKT.

He alleged that apart from these anomalies, they had many benami properties. "It is commonly known among the people in our locality that the accused is a relative of former IAS who was earlier the secretary of LDA and is currently in jail in a case of disproportionate assets. Being his close relative, he has acquired named and benami properties during his posting as inspector in the

police," he alleged.

The victim said the accused father-son duo and the members odf their family were very domineering and the common man feared them and no one had the courage to complain.

"The accused was acquainted with me and we had good relations with him. One day he came to my house with his son and said that the licence for petrol pump has been given in the name of his son but they were not getting land 2 km near Integral University," he

The victim said he was asked to give them 400 square metres of his land on Kursi Road to open the petrol pump and promised half of the profit.

I told them that my land is out of 2-km radius from Integral University, then how petrol pump be approved there? The accused told me that he will get a false report from the lekhpal and show the land within 2-km adius and that I need not worry about it," the victim alleged.

Later they agreed to make the victim a 51 per cent share holder and got him to sign on several papers which they told the victim to be of tenant agreement and share related. The victim said alleged that later the accused reneged the promise and forcibly captured his land.

"I gave several applications to Gudamba police station and at senior officials' officers but in vain. I finally took court's shelter to get the case registered,

NOTICE FOR CLOSURE OF OFFICE (POLICYBAZAAR INSURANCE BROKERS PRIVATE LIMITED)

We have closed our office situated at Shiva Complex, 1st Floor, D 58/53-54, F-9,

Rath Yatra Varanasi-221010 ("Demised Premises") on 7th October 2024. Our office at Office No 3, 6th Floor, Vinayak Plaza, Maldhaiya, Varanasi-221002 is the nearest operational office. However, our business, including website, email addresses and telephones are fully operational and no changes / delays is being experienced in the servicing our customers

Registered Office: Plot No.119, Sector - 44, Gurgaon, Haryana – 122001 (IRDAI Registration No. 742, Valid till 09/06/2027, License category- Composite Broker CIN: U74999HR2014PTC053454)

Kolkata rape case to be theme of Ravan dahan at Aishbagh

The Kolkata rape case which created shock waves across the country will be the theme of Ravan dahan at Aishbagh on Saturday. Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti mem-

ber Harish Chandra Aggarwal said that this year's the theme was 'Darandagi, Kattarata and Arajakta ka naash hona chahiye, which would be burnt along with the effigy of Ravan on the Ramlila grounds. He pointed out that "darandi-

gi" reminds us of the Kolkata rape case and several such cases which need to be stopped in society. "Kattarata' symbolises the happenings in Bangladesh where Hindus were attacked recently. This communalism is increasing amongst all communities while 'Arajakta'

symbolises the anarchy existing in society," he said.

Aggarwal said their aim to have the Kolkata incident as a theme was to send a message in society and remove the ills of society. "We want society, litterateurs and the intellectuals to think over the theme because it is the Ramayana which builds the soul of society," he added.

He said that the effigy of Ravan was 60-foot tall and the theme would be stuck on the chest of the effigy so that it would go up in flames. "There would be an elaborate display of fireworks," he added.

He said that from last year they had stopped burning the effi-gies of Meghnad and Kumbhkaran. "We stopped this practice because these men were essentially not Ramdrohis. They had tried to convince Ravan to release Sita. They fought the battle only as their duty towards their king Ravan," he said.

He said that earlier they used to construct a 120-foot tall effigy of Ravan but as the ground was small and the crowds huge, they had decreased the height of the effigy so that no mishap occurred.

"Nearly 60,000 to 70,000 people stand in the ground while four LEDs are placed outside to give a view to those standing outside the grounds," he pointed out.

Amongst the chief guest for the event would be Rajya Sabha member Dinesh Sharma. Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurva and Braiesh Pathak would also be present on the occasion.



Fatehgani Aminabad Road Lucknow Uttar Pradesh-226018 **NOTICE**

NOTICE Bihari Roy, was carrying orgina documents relating to my property no. Ground Floor L. D. - 30, Sector F, L.D.A. Colony, Kanpur Road Yojna, Lucknow while going from Lucknow Cant to Sarojini Nagar Sub Registrar office Lucknow on 10.10.2024 between 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM. On reaching Sarojin Nagar Sub Registrar office it came to my knowledge that the allotmen letter and possession letter in original are lost in transit. Any body inding the same, Kindly return it to his contact Mo-8777572966.

Vrindavan bypass to ease traffic congestion industries. The 81st meeting of Lucknow (PNS): Infrastructure development in Uttar Pradesh

is progressing swiftly under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Recognising the UP government's commitment to growth, the Central government has extended its full support. A 16.75-km-long bypass in Vrindavan is pro-posed under the PM Gati Shakti initiative. This project will not only simplify access for devotees visiting Banke Bihari temple but also provide a sig-nificant boost to local trade and

the Network Planning Group (NPG) in New Delhi reviewed the proposed Vrindavan bypass and the facilities it will offer to visiting devotees.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been particularly focused on the preservation and development of Uttar Pradesh's religious and cultural heritage. Under his leadership, the state's major religious sites are undergoing rapid renovation and development. These initiatives are not only enhancing facilities

for devotees but are also creating new opportunities for business, tourism, and employment in the surrounding areas. With the state's infrastructure expanding rapidly, the policies and development plans implemented over the past seven years have significantly strengthened Uttar Pradesh's economy.

Every year, lakhs of devotees from across India and abroad visit Vrindavan to offer prayers at the Banke Bihari temple. However, in recent years, the

rising number of vehicles has led to severe traffic congestion in the area. The proposed Vrindavan bypass aims to resolve this issue, making it easier for devotees to reach Banke Bihari and significantly reducing travel time. This bypass will enhance the region's connectivity by linking National Highway-44 to the Yamuna Expressway. Travel time, which currently takes around one and a half hours, will be reduced to just 15 minutes. In addition to easing traffic in Vrindavan, the

and stimulate industrial growth. The primary goal of the Vrindavan bypass is to improve connectivity and drive regional development. By alleviating transportation challenges, the project will foster socio-economic progress. With an anticipated increase in the number of tourists, local businesses are expected to flourish. Moreover, this initiative will provide fresh industrial activity and regional growth

project is set to boost tourism

Row over JPIC as SP, BJP clash on leader's anniv

After authorities advised him not to visit the JP International Centre here citing security concerns, a defiant SP chief Akhilesh Yadav Friday garlanded a bust of Jayaprakash Narayan mounted atop a vehicle outside his residence where hundreds of party workers had

gathered. JP, as the late socialist ideologue and fierce critic of the Emergency was known, has emerged as the latest centre of the tussle between the ruling BJP and the opposition party. Friday was the late socialist leader's birth anniversary. For the second year in a row,

the streets of Lucknow witnessed political drama.

JPNIC was among the pet projects of the Akhilesh Yadav government but is now being probed by the BJP government over alleged financial irregularities.

Yadav also appealed to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to withdraw support to the NDA, saying the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh stopped 'Samajwadis' from paying tributes to Narayan and asserting that the JD(U) chief owes his political emergence to the JP movement. In the morning, Yadav slammed the BJP government in the state for putting up barricades near his house on Vikramaditya Marg here and alleged that it was done to prevent 'Samajwadis' from visiting the site and garlanding Narayan's statue on his birth anniversary. Samajwadi Party workers had assembled outside Yadav's residence as ambiguity remained over Yadav's scheduled visit to the Jayaprakash Naravan International Centre (JPNIC). Around 10.30 am, a bust of Narayan, mounted on a vehicle, was garlanded by Yadav on the road packed with SP workers, several of them donning

red caps and raising slogans and party flags.
"On the birth anniversary of Iavaprakash Narayan ji, we go to the JPNIC museum to celebrate. But I don't know why this government stops us. This blockade by the BJP is not the first. It has blocked all good work," Yadav said. "Today, standing on the road, we are paying tributes to the 'Jan Nayak. This government wants we have done it here on the museum," he said. road itself," he told the gathering. The SP chief also said bamboo barricades would not have the BJP as he took to social been able to stop the workers from visiting JPNIC if it was minutes-long video of JPNIC,

With more than two years left for the assembly elec-

tions in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan

Samaj Party chief Mayawati declared that her party would

not ally with any party in the

future. On social media site X,

BSP chief Mayawati on one

hand indicated that the alliance

did not help her and her party

in the Haryana elections, and,

on the other hand, she also gave

the message that there will be

no alliance with anyone in the

future. Mayawati also claimed

that the BSP votes get trans-

ferred but supporters of other

In a series of posts, the former

chief minister of UP said that

including UP, BSP's votes may

parties do not vote for BSP.



not a festival day. He had reached IPNIC on Thursday night and lambasted the Yogi Adityanath government for blocking its main gate with tin sheets apparently to prevent

"The people of BJP are destructive. Give them anything good and they will destroy it. They stopped us Samajwadi people in the past also but since this is the ninth day of Navratri, think about the 'adharm' they are doing on a day of the festival," Yadav said.

He noted that there are several "socialist people" who are part of the government and involved in running the system. The chief minister of Bihar (Nitish Kumar) also keeps talking about Jayaprakash Narayan ji from time to time, in fact, he has emerged (as a politician) from JP's movement itself. This is a chance that he has got to withdraw support from a gov-ernment which is stopping Samajwadis from remembering Jayaprakash on his anniversary," Yadav said.

He said Kumar had added power to the JP's movement. Samajwadis have given respect to him (JP) and will continue to do so," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added. He alleged that the memorial at JPNIC is under covers because of a "conspiracy to sell it".

"Imagine, there is a governto stop us from garlanding but ment which wants to sell a

Later, on Friday Yadav continued his attack on

BSP not to go for alliance in future: Maya

the museum-memorial dedicated to the socialist leader. 'The socialists built memorials in honour of Loknavak, while the BJP only created obstacles. This is the difference between a positive and a negative mindset," he posted along with the

Earlier, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) informed Yadav that his planned visit to the JP centre was "not advisable" as it cited security concerns due to the ongoing construction work at the site. In a letter referencing their correspondence dated October 8, the LDA noted that Yadav who is accorded Z-plus security intended to pay homage to the statue located at the convention centre. "It is to be informed that the Engineering Department, Lucknow Development Authority has provided a report regarding the updated status of the work site, in which the JP Narayan Convention Centre project is still under construction. "The construction material is kept in an unplanned manner and due to the rainy season there is a possibility of the presence of unwanted living creatures. The site has not been found suitable for garlanding/visiting from the security point of view of Akhilesh Yaday, former chief minister, who has Z-Plus security," the LDA said in its letter dated October 10. Yadav took to social media and shared video clips and pictures of the deployment of security personnel, including police and rapid action force, with barricades

near his house here, a stone's throw away from the Samajwadi Party headquarters. "Whether it is the BJP people or their government, their every action is a symbol of negativity. To prevent the Samajwadi people from garlanding the statue of JP Narayan Ji on his birth anniversary like last time, barricades have been put up around our private residence to stop them,"

he posted on X in Hindi. The SP chief accused the BJP of creating hurdles in the path of harmony, peace, reservation, farmers' welfare, women's safety, youth development, employment generation, and development of PDAs (pichhde, Dalit alpsankhvak).

"The BJP has always been against freedom fighters and the freedom movement. They have learnt from the colonial powers and supported them secretly. Everyone is saying today that they don't want the BJP," Yadav said. Senior Samajwadi Party leader Shivpal Singh Yadav also hit out at the state government over the issue. "The BJP, intoxicated with power, wants to barricade democracy. The system of power can never prevail over the system of the people. Government, learn a lesson from the past! Dictatorship does not last long in a democracy," he posted on X along with videos of security deployment. Last year, too, Yadav had to climb over the gate of the JPNIC to garland JP's statue that was installed on the premises by the SP government

their selfish leaders, but to

unite the various parts of the

Bahujan Samaj on the basis of

mutual brotherhood and coop

eration and make them a polit-

ical power and the ruling class,

and for this it was harmful to

divert attention here and there.

In the recently-concluded Haryana elections, BSP and Indian National Lok Dal

(INLD) fought in alliance, but

After the results, Mayawati

had said the BSP and the INLD

fought in alliance but it was

clear that the "casteist people of

Jat community" did not vote for

BSP due to which her party

candidates lost by small mar-

gins of votes on some seats, although the entire vote of

BSP was transferred

the BSP drew a blank.

An eight-year-old girl was Killed in a leopard attack around 8 am, they said.

Villagers managed to scare away the animal, but by then she had sustained severe injuries, Nahtaur Station House Officer (SHO) Dheeraj Singh said. She was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her dead, Singh said, adding that the body has been sent for post mortem.

Man electrocuted

Amethi (PTI): A 28-year-old man was electrocuted while fixing a light at a Durga Puja pandal here, police said. The incident took place on Thursday night at Pure Tiwari village in the Munshiganj area of the district, they said. "Dhruv Raj Yadav, a resident of Sapaha Naurepur, worked at a light-house. He came in contact with electric current while repairing a halogen light late at night in the Durga Pandal set up in Pure Tiwari village," a local police official said.

Yogi: Society that respects women is capable and powerful in itself

Chief Minister Yogi extends his best wishes to evervone on the festival of Vijayadashami, hoping for happiness and prosperity for all

PNS GORAKHPUR

Shardiya Navratri.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended heartfelt greetings to the peo-ple of Uttar Pradesh on the auspicious occasions of Mahanavami and Vijayadashami, celebrated as and part of the grand festival of

In his message, he emphasised that the strength and capability of a society are reflected in how it treats its women. "A society that worships and respects its women is inherently capable and powerful," he said.

The chief minister, speaking to the media after performing the Kanya pujan ritual at the Gorakhnath temple on Friday, shared the significance of this tradition. He said, "Shardiya Navratri is a festival that upholds and honours the dignity of women."

He explained that followers of Sanatan dharma in India and around the world come together with devotion and enthusiasm to worship the nine forms of Maa Bhagwati Durga during the festivals of Shardiya and Vasantik Navratri. The rich traditions of Sanatan dharma's festivals attract attention, and on the ninth day of Shardiya Navratri, the ritual of Kanya pujan is performed along

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performs Kanya Pujan at Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur on Friday

with the worship of Maa Siddhidatri, who fulfills all wishes, he added. Chief Minister Yogi expressed his gratitude for having the opportunity to carry out this sacred ritual as per the longstanding traditions of Gorakshapeeth.

He further explained that Navratri is not just a festival of worshiping Shakti (power) but also represents respect for women, who make up half of the population. Since ancient times, Indian wisdom has embraced the belief that 'where women are worshipped, divine powers reside", he added.

He said that the worship of the nine forms of Maa Durga during Navratri was a significant tradition in Sanatan dharma, offering inspiration for ensuring the safety, respect and empowerment of women. He highlighted that the safety of society is closely linked with the safety and dignity of women. By empowering women and respecting their

dignity, both the state and the country can progress towards prosperity for all, he added. Looking ahead to Vijayadashami, which is celebrated the day after Mahanavami, Chief Minister Yogi noted that it marks the victory of Lord Ram over Ravana. He pointed out that where there is worship of Shakti, there is sure to be victory. He added that Vijayadashami celebrates Lord Ram's triumph over Ravana, who represents evil, injustice and tyranny. On this occasion, people participate in Ramlila performances and the tradition of burning Ravana's effigy as a symbol of vanquishing injustice.

Chief Minister Yogi extended his best wishes to everyone on the festival of Vijayadashami, hoping for happiness and prosperity for

Earlier, following traditional Kanya pujan rituals, Chief Minister

Gorakshpeethadheeshwar Yogi Adityanath washed the feet of nine unmarried girls and worshiped them, covering them with chunari, performing aarti, serving them food with devotion, and seeking their blessings by offering them 'dakshina'. He also performed Batuk puja on the occasion.

The ceremony took place on Friday on the first floor of his residential complex at the temple, where he washed the feet of the nine girls one by one using water from a brass plate. He applied tilak made of roli,

sandalwood, curd, akshat, and barley grown at the Shaktipeeth altar to their foreheads, before honoring them with garlands, chunaris, gifts, and dakshina.

Indian Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Authorised Officer Indian Bank

Eight-year-old girl killed in leopard attack

while accompanying her mother to collect fodder in a jungle in Bijnor district on Friday, police said. The incident lkapur village of Nahtaur area when a leopard dragged Tanya from the road

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property) [Under Rule-8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Details as under

Date: 12.10.2024

इंडियन बेंक

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstructio of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferre under section 13(12) read with rule 3, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notic as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the

date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Bank.

The Borrower's / Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s). Guarantor (s) & Mortnagor (s) to deposit the said dues.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) & Mortgagor (s) to deposit the said dues

Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Name & Address of the Borrower (s)/ Description of the Guarantor (s)/ Proprietor / Mortgagors Immovable Property Branch : Kaiserbagh branch 1. Shri Mohd Rizwan Khan S/o Late Nanhe House built over plot No 45 & 45A, Parl Khan (Borrower, Mortgagor), Address: Khasra No 367, measuring 1575 sq f 09.10.2024 298/13k Gali Meer Mata, Nakhas Thana Chow .e. 146.37 sq mtr covered area 1200 sq t i.e. 111.524 sq. mtr. Situated a 2. Smt Sana Rizwan Khan W/o Mohd Rizwan Khan (Borrower, Mortgagor) Address: Baraura Hussain Bari, Ward Kanhaiya Madhaypur Distt Lucknow, Deed Details: Bahi No 1, Jild No. 10253 Pages 371 to 416, Sr No. 1419 3. Shri Mohd Arfaat S/o Shri Chand registered at Sub Registrar-V Lucknow Mohammad (Guarantor), Address: House No. 421/5 Bandhuva Khana Amber Ganj Lucknow on 20/02/2015, Bounded by: East Road 12 ft wide, West- Plot No 44 4. Shri Ziauddin S/o Jamiluddin (Guarantor) North-Road 20 ft wide, South-Plot No Address: House No. 417/488 Nivas Gan

इण्डियन ओवरसीज बैंक INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING) RO: LUCKNOW | CO: CHENNAI POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (For Immovable Properties) Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitization and

Place: Lucknow

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on mentioned Date.

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Overseas Bank for the amounts and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, In respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name and Address of the Borrowers/Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession O/S Amount
Bra	nch-Jhansi Main Branch(0565), 43-44, Azad Ga Ph. 0510-2361238, E	nj, Subhash Market, Sipri Bazar, J -mail : iob0565@iob.in	Ihansi, U.P28400:
1.	Housing Loan-Borrower: Mr. Rajesh Sahu S/o Devi Das Sahu, Address H. No. 241, (Old)/291 ((New) Ward No. 25, Hirapura, Mauza-Gadiyagaon, Pratappura, Behind Shiv Mandir, Nagra Jhansi Guarantors:: Smt. Savita Sahu W/o Mr. Rajesh Sahu, Address H. No. 241, (Old)/291 (New) Ward No. 25, Hirapura, Mauza-Gadiyagaon, Pratappura, Behind Shiv Mandir, Nagra Jhansi Term Loan-Mr. Rajesh Sahu S/o Devi Das Sahu, (Borrower) Smt. Savita Sahu W/o Mr. Rajesh Sahu, (Co-Borrower) Address H. No. 241, (Old) /291 (New) Ward No. 25, Hirapura, Mauza-Gadiyagaon, Pratappura, Behind Shiv Mandir, Nagra Jhansi	Double Storeyed Residential House Situated at H. No. 241, (Old) /291 (New) Ward No. 25, Hirapura, Mauza-Gadiyagaon, Pratappura, Nagra Jhansi U.P., Admeasuring-49.17 Sq.mtr. Owned by-Shri Rajesh Sahu S/o Shri Devi Das Sahu, Boundaries-: North- 4 ft. Wide Road, South- House of Shri Manoj, East- Railway Land, West-House of Smt Ram Kali (More Describe in Sale Deed No. 3931 Dated 01.08.2012)	09.10.2024 Rs. 5,57,999.32 +further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc.
2.	Borrower-: M/s Dev Saree & Suit, Prop: Mr. Alok Kumar S/o Mr. Ram Manohar Bilgaiyan, Permanent Address: H. No.A-137, Avas Vikas Colony, Nandanpura, Jhansi, UP-284003 Communication/Shop Address: Shop No.77/20, Subhash Market, Sipri Bazaar, Jhansi-284003 Guarantors-: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Tiwari, Communication/Permanent Address:H. No.280, Raj Bhavan, Gali No2, Nandanpura, Jhansi, UP-284003	Triple Storey commercial Building at "Dev Saree and Suit", Shop No.77/20, Azad Ganj-Subhash Market, Sipri Bazaar, Jhansi held in the name of Mr. Alok Kumar S/o Mr. Ram Manohar Bilgaiyan, Extent of land: 14.78 Sq. Mtr. Boundaries-tNorth-Shop No.77/21, South-Shop No.77/19, East-Road, West-Sabji Mandi	Rs. 14,46,460.69 +further interest a contractual rates & rests, charges

Maha Kumbh 2025 set to surpass Kumbh 2019 records

spend of over Rs 3.53 crore.

For Maha Kumbh 2025, more

ter experience of the Punjab elections before that, in the

review meeting of Haryana and Punjab held on Friday, it

was decided not to form any

alliance with regional parties,

while the distance from the

Bharatiya Janata Party and National Democratic Alliance,

and Congress and INDIA bloc

The BSP chief said that all-

round casteist efforts were

going on to weaken the coun-

try's only "prestigious" Ambedkarite party, BSP, and its caravan of self-respect and

self-esteem movement in every

way, and so it was necessary to

continue the process of self-sal-

vation and becoming the rul-

Mayawati said that BSP was not

a movement to unite various

ing class.

would continue as before.

PNS LUCKNOW/PRAYAGRAJ

The Yogi Adityanath government is not only committed to making the Maha Kumbh 2025 a grand and divine event but also to presenting it as a global benchmark for the world's largest gatherings. Following the successful organisation of this two-month-long event, several significant world records are set to be established, surpassing those of the 2019 Kumbh, and inspiring greater public participation.
While ₹3.5 crore was allocat-

ed for record-breaking activities in 2019, this time a budget of ₹5 crore has been approved.

Through these achievements, the Yogi government aims to send a strong message of a green and clean Maha Kumbh to the global community. Extensive preparations have

been made to ensure wide- world records were set with a from around the world spread public involvement during the auspicious occasion of Maha Kumbh 2025. As part of this, four Guinness

get transferred to the alliance

party, but due to lack of abili-

ty to transfer their votes to BSP,

it is necessary to save the party cadre from disappointment

and setback to the Bahujan

movement due to not getting

the expected election results.

The former parliamentarian

said that in this context, in view

assembly elections and the bit-

in the elections of other states, of the results of the Haryana

than Rs 1.25 crore will be spent on organising various recordnew Guinne World Records breaking activare planned ities. In the 2019 through Kumbh, active pubthe Yogi lic particgovernipation. The govment set ernment remarkhas alloa b l e cated a total budrecord for get of ₹4.87 the largest handprint crore to sup-

painting. A total of 7,664 port these record-setting activities, with Rs participants con-tributed to a signature art-2.25 crore dedicated to activity management and Rs work on a 60-foot canvas 1.62 crore earmarked for relatwithin just eight hours. This ed development works. In the impressive feat of communi-2019 Kumbh, several major ty participation, with people

involved, surpassed the previous record of 4,675 signatures set by South Korea. For Maha Kumbh 2025, the Yogi government plans to elevate this achievement by engaging 10,000 participants in the

same activity.
Similarly, during the 2019
Kumbh, the Yogi government
organised the largest bus parade on February 28, 2019, within the fairgrounds. This event highlighted the efficient transport management of the Prayagraj Mela Authority and Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation. A fleet of 503 buses showcased an impressive parade, drawing wide-spread attention and breaking the previous record of 390 buses set by Abu Dhabi. In Maha Kumbh 2025, a grand parade of 1,000 electric rickshaws is planned to promote green energy and raise awareness about a healthy environment. A further record was set in

Kumbh 2019 for the largest simultaneous cleaning of the ghats and fairgrounds, reflecting the Yogi government's strong commitment to cleanliness and waste management. During the event, 10,180 people participated in a coordinated cleaning campaign at multiple locations, earning a place in the Guinness Book of . World Records. Maha Kumbh 2025 aims to surpass this achievement, with plans for 15,000 people to participate in simultaneous cleaning activities across the fair area and ghats. Additionally, another record will be attempted as 300 individuals will enter the river together to conduct a river-cleaning campaign.

KDA hands over DDs worth ₹11.04 cr to 13 farmers

Kanpur (PNS): The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) handed over demand drafts (DDs) worth ₹11.04 crore to 13 farmers against the purchase of around 1.4384 hectares of land from them at four times the circle rate for the New Kanpur City Project. OSD Dr Ravi Pratap Singh handed over the drafts to farmers Gyanendra Dwivedi, Madhulal, Rajendra Singh, Gyan Singh, Sangeeta Singh, Nirmala, Vikram Singh, Shilu Shukla, Mohan Lal, Nikhil Kumar,

Rank Website

Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh-

E-Auction



Vishal Kumar and Rekha Mishra in the presence of tehsildars Dr Archana Sharma, Ram Nath, Naib Tehsildar Mauii Lal and Amins Santosh Kumar and Ramlal. He informed that 13

other farmers had also submitted their consent to sell 1.917178 hectares of land for which e-stamp worth around Rs.16 crore had already been generated. The execution of sale deed in favour of KDA is scheduled to take place next week. He said farmers interested in selling their land can collect detailed information about submitting their consent letter/clarifying any problem and other issues from the team of officials of the Land Bank Department of KDA on any working day.

e-Auction **Indian Bank** ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office: Tindwari Road Near Saint Mary School Banda (U.P.)-210001

Sale notice for sale of immovable properties [See proviso Rule 8 (6)] E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on

Sr.		Name of Guarantors	Bank's Dues		Reserve Price	
No.	(1) P2 (1/17.7)	Name of Property	Encumbrances on	Details of Property (As per Deed) ID No.	Earnest Money	
	Branch Name	Owner/Mortgagor	Property	10 1000	Incremental Bid Rs.	
	Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt. Rupali W/o Dharamveer Singh, Address: Near Forest Office, Bijli Khera Civil Lines, Tehsil & Distt. Banda	Singh S/o Bhagwan Das 2. Shri Sudhir Kumar Khare S/o B N Khare	as on 14.05.2024 with further interest cost, other charges and	Boundaries: East: Land of Seller, West: Rasta 22 feet	ক. 14.62 লাख ক. 1.462 লাख ক. 10,000.00	
	Guarantors: 1. Shri Dharamveer Singh S/o Bhagwan Das 2. Shri Sudhir Kumar Khara	Address: Near		wide, North: Land of Seller, South: Land of Seller, East to West-50 feet, North to South - 20 feet		

	S/o B N Khare Both R/o Near Fo Office, Bijli Khera Lines, Tehsil & Distt. Ba			P	roperty ID No. IDIB3020)5663666
			QR	Code	w-	1/2/2
v	Bank Website www.indianbank.in	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photo of Property
2.	Collection, Busine Address: Gosai G Near Sudha Saura Banda ,Uttar Prades 210001 (Proprietor)	Bunj libh, sh -	as on 14.06.2 with further into cost, other charg expenses thereo from 15.06.20	Mauja-Mawai Buju Pradesh-210001, i es and on from 024 Hot of Ravit Bhatija	T: Land of Brajmohan Tiwa a and other, North: 18 ft w	nda, uttar ক. 21.25 লাख W/o Anil ক. 2.125 লাख ক. 10,000.00

			6.2			ω _F .
2.	Borrower: M/s Shiv Collection, Business Address: Gosai Gunj Near Sudha Saurabh, Banda ,Uttar Pradesh - 210001, (Proprietor) Mr. Anil Kumar Sahu S/o Maiku Sahu, Address: Civil Lines Banda, Uttar Pradesh - 210001 2. Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Anita Sahu W/o Anil Kumar Sahu W/o Anil Kumar Sahu , Address: GlO Hostel ke Pichhe Banda, Uttar Pradesh - 210001 Branch: Banda Main,	Mrs. Anita Sahu W/o Anil Kumar Sahu, Address: GIC Hostel ke Pichhe Banda, Uttar Pradesh-210001	as on 14.06.2024 with further interes cost, other charges a expenses thereon fro from 15.06.2024 Not Known to Ban	Mauja-Mawai Buju Pradesh-210001, i Mumar Sahu, Area Boundaries: EAS Plot of Ravit Bhatija k	T: Land of Brajmohan Tiwa a and other, North: 18 ft wi	mda, uttar জ. 21.25 লাख W/o Anii জ. 2.125 লাख জ. 10,000.00 ide Road,
100	·		OR Cor	le	•	2.70

V	vww.indianbank.in	Website	Document	Pro	operty Location	Video of Property	Photo	of Property
					9 (9) 7 (9)		Contraction of the Contraction o	
3.	Borrower & Mortgagor: M/s Bihari Food Corporation, Business Address: Mauja – Bhatipura, Gata No. 456 & 459, Mahoba U.P210424. Proprietor & Mortgagor: Anjali Gupta W/o Navin Kumar Gupta, R/o 15, Tehsil Road, Chhipiyana Pura, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh- 210427 Guarantor & Mortgagor: Navin	Pramod Gupta S/o B Lal Gupta, 2. Pramod Kumar C S/o Bihari Lal Gupta, 3. Baby Parveen Abdul Majeed, Navin Kumar Gupta Bihari Lal Gupta, R/o 18, Chhipyana Mahoba, Uttar Pradi 210427.	Bihari as on 07.03 with further in cost, other cha expenses there from 08.03. Not Known to pura,	.2024 nterest rges and eon from 2024	(Old no16) , Mo Mahoba in the na Late Bihari Lal Gu Boundaries: Eas Door and Kuliya, Shankar Lal,	and & Building at House shalla-Chhipyana, Ward ame of Naveen Kumar Gupta. Area: 52 Sq. Mt. tt: House of prabha rani North: Kuliya, South: Poperty ID No. IDIB30282	No. 15, upta S/o West: louse of	ক. 1.162 লাব ক. 10,000.00
	Kumar Gupta urf Pramod Gupta S/o Bihari Lal Gupta, R/o 18, Chhipyana pura, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh - 210427. Guarantor: 1. Pramod Kumar Gupta S/o Bihari Lal Gupta, R/o 18, Chhipyana Pura, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh - 210427 2. Baby Parveen D/o Abdul Majeed, R/o Nayapura Naikana,	M/s Bihari F Corporation through proprietor Mrs. A Gupta w/o Naveen k Gupta.	h its Aniali		at Gata no. 456 & 4 Kalyan nagar, war M/s Bihari Food 0 Mrs. Anjali gupta w Area: 827.12 Sq. I Boundaries: Eas West: Road 20 fer Feet,	and and factory building 459 at Mauja-Bhatipura, I d No. 04, Mahoba in the Corporation through its p //o Naveen kumar Gupta wtt. st: Plot Yashoda etc. & et, North: Field, South:	Mohalla- name of roprietor Keshav, Road 20	ক. 6.161 নাৰ ক. 10,000.00

Bank Website www.indianbank.in	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photo of Property	
	Property No.	2, QR Code, Pro	perty ID No. IDIB30	2828286422		
Bank Website www.indianbank.in	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photo of Property	
Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Shamashad S/o Gulan Ali, Address: 263, Korai Fatehpur, U.P.212601	Mrs. Hamidunnisha W/o Shamshad	Rs. 13,39,061.00 as on 21.05.2024 with further interest cost, other charges and				
Co-Borrower & Guarantor: Mrs. Hamidunnisha W/o	Mr. Shamashad S/o GulamAli,	expenses thereon from from 22.05.2024				
Mr. Shamashad, Address 263, Korai, Fatehpur	Add: 263, Korai, Fatehpur , Uttar Pradesh 212601	Not Known to Bank	Vendor,	9618752		
U.P.212601	The state of the s					
U.P.212601 Branch: Bindki, Mob.:	94154 77844					
178 (7197A3V)	94154 77844 E-Auction	QR C	ode	<u> </u>		

Date Time of submission of process Compliance form & EMD 13.11.2024 i.e before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal and Date & Time of e-auction 13.11.2024 from 10.00 AM-4.00 P.M. with unlimited extension, with Bid incremental mentioned as above.

百年中

The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register with online portal (https://www.ebkray.in) using their mobile number and email id. Further, after completing their eKYC, the intending Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount in their e-Wallet by 13.10.2024, 10:00 AM. The registration, eKYC and transfer of EMD in their e-Wallet by 13.10.2024, 10:00 AM. The registration is expected by 13.10.2024, 10:00 AM. The wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. Platform (https://www.ebkray.in) for e-Auction will be provided by our e Auction service provider PSB alliance PVt Ltd., (Contact Phone 8291220220, email ID:-support.ebkray@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process a e-Auction Service Provider's website https://www.ebkray.in

Corporate Office: Avvai Shanmugam Salai Royalpettah, Chennai-600014

Authorized Officer, Indian Bank Date: 12.10.2024 Place: Banda, Distt. Banda

Navratri concludes with Kanya Pujan

Shardiya Navratri concluded with traditional Kanya Pujan at several places in the city on the auspicious occasion of Navmi on Friday. Several families or organisations which observe Kanya Puja on Ashtami, also performed it during the day in the Udaya Tithi. Kanya Pujan was organised at Shri Agrasen Kanya Inter College, in which the chief guest was the MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari.

Seeking blessings of the girls while washing their feet, the MLA gifted a copy to all the girl students in which there was a 'shloka' in Sanskrit that there is no wealth greater than education. "Neither can anyone steal it nor wealth will always grow by shar-



can anyone snatch it and this MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari offering Kanya Pujan at Shri Agrasen Kanya Inter College in

Prayers offered at Siddhidatri Temple PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI VARANASI VARANASI

Hundreds of devotees thronged Siddhidatri Devitemple at Golghar in Bulanala area on the auspicious occasion of Navmi, the last day of the Shardiya Navratri here on Friday. From the morning itself the devotees started thronging the temple for offering prayers. This holy city has nine temples each of all the Devis and Gauris where the devotees offer prayers on dif-

ing and will remain with us till

our last breath", Dr Tiwari said.

While encouraging the children, he said all the students should support each other, listen to their

teachers and move forward in life

with discipline and focus on the

goal. Earlier, the guests were wel-

comed by the manager of the col-

lege Dr Ritu Garg. She said girls are the form of Maa Saraswati,

Maa Lakshmi and in case of need,

they do not shy away from taking

the form of Maa Durga and Maa

Kali. "In our country girls have

been worshipped since ancient

times and women have been get-



ferent days during Shardiya and Vasantik Navratri respectively. Besides, heavy rush was also

ting an excellent position as they

have also proved their contribu-

field where women are not wav-

ing their flag and are playing an

Banerjee. Many dignitaries, includ-

ing corporator Manoj Yadav, Sanjav

Vishvambhari etc were also present.

Kanya Pujan was also organised at

Baba Keenaram Ashram, Krinkund

near Shivala. As the worship of girls

seen throughout the day at Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Crowds of devotees were also seen at all other temples of god-desses, including the old Durga Mandir in trans-Ganga Ramnagar and Maa Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpura near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders. Hundreds of people also went to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district. On the last day of Navratri, crowds were seen in almost all temples of goddesses in different parts of the city.

is of special importance in Shardiya Navratri, the girls were worshiped at this famous religious place by its chief Baba Siddhartha Gautam tion to their society and country from time to time", she said, adding that today there is no such Ram. As per the tradition, Bhairav Puja programme was also held at the ashram. A large number of devotees important role in making India a world leader by giving their best performance. The vote of thanks was proposed by Principal Sangeeta reached Keenaram Sthal premises and took blessings by worshiping the 'kanyas' (girls) and Bhairav. Prior to this, the feet of the girls were painted with 'mahavar' (red colour) and were given new clothes, bindi, kumkum and chunris followed by offering of satvik (vegetarian) food containing puris, vegetables, kheer, curd, sweets and seasonal fruits.

Navami celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

On the last day of Shardiya Navratri i.e. on Navami, a huge crowd of devotees gathered in the goddess tem-ples here on Friday. After Mangala Aarti in Maa Alopshankari Devi Shaktipeeth temple, devotees started arriving from 5 am. Kalyani Devi, Lalita Devi temples are also situated here. Here too, a huge crowd of devotees, especially women, gathered here to pay obeisance to Goddess Durga. Navmi was celebrated with joy

in Baghambari Math. Bageshwari Devi was specially decorated in Baghambari Math, while Mahant Balbir Giri Maharaj washed the feet of the girls. Before this, Goddess Bageshwari was wor-shiped, after which the feet of the girls in the form of the goddess were washed and worshipped. He performed the ritual of traditional Navmi Puja. After this the girls were fed and sent off by giving them 'dakshina' and gifts. The head of the monastery, Mahant Balbir Giri, said that special worship was per-formed on the occasion of the ninth day of Navratri. The fasting women also wor-shipped the nine girls considering them as the form of the goddess and gave them gifts. Kanya Pujan was performed

in every house. Dharmacharya Omprakash Pandey said on Friday, Ashtami and Navami Tithi of Ashwin Shukla Paksha fell together. The muhurt of Ashtami was till 6:37 am after that Navami started which lasted throughout the day. He said Maa Siddhidatri is worshipped on Navami. Navratri ended on Friday and Dussehra which is also called Vijayadashmi will be celebrated on October 12.

Puja pandals attract people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

akhs of people thronged Durga Puja pan-Lakhs of people thronged Dungan and Familians, decorated with attractive lighting arrangements on the auspicious occasion of Navmi, the last day of Shardiya Navratri here on Friday. In the evening heavy rush of people was seen in several areas like Lahurabir. Godowlia, Sonarpura, Machodari, Shivpur and many others as several big and famous puja pandals attracted the people due to their leur and shows of electronic gadgets rush continued throughout the night and people were seen thronging at midnight.

Elaborate security arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incident and the police personnel kept a vigil on anti-social elements and eve teasers through CCTV

cameras installed at all the big pandals. Commissioner of Police (CP), District Magistrate (DM) S Raialingam and other senior officers were seen in different areas taking stock of the situation. Senior police officers were also keeping an eye on traffic management as several restrictions were imposed in different areas of this holy city. known as 'Mini Kolkata' for its grandeur of Durga Puja.

Attractive lighting arrangements Luxa, Godowlia, were made in most areas of the city. Earlier, Sonarpura, Bhelupur, Maidagin and many the DM along with Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP) S Chinnappa visited the Durga Puja pandals located at Gillet Bazaar and received blessings of the goddess. They also inspected the puja pan-dals and took stock of the arrangements. During this they also talked to the Durga Puja pandal organisers and the police officers present on the spot and laid special emphasis on keeping the crowd under control along with the necessary arrangements in the pandals. On the occasion, traditional gaiety and religious fervour prevailed as a good number of people thronged different areas of the city to see the idols of Goddess Durga. Due to heavy rush of the crowd, the entry of vehicles was stopped on the road from Lahurabir crossing to Nai Sadak. Barricading was done in the pandals to control the pressure of the crowd. Not only in the city but also in the rural areas festive

mood was seen as idols of Maa Durga were installed at 648 pandals of the district. Attractive lighting arrangements were done from Lahurabir to Chetganj, Godowlia to Luxa, Godowlia to Jangambari, Sonarpur to Shivala and Bhelupur, Visheshwarganj to Machhodari, Mukimganj to Prahladghat and in many trans-Varuna areas. This time a pandal has been built on the lines of Prem Mandir of Vrindavan in the Mini Stadium located in Shivpur. Apart from this, the famous Premium Boys' Club pandal of Hathua Market has been given the form of Swarved Temple of Varanasi. Jaipur's famous Sheesh Mahal has been built in Sanatan Dharma Inter College located on Nai Sadak. Shows based on women empowerment and Baba

Vishwanath are also being presented inside the pandal. Elaborate security and other arrangements have been made on the occasion. The pandals were also installed in various rural markets in the district. With the extension of the city, some big pan-dals were also seen in rural areas. The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Sigra,

areas in the trans-Varuna area, including Shivpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadiva and some others. In many pandals all the tra-ditional rituals were performed by the puja samiti members. In Bengali-dominated areas, people performed all their rituals with traditional gaiety. At many pandals, people were seen dancing on the beat of nagaras to please the Goddess of Shakti (strength). At several places, 'bhajans' and other programmes were presented apart from offering 'prasad' to the peo-ple. Besides, 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 (Bhelupur), Eagle Club (Jangambadi), Har Sundari Dharmshala (Girjaghar), Premier Boys' Club (Hathua Market) and many others.

Importance of eye donation emphasised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Nazareth Hospital here organised a I 'Blind Walk' on the occasion of World Sight Day on Thursday evening to rai awareness about the challenges faced by visually impaired and promote eye donation. The event included a unique activity called "Walk Blindfolded: Experience Something Unique" in which participants experienced the hardships of blindness by walking in a

line blindfolded. Divya Jyoti Niketan students — Ranjana and Muskan along with local participants led the walk that started from Hotstuff Chauraha and ended at Subhash Chauraha in Civil Lines. The event was attended by hospital staff, doctors, local residents and volunteers who gained a deeper understanding about the

hardships faced by visually impaired. Director, Nazareth Hospital, Fr Vipin D'Souza, emphasised the importance of eye donation and called it a noble act. The initiative was organised in collaboration with Divya Jyoti Niketan. Administrator of Nazareth Hospital Father Isidore D'Souza expressed his gratitude to the participants and the administration after they pledged to donate their eves.

The event saw significant participation, including Father Vipin D'Souza, Akhil Patnaik, Matron Sister Monsi, Sister Sheeba, Sister Maxi, Sr Meena and around 200 local residents who raised awareness about blindness and encouraged eye donation.

GUEST LECTURE: The Pharmacy Department of SHUATS organised a guest lecture on "Eco-friendly and Economic Applications of Solubilising Properties of Safe and Economic Solids in Various Fields of Pharmacy". Renowned academician Prof RK Maheshwari, retd professor and Ex-Head of Pharmacy Department, SGSITS, Indore delivered a lecture at this event. Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences Prof Amita Verma welcomed all the guests.

DRM conducts surprise inspection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the 'Say no to Plastic Campaign', Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vineet Kumar Srivastava conducted a surprise inspection to check quality cleaning along with keeping the food plaza and food stalls of Varanasi City railway station plastic free. The DRM did a thorough inspection of the cleanliness and the materials and equipment used in cleaning at Varanasi City station on Thursday along with the Environment and Housekeeping (EnHM) officers and team.

On the occasion Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer

(SDME/Carriage & Wagon) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Abhishek Rai, Deputy Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) IC Subhash, Senior Section Engineer (SSE/Carriage) Rajiv Yadav, Senior Section Engineer (Signal) Raju Singh, Chief Health Inspector Ajay Dwivedi, Station Superintendent ÉH Hashmi, Railway Protection Force (RPF) inspector Anjulata Dwivedi, Chief Ticket Inspector Shyam Bihari Singh and other station employees extended their cooperation in the cleanliness drive. During this period, the DRM distributed cotton handbags among the passengers. While prohibiting the use of plastic at the station, a request was made to not use plastic bags in the station premises.

Litterateur felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Noted litterateur and author Raj Kumar Singh of the city was felicitated by famous theatre artiste Mohit Barua for his recently released new novel 'Suno, Sunila Sarang Shokgatha' in two volumes. Speaking on the occasion, Mohit Barua said RK Singh is among the authors who knew the



art of converting the woes of general masses into reality. Raj Kumar Singh is an ace novelist and story writer. He authored several novels and stories titled 'Chhote Hote Log', 'Uski Pant', etc. He has many honours to his credit and been awarded prizes for participating in story writing competitions.

Defence Minister urges military to be alert amid global uncertainty

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the present complex and ambiguous world situation affects everyone globally and urged military top brass to be alert, regularly modernise and pre-

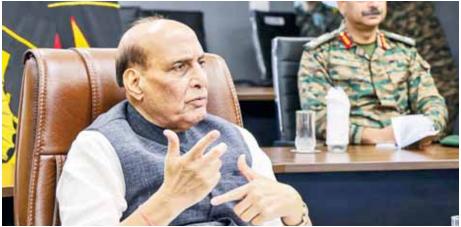
contingencies. Making this assertion while addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in Sikkim,

pare continuously for various

"Unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war will be part of the future conventional wars and the same is evident in the recent conflicts happening in various parts of

This necessitates that Armed Forces should keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies. We must keep learning from the incidents to include the global ones, happened in present as also in past, so as to avert the damage

Commenting on the current situation along the Northern



borders facing China, the defence minister expressed full confidence in the Army for any contingency though, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution will continue at all levels. The second Army Commanders' Conference this year commenced in a hybrid format on Thursday in a forward location at Gangtok. Conduct of the Senior Commanders Conference at a forward location underlines Indian Army's focus on ground realities.
During the event, Indian

Army's comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios, situation along the borders and in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus. In addition, the conference is also focusing on issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, administration and human resource management. Owing to the bad weather at Gangtok, Rajnath addressed the commanders in virtual mode

from an army location Sukna,

in the region which was also evident in the recently conducted elections in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and for this I again compliment the Indian Army," he said.

The Defence Minister commended the Army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities which he has always been experiencing first hand during his visits to forward areas his visits to forward areas. Rajnath stressed upon the technological advancement taking place in every sphere of our life and applauded the Armed Forces for aptly incorporating them. He appreciated the Army's efforts to develop niche technologies in collaboration with civil industries, including premier educational institutions and thereby progressing towards the aim of 'Modernisation through Indigenisation' or

'Atmanirbharta'. He stated that modernisation of weapons for every soldier through Atmanirbharta is the key focus of the government and the government is completely with the Armed Forces in this aspect.

Act or face consequence: FEMA, IMA tell Mamata Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Both the Federation of Medical Associations (FeMA) and the Indian Medical Association have asked Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take cognizance of the ongoing indefinite fast of the junior doctors and resolve the impasse by acceding to their 10-point demands that include justice for the lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who was on August 9 raped and murdered while on duty inside her hospital.

In a strongly worded letter to Chief Minister Bengal Mamata Banerjee Federation of Medical Associations (FeMA) has written that if there was a casualty among the doctors who were fasting unto death then the consequence would be uncontrollable.

"We have realised that Mamata Banerjee is least interested in addressing the genuine demands" of the junior doctors who had been on a fast unto death. Threatening a complete cease work of doctors and also a bigger movement the FeMA has warned that "no amount of vote bank or police force will be able to stop the movement. We will make sure that this extreme step that you are



forcing us to take will be supported by every common man and even your own vote bank. It will soon be followed by similar action Pan India. Even central forces will not be sufficient to douse the flames," the FeMa wrote.

The letter barely a few hours before Aniket Mahato a striking doctor was hospitalized in a "critical condition." Nine doctors, seven in Kolkata and two in Siliguri were sitting in fast unto death in support of their demands post the brutal rape and murder of "Abhaya" the victim doctor of RGKMCH. In a ten-point demand the doctors have been asking for a central referral system with real time monitoring so that no patient has to run from hospital to hospital losing vital time of treatment, installation of CCTV cameras, foolproof security of medical staff, end of threat syndicate inside medical colleges and related "rule of and rule by corruption," and conducting of college elections so as to end the "threat and extortion raj being perpetrated in the

The Bengal chapter of IMA too wrote to the Chief Minister to end the imbroglio by providing the junior doctors with a written deadline by which their demands would be fulfilled. "It (has) almost (been) a week

since the young doctors of Bengal (started their) fast onto death. The Government is entirely capable of meeting all the demands. Peaceful ambience

and security are not a luxury.

They are a prerequisite. We appeal to your good self to settle the issues with the young generation doctors as an elder and the Head of the Government," the letter said adding how "the entire medical fraternity of India is concerned and trust you would be able to save their

lives."

Meanwhile, Dr Aniket Mahato, one of the junior doctors participating in the strike, was hospitalized after his condition worsened. "He is responding to treatment but we are keeping watch on other doctors too as their parameters are going down too we hope the Government loves its doctors and it knows how to show that love," Dr Subarna Goswami one of the senior doctors said.

Mortal remains of missing Coast Guard pilot recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The mortal remains of Commandant Rakesh Kumar Rana, the missing pilot of the Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), which made an emergency landing last month, have been retrieved approximately 55 kms south west off the coast of Porbandar, defence ministry said here on Friday.

After over 70 air sorties and involvement of multiple ships, the mortal remains of Commandant were retrieved on Thursday.

The Commandant, who was the helicopter's pilot-incommand, was on a medical evacuation mission along with one pilot and two air crew divers to evacuate a Hari Leela.

an emergency landing on lives in the line of duty," it September two, after which ICG along with the Indian Helicopter (ALH) of the Navy launched a massive Coast Guard with four crew prompting a massive search search and rescue operation members met with the operation.



for the missing personnel. One crew was rescued, while the mortal remains of three others were recovered on September three.

cremated as per service traditions and honour. File of the Indian Coast went missing. said. The Advanced Light

accident while trying to evacuate an injured man on board motor tanker Hari Leela, nearly 30 nautical miles from the Porbandar "His mortal remains will be

While one of the four crew members on the helicopter, seriously injured crew A warm salute to the three diver Gautam Kumar, was member from Motor Tanker brave souls from Rank and rescued immediately, three

pilot Vipin Babu and diver Karan Singh were recovered. But Rana remained missing,

India expresses concern over security in West Asia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

West Bengal.

Referring to the situation

along the Western borders

complimented the Indian

Army's response to cross

border terrorism, however the

proxy war by the adversary

continues. "I compliment the

excellent synergy between the

CAPF/ Police forces and the

Army in tackling the menace

of terrorism in Jammu and

Kashmir. The synergised

operations in the Union

Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir are contributing to

Pakistan,

ndia on Friday said it was "concerned" at the "deteriorating" security situation in parts of West Asia, amid reports that United Nations peacekeepers have been caught in the intensified fighting in southern Lebanon.

In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)also said New Delhi continues to monitor the situation closely. "We are concerned at the deteriorating situation along the Blue Line. We continue to monitor the situation closely," the MEA

There are about 600 Indian soldiers as part of the UN peacekeeping force, it was

The 120-km Blue Line is a United Nations-recognised demarcation line to that Israel had withdrawn its military from southern Lebanon. separates Lebanon from Israel and the Golan Heights, but it is not



official international

"Inviolability of UN premises must be respected by all, and appropriate measures taken Blue Line is causing to ensure the safety of UN widespread destruction of peacekeepers and the sanctity of their mandate," the MEA said in its statement.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), into Lebanon in Naqoura and

UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, said in a statement on October 10 that "recent escalation along the Hizbullah elements on the towns and villages in south Lebanon".

"In the past days, we have seen incursions from Israel other areas. Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

morning, peacekeepers were injured after an IDF Merkava tank fired its weapon toward an observation tower at added.

soldiers have clashed with

ground in Lebanon," it

leged in the statement

UNIFIL's headquarters in Naqoura, directly hitting it and causing them to fall," the UN statement read.

"The injuries are fortunately, this time, not serious, but they remain in hospital," it

The situation along the Israel-Lebanon border has escalated rapidly after the killing of former Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. The Israel Defence Forces

(IDF) have accused Hezbollah of operating in areas near UNIFIL posts. In a statement, the IDF said, "The IDF is operating in southern Lebanon and maintains routine communication with UNIFIL."

This morning (Thursday), IDF troops operated in the area of Nagoura, next to a UNIFIL base.

Accordingly, two the area to remain in protected spaces, following which the forces opened fire in the area," the statement

Ghanshyam Tiwari appointed Chairman, Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Bhartiya Janta Party MP from Rajasthan, Rajasthan, Ghanshyam Tiwari, has been appointed as the chairman of the Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The Committee has been reconstituted by the Rajya Sabha chairman with effect from October 10.

Among other members appointed as members of the Committee are Pramod Tiwari (Congress), Derek O'Brien (TMC), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Sanjay Singh (AAP), V Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP), Sasmit Patra (BJD), Prem the department Chand Gupta (RJD), Medha Parliamentary



Kulkarni Vishram and Darshana Singh (both BJP). The Rajya Sabha chairman has also changed the nominations of members in the department related to Standing

Committees, with Fauzia Khan changed from Social Justice and Empowerment to Committee to the Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, V Vijayasai Reddy from Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture to Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai has also been nominated by the chairman to the Committee on Health and Family Welfare, from the Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj earlier, and Neeraj Dangi from the Committee on Development and Panchayati Raj to the Committee on Transport, The chairman has also nominated Seema Dwivedi to the department-related to Parliamentary Committee Resources.

The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha has the mandate to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and to examine cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of members.

In respect of procedure and other matters, the rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges apply to the Ethics Committee with such variations and modifications as the chairman, Rajya Sabha, may from time to time

PM Modi pays tribute to Jayaprakash Narayan |

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tribute to socialist stalwart and anti-Emergency movement icon Jayaprakash Narayan on his birth anniversary.

In a social media, the Prime Minister said Narayan dedicated his life to bringing positive change in the country and society.

His personality and ideals will remain an inspiration for every generation, he said. Modi also paid homage to Nanaji Deshmukh, a leading member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, on his birth anniversary. Modi said, his dedication and service for the empowerment of villagers,

especially the deprived will always be sections, remembered.

A fierce socialist and freedom fighter, Narayan, fondly called JP, led a popular movement against the Indira Gandhi government's alleged corruption and repressive politics in the 70s before she imposed an Emergency. He then united opposition parties and rallied the masses against Congress in the first election after the Emergency in 1977, scripting a crushing defeat for the ruling party. Associated with the RSS, Deshmukh was an active member of the antiemergency movement and later quit politics to become a social activist who dedicated his life to improving the lives

Modi invites EAS countries to Nalanda Conclave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday invited East Asia Summit countries for the first-ever Heads of Higher Education Conclave to be held at Nalanda University in Bihar. He extended the invitation during 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) at Vientiane, the capital of Lao People's Democratic

Republic. "Reiterating the importance of the EAS mechanism and reaffirming India's support to further strengthen it, the PM recalled support received from EAS Participating Countries on the revival of Nalanda University. The PM

Indian Navy hosts NIIO Seminar 2024

Heads of Higher Education Conclave to be held at Nalanda University," an official statement said. The statement did not mention the date of the conclave. The EAS has 18 members

the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam) along Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

Modi had in inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University at Rajgir in University is conceived as a took this opportunity to collaboration between invite the EAS countries for a and the EAS countries. collaboration between India

India's vaccine regulatory system gets WHO approval

Tourism and Culture.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Drugs Standards Control Organisation(CDSCO)and the National Regulatory Authority of India have met the standards set up by the World Health Organisation(WHO)for a functional vaccine regulatory sys-

A team of international experts from various countries led by WHO headquarters in ' Geneva reviewed India's vaccine regulatory system from September 16 to 20, the health ministry said in a statement. Safety, efficacy, and quality were the three parameters of assessment of vaccines, it said.



The WHO has established benchmarks for assurance of standards and vaccine quality through the vaccine regulatory system was

guidelines, benchmarking of the National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) and prequalification programme of vaccines, the statement said. WHO NRA rebenchmarking was aimed to assess and document the status of the India regulatory system in the area of vaccine regulation, re-benchmark the status of the India vaccine regulatory system against the WHO NRA Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) and measuring the maturity of

the system. "India has been declared 'functional' against all the core regulatory functions of the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool Version VI. India's

development of tools and benchmarked in 2017 against Global benchmarking tool (GBT) version V which is now revised to GBT VI with raised bars and stringency in benchmarking criteria,"

statement said. India retains maturity level 3 with highest marks in several functions. Speaking about the achievement, Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary, stated, "The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), in collaboration with WHO, has made exemplary efforts towards this achievement.

India is one of the main players in the pharmaceutical industry worldwide and is known for its affordable vaccines medicines." generic and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

of villagers.

The third edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, Swavlamban 2024, will take place for two days starting October 28 at Bharat Mandapam here, navy

said on Friday. Giving details, officials said over the last two editions of Swavlamban, the Indian Navy has received more than 2,000 proposals from the Indian industry that have been converted into 155 challenges to facilitate development of prototypes. This initiative has enabled collaboration with more than 200 MSMEs/ Startups under the iDEX Scheme.

2024,'is 'Swavlamban expected to build on the



seminar, and provide new and substantial impetus to innovation and indigenisation endeavour. The event will showcase

products niche technologies such as air and surface surveillance, autonomous systems in surface, aerial and underwater domains, Al and quantum technologies, they

Domain specific interactive sessions on October 29 at Bharat Mandapam will provide an opportunity for interaction among policy makers, innovators, startups, MSMEs, financial institutions and venture capitalists to discuss and deliberate on issues such as emerging technologies, future indigenisation, boosting innovation ecosystem and

inculcating an innovative

culture.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

India acts East

PM Modi visits Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit; says the 21st century belongs to India and ASEAN

rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit reestablishes India's diplomatic engagement with Southeast Asian nations. With a focus on enhancing connectivity and resilience, Modi announced a comprehensive 10point action plan aimed at fortifying the India-ASEAN partnership. This initiative not only underscores the importance of regional collaboration in a time of global uncertainty but also highlights the potential for growth within the 21st-century landscape, which PM Modi asserts 'belongs to India and ASEAN.' PM Modi emphasised the critical need for friendship and cooperation among India and ASEAN countries, especially as tensions rise globally, with conflicts affecting various regions. He reiterated that India-ASEAN friendship, coordination dialogue and cooperation are essential at a time when several parts of the world are facing conflicts and tensions. The summit also coincides with the review of a decade of India's Act East Policy, which has significantly contributed to the dou-

bling of India-ASEAN trade to over USD 130 billion in

the past ten years. The Prime Minister's vision for deeper ties with ASEAN encompasses several key areas. One of the important initiatives is the enhancement of connectivity, marked by the establishment of direct flight connections with seven ASEAN nations. This move aims to facilitate easier travel and trade, further integrating the economies of the region. In the realm of technology, PM Modi announced the launch of fintech connectivity with Singapore, setting a precedent for future collaborations across the ASEAN region. This initiative promotes technological advancement and financial inclusion, essen-

tial for emerging economies. Cultural ties are also a focal point, with efforts to restore shared heritage in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia reflecting India's commitment to preserving regional history and identity. Moreover, Modi stressed the urgency of completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA) review to unlock greater economic potential for both parties. He highlighted the significance of educational exchanges. Over 300 students from ASEAN countries have benefitted from scholarships at Nalanda University, fostering deeper educational ties. As regional tensions persist, especially concerning maritime disputes in the South China Sea and the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, PM Modi's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative underscores the need for collaborative efforts in ensuring regional stability and security. This approach, along with a commitment to humanitarian cooperation, highlights India's readiness to support ASEAN nations in times of natural disasters. India's vision is firmly anchored in a people-centric approach, indicating a commitment to sustainable development that addresses the needs and aspirations of citizens across both regions. Indeed India and ASEAN nations have much in common; they share heritage and values which date backs to centuries. It is time to revive them.



An artist paints effigies of the demon king Ravana on the Dussehra, in Prayagraj

Strengthening RTI Act with practical reforms

As the Right to Information (RTI) Act completes 19 years, it is time to amend the rules and expand its scope to ensure it continues to serve its purpose effectively

he Right to Information (RTI) Act, implemented on October 12, 2005, marked a monumental step toward government transparency and accountability in India. Óver the years, the Act has been instrumental in exposing corruption and various scams, empowering citizens to demand information from public authorities. However, while the Act has undeniably brought about significant reform, certain amend-ments to the RTI rules—not the Act itself-are necessary to prevent misuse, streamline the process, and reduce the burden on the courts.

Addressing Misuse and **Unnecessary Litigation**

One of the key challenges facing the RTI framework today is the misuse of the system by individuals and groups, often leading to unnecessary appeals and challenges in courts. The Central Information Commission (CIC), tasked with handling RTI appeals, is often burdened by frivolous cases that clog the system and delay the resolution of genuine complaints. Amendments to the RTI rules, particularly in the area of public-private partner-ships (PPPs), sports bodies, and cooperatives, could alleviate some of this pressure.

By declaring PPPs, sports bodies, and cooperatives as public authorities under the RTI Act, a significant amount of time and resources could be saved. These entities often handle substantial public funds, and their exclusion from RTI coverage has raised questions about transparency. Including them under the Act would not only enhance accountability but also reduce the number of cases that reach Information Commissions and courts, streamlining the entire RTI process.

Government Allotments Under RTI

A critical area that requires attention is the issue of government land and accommodation allotments. Many government-owned properties are allotted at subsidised rates, often raising concerns about favouritism or corruption. To address this, all such allotments should be brought

under the purview of the RTI Act. Moreover, future allotments should be made conditional upon compliance with the Act, ensuring that beneficiaries are transparent about the process and accountable to the public. This move would further reduce the burden on Information Commissions, as it would discourage non-compliant beneficiaries from evading public scrutiny. It would also provide citizens with a tool to question and monitor how public resources are being allocated, contributing to more transparent governance.

Streamlining High Offices' **RTI Applications**

High offices such as those of the President, Prime Minister, and Chief Ministers often receive RTI applications that may not be directly related to their functions. To improve efficiency, these offices should only address RTI applications that pertain specifically to their roles. Any other applications should be returned to the applicant, along with advice on which department or authority they should approach instead. This measure would reduce the workload on these high offices while ensuring that citizens receive the information they seek from the correct sources.

Bringing Private Sector Banks Under RTI

The financial sector has long been an area where greater transparency is needed, particularly in light of recent scan-

ONE OF THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE RTI

FRAMEWORK TODAY IS THE MISUSE OF THE SYSTEM BY **INDIVIDUALS AND** GROUPS, OFTEN LEADING TO UNNECESSARY APPEALS AND CHALLENGES IN

dals and issues of financial mismanagement. While public sector banks are already subject to RTI, the private sector remains outside the Act's purview. This is a matter of concern, given the extensive use of public funds by private banks and the critical role they play in the economy. To address this gap, private sector banks should be brought under the RTI Act. This would allow citizens to seek information about their financial practices, thereby increasing accountability in the sector. Standardising RTI Fees and

Preventing Misuse Another issue that plagues the current RTI framework is the inconsistency in application fees across states. RTI fees should be standardised nationwide at Rs 50, which would cover the cost of 20 photocopied pages. Furthermore, no fees should be charged for appeals. These changes would simplify the process for citizens and eliminate confusion regarding varying charges in different states. However, there is also a need to address the misuse of free RTI applications by certain vested interests. For Poverty Line (BPL) workers by having them file RTI requests on their behalf, thus avoiding fees. To prevent this, the free provision for BPL applicants should be limited to 20 pages. Any additional pages should incur a nominal charge, ensur-

THE EDITO

ing that the system is not abused while still providing free access to information for genuinely disadvantaged individuals.

Enhancing Accessibility and Digital Integration To further streamline the RTI

process, post offices across the country should accept post-free RTI applications. This would make it easier for citizens, particularly those in rural areas, to file applications without worrying about postage costs. In addition, a mandatory requirement for ID proof, as seen in states like Punjab and Haryana, should be implemented nationwide. This would prevent misuse of the RTI system and ensure that applications are being filed by genuine individuals seeking information. The introduction of online RTI portals has been a positive step in recent years, but there is still room for improvement. All states should adopt the National Informatics Centre (NIC)-designed RTI websites, which allow for greater standardisation and ease of use. These portals should feature auto-emailed responses and alerts, keeping instance, contractors have been applicants informed of the known to exploit Below status of their requests. Moreover, outdated state-spe cific RTI laws, such as the Delhi RTI Act, should be repealed in favor of the national RTI Act to ensure uniformity across the country.

(The writer is a RTI activist: views are personal)

A new era of global opportunities awaits India in higher education



With initiatives like 'Study in India' and the recognition of qualifications of other countries, India is positioning itself as a growing hub for international education

▼ndia offers tremendous opportunities in various sectors, the education is different. Internationalisation of this sector was envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), and the Government of India has taken effective steps over the last 4 years towards achieving this goal. Initiatives such as Study in India, Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) setting up campuses in India, collaborations between Indian institutions and FHEIs, and mutual recognition of qualifications between governments are already seeing positive results. Enabling FHEIs to set up their campuses in India was allowed through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) regulations as well as by the University Grants Commission (UGC). These regulations aim to attract top-ranked global universities and institutions to India and offer Indian students a chance to avail global certifications at comparatively affordable costs in their home country.

We have already seen Deakin University operationalise its

campus in July this year and the University of Wollongong preparing for their launch, both at GIFT City. The University of Southampton (UK), ranked 80th in the 2025 QS World Rankings, became the first university to receive a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the Indian Government to establish its campus in India.

We are also seeing Indian institutions set up campuses overseas as part of the internationalisation initiative. IIT Delhi has set up its first international campus in Abu Dhabi and IIT Madras has located its first overseas campus in Zanzibar. The UGC Institutions of Eminence (IoE) guidelines enable IoEs to set up their campuses overseas and BITS Pilani and Manipal Academy took advantage of the window to do their forays outside India. While there is a lot of inter-

est from other private univer- baton of internationalisation sities to set up campuses overseas, promulgating an enabling framework through regulations by the government would catalyze this and the Mutual Recognition interest further. In May 2022, the government revamped the collaboration guidelines to allow for joint degree, dual degree and twinning programmes between Indian institutions and FHEIs. We have already seen a lot of traction in this space, with Manipal Institute of Technology tying up with Deakin, the University of Australia, and Shoolini University offering dual degrees with the University of Melbourne being some recent examples.

Studying in India is another initiative towards the internationalisation of the Indian education system. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India in line with PM Modi's vision. The website portal acts as a single window system for admission and visa applications for foreign students wanting to pursue higher education in India, with more than 60,000 students already registering through this portal. The

of education is also being taken forward through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) of Qualification (MRQ) Agreement between India and other countries, which aims to facilitate student and faculty exchanges.

There are around 50 plus active MoUs (including France, and Germany) with a few under negotiation. MRQs have been signed with a few countries as well and some are under negotiation. A fabulous start to an era of transformation of the Indian education landscape! Is there a need to do more? A more targeted approach, probably through a campaign run with Indian consulates in overseas countries, could further the cause of internationalisation. FHEIs are now rethinking their strategy. Possibly an opportunity for India to tap – open an FHEI campus in India and offer itself as an alternate education hub in the region. (The writer is Partner,

Deloitte India, inputs by Guncha Prakash, Assistant Manager, Deloitte India: views are personal)

INDIAN WORKERS ARE OVERBURDENED

Madam — "Work more, take less" is the mantra of the Indian employers of all sectors who are hell-bent on extracting more and more work from their employees while the emolument is not parallel to the labour at all. Consequently, stress tends to percolate through the workplace as shown by two work-related deaths of young employees in private companies. An International Labour Organisation (ILO) report that Indians work 46.7 hours per week, much higher than their American, Japanese, South African and Chinese counterparts, speaks volumes about the workload taken by an average Indian worker.

It is documented in other papers, too, that more than sixty percent of the Indian workers are stressed at work, while in general the Asian countries' workforce is more burdened by work. The primary cause for all this can be traced to the burgeoning unemployment in the country and the dearth of the right job for the right person. Employers' proclivity to recruit less to save their coffers has compounded the problem. Egoistic and haughty employers, fretting and fuming over no real reason, have pushed an already overstressed Indian worker to the edge. There is no time to waste: balancing work with rest should engage every-one's attention including that of the government.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS IMPROVE

Madam-India and its neighbour Maldives recently concluded a bilateral summit and agreed upon numerous deals. This came after a strain of ties between the two nations for almost one year after Mohamed Muizzu became president of the Island nation. India came forward to help the Maldives recover from its economic distress by signing a currency swap deal of around 385 million dollars. The two nations also agreed to enhance strategic and defence cooperation in the future. This visit has

Sports promote social unity



rom time immemorial, sports have always been more than just games; they are powerful agents of social change, capable of uniting people, breaking down religion and caste barriers, and driving positive transformations in society. From local community

brought positivity amidst reports of the Maldives being closer to China. New Delhi also extended its Rupay card system to the Maldives, which can also improve people-to-people ties among the two nations.

Good relations between the two countries will lead to peaceful South Asia. The partnership between New Delhi and Male will also counter China's aggressive expansion motives in the region. Traditionally, the Maldives has always been a good friend to India, but in the last one year, administrative and peopleto-people ties have become strained between the two nations. Recently, both countries took the initiative to make it better. These steps resulted in this bilateral talk. The deals signed between the two nations will help both countries boost their economies. This will also benefit the region as well. India should also try to change the anti-Indian sentiments in the island nation and push for Indian businesses to expand and invest in a country with a rich tourism industry.

Deba Prasad Nayak | New Delhi

games to international tournaments, sports have a unique way of bringing people together, fostering a sense of community, and promoting health and well-being. One of the most compelling aspects of sport is its ability to bridge cultural gaps. Whether it's a small-town soccer match or the grandeur of the Olympic Games, sports create a common ground where individuals can connect and share expe-

This shared passion fosters mutual respect and understanding, promoting peace and camaraderie among different cultures. The impact of sports on society is profound, touching on aspects of culture, economy, and personal development. As we move forward, embracing the positive aspects of sport while addressing its challenges will ensure that it continues to be a powerful force for good in the world. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

THE BJP WINS HARYANA

Madam — Contrary to all expectations and predictions, the BJP was able to retain Haryana for the third time. All pollsters, analysts and exit polls have been proved wrong. Politics is an unfor-giving game and the defeat of the Congress has created ripples in opposition unity as the Congress will have lost its bargaining power.

The victory for BJP will undoubtedly give them a lot of confidence to face assembly elections in Jharkhand and the all important Maharashtra. It is not in the best interests of Indian democracy to use caste equations to try and win elections. All parties are guilty of the practice of pandering to particular castes for gaining their votes. Time and again, it has been seen that in a one-toone fight, the Congress is no match for the well-oiled BJP election fighting

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

OVERCOMING ANXIETY: THE RIGHT WAY

Mindfulness, mental resilience and stressrelieving activities are essential to combat anxiety



RAVI VALLURI

ameer was armed with a degree in management from an estimable institute. Having specialised in the field of marketing management, he was well versed in the 4Ps of marketing. At this juncture of his life, the young trainee fantasised about joining an FMCG company, earning an exorbitant salary and over a period acquiring an opulent property in an up-market area of the town. But there was an element of hesitation in his mind about successfully crossing the final hurdle - the interview. As the mind was not in the present moment and instead fixated on the future it remained anxious and continuously agitated. Thus, it was not in a state of equilibrium, equipoise, or equanimity. Meanwhile, Siddhartha, his school mate majored in architecture and apprenticed at a celebrated architectural firm in the city. Siddhartha however, was not content in designing buildings.

He possessed a febrile mind that ached to pursue a greenfield area called entertainment design. The stripling self-taught himself and acquired ultramodern and newfangled skill sets. Fortified with the newly acquired knowledge he prepared a portfolio consisting of visionary and ingenious graphics, sketches and paintings. Yet, mentally he was anxious, tense and strained as to what lay in future. It is a normal human tendency to be apprehensive before anxious situations as it is not in the present moment. Several individuals become splenetic and waspish. Invariably there is a churning in the abdomen region and the mind is subsumed with anxiety. Arjuna, in possession of a lethal arsenal, was benumbed seeing the mammoth army of the Kauravas. This, even though Lord Krishna was his charioteer! At zero hour, before the showdown at Kurukshetra, he lay down his weaponry. The consummate warrior could not distinguish between righteousness and malevolence. The demons in his mind were



eventually dispelled through the Vishwarupa Darshan of Lord Krishna and the song celestial - The Bhagavad Gita. Psychologists have advanced a two-pronged strategy to combat such inhospitable states, firstly by closely monitoring the piquant state and taking prompt and effective action and second, by avoiding and blunting the situation. Monitoring involves taking several proactive steps which help in the preparation of the mind. Advanced and well-rehearsed preparation before a significant event; this is tapasya and no one can relax on this ground.

The mind should be resolute and robust, to practice incessantly like the celebrated archer Arjuna. In the process, the individual de-clutters the mind and gets rid of the baggage of anxiety and fear. The Inoculation Technique is another effective strategy. An individual insulates the self against the perils of stress through constant exposure to rehearsals and

This mentally toughens up the candidate to be prepared for the scrutiny and appraisal with utmost confidence and credence. Further, adopting a positive dispensation is invaluable. In addition, there are blunting tactics and strategies which help to augment the above. It is perspicacious and canny to drown in physical activity. It could be going for long walks, swimming, hitting the gym, taking up a sport or learning yogic techniques to de-stress the mind. These activities release endorphins which assuage the mind. Simultaneously, an individual will appear chiselled and smart. There are other ways to remain happy. For instance, join the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living to learn the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya which calms the body and mind. Learn pranavama and various techniques of meditation to remain in the present moment. Only when a human being is in the present moment is he insulated from anxiety and manages inexpedient and onerous sit-

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

'Fourth transformation' of Maxico embraces inclusivity-



Claudia Sheinbaum's leadership promises to reshape the nation's trajectory away from its violent past, embracing inclusive and human-centred policies

laudia Sheinbaum's swearing-in on October 1 as Mexico's first female President marks a transformative moment not only for gender equality but also within the broader historical trajectory shaped by violence, revolution and the ongoing pursuit of justice. In a nation long burdened by colonial legacies and systemic inequality, her presidency signals a paradigm shift towards more inclusive and human-centred governance. Declaring a "fourth transfor-mation," Sheinbaum's leadership reflects the weight of Mexico's tumultuous history and the lives lost in its struggles. Her rise to power disrupts the deeply entrenched male-dominated political sphere, accentuating the resilience of women fighting for representation in a country plagued by gender-based violence and femicide.

Historically, Mexico has undergone significant transformations marked by bloodshed and resistance. The country's struggle for independence from Spanish colonial rule in the early 19th century was fuelled by revolutionary fervour and the desire for self-determination. Statesmen like Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos emerged as symbols of resistance, galvanising the population against colonial oppression. The violent conflicts that followed laid the groundwork for a nation striving for autonomy, albeit at a considerable human cost. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the divide between church and state catalysed further revolutions and conflicts. The Liberal Reform, led by figures such as Benito Juárez, sought to dismantle the power of the Catholic Church and establish a secular state.

This period was marked by violence and civil strife, as conservative factions resisted these changes. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 further exemplified the nation's tumultuous journey, with leaders like Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa rallying for agrarian reform and social justice. The revolution, while transformative, came at a heavy price, resulting in the loss of countless lives and widespread suffering. The bloodshed that characterised these early transformations stands in stark contrast to Sheinbaum's vision for the fourth transformation, which she advocates as a path of non-violence and reconciliation. She seeks to distance her administration from the militarised approach that has defined previous efforts to combat crime and violence. In her inaugural speech, she emphasised that "we must turn the page on the cycles of violence that have plagued our country." By framing her presidency as a continuation of a peaceful and humanistic governance model, she aims to redefine Mexico's political structure.

The economic model embraced by Sheinbaum's administration marks a significant departure from the neoliberal policies that have dominated Mexico for decades. The neoliberal framework, characterised by deregulation, resource exploitation, privatisation, and an emphasis on unethical free-market principles, has often exacerbated social inequalities and marginalised vulnerable populations. In contrast, Sheinbaum's "Mexican Humanist" approach seeks to prioritise social welfare, equity, and sustainable development.

This shift is not merely a matter of policy but represents a broader socio-political transformation in the way governance is conceived. Sheinbaum advocates for a model that empowers communities and fosters inclusivity, stating, "We must build



IN THE CONTEXT OF CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM'S PRESIDENCY, THE **ENDURING** LEGACY OF CIA OPERATIONS AND **FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS** LOOMS LARGE

a Mexico where no one is left lence and social justice aligns behind." This vision reflects a recognition that systemic issues require collective solutions and that the voices of marginalised communities must be heard in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Yet, while Sheinbaum's approach has garnered support from many, it also faces criticism and scepticism from those who question the feasibility of her proposed reforms. Critics argue that the structural challenges posed by organised crime and entrenched political corruption may undermine her efforts to implement meaningful change. The harsh realities of violence and inequality persist, and many Mexicans remain wary of promises that may be difficult to fulfil in the face of overwhelming opposition. The historical backdrop of Mexico's political volatility illuminates the formidable challenges in achieving authentic progress, as the legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and systemic oppression remain deeply ingrained.
The ongoing struggles for justice and equality have come at a pro-

found cost, with the violence woven into Mexico's history continuing to influence the present and complicate future paths.

The Zapatista movement, which arose in the 1990s in response to neoliberal policies and the marginalisation of Indigenous communities, stands as a powerful testament to the fight for social justice. Led by Subcomandante Marcos, the Zapatistas championed self-determination, autonomy, and the acknowledgement of Indigenous rights, challenging dominant political narratives and inspiring a new generation of activists, including Sheinbaum. Yet, their movement also reveals the challenges inherent in revolutionary politics; while their promise of non-vio-

with Sheinbaum's vision, navigating the realities of power and governance often demands difficult compromises. The pressing challenge remains: how to dismantle deeply rooted systems of inequality and violence without mirroring the oppressive methods of the past. Sheinbaum's fourth transformation for Mexico calls for a reevaluation of economic policies and a fundamental shift in political culture, emphasising transparency, accountability, and democratic principles that prioritise the needs of the many.

She stresses the importance of restoring faith in institutions and rebuilding the nation's social fabric. However, the ongoing issues of alleged corruption and political machinations, exacerbated by her predecessor López Obrador's concentration of power and undermining of democratic institutions. raise concerns about the sustainability of her reforms. In the context of Claudia Sheinbaum's presidency, the enduring legacy of CIA covert operations and foreign interventions looms large. Historically, the United States has intervened in Latin America to safeguard its interests, often undermining democratic governance and social justice.

The repercussions of these interventions have fostered a deep-seated distrust and scepticism toward foreign influence in Mexico's internal affairs. As Sheinbaum endeavours to establish a nation committed to human rights and social justice, she must grapple with the pervasive effects of these historical injustices and the Western media narratives that distort the actual picture of Mexican society. In terms of international relations, Sheinbaum vehemently opposes foreign intervention, particularly regarding the US blockade against Cuba, which harms ordinary citizens rather than the government. She advocates for cooperation rather than militarisation in addressing drug-related violence, emphasising that the drug market is intricately linked to US consumer demand. As she aptly stated, "We must honour our past, learn from our struggles, and build a future that reflects the aspirations of all Mexicans." Yet, the pursuit of a more just and equitable Mexico demands collective action, engagement from diverse communities, and a steadfast commitment to dismantling systemic barriers, as Sheinbaum seeks to embody the hopes of a nation shaped by resilience and struggle. However, the structural challenges, as Enrique Dussel, an Argentine-Mexican philosopher, explained in his writings, continue to haunt Mexico, posing real threats to the stability of political leadership. He emphasises the need for integrating diverse cultural perspectives and fostering dialogue from the Global South, as seen in his concept of transmodernity.

Dussel also highlights the coloniality of power, illustrating how historical injustices persist in contemporary governance, perpetuating inequality. Furthermore, his ethics of the Other calls for recognising the experiences of marginalised individuals as central to any discourse on justice. Additionally, the aporia of borders illustrates the contradictions communities face at national edges, such as the Mexico-US border, where ideals of freedom and security often clash. Addressing these issues demands a nuanced approach that acknowledges the voices of those usually left unheard, which presents a significant challenge for the historic administration of Dr Sheinbaum.

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

Half of the world's GDP at risk due to environmental degradation

The conservation and restoration of depleted forests are essential steps to combat climate change

limate change has become an important challenge for the whole world. Conservation and restoration of depleted forests can become a necessary step to deal with this challenge.

Regarding this, many companies around the world have pledged to plant over 12 billion trees in the next seven years. The report published by the World trees in more than 100 coun-Economic Forum on Nature and Biodiversity on January \$44 trillion, is in danger. Which is due to the loss of

To save it, more than 100 new trees of over 12 billion comed this resolution by



tries. This report states that companies around the world 18, 2024, clarifies that half of are working together the world's GDP, i.e. about through the World Economic Forum's 1t.org initiative.

It aims to support the global movement to protect over companies have pledged to 12 billion trees by 2030. In conserve, restore and plant January 2024, 1t.org wel-

Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Burberry China, Go To Group, RPG Enterprises and Vale. Member companies of 1t.org are committed to implementing the goal in line with the Paris Agreement to save trees and reduce carbon emissions. Tree conservation is not only important for environmental sustainability, but it is also a part of our cultural and religious heritage. Trees learn from each other. That research was published on May 28, 2024 in the Current Forestry Reports magazine of Springer Nature, America.

This research is based on the topic that how trees planted in agro-forestry and urban forestry can learn from each

According to the research, both systems can be seen as natural solutions. Both systems also have similarities in ownership and management responsibilities. For example, most of the agricultural land in the Global North is privately owned, just as a large part of the green cover is seen in cities. Increasing the density of

trees improves air quality. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore conducted a study in 2023 on the role of trees in the urban environment. This study was mainly done in urban areas of Bangalore. It was found that trees in urban areas play an impor-



trees, the greater the increase temperature. in air quality and the effect In this research, it was told tant role in improving air In this research, it was told in air quality and the effect quality as well as controlling that the higher the density of of heat can also be reduced.

health of people living in green areas improves. The density of trees prevent density of trees prevents soil

A study conducted by the University of Sydney, Australia, says that dense cover of trees can control the flow of water and help prevent soil erosion. This study also stated that the conservation of trees helps in reducing the effects of climate change. All these studies confirm how important the conservation of trees is for our future. In Indian culture, importance has been given to the conservation of trees since the beginning. According to Matasya Purana, "Dashakoopasama Vaapi, Dashavaapisamo

it is said in Vishnu Purana that the person who plants a tree earns virtue not only in his life but also for the coming generations.

Planting and caring for trees has been described as an important religious and social work in Indian scriptures. At present, planting trees is not only to save lives but also to save the earth. Let us take resolve to conserve nature. Each one of us must take a pledge to plant at least 5 trees, only then this disaster of global warming can be dealt with.

(The writer is an environmentalist; views are personal)

CM Atishi allotted bungalow at 6, Flag Staff Road

 $T_{\begin{array}{c} \text{Department (PWD) on} \\ \text{Friday allotted Chief Minister} \end{array}}$ Atishi the bungalow at 6, Flag Staff Road following the pro-cedures even as the AAP and BJP attacked each other over the sealing of the residence. An offer letter issued by the PWD said the bungalow in Civil Lines has been formally allotted to Atishi, after completing the due process of handover and preparation of inventory.

'The Director of Allotment, PWD, GNCTD is pleased to offer the under mentioned

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Earlier, the AAP had shared a picture of ATishi working at her residence among boxes as the PWD sealed the house while the BJP had demanded the department to conduct a complete survey and investigation of the residence. She has also been asked to

vacate her bungalow at AB-17, Mathura road which was allotted to her as Delhi Minister within 15 days of taking possession of the new one from where her predecessor ran the government. 'Where the allottee is already in occupation of any government house/bungalow earlier allotted, the allottee will have



PWD General Pool Bungalow to vacate the house/bungalow to Atishi, Chief Minister, within 15 days after taking GNCTD, as per the provisions of Delhi Administration Allotment of Govt. Residences (General Pool) Govt. Rules, 1977," PWD said in the letter. It added that since the said house is under investigation of CBI and other agencies for various violations, the allottee is advised to extend full cooperation in the investigation, as may be required. The bungalow was at the centre of an intense tussle involving the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the LG office since former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal vacated it earlier this month.

Earlier, officials Raj Niwas has stated that this bungalow was not earmarked as Chief Minister's official residence. While the Vigilance Department has stated that the bungalow can not be allotted with a completion

possession of the new house/bungalow allotted in lieu of the previous one," it said. The PWD stated that if allottee makes any unauthorized construction in the Bungalow at any time, the allotment is liable to be cancelled in addition to payment of applicable damages etc. as per the relevant provisions of Delhi Administration Allotment of Govt. Residences (General Pool) Rules, 1977. "After submitting acceptance, the allottee will be given an Authority Slip from WD Secretariat, 3rd Floor, MSO Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi in order to take possession of the allotted house/bungalow within the date mentioned in the authority slip. In case of failure to take the possession of the allotted Bungalow within the time specified, the allotment will be treated as cancelled,"

Ashuras too have begun to celebrate Durga Pujas

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The "big breaking news" is: The hedge of stated 'discord' between the "descendants of Gods and Ashuras" is obliterating fast. Unlike their ancestors the Ashuras are joining Durga Puja celebra-

tions in a big way.
Cut to Jalpaiguri in North
Bengal where the members of Ashura tribe --- many of whom consider themselves whom consider themselves the descendents of demon kings --- have cast off the age old "stigma" of being the descendents of Mahishasura to take part in the festivities. "We are proud of our Ashura culture ... when we come to celebrate Durga Pujas it is an celebrate Durga Pujas it is an assimilation of culture and not representation of hostilities," says Jamini an amateur artist from the community.

"Till even a few years ago the members of our tribe would not go out and mingle with the people in Durga Pujas as our ancestors did nothing of that sort ... we remained confined in our homes in

... but modern education seems to have broken that barrier," said Rajiv Ashur of Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri.

"We as children would not go to pandals though we were attracted by the pomp as people mostly the descendants of the Aryans would think that we were bad being the descendants of Mahishashur

but our mythology says that he was a good king ... however that sense of stigma is diminishing and the people are taking part in the festivities as social beings ... even they come to our festivals," he

His grandfather Charu Ashur though however refuses to visit the pandal as he thinks that Mahishasur --- the demon God who was slain by the Mother Goddess to rid the Universe of evil --- "was a very benevolent king who did great good to his subjects but for the intervention of the Gods who tried to impose their will on the Ashuras taking away their lands and everything leading to a battle



Charu however does not

children mingling with the

when all should live together happily sharing mutual respect for each other." However Usha Ashur who has done her Masters in sociology is vehement in pre-

serving her culture.
"There is no problem mingling but why should be done by demeaning of our ancestors. According to her the myth that "the war between Gods and Demons is an eter-Gods and Demons is an eternal battle between good and evil" and that "the alleged epitome of evil that is Mahishasur is finally forgiven by the Goddess, should also be discarded" as "this leads to "continual marginalisation and exclusion of Mahishasur's descendants from the cultural mainstream."

But once again she has no problem joining in the festivities but with a caution "this must not mean white-washing of the Ashura culture." Her own brother who is a member in a Durga Puja community in Jalpaiguri says, "how can get a good opportunity to get

stream.

new clothes, sweets, and a long drawn off from the schools ... their friends are from what you call the traditional Aryan communities ... so it is better to get the cultures to mingle."

But he does not reject his sisters' views that the Ashura community and its culture must not be allowed to be overwhelmed by the Aryan majoritarian culture.

According to the 1991 census, the population of Ashurs --one of the 40 scheduled tribes of Bengal --- was about 4864. Of these, the total number is 3108 in Jalpaiguri. There were some Ashurs in Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts

Bikash Ashur a private teacher and also member of a Puja club says "the time has come when Ashur or Shur should be identified by the inner quality and not the looks or descent ... after all the Hindu mythology itself says that the Gods and Ashuras were siblings with you resist the children who one being the descendant of

Ahead of commissioning, IAF aircraft lands at Mumbai International Airport

T N RAGHUNATHA

n a significant milestone witnessed months ahead of the commissioning of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), a C-295 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) landed on its runway on Friday afternoon. The C-295, a medium tactical

transport aircraft, landed around 1215 hrs after which it was accorded a water salute. As the transport aircraft touched the NMIA's runway, there was a stunning flypast by Sukhoi-30 fighter jets of the IAF. The inaugural landing of aircraft marked a new beginning in the country's aviation

The NMIA has been developed by the Navi Mumbai International Airport Pvt Ltd (NMIAL), which is a specialpurpose vehicle formed by the Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra



Ltd (CIDCO). The CIDCO is the nodal agency for the pro-

A Greenfield airport, NMIA will serve as the second international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), to be operated alongside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport CSMIÁ) of Mumbai.

The NMIA is expected to absorb 10 million passengers in its first operational year and 25 million passengers in the two subsequent years and ultimately 40 million by 2030 to

The importance of NMIA should be realized from the fact

that the Mumbai airport currently handles 26 million passengers annually and the traffic flow has now increased to 45 million passengers and the fig-ure will go up to 119 million by

After the landing of the transport aircraft, chief minister Eknath Shinde inspected the runway at the airport, and congratulated the IAF officers present. He also sat in the cockpit of the The C-295 'After the successful testing of the runway, it will soon be possible for us to operate domestic and international flights from this airport," Shinde said.

"A historic moment for Navi Mumbai as we celebrate the first landing on the new airport with the Indian Air Force's C-295! Grateful for the support of IAF, including a stunning low pass by the Su-30. This marks the dawn of a new era in Indian aviation, where the sky is no longer the limit. Together, we soar higher," AAHL Director Jeet Adani wrote on

micro-blogging site "X".

Development of Gurugram district my priority:, says Badshahpur MLA

PARVESH SHARMA

Newly elected Badshahpur MLA and senior BJP leader Rao Narbir Singh said that the development of Gurugram district is his pri-

In his first instructions after winning the elections, he said the foundation stone would be laid soon for making Gurugram free from garbage and dirt and for the construction of a civil hospital and bus stand. Gurugram district is now going to move towards new changes of development. Singh asserted that along with winning most of the seats in southern Haryana, the BJP government is going to be formed in Haryana for the third time.

"BJP government has worked on the principle of Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas and has brought equal development in the whole of Haryana," Singh said.

At the same time, people

ED registers money laundering case

believed that after the Congress rule, work would be done in only one or two districts. On the other hand, the BJP government has worked to give jobs to deserving youth without any expenditure or slip during the last ten years. "BJP government has worked to change the system in the state. The result of this is that the government is being formed for the third time with a huge majority in Haryana," Singh disclosed that the stalled

development works of Badshahpur as well as Gurugram district will be completed on a priority basis.
"In the coming five years, we

want to get so much work done so that in future, the BJP candidate does not have to go to seek votes and people them-selves come and give their votes and support to the BJP," he lamented

Singh said he had instructed the administrative officials to make Gurugram a garbage-free beautiful city. Illegal constructions made in the green belt should also be removed, the work of which has also started. We want that all types of garbage, polythene and dirt should be disposed of by Diwali.

The construction work of the civil hospital will be started in one to one and a half months and the foundation stone of the bus stand will also be laid within three months, he said. Apart from this, to improve the education system, model schools will be built in Gurugram under the CSR fund. In which better education will be provided. The metro rail project will also be expanded in Gurugram.

Ratan Tata Memorial meeting held at Kasaragod

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

No citizens in Kasaragod have met Ratan Tata, India's leading industrialist. But that did not prevent them from organizing a memorial meeting on Friday in honor of Ratan Tata who breathed his last late Wednesday night. "It is because of the philanthropy of Tata that we are all alive today. When Covid-19 struck Kasaragod in a major way in 2019, the district was declared a no go area and all boundaries with Karnataka and other districts in the State were shut plight and he ordered the imme-

The MOB app, as per the federal agency, is an umbrella

syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal

betting websites to enrol new

users, create user IDs and

laundering of money through

a layered web of benami bank

accounts. The ED has

arrested a total of 11 people in

this case till now. Two charge

sheets have also been filed by

the agency till now, including

against the two promoters. The Chhattisgarh Police too

down. This made Kasaragod a diate setting up of a specialty hosphost district as hundreds died pital to treat Covid-19 patients. without getting medical care," said Sukumaran Periyachoor, patron of Saparya, a socio-cultural platform which organized the meeting. The district was short of hospitals and residents had to depend on hospitals in Karnataka's Mangalore for medical aid. Since the borders of the district were shut off, there was no means for the locals to commute to Karnataka for treatment. "It was at this juncture Ratan Tata came across our

crime in this case are about

Rs 6,000 crore, according to the agency. The ED has alleged in its charge sheet that

Chandrakar got married at

Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, in

February 2023 and about Rs

200 crore "in cash" was spent

for this event. Private jets were hired to ferry

Chandrakar's relatives from

India to the UAE and

celebrities were paid to

perform at the wedding, the

agency alleged.

is investigating the case. The projected proceeds of

A full-fledged hospital was set up in record time of three months at Chattanchal. It was a 600-bed hospital and treated more than 6000 Covid-19 patients. The hospital cost the Tata Trusts more than Rs 60 crore," said Sukumaran who expressed his gratitude to The Pioneer, the only newspaper that highlighted the concern of the people in the delay associated with the opening of the hospital. "While the media in Kerala ignored the sufferings of the Kasaragod people, The Pioneer was the only newspaper which highlighted the delay in commissioning the hospital because of the lethargy and indecisiveness of the Government," said Sreedevi Ambalapuram, who paid glowing tributes to Rata Tata in the meeting.

into recent drug seizure

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday registered a money laundering case into the recent narcotics seizure worth over 7,000 crore in the national Capital and conducted searches in Delhi, Mumbai, Gurugram and some other cities. Delhi police which is probing the city's biggest-ever seizure of cocaine worth over Rs 7,000 crore, has issued look-out circulars (LOCs) against six people, including an Indian-origin UK national who fled the country before the latest recovery of 208 kg of the drug from west Delhi.

The Delhi Police Special Cell on October 2 seized over 560 kg cocaine and 40 kg hydroponic marijuana, estimated to be worth Rs 5,620 crore, from a godown in the Mahipalpur area of south Delhi. According to police, a total of seven persons have

ED sources said the federal agency raided the premises of various accused and suspects including that of Tushar Goel and his wife in Vasant Enclave and Rajouri Garden areas of Delhi. The residential premises of Himanshu Kumar in Prem Nagar in Delhi and that of Bharat Kumar in Nalasopara, Mumbai, are also being

The business premises of Tushar Books Publication Private Limited and Tulip Publications Private Limited in the Jhandewalan area of Delhi and ABN Buildtech Private Limited in Gurugram were also raided," a source said. In the second such narcotics haul, the Delhi Police Thursday seized 208 kg of cocaine worth Rs 2,080 crore from a rented shop in west Delhi. The second case is linked to the October 2 case. The them foreign nationals. One of them west Delhi on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Delhi police has issued look-out circulars (LOCs) against six people, including an Indian-origin UK national who fled the country before the latest recovery of 208 kg of the drug from west Delhi.

According to police sources, the UK national, Savinder Singh, came to India last moth to supervise the transportation and delivery of the 208-kg consignment suspected to have been brought from South American countries. The sources said Singh spent around 25 days in three separate locations in Delhi before fleeing to the United Kingdom soon after the arrest of the first four members of the syndicate. These arrests were effected on October 2. "As of now, we have issued LOCs against half-a-dozen people, some of

been arrested by the police till now ED is probing this drug haul too, they is the person who kept 208 kg of cocaine hidden in west Delhi's Ramesh Nagar and fled to the UK, a police officer, who is privy to the investigations, said. The officer said a dozen people suspected to be involved in the syndicate are on the radar of the Delhi Police. Earlier, police had issued an LOC against the syndicate's kingpin, Virender Basoya alias Veeru, who is believed to be stay-

ing in Dubai. Basoya was allegedly running the syndicate with the help of India-based Tushar Goyal and UK-based Jitender Gill alias Jassi and Savinder Singh, police said. Goyal and Gill have been arrested while Basoya and Singh are yet to be nabbed, the officer said.

In the second big drugs haul in a week, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police seized 208 kg of cocaine worth Rs 2,080 crore from a rented shop in

From Ratan to Naval...

From page 1

Naval Tata, who was also Ratan Tata's father. Noel's mother is Simone Tata. Tata Trusts was founded by Noel and Ratan's great grandfather Jamsetji Tata in 1892, years after he founded the Tata group. Currently the Vice Chairman

of Tata Steel and Titan, Noel Tata is already on the board of several listed Tata firms and Trusts governed by Tata Trusts. He was the frontrunner to succeed Ratan Tata as the chairman of Tata Trusts. Incidentally, Tata Trusts owns 66% shares of Tata Sons, the holding company of various

From page 1 Mishra expressed concern

mode approach to greening central verges of roads and

generation. Mechanised road cleaning, deployment of adequate numbers of anti-smog guns and regular water sprinkling also needs to be ramped up, particularly in high-pollution hotspots and during the periods under the Graded Response Action

Chief Secretary comprehensive report on the city's air quality management efforts for 2024. He highlighted that especially during the winter months when stagnant

The PMO directed for accelerating the shift towards electric mobility. He called for the creation of a clear roadmap to ensure that future registrations prioritise electric vehicles, particularly for commercial fleets, government services, and public transport. Mishra directed officials to increase inspections of industries and commercial establishments to ensure compliance with prescribed emission control

Omar returns to...

From page 1

Briefing media persons after meeting the Lieutenant Governor, CM designate Omar Abdullah said the oath ceremony is likely to take place on October 16. "There are certain formalities which are there to be followed and I have been informed it will take two to three days to complete the same. I am hoping the swearing-in ceremony can take place on October 16," he said.

Before visiting Raj Bhawan, a three-member delegation of senior Congress leaders, including AICC in-charge Jammu and Kashmir Jammu and Kashmir BharatSinh Solanki, also gave him a letter of support formally extending their support to form the alliance government at his Gupkar Road residence. JKPCC Chief Tariq Hamid Karra

Ghulam Ahmad Mir were also present on the occasion. After stepping out of the residence of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Tariq Hamid Karra told media persons, "We have given the letter of support to Omar Abdullah and he will meet the Lieutenant Governor (LG) and will stake claim to form the government".

The Congress leaders, however, maintained they would have a detailed discussion with the National Conference leadership to decide the contours of the governance model."We have no demands. We are supporting the National Conference for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The elected legislators of the Congress party also authorised the party's high command to elect the leader of the Congress Legislative and newly elected MLA party on Friday.

Meanwhile, the National Conference tally has further gone up to 48 as two more newly elected legislators extended their support to the party. On Friday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said that it will extend support to the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) after the NC-Congress alliance emerged victorious in the recently concluded assembly election in the Territory.Four Union Independents extended their support to the party on Thursday. The formal letter of support has been submitted to the Lt Governor by the party.

Thanamandi-winning candidate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan also officially extended his support to JKNC on Friday. He was felicitated by the VP & JKNC Chief Ministerial candidate, Omar Abdullah at Gupkar.

Nayab Chief...

From page 1

From page 1

Another ground in the vicinity near a mall had been reserved as the venue. All the necessary arrangements for

commissioner of Panchkula will also be members of the BJP committee. The Legislature Party is likely to Home Minister Amit Shah.

the Haryana CM oath-taking ceremony are overseen by a question about the date of question about the date of the swearing-in. "We will tell you the date...the oath ceremony will be held soon...," he said.

A day after the electronic tine question about the date of the swearing-in. "We will tell you the date...the oath ceremony will be held soon...," he said.

A day after the electronic tine question about the date of the swearing-in. "We will tell you the date...the oath ceremony will be held soon...," he said. credited him for the historic

Mahadev app kingpin...

meet a day ahead of the oathtaking ceremony to elect its leader who will be the state's new chief minister, most probably 54-year-old Saini. Saini, talking to reporters in

hat trick. He also met BJP

chief JP Nadda and Union

Noel Tata is the son of late

firms under the Tata brand.

Noel Tata has been the chairman at Trent Ltd., the conglomerate's massively successful apparel retailer, since 2014. He is also on the boards of several listed Tata firms like Tata Steel Ltd. and

Can Delhi hope for a cleaner winter...

over the persistent air issues and underscored the need for strict enforcement of existing laws. He emphasised that adequate measures for dust control, both from roads and construction activities need to be taken. Officials said Mishra urged the adoption of a missionpaving/ greening of pathways, open areas along roadsides to abate dust

Plan (GRAP).

Dharemder, presented a construction-related dust, biomass burning and vehicular emissions continue to be key contributors, weather conditions worsen the situation.

Nobel Peace prize awarded to Japanese organisation for work against N-weapons

AP OSLO

 $T^{\text{he Nobel Peace Prize was award-}}_{\text{ed Friday to Nihon Hidankyo, a}}$ Japanese organisation of survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for its activism against nuclear weapons. Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was made as the "taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a shift in his country's nuclear doctrine, in a move aimed at discouraging the West from allowing Ukraine to strike Russia with longer-range weapons. It appeared to significantly lower the threshold for the possible use of Russia's nuclear arsenal. Watne Frydnes said the Nobel com-

mittee "wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace." Hidankyo's Hiroshima branch chairperson, Tomoyuki Mimaki, who was standing by at the city hall for the announcement, cheered and teared up when he received the news.

"Is it really true? Unbelievable!" Mimaki screamed.

Efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons have been honoured before by the Nobel committee. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the peace prize in 2017, and in 1995 Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs won for "their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms."

This year's prize was awarded against a backdrop of devastating conflicts raging in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan.

"It is very clear that threats of using nuclear weapons are putting pressure on the important international norm, the taboo of using nuclear weapons," Watne Frydnes said in response to a question on whether the rhetoric from Russia surrounding nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine had influenced this vear's decision.

"And therefore it is alarming to see how threats of use is also damaging this norm. To uphold an international strong taboo against the use is crucial for all of humanity," he added. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X that

"the spectre of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still looms over humanitv. This makes the advocacy of Nihon Hidankyo invaluable. This Nobel Peace Prize sends a powerful message. We have the duty to remember. And an even greater duty to protect the next generations from the horrors of nuclear war." Alfred Nobel stated in his will that the peace prize should be awarded for "the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Last year's prize went to jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi for her advocacy of women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty. The Nobel committee said it also was a recognition of "the hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple" who demonstrated against "Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women." In a year of conflict, there had been some speculation that the Norwegian Nobel Committee that decides on the winner would opt not to award a prize at all. The prize has been withheld 19 times since 1901, including during both world wars. The last time it was not awarded was in 1972. In the Middle East, spiraling levels of violence in the past year have killed tens of thousands of people, including women and children. The war, sparked by a bloody raid into Israel by Hamas-led militants on Oct. 7, 2023, that left about 1,200 people dead, mostly civilians, has spilled into the wider region.

In the past week, Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon to pursue Russia's invasion, is heading toward

Hezbollah militants firing rockets into Israel, while Iran -- which backs of human life on both sides. both Hamas and Hezbollah -- fired ballistic missiles into Israel, Israel has yet to respond, but its defense minister vowed this week that its retaliation would be both devastating and surprising.

The war in Gaza has killed more than 42,000 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count but says more than half are women and children. In Lebanon, more than 1,400 people have been killed, with thousands more injured and around 1 million displaced since mid-September, when the Israeli military dramatically expanded its offensive against Hezbollah.

The UN has confirmed more than 11,000 Ukrainian civilian dead, but that doesn't take into account as many as 25,000 Ukrainians believed killed during the Russian capture of the city of Mariupol or unreported deaths in occupied regions.

The Nobel prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (USD 1 million). Unlike the other prizes that are selected and announced in Stockholm, founder Alfred Nobel decreed the peace prize be decided and awarded in Oslo by the fivemember Norwegian Nobel Committee. The Nobel season ends Monday with the announcement of the winner of the economics prize, formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Trump says India biggest tariff charger; | 22 killed in airstrikes vows to reciprocate if elected to power

PTI WASHINGTON

Vowing to introduce a reciprocal tax if elected to power, former US president Donald Trump on Thursday alleged that India, among all major countries, imposes the highest tariffs on foreign prod-

ucts.
"Perhaps the most important element of my plan to make America extraordinarily wealthy again is reciprocity. It's a word that's very important in my plan because we generally don't charge tariffs. I started that process, it was so great, with the vans and the small trucks, etc. We really don't charge. China will charge us a 200 per cent tariff. Brazil is a big charger. The biggest charger of all is India," Trump said in a major economic policy

speech in Detroit. "India is a very big charger. We have a great relationship with India. I did. And especially the leader, Modi. He's a great leader. Great man. Really is a great

man. He's brought it together. He's done a great job. But they probably charge as much," he

"I mean, I think they probably charge more than, in many ways, China. But they do it with a smile. They do it... Sort of a nicer charge. They said, thank you so much for purchasing from India. Harley Davidson came to the White House a long time ago during my third year or second year. I met with them. They were based in Wisconsin. I said, how's business? Good, good. What are the bad countries? Well, India is very tough. And they gave me some others. Why? Tariffs. I said, what are they? And they said like 150 per cent, some massive amount," Trump told the members of the Detroit Economic Club.

"I said so do you sell many motorcycles because you think people want to buy a Harley. No, we sell very few in India, but they want us to go there. They said, if you go there and



build your plant there, we're not going to charge you anything. I mean, you can do whatever you want. I said I don't like that. And I see they went, they built the plant, and now they do their business with India. They probably do it outside of India too. They built a very big plant in many countries, they do that. Then all of a sudden, you hear

that they're leaving Milwaukee or they're leaving wherever they may be located," he said. Thursday's remarks by Trump come following his praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week. Trump described Modi as "the nicest human being", saying the Indian leader is "a friend of mine". "Modi, India. He's a friend of mine. He's great. Before him, they were replacing them every year. It's very unstable. He came over. He's a friend of mine. But on the outside, he looks like he's your father. He's the nicest, but he's a total killer," he said.

Trump recalled Modi's visit to Houston in 2019 to attend the 'Howdy Modi' event during his tenure and said: "It was beautiful. It's like 80,000 people going crazy. We were walking around."

The Republican candidate said he shared a "very good relationship" with Modi.

Recalling that there were a couple of occasions where somebody was threatening India, Trump said: "I told Modi, let me help as I am very good with those people. To which he aggressively respond-ed, 'I will do it. I will do it. And I would do anything necessary. We have defeated them for hundreds of years.' I said 'Whoa, what just happened there," he added.

in central Beirut

Israeli airstrikes on central Beirut on Thursday left two neighbuorhoods smoldering, killed 22 people and wounded dozens, Lebanon's health ministry said, as well as further escalating Israel's bloody conflict with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. The air raid on central Beirut — the deadliest in over a year of war — apparently targeted two residential buildings in separate neighbor-hoods simultaneously, accord-ing to an AP photographer at the scene. It brought down one eight-story building and wiped out the lower floors of the

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reported strikes. Israeli airstrikes have been far more common in Beirut's tightly packed southern suburbs, where Hezbollah bases many of its operations. After the strikes, Hezbollah's Al Manar TV reported that an attempt to kill Wafiq Safa, a top security official with the group, had failed. It said that Safa had not been inside of either of the targeted buildings.

Thursday's strikes followed a vear of tit-for-tat exchanges between Hezbollah and Israel that boiled over into all-out war in recent weeks, with Israel carrying out waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and launching a ground invasion. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire to more populated areas deeper inside Israel, causing few casualties but disrupting daily life. The attack came the same day Israeli forces fired on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon and wounded two of them, drawing widespread condemnation and prompting Italy's Defense Ministry to summon Israel's ambassador in protest. Witnesses reported a large number of ambulances and people gathering in the rubble of two Beirut sites that were hit, in the Ras al-Nabaa neighbor-hood and Burj Abi Haidar

The Lebanese Health Ministry said 22 people were killed and 117 others wounded, without elaborating on their identities. Recent Israeli airstrikes in neighborhoods adjoining Beirut, in particular the densely populated southern suburbs, have killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and other senior commanders. Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in

support of Hamas and the Palestinians, drawing Israeli airstrikes in retaliation. Hezbollah kept up rocket fire into Israel on Thursday, setting off air raid sirens in parts of northern Israel. Several drones heading toward Israel were intercepted, the military said. Iran — which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups across the region — launched some 180 ballistic

missiles at Israel last week in retaliation for the killing of top Hamas and Hezbollah mili-

Zelenskyy meets Pope, pushes his 'victory plan'

AP VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis met Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Vatican on Friday, the latest step on the Ukrainian president's European tour to win support for his proposed "victory plan" aimed at ending the war with Russia.

The pope and the Ukrainia leader held private talks for 35 minutes. After their private meeting at the Sala della Biblioteca and the presentation of the Ukrainian delegation, Francis gave Zelenskyy a bronze plaque depicting a flower and an inscription reading: "Peace is a fragile flower." In turn, Zelenskyy gifted the poptiff with an oil painting porpontiff with an oil painting por-traying "The massacre of Bucha. The story of Marichka." Bucha, a suburb northwest of Kyiv, was occupied by Russian troops shortly after the fullscale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and witnessed some of Russia's worst atrocities against civilians.

Later Friday, Zelenskyy met the Vatican's secretary of state, Pietro Parolin, accompanied by Archbishop Paul Richard

Russia attacks Ukraine's grain-exporting Odesa region

AP KYIV

A nighttime Russian missile strike on Odesa killed at least four people including a 16-year-old girl, regional authorities said Friday, in the very considerable with the constant of southern Ukrainian region that are likely intended to disrupt the country's grain exports. Four Russian missile and drone attacks on the Odesa region this week have killed 14 people and wounded around 20, according to local officials. The strikes have hit merchant ships and damaged port infrastructure in the region, which is a vital hub for Ukraine's agricultural exports through the Black Sea.
An attack on Odesa late Wednesday killed nine

people and hit a container ship sailing under the Panamanian flag — the third attack on a merchant vessel in four days, according to

Gallagher, secretary for relations with states and international organizations. The discussions were dedicat-

ed to the state of the war and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, as well as the ways in which it could be brought to an end, leading to just and stable peace in the country," the Vatican said in a statement,

latest in a series of attacks this week on the Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to ensure continuing military and financial support from his country's Western partners. Russia last year tore up an agreement that allowed Ukraine — one of the world's biggest suppliers of grain and other food staples, especially to developing nations — to export produce safely through the Black Sea.

Months later, and amid successful Ukrainian attacks on Russia's Black Sea fleet which forced its navy to back away from the coast, Ukraine established a shipping corridor that hugs the coast down to Turkey and opens a way to the Mediterranean Sea.

adding that "some matters relating to the religious life of the country were also exam-ined." Since the first Russian attack on Kyiv, there have been multiple contacts between Francis and Zelenskyy, through visits, letters and phone calls. The pope sparked some criticism from Ukrainian leaders in

March when he suggested they

should have the courage of the "white flag" negotiating an end to the war with Russia, in what was intepreted by many as a call

to surrender. Francis has repeatedly and strongly for an end to the war, focusing on prisoner exchanges and on reaching a diplomatic solution to the Ukrainian con-

Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi was sent as a special envoy on a mission to ease tensions among the parties at war, meeting with political and ecclesi-astical leaders around the world. His mission was, in particular, to encourage exchanges of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners and to find a way to facilitate the return of children forcibly deported from Ukraine to Russia.

Zelensky is city-hopping across Europe to promote a plan that he said "aims to create the right conditions for a just end to the war" against Russia, unveiling the proposals to European allies after a summit with President Joe Biden was derailed by Hurricane Milton. On Thursday, Zelenskyy met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London, French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in

Rome. He is expected to travel to Germany later on Friday to hold talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

UN peacekeepers caught in intensified fighting

AP BEIRUT

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, said in a statement that ts headquarters and positions "have been repeatedly hit" by Israeli forces.

It said an Israeli tank "directly" fired on an observation tower at the force's headquarters in the town of Naqoura, Lebanon, and that soldiers had attacked a bunker near where peacekeepers were sheltering, damaging vehicles and a communication system. It said an Israeli drone was seen flying to the bunker's entrance. The two UNIFIL troops wounded in the attacks and hospitalized are Indonesian, Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said. The Israeli military acknowledged opening fire at a UN base in southern Lebanon on Thursday and said it had ordered the peacekeepers to "remain in protected spaces."

Later Thursday, the UN peacekeeping chief said 300 peacekeepers in frontline positions on southern Lebanon's border have been temporarily moved to larger bases, and plans to move another 200 will depend on security conditions as the conflict escalates. Jean-Pierre Lacroix told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council that peacekeepers with UNIFIL are staying in their positions, but because of air and ground attacks they cannot conduct patrols.



UNIFIL, which has more than 10,000 peacekeep ers from dozens of countries, was created to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon after Israel's 1978 invasion. The United Nations expanded its mission following the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, allowing peacekeepers to patrol a buffer zone set up along the border.

Israel accuses Hezbollah of establishing militant infrastructure along the border in violation of the UN Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 war. The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, sharply condemned Israeli strikes that hit UNIFIL positions as "an inadmissible act, for which there is no justification."

rricane Milton leaves 8 dead, Florida in darkness

AP ST PETERSBURG (FLORI-

Rescue teams plucked Florida residents from the flotsam of Hurricane Milton on Thursday after the storm smashed through coastal communities where it tore homes into pieces, filled streets with mud and spawned a barrage of deadly tornadoes. At least eight people were dead.

Arriving just two weeks after the misery wrought by Hurricane Helene, the system also knocked out power to more than 3 million customers, flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off a baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

Among the most dramatic rescues, Hillsborough County officers found a 14-year-old boy floating on a piece of fence and pulled him onto a boat. A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued a man who was left clinging to an ice chest in the Gulf of Mexico after his fishing boat was stranded in waters roiled by Hurricane Milton. The agency estimated the man had survived winds of 75 to 90 mph (121 to 145 kph) and

waves up to 25 feet (7.6 metres) high during his night on the

most experienced mariner," destruction, many people expressed relief that Milton the lethal storm surge that sci-entists feared never materialised.

worst-case scenario." 'You face two hurricanes in a couple of weeks — not easy to go through — but I've seen a lot of resilience throughout this state," the governor told a briefing in Sarasota. He said he was 'very confident that this area is going to bounce back very, very

"This man survived in a nightmare scenario for even the Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dana Grady said. Despite the wasn't worse. The hurricane spared Tampa a direct hit, and trees fell on homes.

The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall late Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane in Siesta Key, about 70 miles (112 kilometres) south of Tampa. Damage was widespread, and water levels may continue to rise for days, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said it was not "the

nadoes in the Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, where homes were destroyed, authorities said. Police also found a woman dead under a fallen tree branch in Tampa. In Volusia County, authorities said two people, a 79-year-old woman in Ormond Beach and a 54-year-old woman in Port Orange, were also killed when

Speaking at a White House briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said there were reports of as many as 10 fatalities from tornadoes, but he cautioned that the number was tentative.

At least 340 people and 49 pets have been rescued in ongoing efforts, DeSantis said Thursday afternoon. South of Tampa, Natasha Shannon and her husband,

Terry, felt lucky to be alive after the hurricane peeled the tin roof off their cinder block home in Palmetto. They spent the night in a shelter with their three children and two grandchildren after she pushed them to leave.

quickly." "I said, Baby, we got to go. Five people were killed in tor-Because we're not going to



survive this," she said. They returned to find the roof torn into sheets across the street, shredded insulation hanging from exposed ceiling beams and their belongings soaked. "It ain't much but it was ours," she said. "What little bit

we did have is gone." The worst storm surge appeared to be in Sarasota

County, where it was 8 to 10 feet (2.5 to 3 metres) — lower than in the worst place during Helene. The storm also dumped up to 18 inches (45 centimetres) of rain in some

Officials in the hard-hit Florida counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota and Lee urged people to stay home, warning of downed power lines, trees in roads, blocked bridges and flooding.

Among the dozens of torna-does was a twister that hit the tiny barrier island of Matlacha, iust off Fort Myers. The fishingand-tourism village also endured a surge, with many of the colorful buildings sustaining serious damage. Tom Reynolds, 90, spent the morning sweeping out 4 feet (1.2 metres) of mud and water and collecting chunks of aluminum siding torn off by a twister that also picked up a car and threw it across the road.

Elsewhere on the island, a house was blown into a street, temporarily blocking it. Some structures caught fire. Reynolds said he planned to repair the home he built three decades ago. "What else am I going to do?" he said.

In contrast, city workers on Anna Maria Island were grateful not to be wading through floodwaters as they picked up debris Thursday morning, two weeks after Helene battered buildings and blew in piles of sand up to 6 feet (1.8 m) high. Those piles may have helped shield homes from further damage, said Jeremi Roberts of the State Emergency Response Team. "I'm shocked it's not more," city worker Kati Sands said as she cleared the streets of siding and broken lights. "We lost so much with Helene,

there wasn't much left." Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead

across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage. Power was knocked out

across much of the state. More than 3.4 million homes and businesses were without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks

utility reports.

The fabric that serves as the roof of Tropicana Field home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg — was ripped to shreds by fierce winds. Debris littered the field.

About 80,000 people spent the night in shelters, and thousands of others fled after authorities issued mandatory evacuation orders across 15 Florida counties with a total population of about 7.2 million people.

In Punta Gorda, a 10-foot (3metre) surge from the Peace River swept into the historic district, damaging homes and depositing six boats along one riverside street. It was the third surge to hit the neighbourhood in three months.

LUCKNOW | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2024

RBI asks banks to ensure easier accessibility for persons with disabilities

PTI MUMBAI

 $T^{\text{he Reserve Bank of India}}_{\text{on Friday asked banks to}}$ review their payment systems to ensure easier accessibility to persons with disabilities. sections

population, including differently-abled persons, are increasingly adopting digital payment systems, it said in a

"To promote effective access, payment system participants (PSPs, that is, banks and authorised non-bank payment system providers) are advised to review their payment systems/devices in Persons with Disabilities," it



terms of accessibility to Based on the review, banks out and system providers may carry

the necessary non-bank payment modifications in payment systems and devices like

point-of-sale machines. which can be accessed and by persons with

disabilities with ease, the RBI

The RBI also asked them to refer to the accessibility standards issued by the Ministry of Finance in

February.
While selecting potential solutions for the purpose, care should be taken to ensure that the modifications or enhancements do not compromise security aspects of the systems, the central bank said.

PSPs have been asked to submit to the Reserve Bank, within one month, details of their systems/devices that need to be modified, along with a time-bound plan of action for achieving the

Life insurers' new premiums rise 14 per cent to ₹ 35,020 crore

Life insurers recorded a 14 per cent rise in underwriting new business with a premium collection of Rs 35,020 crore in September. New business premiums stood at Rs 30,716 crore in same month a year ago.

The new business premium collection in the first half of FY25 rose 19 per cent to Rs 1,89,214 crore from Rs 1,58,377 crore in the same period last year, as per the monthly data released by the industry body Life Insurance Council

Driven by a strong demand for enhanced insurance protection from individual consumers, new policy issuances too increased by 45.49 per cent on a year-onyear basis in the month, resulting in the addition of new 32,17,880 policies vis-àvis 22,11,680 policies in the



year-ago period, it said. According to data released by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry individual single premiums growing 13 per cent to close at Rs 5,142 crore for September while year-to-

date growth stood at 14.99 per

Meanwhile, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) collected new premium of Rs 20,369 crore as against Rs 18,126 crore in September 2023, recording a growth of 25 per

However, private sector put together grew 12 per cent to Rs 73,664 crore as against Rs 65,734 crore garnered in the same month a vear ago.

The life insurance industry in India has been making significant strides by expanding access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the country's population that were previously underserved when it comes to their insurance needs, it said.

According to SEA data, the

overall import of vegetable

oils during the first 11 months of the current 2023-

24 marketing year ending October declined 6 per cent

to 1,47,75,000 tonnes as

compared to 1,56,73,102

tonnes in the corresponding

period of the previous year. Of the total vegetable oil

PwC India partners with Meta for AI solutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{wC India has announced a}}_{\text{collaboration with Meta to}}$ expand and scale its opensource AI solutions to and citizen enterprises services on Meta's Llama models.

This collaboration will promote the adoption of the Llama open-source platform and help PwC develop innovative solutions powered by Generative AI (GenAI) on a global scale, the consultancy firm said in a release. In light of the Indian

government's announcement to launch the IndiaAI Mission and its investment in building a robust AI ecosystem, the moment is ideal for businesses to harness the potential of GenAI, it added. "With Llama Models, we see a unique opportunity to democratise this technology across industries, and drive innovation while solving real-

digitally enabled future for clients and our communities - to create value and drive meaningful change at scale," Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson of PwC India,

The collaboration will help PwC India and Meta to democratise GenAI and make it more accessible to businesses by jointly building and deploying enterprisegrade and citizen-service GenAI solutions.

said.

It aims to create an ecosystem of GenAI solutions that will be built on Meta's technical expertise and powerful Llama open-source platform along world challenges. Together, with PwC India's domain we aspire to create a more expertise.

Sandhya Devanathan, Vice President and Head at Meta

> revolutionise businesses and accelerate the country's digital transformation journey. "By harnessing the power of natural language

India, said Gen AI solutions,

including Llama, are poised to

understanding and generation, Llama can unlock new efficiencies, enhance customer experiences, and drive data-driven decisionmaking. As India strives to become a leading digital economy, Gen AI will be instrumental in empowering businesses to innovate, scale, and compete on a global stage," Devanathan said.

Edible oil imports drop 29 per cent in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's import of edible oils fell 29 per cent annually in September to 10,64,499 tonnes due to lower inward shipments of crude and refined palm oils, according to industry data.

Import of edible oils stood at 14,94,086 tonnes in the same month last year. Solvent

Association of India (SEA) on Friday released the import data for vegetable oils (both edible and non-edible) for September.

Imports of non-edible oils fell to 22,990 tonnes in September from 57,940 tonnes in the year-ago

According to the data, import of vegetable oils in September declined 30 per cent to 10,87,489 tonnes compared to 15,52,026 tonnes a vear earlier. In the edible oil category, the SEA data showed that import

4,32,510 tonnes last month from 7,05,643 tonnes in September last year, while refined palm oil shipments were down to 84,279 tonnes from 1.28.954 tonnes. Imports of crude sunflower

building at port. Moreover, the association said importers have become oil also declined to 1,52,803

of crude pall oil declined to tonnes from 3,00,732 tonnes. cautious because of volatility SEA attributed the fall in and firmness in prices. import to higher inward

Reduction in import was led by palm oil, which is trading above soyabean oil and sunflower oil prices, SEA

said, adding that domestic

players have reduced their

imports so far in 2023-24 marketing year, the imports of edible oil fell to 1,45,35,955 tonnes from 1,54,68,912 tonnes. Imports of non-edible oils rose to 2,39,045 tonnes from 2,04,190 tonnes. India imports palm oils from Indonesia and Malaysia, and soyabean oils from Brazil and

Argentina. More than 50 per cent of

India's edible oils demand is met through imports. Recently, the government increased import duties on edible oils to protect farmers interest amid harvest of

JioFinance app launches with diverse services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tio Financial Services on Friday announced the JioFinance App that offers a range of services, including loans, savings accounts, UPI bill payments, recharges, and digital insurance.

A beta version of the JioFinance App was launched on May 30, 2024. Over six million users have experienced Jio Financial million Services Ltd's (JFSL) new-age digital platform, and the valuable customer feedback received was instrumental in improving the app's overall user experience.

"A wide array of financial products and services have been added since the Beta "The new app is now available". launch, including loans on mutual funds, home loans (including Balance Transfer), with a wide range of attractive and loans against property.



These loans are available at competitive terms and will offer substantial savings for

The new app is now available offerings, it said.

On the savings front, the digital savings account from Jio Payments Bank Ltd (JPBL), which can be opened digitally in 5 minutes, offers a secure bank account with biometric authentication and a physical debit card, it said. Over 1.5 million customers their routine,

such as seamless UPI payments, mobile recharge, and ability to pay credit card bills are empowering customers to transact digitally with ease. The JioFinance app also offers customers an aggregate view of their holdings across different bank accounts and across their mutual fund holdings, helping them manage their finances better. Moreover, it said, the

recurring expenses using

Additionally, it said, features

account.

JPBĹ

JioFinance app brings as many as 24 insurance plans spanning a comprehensive suite of life, health, twowheeler and motor insurance digitally. JFSL, along with its joint venture partner BlackRock are also working towards bringing world-class and innovative investment solutions.

Markets close lower; Sensex drops 230 points

PTI MUMBAI

Fquity benchmark indices nsex and Nifty ended lower on Friday, dragged by selling in banking, utility and financial stocks as investors turned cautious ahead of key macro data.

Besides, a mixed trend in global equity markets and unabated foreign fund outflows also hit investors' sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell

230.05 points or 0.28 per cent to close at 81,381.36. During the day, it declined 307.26 points or 0.37 per cent to a low of 81,304.15.

The NSE Nifty slipped 34.20 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,964.25. It hit an intraday low of 24,920.05. From the Sensex pack, Tata

Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, Power Grid, Axis Bank

TOP GAINERS

HCL Tech

JSW Steel

Tech Mahindra

Hindustan Unilever

shipments during July-August, and subdued

demand, resulting in stock



2780.55

and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones were among the laggards.

1111111 4111

The government is scheduled to release IIP data later in the

On the other hand, HCL Technologies, Tech Steel. Mahindra.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong were closed in green territory, while hanghai and Seoul the red. European markets were

trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. US markets ended lower in overnight deals on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent Crude fell 0.77 per cent to USD 78.79 a barrel.

Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,926.61 crore on Thursday, while Institutional Domestic Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 3,878.33 crore, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 144.31 points to settle at 81,611.41, while the NSE Nifty climbed Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and Titan were among the 24,998.45.

INBRIEF

NIFTEM-K CELEBRATES XTH FOUNDATION DAY

NEW DELHI: The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K), celebrated its Xth Foundation Day on 7th October with immense enthusiasm



PUNJAB GOVERNMENT APPOINTS PSPCL DIRECTOR



PATIALA: Punjab Government has appointed Er. Harjit Singh as Director/Generation, Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) for two years. Hailing from Patiala, Harjit Singh an alumnus of Thapar University, has around 30 years of experience in the field of Design/Construction/Operation & Maintenance

SRM UNIVERSITY-AP SENDS AN EXPEDITION TO MT. EVEREST

ANDHRA PRADESH: SRM University-AP flagged off the muchawaited Everest Base Camp Expedition that will take place from October 12 -



NFR RECORDS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

MALIGAON: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is working relentlessly round the clock to serve its customers and ensure the timely delivery of essential commodities to end users.

IREDA receives DIPAM approval for new Subsidiary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run IREDA has approval from DIPAM to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary to undertake retail and B2B business in the renewable energy sector.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), under the Ministry of new and renewable energy, is a non-banking financial institution.

It has received in-principle approval from the Department of Investment Public and Asset Management (DIPAM) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary to handle retail under business Suryaghar (Rooftop Solar), PM-KUSUM schemes, and other B2C segments in the renewable energy (RE) sector, IREDA said in a statement on

Thursday.
The subsidiary will also focus on emerging RE sectors, including EVs, energy storage, green technologies, sustainability, energy efficiency, etc. IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar



retail market, we will provide innovative financing options for both urban and rural consumers, promoting sustainable practices and reducing carbon footprints." The company presently is engaged in developing and engaged in developing and the same period of the extending financial assistance preceding 2023-24 fiscal.

energy and energy efficiency/conservation.
On Thursday, IREDA reported a 36 per cent rise in its profit after tax to Rs 387.75 crore in the September quarter

from Rs 284.73 crore PAT in

falls two per cent PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TCS stock

+1.02

Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) fell 2 per cent on Friday after its September quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. The scrip of the Mumbai-

based company slipped 1.93 per cent to close at Rs 4,146 apiece on the NSE.
On the BSE, stock of TCS went down by 1.84 per cent to end at Rs 4,150.60 per piece. In terms of volume, 57.59 lakh equity shares were traded on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and 2.86 lakh shares exchanged hands on the BSE during the day.

It emerged as the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms. TCS, the country's largest IT services firm, on Thursday reported a 4.99 per cent increase in September quarter net profit at Rs 11,909 crore, held back by a narrowing of profit margin.

Mobius Foundation advocates for Greening Education curriculums

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 6th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) was organised by the Mobius Foundation in collaboration with prominent global partners, concluded successfully with a resounding call to integrate sustainability into

educational curriculums. Held over two days, the conference drew more than 500 experts, educators, and

policymakers, environmentalists from over 20 countries, focusing on the theme "Greening Education for a Sustainable Future."

The discussions emphasised the growing need for sustainability to be a core part of education, promoting eco-conscious living and sustainable lifestyles. A significant takeaway from systems

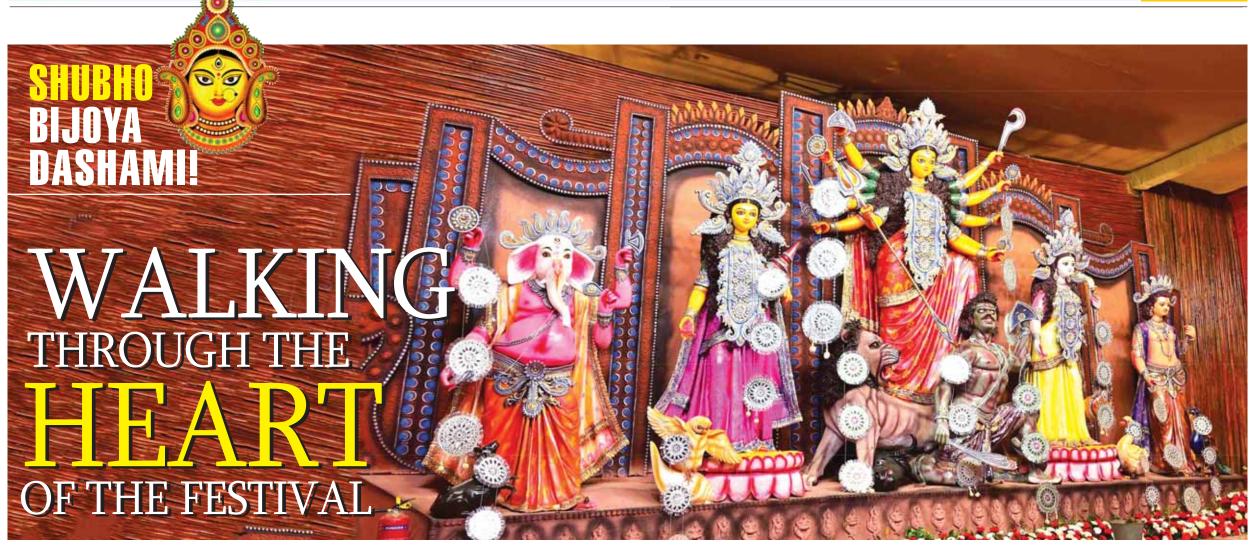
ON SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

the event endorsement of India's National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework 2023.

They both seen as crucial frameworks for advancing sustainable education.

This year's ICSE highlighted the importance of 'green education' and 'green jobs' as key components of future sustainability efforts both in India and globally.

Since its launch in 2019, ICSE has become a vital platform for addressing sustainability challenges within education worldwide.



In 'Chittaranjan Park', New Delhi, Durga Puja comes alive with families in festive attire, dhol beats echoing, and the aroma of delicious Bengali food, creating a vibrant celebration of community, says SAKSHI PRIYA

celebrate Vijaya Dashami with love and gratitude. Today, we say goodbye to Maa Durga until next year, thanking her for the blessings and protection she has showered upon us. On this special day, may you and your loved ones be blessed with joy, peace, and happiness. Shubho Bijoya Dashami to

In C.R. Park, located in South East Delhi, Durga Puja isn't just another festival - it's an emotion. Often called the mini Kolkata of Delhi, this bustling neighbourhood truly becomes the heart of the city during these days. Families eagerly wait the whole year for this, preparing for pandal hopping, relishing Bengali delicacies and being part of the vibrant celebrations that make this time so special.

THE MAGIC OF PANDAL HOPPING

For many, Durga Puja is all about pandal hopping, going from one beautifully decorated pandal to another, admiring the stunning idols of Maa Durga. In *C.R. Park*, the streets come alive with people of all ages, dressed in their finest traditional clothes. The women in sarees, the men in kurtas and kids running around in excitement, it's a sight that fills your heart

You can start your pandal journey at the Kali Mandir, where the peaceful surroundings set the mood for the rest of the day. Then comes the grand Durgotsab in GK II, which attracts thousands of visitors every year. From stunning decorations to cultural performances, the spirit of *Durga Puja* is alive and thriving here. Another must-visit spot is the Mela Ground, where families gather to enjoy not just the festivities but also the wide variety of food stalls that line the streets.

Children dart between pandals, holding their parents' hands, their faces lighting up

s the festive days of Durga with every new sight. The sound of dhols everyone loves. You can try the famous Puja come to an end, we echoes through the air, and in the evenings, the Sandhya Aarti becomes a beautiful and calming experience for everyone watching. The streets of C.R. Park transforms into a magical world, full of lights, music and devotion, and no matter how many pandals you visit, the excitement never dies down.

A FEAST FOR ALL

No Durga Puja is complete without indulging in the food. The food stalls lining the streets and pandals in C.R. Park offer everything from traditional Bengali dishes to popular street food that

Kolkata-style Puchka that bursts with flavour or enjoy classic rolls stuffed with spicy chicken or mutton.

For those who love fish, Bhetki Paturi - fish marinated in mustard and wrapped in banana leaves is a must-try. Fish Kebab and Chicken Shami Kebab are equally popular among non-vegetarians, while

vegetarians can indulge in dishes like Hara Bhara Kebab or Channar Paturi (paneer wrapped in banana leaves). And for the main course, Golbarir
Murgi and Dhakai Mangsho (mutton
curry) and Aloo Dum served with soft luchis are pure bliss.

The joy of Durga Puja isn't just in the rituals but also in sharing these meals with family and friends. Sitting down at a table with loved ones, eating delicious food and laughing together under the twinkling lights is a memory that stays in your heart long after the festival is over.



celebration in themselves. It's not just about the pandals - it's the whole neighbourhood that transforms. The lanes are filled with people alking from one pandal to another and families taking pictures to capture the beautiful moments. The colourful lights strung across buildings, the sound of Rabindra Sangeet floating through the air and the laughter of people enjoying the festival all come together to create a magical atmosphere. Even if you're not Bengali, it's hard not to get swept up in the energy of Durga Puja in C.R. Park. People from all over Delhi come here to experience the festival and there's a sense of community that goes beyond language and culture. It's a time

celebrate the victory of good over evil, the triumph of light over darkness.

THE CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

One of the most beautiful things about Durga Puja is how it brings people together to celebrate not just the goddess, but also the rich cultural heritage of Bengal. During the festival, the pandals host a variety of performances, from Purulia Chou to traditional Bengali folk music. These performances are not just entertaining, they're a way to connect with our roots and pass on our traditions to the next generation.

Whether you're watching a soulful song performance or enjoying a dance recital, ere's something about the atmosphe during Durga Puja that makes everything feel a little more special. The connection between the audience and the performers, the shared love for the culture and the joy of being part of something bigger than yourself, it's all part of what makes Durga Puja so meaningful.

THE BLESSINGS OF SANDHYA AARTI

As the sun begins to set, one of the most special moments of *Durga Puja* takes place, the *Sandhya Aarti*. The rhythmic beating of the drums, the chanting of mantras and the sight of people gathered

peace. It's a time when everyone pauses to



reflect and give thanks to Maa Durga. The aarti fills the air with a sense of calm and the glow of the lamps as they're lit adds to the sacredness of the moment. It's in these quiet moments that you feel the true spirit of Durga Puja, the blessings of when everyone comes together to in devotion create a moment of pure the goddess, the love of family and friends

and the joy of being part of something so special.

SAYING GOODBYE ON BIJOYA DASHAMI

As the festival comes to an end, there's a bittersweet feeling in the air. It's time to say goodbye to Maa Durga as she returns to her heavenly home. The day is marked with rituals like *Sindur Khela*, where married women apply vermillion to each other, symbolising the strength and joy of womanhood.

Then comes the Bijoy Yatra, the immersion procession, where the idols of Maa Durga are carried to the river or pond for their final journey. In C.R. Park, this procession is a deeply emotional experience. People gather to bid farewell, throwing flowers into the water and praying for the goddess's return next year. Though there are tears as we say goodbye, there's also a sense of hope. We know that this isn't a permanent goodbye. Maa Durga will return next year, bringing with her the same joy and blessings. And until then, the memories of this *Durga Puja* will keep our hearts full.

UNTIL NEXT YEAR...

As we celebrate the last day of Durga Puja and look forward to the coming year, let's carry the love, joy and blessings of the festival with us. The laughter, the shared meals, the excitement of pandal hopping, and the spiritual peace of the Sandhya Aarti - these moments are what make Durga Puja so special.

So as we say goodbye to Maa Durga on this *Bijoya Dashami*, let's remember the joy of this festival and look forward to next year when we will once again gather with our loved ones to celebrate. Until then, may Maa Durga's blessings be with you and your family, bringing peace and happiness to your lives.

Shubho Bijoya Dashami, Vijaya Dashami or Dussehra to all!

THE SPIRIT OF NAVRATRI

Celebrate Navratri with AnnaMaya's special thali, offering a delightful mix of traditional fasting dishes with modern twists, perfect for the festive season, says SHARMILA CHAND

Navratri fasting goes in He explains, "The highlights of harmony with Satvik food. the thali are 'Falahari Feasting on traditional dishes completes the celebrations with refreshing blend of joy and happiness. I head to sweet potatoes with indulge in an authentic creamy yoghurt, indulge in an authentic experience. As the specially curated thali is placed before me, I am on an immersive culinary journey in the festive spirit.

This year's thali at AnnaMaya is a testament to tradition and innovation, crafted by their renowned Maharaj, *Mahendra* Jakhar, who has been delighting guests with his unique Navratri offerings for the past nine years. Known for infusing modern twists into traditional fasting dishes, the chef continues to elevate the dining experience, ensuring both authenticity and indulgence during the sacred

"The Navratri Thali has been thoughtfully curated to honour the spirit of devotion and celebration of Durga Puja and Dussehra, offering guests a culinary journey that reflects India's rich heritage. Every dish adheres to Navratri's dietary requirements while providing a vibrant and flavourful dining experience," he says.

the thali are Shakarkandi Ki Chaat', a Kele Ki 'Kacche Shammi', a delectable mix of raw banana, paired with potato, cardamom and green chilli, 'Pethe Ki Khati Meethi Sabzi', a tangy and sweet pumpkin preparation with tamarind and ghee, 'Makhana Moongphali Ki Kadhi', fox nuts and peanuts simmered in a lightly spiced yellow curry, and 'Samak Chawal', which is Barnyard cooked millet perfection." experience doesn't end with the savoury delights the chefs have also curated divine Satvik

desserts that perfectly conclude the meal, such as 'Makhana Kheer' and 'Badam Gulab Ki Barfi', a rich almond barfi infused with to ensure both health

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

ingredients rose petals and milk. Each and indulgence during the sacred during this auspicious time. offering in the thali is crafted fast. To complement the meal, using high-quality, farm to table guests can pair their Thali with

2000 plus taxes per person, this Navratri Thali offers a harmonious blend of culture, refreshing beverages like Lassi or Chach nutrition, and indulgence. Available on all days from 3rd perfect for staying hydrated and energised October to 12th October 2024, the Thali is served during both Reflecting on the spirit of lunch and dinner. Maharaj

opportunity explore the rich diversity of India's rituals honouring the purity and devotion of the festival. This year's thali brings together flavours ingredients that not only nourish the body but also celebrate the cultural heritage we hold." Go ahead and celebrate the festival of purity and devotion at

new

concludes, "For me, every

AnnaMaya, where each dish

tells a story of cultural India

and is prepared with the

utmost care to nourish the

body and soul. Priced at INR

SAMAK CHAWAL PULAO

• Preparation and Cook Time: 25-35 minutes **INGREDIENTS**

• 60 gm barnyard millet (samak

chawal)

20gm carrots

• 10gm beans • 10gm cauliflower

• 15gm potatoes • 10 gm fresh green peas

1 tbsp ghee1 tbsp sunflower oil

2 tsp cumin seed • 1/2 cup yogurt

(Himalayan rock salt)

3gm green chilies • 1 tsp fresh coriander 5 gm sendha

METHÓD Soak the barnyard millet in double the amount of water for

namak

10 minutes. • Peel and cut carrots, beans and

potatoes into small diagonal Boil water in a pan, add

Himalayan salt, and blanch potatoes, carrots, peas, and beans, separately for 2-3 minutes. Once they are boiled, rinse them in cold water.

Heat sunflower oil in a vessel, add cumin seeds, and sauté.

• Add water and cook for a minute. Add the vegetables and salt. Cook for some time.

Now add yogurt and cook for 5-10 minutes. Add water and boil it for some time.

 Add green chilies and millet Gently stir and reduce the heat. Cover and cook for some time.

 Once the millet is cooked, finish with the ghee. Serve hot.

Sharmila Chand is an Author and Consulting Editor who writes on Food, Travel, Lifestyle, Art &

INDIA EYE SERIES SWEEP, WITH RUNS FROM OPENERS

inconsequential nature, India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20 against Bangladesh here on Saturday. India have already bagged the series 2-0 after wins at Gwalior and New Delhi.

This Indian bunch under Gautam Gambhir has shown an insatiable hunger for victory, and doubters can glance back at its resultoriented approach during the rain-marred Kanpur Test against the same opposition a few days ago.
Hence, they are unlikely to

show any laxity here too as a 3-0 sweep will sit nicely along with the 2-0 margin in the preceding Test series.
Beyond the obvious, India will

also look to add new pieces to their white ball jigsaw puzzle ahead of some important assignments such as the Champions Trophy.

So, in a season teeming with showpiece events globally as well as bilaterally, it's critical for the team to have multiple backup options.

In that context, it's clear that Gambhir and his colleagues in the backroom have set in motion the process of finding



players keeping in mind the long-term goals such as the ICC event next year.

Be it pacer Mayank Yadav or spinner Varun Chakravarthy, Gambhir wants to take a closer look at them and assess their readiness for the sterner assays ahead.

Thev haven't disappointing either in this series.

Mayank, who missed a lot of action since IPL 2024 due to able support cast to frontline an injury, bowled at over 150

clicks while Chakravarthy returned with a three-wicket haul in his first outing in blue

in three years at Gwalior. The team management will also keep a close eye on the journey of Nitish Kumar Reddy, highly impressive in the Delhi T20 while smashing a 34-ball 74 and returning with a couple of wickets. Opening woes

Among these slivers of positives, the outings of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma

stick out like a sore thumb. Samson has given a chance to open the innings in this series and it's a godsend in T20s, giving the batter a chance to exploit the six power play

But the Kerala man has two modest outings to show so far - a 19-ball 29, a missed chance to make a fifty in a small chase of 128, and a 7-ball 10.

Samson will have to come up with something special here not to slip away from the

eyesight of management, unless they want to give a go to Jitesh Sharma, the second wicketkeeper batter in the

squad.

Similarly, the backroom staff would want a substantial outing from Abhishek who too has produced lukewarm 15 and 16 in the last two matches. The failure of openers has put a bit of strain on the middleorder, as the hosts were 41 for three inside the power play segment before the middlesecond T20I.

Apart from that, the team think-tank will decide whether to hand a match to some other worthy names on the bench like leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and all-rounder Harshit Rana.

As for Bangladesh, the visitors will strive to taste that elusive victory on this tour.

For that, they will need a consistent effort, particularly from seniors like captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, Litton Das and Mustafizur Rahman who all have disappointing till now.

SQUADS:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy. Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun

Chakaravarthy, JItesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav, Tilak Varma.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Tawhid Hridoy, Emon, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumer Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul

eleven. the veteran. While India have won their last

back of four successive series defeats in the World Test Championship, most recently against Sri Lanka. New Zealand have won only two Tests in India with their last one coming back in 1988. "In India we've seen teams that

have done well out there in the past have been quite aggressive towards them, especially with the bat they've looked to play a few shots, but also put them under pressure...Rather than sitting and waiting for something to happen.
"We'll decide on how we want

to play when we get over there, but guys have got plans around how they like to approach things and hopefully we can fine turns the arm." fine-tune those

_atham wants New Zealand to play with freedom in India

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand's new Test captain Tom Latham feels the only way to challenge an almost invincible India in their own backyard is by playing fearless cricket.

Latham has taken over the captaincy from Tim Southee ahead of the three-match Test series in India beginning on

October 16 in Bengaluru.

"It's an exciting challenging going over to India and once we can go over there, hopefully play with a bit of freedom, bit of no fear and try and take it to them. If we do that hopefully, it gives ourselves a good chance," said Latham ahead of the team's departure to India on Friday.

18 series at home, New Zealand come to India on the

Despite the 0-2 defeat in Sri Lanka, left-handed Latham

reckons they got a few things right in the island nation. We actually did some really

good things in Sri Lanka. We fell on the wrong side of the results but there were some good things. The approach we had with the bat, apart from that one innings, I thought we played really well.

"So it's about continuing that as much as we can and trying to play a brand of cricket that we are proud of playing," he said. Latham's predecessor Southee has not been at his best with the ball over the 12 months. The emergence of pacer Will O'Rourke means Southee is not a sure starter in the playing

The skipper, however, backed

"If you look back, think in Bangalore (Southee) took seven wickets last time we toured there," Latham said. "Someone with that amount of experience who's done it for many years there's certainly no reason why he can't get back to where he's been in the past. He's been a fantastic bowler for

wicket list for New Zealand. "He'll have a similar role that he has always had whether it's as captain or in the past, someone like that who has a wealth of experience, a wealth of knowledge in all conditions and he's done it for many years and has been successful. We'll certainly be tapping into his mind, his ideas, so looking forward to it," he added.

us for many years, there's a reason why he's so high on the

The first Test will be played in Bengaluru, second in Pune and third in Mumbai.





AP MULTAN

England notched one of its most memorable test wins as it beat Pakistan by an innings and 47 runs on the Left-arm spinner Jack Leach fifth and final day of the first picked up all the three wickets cricket test on Friday.

Pakistan was bowled out for with 4-30 after fast bowlers 220 inside the first session as Salman Ali Agha (63) and Brydon Carse had mopped Aamer Jamal (55 not out) the Pakistan top-order on the delayed the inevitable with their fighting half centuries. couldn't bat due to a fever as

suffered

the

embarrassment of becoming the first test-playing country to lose a match by an innings after scoring over 500 runs in

the first innings. on the final morning to finish Gus Atkinson and debutant

fourth evening. Resuming on 152-6, Agha and

first over when he had Agha trapped leg before wicket off a

straight delivery. Leach then finished off the tail quickly by grabbing a stunning low return catch of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah was stumped after hitting the left-arm spinner for a straight six.

England had broken number of test records when it amassed 823-7 declared on the back of Harry Brook's belligerent triple century and Joe Root's impeccable 262 in reply to Pakistan's first innings score of 556.

On Wednesday, Root also became England's highest test run-scorer.

Pakistan woeful run in test cricket continued with skipper Shan Masood losing his sixth successive test since being elevated as captain last year was also Pakistan's seventh loss at home in 11 test matches with the last win coming against South Africa in February 2021.

The second test begins at Ill No. 11 Abrar Ahmed Jamal resisted for an hour and Multan from next Tuesday stretched their partnership to with the final test scheduled 109 before Leach struck in his for Rawalpindi from Oct.

Slow start for Shubhankar in French Open golf

PTI ■ PARIS

▼ndian golfer Shubhankar Sharma's patchy form continued as he carded a topsy-turvy one-over 72 in the opening round of the FedEx Open de France that left him tied 77th in the standings here.

Sharma struck four birdies

against five bogeys.
He was one of the early starters and stumbled to a bogey on the second hole but quickly made amends with two fine birdies on the fourth and the sixth.

On the back nine, he had a good start with a birdie to go to two-under.

Then came three bogeys on the trot from 11th to the 13th and he was not able to recover from that, managing a birdie. bogey finish in the last two

The cut looks likely at even par or better and Sharma will need a solid round to make the cut, after missing out last week.

Ioe Dean, Thorbiorn Olesen and Jesper Svensson shared



the first-round lead after carding identical six-under

The trio made the most of soft after almost 80 millimetres of rain fell on Wednesday, causing the ground staff to work through the night to make the course playable.

Englishman Dean, making his posted the early clubhouse lead after carding four birdies

and an eagle.

He was then joined at the top of the leaderboard by Olesen, who has fond memories of the Albatross Course as a member of Thomas Bjorn's victorious 2018 Ryder Cup side.

The Dane was one-under after playing the back-nine, but then reeled off four consecutive birdies from the first appearance at this venue, first before adding a seventh gain of the day on the par-four seventh hole.



England loses to Greece as Carsley experiment backfires and France wins without Mbappé

Lee Carsley ran into the first problems of his tenure as England's interim coach after a bold team selection backfired in a 2-1 home loss to Greece in the Nations League on Thursday. Erling Haaland became Norway's record scorer at the age of 24 with a double in his country's 3-0 win over Slovakia, while France - playing without Kylian Mbappé and the retired Antoine Griezmann -still had far too much for

Israel in a 4-1 victory. After leading England to back-to-back victories since becoming temporary coach after the European Championship, Carsley felt emboldened enough to field a team without a recognized striker in the absence of injured captain Harry Kane.

The lineup looked interesting and exciting on paper but resembled a mess on the field as Greece repeatedly picked off England and got in behind a stretched defense.

Vangelis Pavlidis scored the opener for the visitors at Wembley Stadium in the Jude Bellingham equalized in the 87th, only for Pavlidis to take advantage of



time.

three goals disallowed in the game, celebrated one of their most famous wins by gathering together and holding up the National Control of the holding up the No. 2 jersey of Baldock, the George Panathinaikos defender who was found dead in his Athens Greece, which is ranked No.

more sloppy defending to home on Wednesday at age grab Greeces winner in the fourth minute of stoppage matches for Greece and there was a period of silence in Greece's players, who also had tribute to the right back ahead of the game, with players wearing black armbands.

'We gave everything for him," Pavlidis said in a tribute to Baldock, who he described as a "special guy."
It was England's first loss to

48 in the world ranking, in 10 matches between the teams and deals a major blow to Carsley's hopes of becoming coach of the national team on a permanent basis. It was meant to be fluid set-

up, with in-form Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer starting a competitive international for the first time for England and deployed in central midfield, with Phil splitting time as the furthest player forward in an attack filled with midfielders. It didn't work.

"We never really gave ourselves a chance to see whether it was the right decision or wrong," said Carsley, who insisted it was not an "experiment."

"With the players we've got, we've got to be courageous at times with our systems and be creative. I thought it was important to try something different. I never at any point thought I've got it cracked. It was a case of, let's try something different."
Haaland scored twice to move

onto 34 goals for Norway, one more than the previous record-holder Jorgen Juve from the 1930s. Haaland, who has already scored 11 goals for Manchester City this season in all competitions, was captaining Norway for the first time in his 36th international appearance. Alexander Sørloth also scored

for Norway. Mbappé wasn't called up by France because of a minor injury, even though he has since played for Real Madrid, while the surprise retirement of Griezmann - a stalwart for

and Bellingham coach Didier Deschamps for the past decade - gave it the feel of a new era for Les Bleus. Goals by Matteo Guendouzi in the 87th and Bradley Barcola in the 89th wrapped up France's win against Israel, after Eduardo Camavinga and Christopher Nkunku netted in the first half. The game was played in

Budapest, with Israeli teams having played home matches in neutral countries such as Hungary and Cyprus for security reasons since the Hamas attacks one year ago. Italy forward Lorenzo
Pellegrini's red card proved
decisive as his team
squandered a two-goal lead and drew with Belgium 2-2 in Rome.

Italy went in front after barely 60 seconds, through right wing back Andrea Cambiaso, and striker Mateo Retegui made it 2-0 in the 24th. Pellegrini was sent off for a foul on Arthur Theate that

initially earned him a booking but was upgraded to a red card in the 40th after a VAR review. From the resulting free kick, Maxim De Cuyper tucked away a fine finish from a well-worked move and Leandro Trossard equalized in the 61st.

Toyota returns to Formula 1

AP ■ TOKYO

Toyota is returning to Formula 1 after 15 years as the Japanese automaker becomes a "technical partner" of American racing team

Haas. There will be Toyota branding on the Haas cars starting from next week's United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and the auto giant's racing division will provide "design, technical and manufacturing services" to the Nacth services" to the North Carolina-based team.

This doesn't mean a return of the Toyota works team which raced in F1 for eight seasons until 2009, however.

Haas will still race under its own name and Toyota isn't going to be supplying engines like it did for other teams in the 2000s.

Haas already has an agreement to use Ferrari engines through 2028 as part of an existing partnership which dates to Haas' first F1 season in 2016. Haas previously extended its Ferrari deal in July to cover the new F1 regulations coming in 2026.

The announcement of the agreement" 'multi-vear seemed to suggest Toyota could seek to place a driver with Haas, which doesn't have

a spare seat for next year. The head of Toyota's Gazoo racing division, Tomoya Takahashi, said in a statement

Friday that Toyota would aim "cultivate engineers, and mechanics" in its partnership with Haas. The team has already signed Ferrari reserve Bearman and the experienced Esteban Ocon, who's currently at Alpine, as its drivers for 2025.

Toyota spent lavishly when it joined F1 in 2002 as it attempted to build a titlewinning team, but never won a race despite several nearmisses.

Toyota made a sudden announcement at the end of the 2009 season that is was leaving F1 as part of a costcutting program even though it had almost finished designing its car for the

following season.
Since then, Toyota has focused on other forms of auto racing like NASCAR, the Le Mans 24-hour race - where it has a rivalry with Ferrari -

and rallying. The Toyota-Haas announcement Friday came just over a week after the company was among three big Japanese firms which pulled sponsorship money out of the Olympics.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before respond ing to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loas, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.