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November's poll results will decide politicians festive mood

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the Election Commission's announcement of another round of Assembly elections in the crucial states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand, and bypolls to several Assemblies and Lok Sabha seats across the States, the decks are now cleared for Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi to plunge into active politics by contesting from Wayanad in Kerala on November 13. The election in Wayanad has been necessitated after Congress Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat for Rae Bareilly, the other seat he had won during the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year.

With Priyanka's potential entry into active politics, the Congress' first family will be looking to solidify its influence in the Parliament. Additionally, with Priyanka's presence in Wayanad, the party hopes to send a strategic message to the public, signalling the Congress's presence in both northern and southern regions. Election Commission (EC) announced single phase Assembly polls in Maharashtra for on November 20, while Jharkhand to vote in two phases on November 13 and 20. The votes for both the polling states and bypolls will be counted on November 23. Keeping in view of the several upcoming festivals, including Diwali from October 29 to November 1, Chhath and Dev Deepawali on November 15,

Priyanka Gandhi will make LS debut from Wayanad



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

CEC punctures Exit Poll balloon

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said a huge distortion was created due to exit polls, and called for introspection by pollsters. The EC also questioned the practice of showing winning/losing trends five to ten minutes after the official beginning of counting at 8 am on election result days. "Showing winning/losing trends at 8.05 am or 8.10am, which is just five or ten minutes after the start of counting at 8 am is nonsense. Political parties felt there was a huge distortion due to exit polls. Need self-introspection by pollsters," Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Kumar also said exit polls create a huge distraction by raising expectations and it was a matter for self-introspection for the media, particularly electronic media.

"We do not govern exit polls, but there is a need for self-introspection. What was the sample size, where was the survey done, how did the result come and what is my responsibility if I did not match to that result, are there disclosures - all of these need to be seen," Kumar said, flanked by two Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu.

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the dates were decided and this will allow voters, particularly those temporarily migrating for the festivals, ample time to return to their registered voting locations. The term of Maharashtra Assembly will end on November 26, while the term of Jharkhand Assembly will end on January 5, 2025. Maharashtra has 288 seats while Jharkhand has 81 seats. Bye-elections to 47 Assembly seats and the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat will be held on November 1. Announcing the schedules Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the date of issue of Gazette notification for the Maharashtra Assembly election is October 22, last date of filing nominations is October 29, the date for scrutiny of nominations will be October 30 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is

November 4. "There are 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra while the number of eligible voters in Jharkhand is 2.6 crore," Kumar said.

Expressing concern over urban apathy affecting voter turnout, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said that polling days in Maharashtra and Jharkhand have been kept mid-week so that more people vote. The EC has been flagging the issue of low polling in urban centres including those like Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, and has been taking a number of steps to increase voter awareness.

In Maharashtra, turnouts in 62 of 64 urban Assembly constituencies were less than the state average in 2019, as was the case in Lok Sabha elections, he said, adding "We will have a special drive for urban areas". He said in the recent Haryana election, there were booths in the "poshest" areas where voting was less than 20 per cent.

After the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir polls, the BJP hopes to make a return to power in Maharashtra, where it has an alliance with Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena. The Maharashtra election is expected to witness a two-way fight between the ruling Mahayuti Alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena-Eknath Shinde and NCP-Ajit Pawar and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, of the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP-Sharad Pawar and the Congress.

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Omar to be CM today... Nayab's turn tomorrow

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fifty four-year-old Omar Abdullah is all set to take oath as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. His party, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference recorded a historic victory winning 42 Assembly seats in the maiden assembly elections held after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in 2019.

This will be Omar Abdullah's second term in office. However, this time, he will be governing a Union Territory without the special status that Jammu and Kashmir once held. He remained Chief Minister from January 2009 till October 2014.

The oath-taking ceremony will take place at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, where elaborate security and other arrangements have been made.

The swearing-in ceremony is expected to witness several prominent leaders from the INDIA bloc, a coalition of opposition parties, in attendance. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Supriya Sule from the NCP have already reached Srinagar to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi are also expected to attend the oath ceremony.

The National Conference has also extended invitations to the top brass of the DMK, Shiromani Akali Dal, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal, and D Raja. Meanwhile, speculations were rife about the list of probable members of the Council of Ministers. The NC is expected to induct a congress nominee in the council along with Independent legislators from the Jammu region to balance the regional aspirations.



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The meeting of the Haryana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs to elect the State legislature party leader of the State will be held on Wednesday. Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the Chief Minister of Haryana in March is likely to be the CM choice. He was the BJP's chief ministerial face in the state Assembly polls, and.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are the central observers for the election of the state legislature party leader in Haryana. It is learnt that Shah and Yadav were named central observers after reports of rebellion by Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh and nine of his Ahirwal loyalist MLAs.

The minister, however, clarified that he was "solidly" behind the BJP. BJP experimented by naming one of the senior-most party members Union Minister Rajnath Singh to iron out the heavy factional differences in Rajasthan after the Assembly elections.

The meeting, which will be held in Panchkula, will elect the state legislature party leader. Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli said. The state legislature party leader will be the next chief minister. On Tuesday, Saini held meetings with senior officers making preparations for the BJP's big event. Hectic lobbying for ministerial berths have been doing the rounds and names of probable shall be shared to shared party high command on Wednesday.

The oath-taking ceremony of the new Haryana Cabinet will take place at Panchkula's Parade Ground in Sector 5 on Thursday and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend. The BJP secured a third term in the Assembly polls in Haryana, results of which were declared on October 8. It won 48 seats against the Congress' 37 in the 90-member Assembly in the state.

Yogi meets Bahraich victim's kin; 'culprits won't be spared'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday met the family of 22-year-old Ram Gopal Mishra, who was killed in the recent violence in Bahraich.

The victim's family, accompanied by local MLA Sureshwar Singh, expressed their demand for strict action against the culprits, detailing the brutality inflicted upon Ram Gopal. His wife stated that "blood will be avenged with blood", emphasising the need for justice. Ram Gopal's father was seen crying and pleading for justice with folded hands in front of the chief minister.

During the 30-minute meeting in Lucknow, Ram Gopal's wife, mother, and father were visibly distressed. Yogi reassured them, stating that justice would be served. He instructed officials to provide assistance to the family and ensured they would not face any hardships. The CM also inquired about the full details of the incident from the family. He conveyed his condolences, describing the event as unfortunate and reaffirmed that providing justice to the victim's family is the government's top priority.

ernment's top priority.

He promised that the culprits of this grievous incident would face severe consequences.

Additionally, the CM announced a compensation package for the family, including Rs 10 lakh, a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, an Ayushman card, and a contractual job for the deceased's wife.

Meanwhile, police have arrested 26 individuals in connection with the Bahraich violence, which resulted in one death.

Bahraich SP Vrinda Shukla's PRO Shivesh Shukla said that the accused had been sent to jail following medical examinations.

The police have also reopened shops in areas previously affected by violence. During the unrest, over 50 houses were vandalised, leaving them abandoned. Increased police patrolling is underway in a 20km radius around Hardi and Mahsi, with police vehicles actively monitoring the area.

Entry to affected neighbourhoods is restricted and requires identification verification.

Sources said that despite a heavy police presence, miscreants vandalised a religious site in Nakwa village late Monday night, attempting to set it on

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National Capital Region's second airport almost ready for operations



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region's second airport, Noida International Airport has successfully completed the calibration of the instrument landing system and precision approach path indicator to assess navigation systems. The calibration, carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with support from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), represents a crucial milestone in the airport's journey towards operational readiness. The airport plans to apply for an aerodrome licence in December, this year. The airport is strategically

located at about 72 km from Indira Gandhi International Airport, about 52 kilometres from Noida, about 130 kilometres from Agra and about 90 kilometres from Multi-Modal Logistics Hub at Dadri.

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) is a radio navigation system that provides precise guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in low visibility conditions. The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) is a system of lights positioned beside the runway to provide visual indication to pilots regarding their correct descent angle during the final approach.

"A Beech King Air 360ER from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) began the calibration process on Thursday, 10th October, with the process concluding on 14th October 2024," a media release stated on Tuesday.

Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, is developing the airport. The foundation stone for the project was laid in November 2021. The concession period for Noida International Airport commenced on October 1 2021 and will run for 40 years. The airport, which aims to start commercial operations in April 2025, is expected to submit the application for aerodrome licence in December after completing the validation flights.

In the first phase, the airport will have one terminal, one runway, 10 aerobridges and 25 parking stands. Once all four development phases are completed, the airport will have a capacity to handle 70 million passengers per year.

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More bomb hoaxes keep airports on edge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Airport staffers and security agencies on Tuesday went into a tizzy to undertake specific counter-terrorist drills at various airports after five planes, including one bound for the United States, received bomb-threat messages through a social media handle on Tuesday.

The threats via microblogging platform X came a day after five hoax bomb threat messages to three international flights, a mail train and a university on Monday, caused the trouble to hundreds of passengers and airline crew.

According to sources, an X handle issued threats on Tuesday to five flights, an Air India Express flight from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a SpiceJet flight from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru (QP 1373), an Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127) and an Indigo flight from Dammam (Saudi Arabia) to Lucknow (6E 98).

The Air India Express aircraft underwent a security check at the Ayodhya airport. The SpiceJet and Akasa Air planes have landed, according to flight-tracking websites. An Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago was diverted to Iqaluit Airport in Canada following a bomb



threat. "Flight AI127 operating from Delhi to Chicago on October 15, 2024, was the subject of a security threat posted online and, as a precautionary measure, has landed at Iqaluit Airport in Canada," the airline said.

It further said, "Air India notes that it, and other local airlines, have been subject to a number of threats in recent days. Though all have subsequently been found to be hoaxes, as a responsible airline operator all threats are taken seriously."

An Ayodhya-bound Air India Express flight also received a bomb threat, which was sent via phone call for the IX 765 flight that flew from Jaipur at 12.25 pm. The Boeing 737 Max8 aircraft with call sign AXB765 landed at Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya airport by 1.59 pm. The aircraft is currently parked in an isolated bay area of Ayodhya airport, while passengers have been alighted from the aircraft.

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Weekly markets offer bargains, and traffic jams as a bonus!

Large carts piled with clothes, fruits, vegetables, household items, take up road space

BY ABHI SINGHAL

Festive season in Delhi is also shopping and gifting season, this in turn is a major factor that contributes to the severe traffic jams that are taking a toll on daily commuters. The glittering lights of the bustling streets bring little cheer to the stagnant long lines of traffic that make navigating the city a daunting experience, especially in the North-West areas, during evening hours. The traffic congestion in the North West Delhi starts intensifying at Britannia Chowk, a crucial crossroad connecting Punjabi Bagh, Netaji Subhash Palace and Rani Bagh. Commuters heading towards Rani Bagh from the crossroad, face long red lights due to excessive rush.

When travelling to the Shakurpur Basti Railway Station one will find sweet shops and small roadside markets in between. The condition becomes disastrous every Wednesday due to the 'Budhh Bazaar' (the ubiquitous Wednesday market) choking the two way road. Large heavy carts piled high with clothes, fruits, vegetables, household items, toys and more for sale take up road space. This leads to bumper-to-bumper traffic, exacerbated by many traffic signals on the road. The traffic situation is further complicated on Mahatma Gandhi Road, as major thoroughfares of car modification shops and fruit vendors occupy the sidewalks, leaving little space for vehicles to manoeuvre. The stretch from Shri Ram Mandir crossroads to Mahindra Park Red Light is a notorious bottleneck. The narrow



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

road bends towards Madhuban Chowk, creating a choke point that disrupts traffic flow for buses and other vehicles.

Punjabi Zaika, a restaurant on the Mahindra Park crossroad seems to have earmarked its own parking in the service lane and the road itself. The main road is more difficult to travel on, due to the movement of DTC buses and crowded bus stands. The buses line up one behind the other, and this affects the complete stretch. Illegal parking along these routes adds to the chaos, affecting connectivity to Chandra Shekhar Azad Marg and M2K Rohini. Delhi's traffic woes are not new, the traffic but the festive season has made matters worse. "As soon as I leave home, I'm stuck in a jam. The whole of Delhi is gridlocked," Varun Singh, who was on his way to meet friends, said. Another

commuter, Sanyam, lamented, "What used to be a 10-minute ride now takes at least 30 minutes." Meanwhile Traffic volunteers, and police do what they can to manage the situation. "We tow illegally parked vehicles and try to keep things moving, but during the festive season, it's nearly impossible to control," a traffic volunteer stationed at Ashok Vihar Circle, said.

Another volunteer explained the challenge of this job, "Khade hona asaan nhi hai, aur logo ko samjhana mushkil hai" (It is not easy to stand for so long and make people understand the traffic rules and curate the traffic.) As the peak office hours wear on, the congestion extends to other areas, with heavy traffic beginning at the Punjabi Bagh flyover, leaving Delhiites hoping for a smoother ride amidst the festivities.

CM Yogi for stringent law to combat food adulteration

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday reviewed a proposed law aimed at curbing food adulteration with filth and inedible substances.

In a meeting, the chief minister underscored the urgent need for stringent measures to address recent incidents of food contamination, including the adulteration of juice, dal, and roti with human waste and other harmful substances.

Yogi highlighted that there have been alarming reports of food items being contaminated with inedible and filthy materials across various parts of the country.

"These heinous acts not only jeopardise public health but also threaten social harmony. Such malicious activities are completely unacceptable and require immediate action," he stated.

To safeguard food purity and maintain consumer confidence, the CM asserted that strict laws are essential.

"Clear regulations must be established for establishments such as hotels, restaurants, dhabas, and street vendors. Violators should face both imprisonment and fines, and these offences must be treated as cognisable and non-bailable to ensure swift and decisive action," he said.

He further noted that the law should prevent anti-social elements from adulterating food and beverages with harmful



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the meeting held in Lucknow to discuss measures to prevent food adulteration

substances while concealing their identities.

"Every consumer has the right to access essential information about food sellers and service providers. Sellers should be required to display signboards at their establishments, and all personnel must wear identity cards while on duty. Strict penalties should be imposed on those who provide false information or operate under pseudonyms," he added. The CM insisted that every

food establishment must guarantee that its products are free from contamination.

"It is imperative to install a sufficient number of CCTV cameras for continuous monitoring in both the kitchen and dining areas. Footage from these cameras should be retained for at least one month and made available upon request by the district administration at any time," he said.

He directed that all kitchen staff must cover their heads, wear

masks, and use gloves while preparing and serving food.

Food business operators are required to provide the relevant department with details of all personnel employed in their establishments.

"If any staff member in a food establishment is identified as an intruder or an illegal foreign citizen, strict action must be taken against them. The law should clearly outline provisions to address this issue," the CM added.

Bizman arrested for setting fire to railway officer's car

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): A strong smell of petrol revealed the mischievous actions of a businessman accused of setting fire to a BMW belonging to a railway officer in Sarvodaya Nagar, Ghazipur police said on Tuesday. The police claimed to have discovered evidence of the crime when they detected the distinct odour of petrol. Initial reports suggest that the accused, identified as Rinku Sahu, was intoxicated when he vandalised the railway officer's BMW with a hammer late Sunday night.

After smashing the vehicle, he poured petrol on it and ignited the flames. The police acted quickly, registering a case and apprehending Sahu using CCTV footage. The car owner, Namit Shankhdhar, a railway officer from Liberty Colony, stated he returned home around 11 pm. After parking his BMW at a distance, he was alerted by neighbours shouting around 2:30 am, only to find his car engulfed in flames. Upon reviewing the CCTV footage, police observed a young man loitering near the car for about 12 minutes. The footage showed him attempting to ignite a tire with a matchstick. When that failed, he retrieved petrol from his home, poured it onto the car, and, after breaking a window with a hammer, set fire to the interior. During their investigation, officers noticed the strong smell of petrol emanating from a nearby house. Upon entering, they found Rinku Sahu, who confessed to the crime during interrogation. Sahu is a resident of Jagdishpur in Amethi.

Deceased Dalit man's kin allege police brutality

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The family of Aman Gautam, who allegedly died in police custody, released a video on Tuesday showing injury marks on his body. They raised concerns about the post-mortem report, claiming that the findings contradict the visible injuries.

In the video, family members highlighted the marks on Aman's body.

Meanwhile, the woman who initially called the police regarding the incident spoke to the media, explaining that she contacted them about her son, who was intoxicated and gambling on the day in question. She stated that a chaotic situation ensued after the police arrived, during which Aman and his friend Sonu passed by and were subsequently detained. She insisted that Aman was not involved in any wrongdoing and was wrongfully arrested. Aman's sister Sudha alleged that police brutality led to her brother's injuries. "Before the autopsy, the injury marks were evident on the body," she claimed, referencing the video as proof. She added, "When we approached the police, they dismissed our allegations as exaggerated, stating that the investigation would ultimately return to them. Who can we turn to for justice in this situation?"

The post-mortem report listed the cause of death as a "heart attack", while Aman's wife contended that he fainted due to police beatings. The police,

however, claimed his health suddenly deteriorated, leading to his death after being taken to the hospital.

Following his release on Sunday night, Sonu returned to his village, but his brother Akash reported that he was traumatised and unwilling to speak about the incident.

"He insists the police did nothing wrong, but we believe he is hiding the truth out of fear," Akash said.

Aman's family is advocating for financial assistance and a government job for his pregnant wife Roshni, who also has a three-year-old daughter.

Residents alleged that the police administration attempted to cover up the incident, initially stating that both youths were gambling. They claimed Aman's health deteriorated during a panic when police arrived.

They contended police claims that ganja and gambling money were found on Aman, asserting that the money was actually a donation for a 'Devi Jagran' event he was organising.

Additionally, the police released a statement from Sonu, who claimed he was not beaten and that Aman fainted suddenly. Residents argued that this statement was made under police pressure and questioned why Sonu was not allowed to meet with others if the police were confident of their innocence.

Conflicting accounts have emerged regarding the incident. The police initially reported that the families were together during the events, while Aman's family stated that both

he and Sonu were picked up outside Sonu's house, without anyone else present. Aman's wife accused constable Shaileendra Singh and other officers of using casteist slurs and beating her husband until he lost consciousness. Residents questioned why a case was registered if the police acted correctly.

FEMALE BOUNCER ALLEGES RAPE

A female bouncer has accused her employer of raping her after spiking her drinks at a hotel in Thakurganj, police said on Tuesday. The complainant stated that the accused, identified as Amit Verma, sent a video of his criminal act to her husband. A case was registered and the accused was arrested, the police said. The accused runs a placement agency sending bouncers to manage crowd in events on call.

The woman from Thakurganj and her husband work as bouncers. According to the woman, she met Amit Verma of Ashiyana in connection with work. While in Shahjahanpur, Amit allegedly took her objectionable photographs and started blackmailing her. "A few days back he called me to meet to discuss job-related work and gave me a soft drink laced with intoxicants. He then took me to a hotel, where he raped me and filmed the act. He threatened to make the video viral and asked me to meet him again. When I refused, he sent the video to my husband," the woman stated in the complaint.

Medicos at SGPGI begin strike in solidarity with Kolkata colleagues

Lucknow (PNS): Resident doctors at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences launched an indefinite strike on Tuesday in response to the Kolkata rape and murder case of August 9. A senior resident doctor expressed the grief shared among colleagues, stating, "We stand in complete solidarity with the Resident Doctors' Association representatives across the country. Despite our repeated calls for action over the past 65 days, we find that the promised changes from the Chief Justice of India have yet to materialise."

He highlighted the dire situation of their colleagues in West Bengal, who have been on a hunger strike for over 200 hours, with four out of eight

doctors critically ill and admitted to ICU as of October 13.

In light of these "ongoing injustices", the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA) convened an emergency meeting on October 13, where Resident Doctors Associations agreed to initiate a nationwide strike starting Tuesday. During this strike, elective services will be suspended, although emergency care will remain available. The SGPGIMS resident doctors announced to halt all non-emergency services, including outpatient department (OPD) consultations, elective surgeries, and academic activities, starting Tuesday. They reassured that emergency services and care for critically ill patients would not be affected.

UP expects business to tune of ₹1 lakh crore this Diwali

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

This Diwali festival season, India's markets are projected to witness a business volume of approximately Rs 4.25 lakh crore. State chairman of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAT), Sanjay Gupta, said on Tuesday that Uttar Pradesh alone is expected to contribute around Rs 1 lakh crore to this figure.

A recent survey conducted by CAT among trader organisations in 70 cities across the country revealed that traders are well-prepared to meet customer demand and preferences this festive season.

"Given the significant purchases made during Raksha Bandhan, Ganesh Puja,

Navratri, Durga Puja, and Dussehra, we anticipate this year's festive business will reach Rs 4.25 lakh crore, up from last year's Rs 3.5 lakh crore. The wedding season, which follows closely after the festive period, is also expected to boost sales further," Gupta stated. He noted that approximately 7 crore people shop in Uttar Pradesh during the festival season, contributing to the estimated 50 crore shoppers nationwide. The spending habits vary widely, with some customers purchasing items for Rs 500 or less, while others spend thousands or even lakhs, underscoring the significance of this season for businesses.

Gupta said that various sectors would see substantial sales, particularly in gift items,

sweets, dry fruits, electronics, automobiles, clothing, jewellery, utensils, furniture, beauty products, and more.

Additionally, the service sector, including hotels, restaurants, event management, and delivery services, is also expected to benefit significantly from the festivities. According to rough estimates for the Rs 1 lakh crore festival business in Uttar Pradesh, spending is expected to be distributed as follows: 13% on food and groceries, 9% on jewellery, 12% on clothing, 4% on dry fruits and sweets, 3% on home decoration, 6% on cosmetics, 8% on electronics and mobile phones, 3% on worship materials, 3% on kitchen equipment, 2% on confectionery, 8% on gift items, and 4% on furnishing.

The remaining 20% is expected to be allocated to automobiles, hardware, electrical goods, toys, and other services. The packaging sector is also anticipated to experience significant business growth during this time.

Gupta urged trade organisations across the country, including those in UP, to support local manufacturers, artisans, and artists by promoting their products during the Diwali festival. He emphasised the importance of showcasing a self-reliant India to the world. He mentioned that traders have not imported any goods from China for the festival, reflecting a growing consumer preference for domestic products over cheaper Chinese alternatives.

Medicines curing MDR-TB within six months to be available from next month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A programme addressing antimicrobial resistance in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) was held at the Kalam Centre of King George's Medical University (KGMU) on Tuesday.

Organised by the department of respiratory medicine, the event aimed to educate healthcare professionals on this critical issue. The programme, conducted in collaboration with USAID and the International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases, was hybrid in format.

Approximately 200 doctors attended in person, while another 150 participated online.

Deputy DG of TB at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Urvasi Singh, was the chief guest. She addressed the audience virtually. She announced that medicines curing multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) within six months would be available in India starting next month.

KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Soniya Nityanand emphasised that they would train doctors across Uttar Pradesh in the use of these new treatments.

Head of the department Dr Surya Kant, who is also a member of National Task Force for the National TB

Elimination Programme, highlighted the goal: to inform doctors and health workers about drug-resistant TB (both MDR and XDR), its causes, and prevention strategies.

Dr Surya Kant noted that on October 10, 2022, KGMU was recognised as a Centre of Excellence for TB treatment by the World Health Organisation and the Government of India.

The department has since become a hub for TB treatment, with additional spokes established in Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Saifai (Etawah), Jhansi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Ambedkar Nagar, and Gorakhpur. Plans are in place to designate 44 more districts in Uttar Pradesh as spokes of this centre, with the aim of making the state TB-free soon. He also pointed out that about half of patients with MDR and XDR TB suffer from malnutrition, which poses a significant barrier to TB elimination.

To address this, the Government of India has decided to double the nutritional allowance for TB patients to Rs 1,000 per month, effective from November 1, 2024.

State TB Officer Dr Shaileendra Bhatnagar said that UP has established 911 machines, 14 TB culture labs, and 24 nodal drug-resistant centres to help achieve its goal of eradicating TB.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name From Salma Begum To Salma Naaz. Salma Naaz W/O Mohd Waseem R/O 105/4 Prem Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Rashid To Rashid Ansari for all future purpose. Rashid Ansari S/o Chote Ansari R/O 116/454, Rawatpur Gaon Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my name from ADISH JAIN to ADISH KUMAR JAIN. In future I Shall be known as ADISH KUMAR JAIN. ADISH KUMAR JAIN S/o Rajendra Prashad Jain, Flat No. 101, On First Floor of Premises No. 1052, Ratan Lal Nagar, Udyog Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, UP

NOTICE

I, SHIVANI holding Indian Passport No: Y1059316 issued at DUBAI on 17/04/2024 and Permanent Resident of 15/194 INDIRA NAGAR LUCKNOW PIN 226016 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA and presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from SHIVANI to SHIVANI NIRMAL with immediate effect

NOTICE

My KDA's original unregistered lease rent agreement has been lost somewhere on way from bank to home. It was executed in favour of Ram Kishore ji for land G-14, Block G, Scheme 40, Panki, on 27.04.1989, the use of which will be illegal. Dharmendra Singh.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOHD TARIQ To MUHAMMAD TARIQUE S/O MUHAMMAD TAHIR R/O 288, IDGAH ALIGANJ BANDA for future purpose

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BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY Lucknow

Advertisement for One post of JRA is available under CST-UP project. Interested candidates may apply at <https://www.bbau.ac.in/CareerProjectVacancy.aspx> Dr. Ravi Kr. Gupta (P.I.), DEM, BBAU

NOTICE

I, CHITTRA MISHRA, spouse of Service No. JC-772078N Rank SUB Name JITENDRA KUMAR MISHRA resident of Vill PUREY KHUTWAN, Post-SARIYAMAFAI, Teh- BALDIRAI, Dist - Sultanpur, State- UP. PIN- 227812 have changed my Name from CHITTRAMISHRA to CHITRAMISHRA vide Affidavit dated 14/10/2024 before Lucknow.

Man booked for rash driving

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A case of rash driving under the influence of liquor was registered against a car owner, who was apprehended by a police team in Hazratganj on Monday night. The complaint was filed by sub-inspector, Tulsi police outpost, Ankit Kumar.

In his statement, Kumar detailed the events of October 14, when he and his team were on patrol and received information about a person consuming alcohol while sitting in a car near the temple on Valmiki Marg.

"Upon arrival, we found an individual drinking beer inside a car without a registration number. When questioned, he suddenly started the car and sped away recklessly, endangering both pedestrians and other commuters. My team and I pursued the unregistered vehicle in our government car and alerted all nearby police outposts, pickets, and stations via radio, informing them of the high-speed chase towards Atal Square," Kumar said.

He continued, stating that police personnel followed the vehicle as it broke through the barrier at Golf Club crossing and continued towards 1090 Road, putting pedestrians at risk and narrowly avoiding collisions with other vehicles. The suspect was eventually apprehended and identified as Amish Afsar, a resident of Hind Nagar in LDA Colony under Sarojinagar police station.

When asked for vehicle documentation and the registration number, Afsar was unable to provide any. Following this, a case was registered against him.

UP students excel in administrative roles

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As part of its ongoing efforts to empower women and promote self-reliance, the Uttar Pradesh government recently appointed female students as district magistrates (DMs), superintendents of police (SPs), and other key administrative roles for a day.

This initiative, launched during the Sharadiya Navratri celebrations under Mission Shakti, provided students with first-hand experience of these responsibilities and a platform to showcase their leadership skills.

In over a dozen districts, young women were appointed as DM, CDO, SDM, and SP for the day, boosting their confidence while actively addressing public grievances.

Participants expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, noting the initiative's positive impact on their confidence and commitment to pursuing administrative careers in the future.

In Lakhimpur Kheri, DM Durga Shakti Nagpal said the vehicle as it broke through the barrier at Golf Club crossing and continued towards 1090 Road, putting pedestrians at risk and narrowly avoiding collisions with other vehicles. The suspect was eventually apprehended and identified as Amish Afsar, a resident of Hind Nagar in LDA Colony under Sarojinagar police station.

94 special trains to meet rush in festive season

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Divisional Railway Aditya Kumar announced on Tuesday that the division would operate 94 special trains to accommodate passenger demand during the festive season.

Kumar stated that the North-Eastern Railway (NER) would establish a war room in the control room of the Lucknow division, with officers on duty in shifts to address passenger grievances during this busy time. Additionally, over 100 extra coaches will be added to various trains.

"Considering the significant influx of passengers for the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals, the Lucknow division will run a total of 94 special trains, with more than half originating from various stations within the division," he said.

During the press conference, Kumar also discussed various initiatives and programmes organised as part of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2024' campaign, which took place from September 14 to October 1.

He highlighted the proactive measures being taken to ensure the safety of women passengers, noting that women RPF teams would be deployed to manage safety and security effectively. Kumar mentioned ongoing projects aimed at enhancing passenger amenities and upgrading facilities at railway stations and platforms. Questioned about developments in the north-eastern states, which hold political significance, he assured that the railway ministry is committed to providing high-quality facilities and improved train connectivity for passengers in all regions.

UP students excel in administrative roles

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gupta, the district's top Inter student, who addressed 87 cases and resolved 14. Similarly, Mirzapur DM Priyanka Niranjan appointed Shivanshi Dwivedi as DM and Lakshmi Ratan Maurya as CDO for the day.

The young leaders emphasised prioritising women's issues and ensuring prompt resolutions. Ghazipur DM Aryaka Akhouri noted that Priyanka Kushwaha, an exceptional High School student, attended the 'Janata Darshan' to address grievances and issue directives for swift action.

In Shamli, DM Arvind Chauhan stated that Akanksha, the district's Intermediate topper, listened to complaints during 'Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas' and directed resolutions.

Sitapur DM Abhishek Anand appointed Arpita Singh as DM, Pratiksha Singh as SP, and Sandhya Mishra as CDO for a day. They conducted public hearings and resolved various issues. In Maharajganj, DM Anunay Jha said that Nidhi Yadav, the district's top high school student, served as DM, addressing eight complaints and reviewing compensation cases. Maharajganj SP Somendra Meena appointed Goldie as SP for a day, who handled five complaints and resolved two immediately, emphasising cases involving women and inspecting the 'One Stop Centre'.

CITY BRIEFS



ANVARAT TO KICK OFF TODAY

The founder and executive director of Sri Ramswaroop Memorial College of Engineering and Management, Pankaj Agarwal, told announced the upcoming extravaganza, 'ANVARAT', celebrating the college's 25th anniversary from October 16 to 19. Accredited by NBA (CSE, ECE), the institution has educated over 5,500 students through programmes like B.Tech, MBA, and MCA. Agarwal highlighted the college's commitment to transformative education since 1999. Prof Bhavesh Kr Chauhan detailed events uniting alumni, faculty, and students, culminating in a star night featuring Bollywood singer Shilpa Rao on October 19.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspsc.in (Contact No. 96461-22185) Tender Enquiry No. 338/SS(D-I) (under RDSS) Dated: 14.10.2024 Dy CE/Substation Design/TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 30 nos. 11kV Residual Voltage Transformers (RVTs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14-10-2024 onwards. Note: Compendium and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/3555/2023/38364 Dated CHD :- 10/14/2024

Opposition accuses BJP of stalling Milkipur election

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission on Tuesday announced that bypolls to nine of the 10 vacant assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, except Milkipur of Ayodhya district, will be held on November 13. This has invited sharp reaction from the Opposition, with the Samajwadi Party saying that the BJP was afraid of its defeat in Milkipur due to which it moved the court for "stalling" polls on the assembly seat. Bypoll to the Milkipur assembly seat was not announced as an election petition is pending in the high court against the candidate who had won the seat earlier. The assembly seats where bye-elections will be held are Katehari, Karhal, Meerapur, Kundarki, Phulpur, Sisamau, Ghaziabad, Majhawan and Kahir. Eight of these assembly seats fell vacant after its MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha, while bypoll in Sisamau is being held due to the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case. In the 2022 assembly polls, Sisamau, Katehari, Karhal, Milkipur and Kundarki were held by the SP, while the BJP had won Phulpur, Ghaziabad,

Majhawan and Kahir. The Meerapur seat was held by the RLD. The SP has raised question over not declaring bypoll to Milkipur seat. "Whoever has postponed the war, consider that he has lost the war," SP president Akhilesh Yadav said in a post on X in Hindi. SP spokesperson Anurag Bhaduria said, "When election is being held on nine seats, why it can't be held on the 10th seat — Milkipur. What report the state government has given to the EC. It should be made clear." Party leader Manoj Yadav said the BJP is afraid of its defeat in Milkipur due to which it has approached court for stalling poll on this seat. "The BJP has moved the court for stalling Milkipur bypoll. It shows it is afraid of the SP. Our INDIA bloc will win maximum seats in the state," Yadav said. Congress spokesperson Manish Hindvi, when asked about the bypolls, told PTI, "The BJP suffered humiliation after its defeat in Faizabad Lok Sabha seat. That is why the election on Milkipur seat of Ayodhya was not declared." About the nine seats on which bypolls are declared, he said, "INDIA bloc will win these

seats." However, the BJP has defended the EC's decision on Milkipur seat. "The licence of the person who got the notary done in the nomination filed by SP's Awadhesh Prasad, who won Milkipur in the 2022 assembly elections, was revoked five years ago. Against this, two candidates Gorakhnath and Ram Murti had filed a petition in the court, which has not been disposed of yet. That is why bypoll was not declared on this seat," BJP spokesperson Harisandra Srivastava told PTI. UP minister Dayashankar Singh said the Opposition had misled people in the 2022 polls by saying that the BJP would be changing the Constitution, but this would not work now. "We will win on all the seats in the bypolls," Singh said. While Karhal seat fell vacant after SP chief Yadav was elected from Kannauj as MP, Katehari fell vacant following the election of party's Lalji Verma to the Lok Sabha from Ambedkar Nagar. SP leader Awadhesh Prasad's election to the Lok Sabha from Faizabad (Ayodhya) led to his resignation from Milkipur seat, while SP leader Zia ur Rahman Barq's Kundarki assembly seat in Moradabad has fallen vacant following

his election to the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat. Chandan Chauhan of Rashtriya Lok Dal resigned from his Meerapur assembly seat of Muzaffarnagar following his election to Lok Sabha from Bijnor. Similarly, the Ghaziabad assembly seat fell vacant after BJP's Atul Garg was elected to the Ghaziabad LS seat. BJP's Vinod Kumar Bind resigned from his Majhawan assembly seat of Mirzapur following his election to Lok Sabha from Bhadohi, while party leader Anoop Singh alias Anoop Pradhan Balmiki left Khair assembly seat of Aligarh following his election from Hathras Lok Sabha seat. BJP's Praveen Patel resigned from Phulpur assembly seat of Prayagraj following his election to the Lok Sabha from Phulpur. In the 2022 assembly elections, out of these 10 seats, the BJP had given Majhawan and Katehari to the ally Nishad Party, which won in Majhawan but lost in Katehari. The Samajwadi Party has already announced the names for six assembly seats, including Karhal (Mainpuri), Sisamau (Kanpur Nagar), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Katehari (Ambedkarnagar), Phulpur (Prayagraj) and Majhawan (Mirzapur).



Israel's Ambassador to India Reuven Azar on Tuesday met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the latter's official residence in Lucknow. Sharing the details of the meeting on X, Adityanath said, "Had a highly fruitful and meaningful discussion with Mr Reuven Azar, Ambassador of Israel to India. This meeting marks another step towards strengthening the deep bond between UP and Israel in areas of mutual interest. "We look forward to exploring new avenues of cooperation for the benefit of the people of Uttar Pradesh," Adityanath said.

UP govt cracks down on officers, employees for corruption in PDS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/BULANDSHAHR

The Uttar Pradesh government has intensified its crackdown on the ration mafia. The government has taken strict action against officers and employees involved in corruption in public distribution system (PDS). Strict action has been taken against those involved in black marketing of ration from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) warehouse in Bulandshahr district. All accused have been charged under Section 3/7 of the Indian Penal Code and the Essential Commodities Act of 1955. Commissioner of the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Saurabh Babu, emphasised that the government is committed to taking action against corrupt individuals who exploit the rights of the poor. Following a complaint received by the district magistrate regarding ration black marketing, a high-level inquiry was

initiated, led by the additional district magistrate (administration). "The investigation uncovered widespread misuse of government food grains distributed through the public distribution system, specifically within the single-stage transportation process," he said. He added: "The inquiry identified several individuals involved in the black marketing scheme, including handling and transportation contractor Ravindra Singh, marketing inspectors Sudhir Kumar and Ankur Singh, labour mate Shivkumar (alias Shibu), and others such as Wakil Khan, Pinky, and Pawan. These individuals were found to be illegally diverting food grains meant for the poor to the open market. As a result, criminal cases have been filed against all of them under stringent sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Essential Commodities Act." Given the gravity of the situa-

tion, the government formed a three-member high-level inquiry committee, chaired by the additional commissioner (establishment) from headquarters. The committee conducted an on-site investigation, revealing that the single-stage doorstep delivery system and other public distribution system guidelines were not properly followed. The failure of the officers and employees concerned to fulfil their supervisory responsibilities resulted in the misuse of government ration. Following the inquiry, marketing inspector Sudhir Kumar, supply inspector Vivek Srivastava, and district food marketing officer Zia Ahmed Karim were immediately suspended, and departmental proceedings were initiated against them. Additionally, district supply officer Sunil Singh faced suspension, and a departmental inquiry has commenced. Several other officials were

penalised for negligence in food distribution and improper record-keeping. Departmental actions have been initiated against depot incharge/block dispatch incharge Shalini Pachauri, regional marketing officer Indrapal Singh, and marketing inspectors Gaurav Kumar, Vinod Kumar Dohre, Mukesh Kumar, Rajiv Sharma, and Manoj Kumar. These officials are accused of serious lapses in the distribution of food grains and the maintenance of official records. The firm of transport contractor Ravindra Singh, implicated in corruption, has been immediately blacklisted. The action has sent shockwaves through the administrative system, prompting close monitoring of the food distribution network in the district. The district magistrate has stated that no irregularities will be tolerated, and all necessary legal measures will be pursued to ensure the strictest penalties for those responsible.

Govt working on major industrial infra revamp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a view to transforming Uttar Pradesh into 'Udyam Pradesh', the state government is prioritising the construction and development of industrial infrastructure across the state. As part of this initiative, the government is working on the comprehensive rejuvenation of 24 industrial areas across the state. Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has been tasked with overseeing these projects. According to the action plan, UPSIDA will implement various infrastructural improvements, including road construction using 'full depth reclamation' (FDR) technology in Lucknow, Agra, Mathura, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Mau, Kanpur, and Rae Bareilly. These initiatives will also

encompass the development of essential facilities such as street lighting, CCTV network, telephone stations, substations, street furniture, boundary walls, and entry gates. The development efforts will span over 4,025 acres in various industrial areas. To facilitate this work, UPSIDA has commenced the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR), which will guide the phased implementation of the proposed construction and development activities. The 24 industrial areas designated for various types of infrastructural upgrades, including road construction, have been categorised into six packages. Package 1 includes Agra's EPIP Nagar, Foundry Nagar, and Sikandara (Sites A, B, C), as well as Mathura (Site A). The areas for these locations

are 105.45 acres, 183.28 acres, 50.70 acres, 17.79 acres, 183.31 acres, and 348.87 acres, respectively. Package 2 consists of JP Nagar Gajraula (1 and 2) and the Parsakheda industrial area in Bareilly, with areas measuring 423.58 acres and 273.34 acres, respectively. Package 3 includes Meerut's Sports Goods Complex, Site 2 Loni Road, Site 3, Loni Industrial Area Meerut Road, and Udyog Kunj Dasna, covering areas of 2.32 acres, 307 acres, 350.95 acres, 12.50 acres, 115.20 acres, and 58.06 acres, respectively. Package 4 focuses on the industrial areas in Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Mau, with development planned for areas of 50.20 acres, 234.58 acres, and 103.61 acres, respectively. Package 5 includes completion of development of industrial areas in Panki (Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

and Chakeri in Kanpur. The areas for these sites are 240.60 acres, 112.50 acres, 211.60 acres, 27.40 acres, 147.64 acres, and 114.30 acres respectively. Package 6 focuses on industrial areas located in Sarojini Nagar (Lucknow), covering an area of 87.59 acres, as well as Sites 1 & 2 in Rae Bareilly, which span 42.99 acres and 220 acres, respectively. As many as 31 types of development and upgrade works will be completed. Once all the development and upgrade works outlined in the action plan are completed, they will be handed over to the respective municipal corporations and municipalities. The DPR is being prepared to facilitate this handover, ensuring a phased action plan is developed to complete the identified tasks. This process will involve comprehensive surveys and site analyses.

UP utilises 80% funds for mid-day meals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has made significant progress in implementing the PM Poshan Yojana, which provides mid-day meals to students in government schools across the state. In the financial year 2024-25, approximately 80% of the allocated funds have already been utilised. Out of the total available amount of ₹686 crore, which includes contributions from both the Central and state governments, more than Rs 540 crore had been spent as of October 12, 2024. This expenditure represents 78.82% of the total funds. The government has allocated over ₹667 crore to all districts to support various programme requirements. The PM Poshan Yojana, approved by the Central government, aims to provide hot cooked meals in government and government-aided schools, replacing the former Mid-Day Meal scheme. The scheme is set for an initial period of five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

At a recent review meeting led by the chief secretary, it was also decided to enhance the programme by offering additional supplementary nutrition to all students enrolled in schools covered under the scheme. For the financial year 2024-25, the Payment Approval Board (PAB) has sanctioned Rs 2,198.27 crore under the PM Poshan Yojana. The funds cover key expenses, including food and conversion costs, cook honorariums, transportation, and monitoring, management, and evaluation (MME). Of the sanctioned amount, ₹280.83 crore is carried over from the previous financial year, with an additional ₹405.14 crore released by the Government of India. This brings the total funds available to the state government for the scheme to ₹686.97 crore. As of October 12, the state government has allocated ₹667.77 crore across all districts, with ₹540.66 crore already utilised to provide hot-cooked meals to students. To ensure the scheme's smooth continuation, the state has also requested the release of the second installment.

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Maya targets govt over law, order

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday expressed concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation in Bahraich district, stating it has become unmanageable. She said that the administration's intentions and policies should remain unbiased. In a post on X in Hindi, Mayawati said, "It is concerning that the law and order situation in UP's Bahraich district has deteriorated and is out of control. The government and administration's intentions and policies should be completely lawful to prevent the situation from escalating and to maintain peace." She continued, "Maintaining peace is the government's foremost responsibility, regardless of any festival or religion. Special arrangements are essential during such occasions. If these responsibilities had been fulfilled, the Bahraich incident would never have occurred. The government must ensure peace and security of people's lives, property, and religious practices under all circumstances." The unrest followed an incident on Sunday during a Durga idol immersion procession, where a 22-year-old was allegedly shot dead, and several others were injured due to stone pelting and gunfire. In response, internet services have been suspended in the district as a precautionary measure.

Grant full statehood to J&K: AKY

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday called for full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir as the Union Territory prepares for the swearing-in of its first elected government since the abrogation of Article 370. "I congratulate the people of Kashmir for trusting democracy and choosing their government. Congratulations to the people for saving the Constitution. The next step is to grant them full statehood. I am confident that they will receive it. I also congratulate Farooq Abdullah for his party's victory and Omar Abdullah for becoming the chief minister. I am sure he will fulfil his responsibilities and lead the state towards prosperity," said Yadav, who reached Srinagar to attend Omar Abdullah's oath ceremony. Yadav emphasised the importance of restoring statehood and ensuring special opportunities for the border region to drive its growth



Conference's significant victory and expressed confidence in Omar Abdullah's leadership. "I am sure that Omar Abdullah will fulfil his responsibilities well and lead Jammu and Kashmir towards prosperity," he said. The ceremony, scheduled for Wednesday at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre by Dal Lake, will mark the installation of Omar Abdullah's cabinet. According to the J&K Reorganisation Act, the council of ministers, including the chief minister, will be capped at 10% of the 90-member legislative assembly, meaning Omar Abdullah will be joined by nine ministers. Yadav reiterated the need for special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir as a border region, stating, "The country will only prosper if Jammu and Kashmir moves forward on the path to prosperity." He added: "Border states should be given special opportunities and facilities to ensure their continued progress."

UP to hold grand Valmiki Jayanti celebrations

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government is set to hold grand Valmiki Jayanti celebrations on October 17, with several spectacular programmes planned for the occasion. Temples will host recitations of Shri Ramcharitmanas, along with cultural programmes, bhajans, and kirtans. A major event will take place in Chitrakoot, the sacred site of Maharishi Valmiki's penance. As in previous years, the state government will once again provide a spiritual platform for local artists to showcase their talents. As per the government's instructions, Valmiki Jayanti will be celebrated across all districts of Uttar Pradesh on October 17. In addition to lighting lamps and conducting 'Deepdaan', 'Ramayan paath' will take place at sites associated with Maharishi Valmiki, including temples. These programmes will be organised at the district, tehsil, and development block levels. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed that proper arrangements be made for cleanliness, drinking water, sound systems, lighting, and security at each venue. The UP government will also host a grand event at Lalapur, Chitrakoot. Regional tourism officer Anupam Srivastava has been appointed as the nodal officer for the programme.

UP govt to build 39 automatic traffic junctions in Prayagraj

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

To enhance the experience of tourists and devotees at Maha Kumbh 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government is implementing several innovative initiatives, with a major focus on improving road traffic. For the first time, the government is building 39 automatic traffic junctions in Prayagraj to alleviate traffic congestion while enhancing the city's aesthetics during the mega event. The government's aim is to facilitate access to the city, and at the same time, modernise the traffic system, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable visit for all. Additional Kumbh Mela Officer Vivek Chaturvedi stated that the 39 traffic junctions being constructed would streamline the traffic system in

MAHA KUMBH

the city ahead of the mega event. These projects are being developed with a budget of approximately Rs 50 crore, and tenders for the work have already been issued. "These junctions will facilitate smooth traffic flow and enhance the aesthetic appeal of Prayagraj for visitors during management. They have been specifically designed to efficiently organise vehicle movement. According to the additional Kumbh Mela officer, traffic junctions will feature specially designed islands, with adjustable sizes as need be. Each junction will be equipped with a fully automated smart traffic signal system. To enhance the visual appeal of the junctions, sculptures and decorative lighting will be installed in the available spaces. Additionally, a green plaque will be created within each junction, featuring small ornamental plants. These traffic junctions will not only assist in crowd management during the Kumbh bathing festivals but will also continue to benefit the city's traffic system even after the event concludes.

इंडियन बैंक **Indian Bank**

इलाहाबाद **ALLAHABAD**

Zonal Office: 15/287, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, The Mall, Bada Chauraha, Kanpur U.P.-208001

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 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 charge of the Indian Bank for an amount and interest & charges there on as described here in below: We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.

S. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Name of Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice
1.	Shri Firoz Ahmad alias Nayab S/o Shri Nawab	1. Shri Firoz Ahmad alias Nayab S/o Shri Nawab 2. Shri Maulvi Irfanul Haque S/o Shri Nawab 3. Shri Irshad Ahmad S/o Shri Nawab Shri Mohd. Kasim S/o Mohd. Anwar	All that Part and Parcel of Land and Building built over Khata No. 746, Kharsa No. 1814 situated at Village & PO: Kusumkhore Bangar, Pargana & Tehsil Kannauj, Distt. Kannauj Area of the Property: 0.3760 Hect. Owner of the Property: Shri Firoz Ahmad alias Nayab S/o Shri Nawab, Shri Maulvi Irfanul Haque S/o Shri Nawab & Shri Irshad Ahmad S/o Shri Nawab Bounded by: East: Chak Road, West: Land of Idrees, North: Land of Mahboob & Ahmad, South: Pakka Road	06.07.2024 10.10.2024

Rs. 21,70,664.00
(Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four Only) as on 08.10.2024 with further interest w.e.f. 09.10.2024, charges and other expenses thereon

Date : 15.10.2024 Place: Kanpur The Authorized Officer: Indian Bank

Textile industry expected to grow to \$350 billion by 2030: Giriraj Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said that the textile industry in India is expected to grow to US \$ 350 billion by the year 2030 and there will be an unprecedented increase in employment. He was speaking during the inauguration of the 47th Carpet Expo Mart in Bhadohi on Tuesday.

The minister said that as the Central government has set a target of export of 100 billion dollars by 2030, the role of carpet industry will be important in achieving this target. The four-day fair in Bhadohi is being organised by the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Uttar Pradesh Minister Rakesh Sachan were also present during the inauguration programme of the expo.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Giriraj Singh said that at present the textile industry is worth \$ 170 million, which will be brought to \$ 350 billion by 2030. He said this increase in the Textile Ministry will require 20 lakh million tonne of yarn. "This will increase the demand for natural viscose



Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh addressing inaugural function of Carpet Expo at Bhadohi on Tuesday.

and reproduced yarn in the coming days. The carpet exporters organisations should make its action plan keeping this in mind", he said, advising that the carpet industry should work on a plan to take its business from ₹16,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore.

He said carpet and rugs are cousins. "We will support at every level in the development of this industry that provides employment to people. Carpet is the heritage of Bhadohi and Turkey is nothing in front of us. We have to work to take our heritage forward by using technology in this", he

said, asking the carpet manufacturers to increase their heritage by bringing new patterns in the designs. "To reduce the cost of products, a woolen mill should be set up in Bhadohi for raw production and a raw material bank should also be established", the Minister said.

Emphasising on technology, Singh said that both the Central and state governments are ready for cooperation. He announced that work is being done on a new fibre within six months which will be prepared by mixing jute and bamboo. Regarding the development of

textile industry, he said to reduce logistics cost, production should be done at the manufacturing site. He said the raw material for the industry here comes from Gujarat to Bikaner and from Bikaner to Bhadohi. "This increases the price and the way to reduce it is to manufacture the raw material here", he said, adding that as the demand for cheap carpets is increasing in the world so attention also needs to be paid to this. In the four-day fair, more than 500 importer representatives from 67 countries and 260 exporters from different parts of the country are participating.

Health check-up camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the guidance of Commandant 95 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Rajeshwar Balapurkar, a health check-up camp for the personnel and their families was conducted at Battalion Headquarters, Pahariya Mandi here on Tuesday. Along with this, health check-up of people living around Pahariya was also conducted in which mainly thyroid etc were tested.

Under the leadership of Dr Om Prakash Prajapati (MCH Endocrinologist), his team conducted new tests. In the check-up camp, health of about 100 officers, personnel and their families were tested. Commandant Rajeshwar Balapurkar thanked the doctors' team and told the personnel to be careful about their health and get check-ups done from time to time. Archana Balapurkar, Inspector Prince Singh, Praveen Singh and others were present.

CHAMPIONSHIP: In the 35th North Zone Junior Athletics Championship which was held in Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from October 12 to 14 the girls of Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre of BHU performed very well. Khushi Patel got first place in pentathlon in under-16 years and second place in 80 metre hurdles. Similarly, Gunjan Yadav got second place in High Jump in under-18 category while Richa Yadav second place in heptathlon also in under-18 years.

Bahraich violence: Strict vigil in sensitive areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The cops in Prayagraj are keeping a close vigil in sensitive areas and broadcast of provocative videos, photos, messages on social media in view of the violence in Bahraich. Police officers of all districts have been instructed to take necessary precautionary steps. The officials were asked to keep an eye on the elements spoiling the atmosphere and be strict. Like Bahraich, an attempt was also made to spoil the atmosphere on Dussehra in Kaushambi, a neighbourhood district of Prayagraj. In such a situation, special vigilance is being maintained in the Kumbh city.

Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba has instructed all the police officers and station in-charges of the city and rural to keep an eye on even the smallest incident and reach the spot. They have been asked to patrol at night and make security arrangements around temples and mosques. DCP (City) Abhishek Bharti along with Kotwali SHO Rohit Tiwari patrolled the city with the force of many police stations. They especially walked around the old city. Also, they held a meeting of the social media cell and gave instructions. The social media cell of Prayagraj has been asked for special monitoring. Cyber cell teams are gathering information about the



DCP (City) Abhishek Bharti patrolling with the force.

city's WhatsApp groups. Similarly, LIU teams are collecting information in the old city. **SUICIDE:** A married woman committed suicide in Koraon area. When the family came to know about it on Tuesday morning, there was panic in the house. The police have sent the body for post-mortem examination. According to a report Durjan Prasad of Badokhar Koraon married his daughter Lalti Devi to Mangala of Amiliya Pal village in 2015. Lalti Devi was alone at home with her eight-month-old daughter Arya. Her husband Mangala was working in his field located a little away from the house. When her husband returned home after work to have food, he was shocked to see the body of his wife Lalti hanging from the hook of the roof. He informed Lalti's par-

ents and police about the incident. On getting information the police reached the spot and took the body into possession and sent it for postmortem. A suicide note was also been found in which it was written "My husband is not at fault. I am committing suicide myself". The suicide note also mentions a neighbouring youth forcing her to do wrong things. However, the neighbouring youth has absconded. Koraon police station in-charge Nitin Singh said investigation is being done and further action will be taken soon. Meanwhile a teenager, angry with the scolding by his family, committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train. Didhiya outpost in charge Baburam Dushad said the body of the teenager has been sent for post-mortem.

7 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs of Kashi get NQAS certificate

54 health units get Kayakalp Award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The medical and health facilities are being continuously expanded and strengthened at the community level in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Keeping in mind Arogyam Paramam Dhanam the reach of better health services is being increased in the community through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Health and Wellness Centres) being operated near home. Recently, the Government of India has given National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certificate to seven Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (HWCs) of the district as which include Hathi Bazar, Pure and Kalkadham of Adarsh block Sewapuri, Mohansarai of Araziline, Raunakhard of Cholapur, Jalhapur of Chiraigaon and Garthama of Pindra block. Expressing happiness, Chief Medical Officer



A Health and Wellness Centre of the district which got NQAS certificate.

(CMOs) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that 54 health units of the district have been awarded the Kayakalp Award for which a prize money of ₹ 22.35 lakh has been awarded. Raunakhard HWCs scored 91.36 per cent in the evaluation of NQAS while Jalhapur got 91.09 per cent, Hathi Bazar 88.16 per cent, Pure 84.36 per cent and Kalkadham 86.85 per cent and Mohansarai 84.13 and Garthama 80.83 per cent marks. The CMO congratulated the community health officers (CHOs) of these seven HWCs, ANMs, Asha Sangini,

ASHA workers working at these centres and gram pradhans. Divisional Advisor Dr Tanveer Siddiqui informed that these HWCs have been given the NQAS certificates for doing better work on seven standards set by the Central government such as care in pregnancy and child birth, neonatal and infant health services, childhood and adolescent health services, family planning, management of communicable diseases, management of simple illnesses, including minor elements and manage-

ment of non-communicable diseases. Urban Nodal Officer Dr Amit Singh informed that the Kayakalp Award is given every year by evaluating the better arrangements and health services provided in hospitals. The Kayakalp Award is based on cleanliness in hospitals, arrangements made to prevent the spread of infection, bio-waste management and facilities provided to patients. This year, four primary health centres in rural areas namely Harhua, Badagaon, Sewapuri, Chiraigaon and 11 urban primary health centres Maduadih, Pandeypur, Durgakund, Orderly Bazar, Bhelupur, Bajardiha, Konia, Madhavpur, Cantonment, Town Hall and Jaipur are included. All nodal officers, District Programme Manager (DPM) Santosh Kumar Singh, all MOICs, all health education officers, urban coordinators, Divisional Advisor of Quality Assurance Dr Tanveer Siddiqui and other employees and related staff contributed significantly in all the assessment works of NQAS and Kayakalp.

Efforts of RCCC have accelerated pace of development: Nagpal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the guidance of the Yogi government, Rural Command and Control Centre (RCCC) is playing an important role in ensuring the availability of water in rural areas. Due to strict monitoring, instructions, inspection and feedback systems, farmers are getting clean drinking water along with irrigation of fields. Revival of ponds, repair of tube wells, cleaning of canals and drains, rain water harvesting, Jal Jeevan Mission schemes are helping in timely completion. CDO Himanshu Nagpal said a RCCC has been established in Varanasi for continuous monitoring of development schemes in rural areas. "This centre is solving the problems in the operation of various government schemes, removing complaints, accelerating the development schemes as well as implementing it on the ground with quality", he said. Besides, 92 ponds were made

usable by cleaning water hyacinth and weeds. Out of 173 tube wells, 124 tube wells were reactivated with repair, which improved water supply and provided relief to farmers. The CDO said 67 drains were cleaned, which solved the problem of waterlogging. "Rain water harvesting systems have been installed in 435 government buildings to conserve groundwater level. This is a major achievement in the field of water conservation", he added. According to him, regular meetings are being organised to monitor other infrastructure including road restoration, so that the schemes can be completed on time. "The efforts of the Rural Command and Control Centre have accelerated the pace of development in the rural areas of Varanasi. The benefits of government schemes are now reaching the needy without any hindrance, which has created an atmosphere of new awareness and development in rural areas", said Nagpal.

MGKV signs MoU with MANUU



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad and Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV), Varanasi, on Monday. An agreement was reached on working together on issues like student and faculty exchange, research, curriculum development, skill promotion etc. between the two universities. On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor of MGKV Prof

Anand Kumar Tyagi and V-C of MANUU Prof Syed Anul Hasan signed the MoU. Regarding this MoU, Prof Tyagi said the students of both universities will benefit from this. Along with this, the exchange of mutual academic activities in both universities will also make it possible to create a better environment in the world of education. Both the universities will adopt each other's best practices and ensure that the students benefit from it. This MoU will prove to be a better and meaningful step for the university in the future.

Man found dead near rly track

Kanpur (PNS): A man was found dead near the railway track in Kushumbhi village of Ajjain Kotwali police station area of Unnao on Tuesday morning. He was identified as Sunil Kushwaha (32) who had left the house to ease himself

but did not return. Family members also failed to trace him. Meanwhile, village pradhan informed about recovery of Sunil's body near the railway track. Police rushed to the spot and sent the body for autopsy after investigation.

Students urged to step into world of entrepreneurs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Innovation and Incubation Cell (IIC), Christ Church College, in collaboration with EHM Consultancy Pvt Ltd organised a motivational talk on "Developing entrepreneurial mindset: Essential for future success" at Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan auditorium on Tuesday. The inaugural session started with welcoming of the guests followed by lighting of the lamp.

Convenor Dr Manish Kapoor, Associate Professor, Innovation Officer and Coordinator, Innovation and Incubation Cell, Christ Church College, set the tone by apprising the delegates of the importance of entrepreneurship in the present scenario. He also apprised the audience of the mission with which the cell has been developed. He also talked about the benefits the students can have by being the leading entrepreneurs of the city. He demonstrated three of his developed innovative products. First one was an experiment used as educational tool to demonstrate DNA model in International Physics Olympiad funded by TIFR. The other was a scientific toy and the third one was an Anant Kalik calendar with unique concept for social benefits.

Principal, Prof Joseph Daniel urged students to step into the world of entrepreneurs. He said apart from financial benefits, such students will be



Speakers being felicitated at a motivational talk organised at Christ Church College on Tuesday.

more creative, strong decisionmakers with valuable skills like leadership, problem solving and time management. It will give them a sense of accomplishment.

Speaker Dr Harshit Mishra, CEO, EHM Consultancy Pvt Ltd stressed that students of today must be entrepreneurs as the current scenario in the job market is very challenging. They should try to be job-givers instead of job-seekers. He said a student must follow the following points to become successful in business. These are the 10 commandments of the business arena: Identify your passion; Reflect on your interests, skills and strengths to find a business idea you are passionate about; develop a business idea; research markets, identify gaps, and create innovative solutions; create a

business plan; outline goals, strategies, financial projections and marketing plans; build a team; collaborate with like-minded individuals to share workload and expertise; seek mentorship; find experienced entrepreneurs or advisors for guidance; secure funding; explore options like scholarships, grants, crowdfunding, or loans; develop entrepreneurial skills; take courses or attend workshops on entrepreneurship, leadership and management; start small; launch a prototype, pilot project, or minimum viable product; network; attend events, join entrepreneurship clubs or organisations; learn from failure; Be resilient, adapt and iterate based on feedback. The vote of thanks was given by Prof Navin Ambasht, Professor, Department of Botany, Christ

Church College, Kanpur. The entire session was anchored by Ieshana and Akhil Ajit, students of Christ Church College, Kanpur. More than 100 students and faculty members attended the talk.

FOUND HANGING: A woman was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in Ajjain Pasakhed village under Purwa Kotwali police area of Unnao on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Renu (37), wife of Santal. She was found hanging from the hook of a wall. Station House Officer (SHO) Rakesh Gupta said on receipt of autopsy report, exact cause of death would be ascertained. Meanwhile a man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Babupurwa police area. His blood-stained body was recovered on Tuesday. Kin of the deceased also reached the spot and identified the body.

AWARDED: City Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar awarded trophy and prizes to the winner and runners up of the 3rd Stag Global UP State Ranking Table Tennis tournament jointly organised by the The Sportz Hub and Kanpur Table Tennis Association here on Tuesday. Sarth Mishra of Ghaziabad emerged the tournament champion in the men's category while Suhana Mahajan, also of Ghaziabad, won the title of women's category. UPTTA president Sanjiv Pathak proposed the vote of thanks.

Scholars clear confusion over Diwali date

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In order to remove confusion over the date of Diwali festival a meeting organised on Tuesday by the Department of Astrology, Faculty of Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vignan (SVDV), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), along with Shri Kashi Vishwanath Nyas Parishad, Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad, as well as all the Panchang experts, senior

scholars of Dharmashastra and astrology, in which it was unanimously decided that on the basis of Ganitiya (mathematical) values and the words of the Dharmashastra, according to both visible and traditional opinions it is scripturally appropriate to celebrate Diwali festival on October 31 in the entire country. In the meeting, coordinator of Vishwapanchang, BHU,

Prof Vinay Kumar Pandey, Prof Ramchandra Pandey, Prof Nagendra Pandey (President of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Nyas Parishad) Prof Chandramauli Upadhyay, Prof Ramnarayan Dwivedi (General Secretary of Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad), Prof Girija Shankar Shastri, Prof Shatrughan Tripathi (Head of Department of Astrology), Prof Shankar Kumar Mishra

(Former head of Department of Dharmashastra), Dr Subhash Pandey, Dr Rameshwar Sharma, Dr Sushil Gupta, Dr Ajay Kumar Pandey, Dr Anil Kumar Mishra, Dr Sunil Kumar Chaturvedi, Dr Mohan Kumar Shukla, Dr Rameshwar Ojha, Vishal Upadhyay and Shivmurti Upadhyay, Rupesh Thakur Prasad, Shivgovind Panchangkar, Amit Kumar Mishra etc were present.

14th edition of 'Shoetech Kanpur 2024' from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Footwear Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA) will organise the 14th edition of 'Shoetech Kanpur 2024' at the CLE Multipurpose Hall, KLC Complex, Kanpur-Lucknow Highway, Kader Pathri, Banthar, Unnao, on October 16 and 17. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 6 pm. Addressing mediapersons, IFCOMA president Sanjay Gupta said over 65 manufacturers (with 80 stalls) from Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Noida, Gurgaon, Chennai and Bengaluru are likely to take part in the two-day show. He said footwear components, machinery and technologies will be on display. People affiliated to shoe manufacturing industry from Kanpur, Banthar, Unnao, Jajmou, Agra and nearby districts will also attend the show. Chairman, Superhouse



Group, M Amin said there was a rapid growth in national and international footwear demand with 15 per cent growth in Kanpur's leather and related industries in past two years. He said there had been ₹ 6,000 crore exports in 2022-23 and ₹ 2,000 crore domestic business. He said the government's initiatives, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, aim to boost domestic manufacturing and exports. "We are committed to achieving the given targets, creating opportunities for MSMEs and enhancing skill development. Our concerns have been well acknowledged by

DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry", he added. IFCOMA played an important role in creating opportunity for local manufacturers (sourcing from local manufacturers), setting up of global level design studio, facilitating the Indian footwear components sector to connect with footwear manufacturers/exporters outside India, initiating on the International BSM (Buyer-Seller Meet) shows - a special measure to boost the growth of the Indian footwear component sector, submitting vision document on components and expediting the registration of

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Senior Vice-President, IFCOMA, Pradeep Aggarwal said 14th edition of Shoetech Kanpur brings together key players and innovators to showcase cutting-edge technology, foster partnerships and collaborations, address industry challenges and explore emerging trends. Like every year, IFCOMA shall be recognising the efforts and contribution of few of the stalwarts in the industry with respective awards on the occasion. Javed Iqbal, Prerna Verma and Asad Kamal Iraqi were also present at the press conference.

Supreme Court dismisses plea against Ex-CJI Gogoi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Annoyed over the allegations levelled by a litigant against former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea and ordered the security personnel to remove him from the courtroom. The litigant accused the former CJI following which a bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma asked the security personnel to escort him out of the courtroom. In an earlier hearing, the SC had asked the petitioner to remove the name of Justice Gogoi while leveling allegations for non-favourable judgment in a service case. Arun Ramchandra Hublikar filed a plea against his "illegal termination" from the service while seeking an in-house inquiry against the former CJI for dismissing a plea previously in the service dispute case.



On September 30, a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took a strong exception to the submissions seeking an inquiry against the former CJI and asked him to remove the judge's name from the list of parties.

On Tuesday, the bench was irked when the litigant took the name of the former CJI during the hearing. "We are going to impose a cost on you. Don't take the name of any judge. There is nothing in your case," the bench said.

The litigant, however, retorted, "How can you say that there is nothing in my case. How can it be said...It is injustice against me. At least, I should get justice before my death." The bench subsequently said it will dismiss the petition following

which the security personnel was directed to remove the litigant from the courtroom. The CJI-led bench had previously asked him to remove the name of the former CJI from the list of parties as a condition precedent to list his petition for the hearing. "How can you file a PIL with a judge as a respondent? There has to be some dignity. You cannot just say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was a former judge of the Supreme Court," the CJI had remarked. "He retired as the Chief Justice of India. You cannot say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge because you did not succeed before the bench. Sorry, we cannot tolerate this," the bench had said. After Hublikar assured deletion of the name of the former CJI from the list of parties, the CJI ordered listing of the petition which came up for hearing on Tuesday.

CEC promises strict measures against political violence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after NCP leader Baba Siddique was killed in Mumbai, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said the Election Commission will take a strict view on preventing violence, especially against political personalities, as the Model Code of Conduct comes into force in Maharashtra. Asked about concerns following Siddique's killing, especially as the poll panel is already dealing with the issue of urban apathy towards voting, the CEC said they will make it clear to police that violence of any sort should not take place. "After the MCC declaration, we will make it extremely clear to the police authorities in a particular state that you are mentioning that violence of any kind and a crime of this nature,



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/ The Pioneer

which has political overtones, would be absolutely a no-go area for the commission," Kumar said. "So far, we did not have a role. As the MCC comes into force, we will have a strict view on this. We will direct everyone that any kind of violence or crime, especially against any political person, should not happen," he added. "We ensured that it did not happen in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir. States after

states," the CEC said. Siddique (66), a former Maharashtra minister who joined the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in February after quitting the Congress, was waylaid by three men at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office, and shot dead on Saturday night. The Maharashtra Assembly polls will be held in a single phase on November 20.

India secures deal for 31 US predator drones to enhance military readiness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a big boost to its defence preparedness, India on Tuesday inked a mega deal with the US to procure 31 Predator long-endurance drones from American defence major General Atomics under the foreign military sales route at a cost of nearly USD four billion to boost Indian military's combat prowess along the contested borders with China. The deal, signed in presence of top defence and strategic brass of India in the national capital, marks a significant upswing in military ties between the two countries. The procurement of the drones was finalised just weeks ahead of the US presidential elections. Last week, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement of the MQ-9B 'hunter killer' drones. The drones are being procured

at an estimated cost of around USD 4 billion, officials said. India is acquiring the drones primarily to crank up the surveillance apparatus of the armed forces, especially along the contested frontier with China. In June last year, the Defence Ministry approved the procurement of the MQ-9B Predator armed drones from the US under a government-to-government framework. The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul in July 2022. While the Navy will get 15 Sea Guardian drones, the Indian Air Force and the Army will each get eight Sky Guardian drones. The high-altitude long-endurance drones are capable of remaining airborne for over 35 hours and can carry four Hellfire missiles and around 450 kgs of bombs.

Cancer, Dementia heighten sepsis mortality risk: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Cancer and dementia are significant risk factors that elevate mortality rates among patients with sepsis in the emergency medical department, a study released on Tuesday has raised alarm. Sepsis is a critical condition arising when the body's immune system reacts excessively to an infection, leading to organ dysfunction. This extreme response damages the body's own tissues and organs, potentially resulting in shock, multiple organ failure, and even death if not promptly recognized and treated. The research team from Denmark found that age and heart disease are additional factors contributing to increased mortality risk in sepsis patients within two years. "We found that certain factors increased the risk of death after sepsis, including, not surprisingly, advanced age," said Dr. Finn E. Nielsen, a senior



scientist in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark. "Additionally, conditions such as dementia, heart disease, cancer, and previous hospitalisation with sepsis within the last six months before admission also elevated the risk of dying during a median follow-up period of two years," Nielsen said. In the paper, presented at the European Emergency Medicine Congress in Copenhagen, the team examined deaths over a long follow-up period in a prospective study of 714 adult patients admitted to the emergency department with sepsis

between October 2017 and the end of March 2018. The team found that after a median of two years, 361 (50.6 per cent) of the patients with sepsis had died from any cause, including sepsis. Older age increases the risk of death by 4 per cent for every additional year of age. Sepsis can affect anyone, but people who are older, very young, pregnant or have other health problems are at higher risk. Common signs of sepsis include fever, fast heart rate, rapid breathing, confusion and body pain. It can lead to septic shock, multiple organ failure and death.

Paramesh Sivamani appointed next Coast Guard Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

DG Paramesh Sivamani took over as the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) here on Tuesday. The Flag Officer, during his illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades, has served in various capacities in ashore and afloat appointments. He specialises in Navigation and Direction and his sea commands include all major vessels of ICG which include Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Samar' & Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vishwas'. The Flag Officer was at the helm of Coast Guard Region (East), Coast Guard Region (West), Coast Guard Commander Eastern Seaboard. DG Paramesh Sivamani was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in September 2022, and was subsequently posted at the Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi. He was given the additional charge of Director General Coast Guard in August 2024.



During the period, many significant operations and exercises were accomplished that includes the seizure of drugs/narcotic substances and gold worth crores of rupees, rescue of mariners during severe cyclonic storms, joint exercises with the Foreign Coast Guards, anti-poaching operations, humanitarian assistance during cyclones/natural calamities & Coastal Security exercises. The Flag Officer was conferred with the Tatrakshak Medal in 2014 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2019 for his illustrious service. He was also awarded the DG Coast Guard Commendation in 2012 and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (East) Commendation in 2009.



Exercise MALABAR 2024 sea phase begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Sea Phase of Exercise MALABAR 2024 commenced on Monday off the coast of Visakhapatnam, navy said here on Tuesday. Naval warships, embarked integral helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft from Australia, India, Japan and USA are now exercising in unison in the Bay of Bengal, demonstrating a high level of collaboration and operational synergy. As part of this phase, the participating navies will engage in a wide range of maritime warfare operations, covering the surface, sub-surface, and air warfare domains. These advanced and complex exercises are designed to enhance mutual understanding and coordination, with the aim of operating seamlessly as a Combined Task Force at sea. In sub-surface warfare exercises, Indian Naval submarines would be participating and combined drills of Special Forces from participating nations will also be featured in this phase. This Sea Phase will further strengthen interoperability between the participating nations and contribute towards enhancing regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. The sea phase will culminate on October 18 with the closing ceremony for MALABAR 2024.

Defence Minister lays foundation stone for VLF station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of providing secure and safe communication network for warships and submarines, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a new Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station of the Indian Navy at the Damagundam Reserve Forest site, Pudur Mandal in Vikarabad, Telangana. The facility, built at a cost of Rs 3,200 crore, will be spread across 2,900 acres. It will bolster the Indian Navy's operational readiness, ensuring effective command and control capabilities in challenging maritime environments. It will play a pivotal role in strengthening the Naval communication infrastructure, enabling reliable and secure transmission over long distances. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed confidence that the VLF station would expand the military capabilities of the



country, proving to be a boon to the Armed Forces. "Effective coordination between men and machines is becoming extremely important in view of the evolving methods of warfare. This VLF station is being built with the vision of securing our maritime interests. It will ensure secure and real-time communication between our ships & submarines with the command centres of the Armed Forces. A fool-proof communication proves to be a decisive factor between victory and defeat. Without real time communi-

cation, we cannot gain an edge despite having adequate equipment or manpower," Rajnath said. Further highlighting the significance of a strong communication system, the defence minister termed it as pivotal for coordination in any complex operation. He emphasised that a clear and secure communication channel not only helps in timely and effective decision making, but also an important medium to convey the orders of the command to the field formations and obtain the feedback. Rajnath added that if soldiers are fully informed in a battlefield or an operational environment, their morale and unity receive a major boost, enhancing both safety and strategy. The defence minister laid stress on the need to continuously empower the Indian Navy in view of the ever-growing global interest in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). "Our interest is spread across the Indo-Pacific

region. We have also emerged as the first responder and a preferred security partner in the IOR. If India has to secure its commercial and security interests and remain a strong deep sea force, it is essential to possess state-of-the-art platforms/equipment and a strong communication system," he added. Allaying concerns about the impact of the project on the environment, Rajnath stated that all environmental conditions are being taken care of. It is being ensured that arrangements will be made for the rehabilitation of the affected people, if needed, at the time of construction, he added. In his address, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi stated that the project is set to herald a new chapter in Indian Navy's communication capabilities by ensuring a secure, robust, responsive, and reliable command, control and communication network across the oceans.

Opposition MPs write to Speaker for gross violation of parliamentary code of conduct

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on the "gross violation of parliamentary code of conduct" in the meeting of the joint committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by panel chairman Jagdambika Pal. The letter came a day after several opposition MPs boycotted a sitting of the committee over the submission of former Karnataka State Minorities Commission chairman Anwar Manippady, who named several opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and K Rahman Khan, in the alleged embezzlement of Waqf properties. "The proceedings of the Committee were conducted in a biased and partisan manner by the Chairperson Shri



Jagdambika Pal," opposition members Gaurav Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain, Imran Masood (all Congress), A Raja and M M Abdulla (both DMK), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) and Kalyan Banerjee (TMC) said in the letter. The Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill had on Monday called Manippady to hear his views on the draft legislation in the context of the Karnataka Waqf Scam Report of 2012. "The note contained no obser-

ations on the the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024. Instead, it was full of politically motivated allegations against leaders of the Karnataka Congress, including Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha)," the letter said. The members said despite vehement protests by several committee members that Kharge occupies a constitutional position of high dignity and is not present in the meeting, the witness was allowed to speak by the chairperson. The opposition members also said that Pal refused to provide adequate time to the committee members to lodge their protests. "We request your immediate intervention in the matter, and expect you to remind the Chairperson of the Committee of his duty to be bipartisan and uphold parliamentary norms," the opposition members said.

Urgent action needed to combat Pediatric TB: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even as children under five account for over 10 per cent of all TB deaths globally, with India bearing a significant burden, a report has pointed out that only one of the 14 surveyed countries has fully aligned its tuberculosis (TB) policies with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, and among those that have, only four possess the necessary resources for effective implementation. The situation is particularly grave for young children, who are not receiving adequate diagnostic and treatment measures, according to the report from Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF). The report pointed out that even among these nations, only four possess the necessary resources for effective imple-

mentation and emphasised the urgent need for countries to revise their national TB policies to improve care for affected children. Stijn Deborggraeve, Diagnostics Advisor at MSF's Access Campaign said, "TB is a curable disease, even in children. Yet we see a shocking delay in countries adopting effective solutions. Every moment of inaction leads to unnecessary child fatalities." As per the WHO data, 1.25 million children and adolescents contract TB annually, but a staggering half of them remain undiagnosed and untreated. The WHO's 2022 revised guidelines offer vital recommendations that could transform the landscape of pediatric TB care, including symptom-based diagnostic algorithms and shorter, more effective treatment regimens, as per the report.



Joseph Sesey, a Clinical Officer with MSF in Sierra Leone, highlighted the urgent impact of these guidelines, noting significant improvements in diagnosis and reduced mortality rates in children with TB. The

experts have called for immediate and decisive action on the part of governments, donors, and global health organizations to prevent further suffering and loss of life among the world's most vulnerable popu-

lation. "No child should endure the consequences of a preventable disease like TB," Sesey said. "We urge governments, donors, and global health organizations to act swiftly to ensure that no child suffers or dies from a preventable disease like TB," she said. The countries examined in the report include Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, and Uganda. India's target for eliminating tuberculosis (TB) is 2025, which is five years ahead of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of 2030. In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced India's commitment to eliminate the disease from India by 2025.

PM Modi announces national maritime heritage complex

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government's decision to build a national maritime heritage complex in Gujarat's Lothal, considered the world's oldest dockyard, is aimed at improving people's understanding of civilisational history. Lauding it as a remarkable development, he said in a post on LinkedIn titled 'Let's focus on tourism' that the new project will surely ignite enthusiasm among history buffs and tourists alike. Such an effort will boost the tourism economy, which, he said, he foresees as a major driver of growth in India. "When tourism rises, incomes across the board rise. I urge you all, leading and respected professionals, to explore new opportunities in the tourism sector and also share your ideas with me on the same.



This way, we will contribute to a stronger economy and at the same time, preserve our rich past for the coming generations. The complex will bring ancient Lothal back to life as a mini-replica of the dock city," the prime minister said. Modi noted that Lothal was once a vibrant melting pot of civilisations, ideas, and goods and that excavations have pointed to its role as an important maritime centre. He said that the docks, built thousands of years ago, highlight the "spirit of ingenuity our ancestors possessed". "Its advanced engineering and urban planning leave modern observers in awe, offering a

window into the brilliance of our past." In a swipe at previous governments, he added, "Regrettably, in the decades following independence, we allowed many aspects of our history and many of our historical sites to fall into neglect, with our rich past fading from memory. However, the last 10 years have seen a change in this trend." It is in this spirit that his government has decided to build a vibrant national maritime heritage complex, he said. "This will improve our understanding of civilizational history." "This new project will surely ignite enthusiasm among history buffs and tourists alike. The complex will bring ancient Lothal back to life as a mini-replica of the dock city. At the heart of this complex will stand an iconic lighthouse museum, soaring 77 metres high - set to be among the world's tallest of its kind.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

souring relations

New Delhi dismisses the Canadian claims of Indian involvement in the Nijjar case as politically driven

The already tense relations between India and Canada have hit a new low, with both countries expelling each other's diplomats. New Delhi expelled six Canadian diplomats, including Acting High Commissioner Stewart Ross Wheeler after Ottawa's expulsion of 'targeted' Indian diplomats. These diplomats were allegedly involved in 'violent criminal activity in Canada.' The situation deteriorated after Trudeau accused Indian intelligence agents of being linked to the Nijjar's murder in British Columbia in 2023. During a press conference, Trudeau, announced the expulsion of six Indian diplomats from Canadian soil, citing their involvement in a 'targeted campaign' against Canadian citizens. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has responded with forceful rebuttal, describing the allegations as 'preposterous imputations.' The MEA criticised Canada's decision to expel the Indian diplomats, dismissing the accusations as politically motivated and linked to the Trudeau government's domestic challenges. India on its part has expelled six Canadian diplomats to leave the country by October 19, 2024, and announced the withdrawal of its High Commissioner from Canada.



The root cause of the conflict lies in the ongoing issue of Sikh separatism and Canada's handling of the Khalistan movement. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistan supporter, was a Canadian citizen who had long advocated for an independent Sikh state. His murder in 2023 remains a contentious issue, with Canadian authorities suspecting the involvement of Indian agents. India, however, has consistently denied any role in the killing and has accused Canada of providing a safe haven for extremist elements that threaten India's national security. It is rather unfortunate that two friendly countries should snap diplomatic relations with each other. Justin Trudeau's electoral compulsions, with elections just a year away, could be behind his recent actions. Justin Trudeau's perceived support for Sikh separatists, particularly those advocating for a Khalistan, stems from a complex blend of domestic political considerations and Canada's multicultural policies. Trudeau's Liberal Party has historically sought the support of the Sikh diaspora, a significant and politically active community in Canada, which includes a segment advocating for Sikh rights and in some cases, Khalistan. By engaging with Sikh community leaders, including some who may have Khalistani sympathies, Trudeau aims to secure votes in regions with a strong Sikh presence. This standoff could affect many areas where people in both countries could be net sufferers. Trade negotiations, immigration policies, and cultural exchanges between the two countries would indeed be affected. The expulsion of diplomats and withdrawal of ambassadors signifies more than just diplomatic posturing; it represents India's sovereignty, security, and the role of foreign governments in its domestic affairs. With both sides showing no signs of backing down, the road to reconciliation appears to be fraught with challenges.

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PICTALK



An oriental pied hornbill at Ponitara Wild Life Sanctuary, in Morigaon

The untold story of Captain Rameshwar Thapa's heroics



ASHOK K MEHTA

Capt Rameshwar Thapa, Nepal's first civilian pilot to command a Russian Mi17 helicopter, played a pivotal role during the country's Maoist insurgency

When you think of rotary wing aircraft in Nepal, some names will crop up: Tula Bahadur Thapa, Narain Singh Pun, Madan KC, all Army Colonels, but among civilians a pioneer is Capt Rameshwar Thapa, the first Russian Mi17 helicopter pilot who trained the then Royal Nepal Army on Mi17 and was later requisitioned by Security Forces during the Maoist People's War. Let's call the Captain, RT who has written the English version of his book in Nepali, Barud Mathi Uddaa titled Into The FIRE, a book 'based on hard facts'. It encapsulates the Maoist insurgency that aimed to capture the state: they came perilously close to doing it. But for RT's heroic efforts, on April 8, 2005 in saving Khara, the epic battle waged by Maoists, by flying in 20 Special Force Rangers after an SOS- 'if no reinforcements in 20-30 minutes, Khara will go'. Despite his helicopter being hit by Maoists on surrounding hills he made a second attempt in a vertical descent to land reinforcements at base camp. Khara was a battle for prestige and honour for both sides, especially Maoists but Rangers saved the day. At the time, I had written reams on the first and second Khara battles, describing Khara II's criticality. RT rightly calls Khara the turning point, for soon after, their defeat at Khara Maoists sued for peace: choosing ballot over bullet. They signed the 12-point agreement in New Delhi in November 2005 which led to the political transformation of Nepal - restoration of democracy and mainstreaming of Maoists. The rest, of course, is history. Into The Fire essentially covers the personal experiences of a co-pilot elevated to Pilot in Command as Mi17 initially had pilots from Russia and Central Asian Republics. Their mission was rescue, relief, reinforcements, casualty evacuation and acting as morale boosters. The Maoists were terrified of helicopters which were later ingeniously improvised by RNA as armed platforms to drop 81 mm mortar bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Many battles in both east and west Nepal are described mainly from



the humanitarian angle of saving lives and security posts at great personal risk. RT turns out to be a cat with nine lives having taken numerous hits and a life-threatening crash landing near Everest Base Camp. Initially, he joined Everest Air which was regularly supplying helicopters to the police as they had none; later, he flew for the Armed Police Force and RNA. King Gyanendra who had usurped power first in 2002 and done a coup in 2005, did not allow the RNA to aid or assist the police which suffered on account of it. He did not even allow PM GP Koirala to use it to break the siege of the Holleri post when 76 policemen were taken hostage. Koirala had to resign but Holleri was an avoidable blot on police's unprofessional record. The Army was only pressed into service after Maoists during a ceasefire and talks attacked Army barracks in November 2001 at Dang. RT explains the politics underpinning the King's embargo on RNA. Flying for the army RT became an 'enemy of the Maoists' and was advised to send his family abroad for their safety. Major encounters revive memories of fighting, their horror, ferocity and barbarity. Villages and towns have not forgotten



RT HAS NARRATED SEVERAL HUMAN INTEREST STORIES LIKE ONCE EVACUATING A FEMALE MAOIST WHO LATER BECAME A MINISTER AND MARRIED A FELLOW MAOIST MINISTER

the atrocities committed by both sides. RT has narrated several human interest stories like once evacuating a female Maoist who later became a minister and married a fellow Maoist minister. There is a conversation with elders in a village who tell him that they prefer to give their daughters to RNA rather than letting Maoists take them away to join the movement. His underground life at Oasis Hotel in Nepalgunj is cloak-and-dagger stuff. RT has not shied away from writing about RNA's November 2004 Pandaun, Kailali 'propaganda' attack under the lyricist Divisional Commander, Gen Rajendra Thapa. The Army claimed it had killed 200 to 300 Maoists whereas only 4 to 5 bodies were found (Maoists had an honour code not to leave behind any bodies). One of the Army's self-afflicted disasters was enacted at Pili in August 2004 when an Engineer Regiment was ordered to crash-build a road for King Gyanendra's visit. Their prize was a huge cache of explosives stored at Pili for road construction. Nearly 160 soldiers were killed as RT conducted casualty evacuation flights. Elsewhere he mentions current President Ramchandra Poudel writing an article in Kantipur

daily titled 'Maobadi Paradise: Nirmal Nivas', which was Prince Gyanendra's residence. Having been as 'busy as a bee' in the People's War, as a 24X7 helicopter pilot, his life changed after violence ceased. He mentions India's constructive role in the peace process. In his post-conflict avatar, RT became an aviation company czar, a media mogul - with newspapers, radio and TV - and an interest in politics. His list of awards will fill a page. So will his contribution to corporate social responsibility. Into The Fire: was released in Delhi last month to a packed house. Striking in the book is the note written by Janardhan Sharma who was the architect of the Khara debacle-while recently Nepal's Finance Minister. Sitting next to me on the dais RT was a picture of modesty and humility, few people realised his crucial role in the People's War. Immodestly I could not resist mentioning my book The Royal Nepal Army: Meeting the Maoist Challenge released in 2005. But his is a first-hand account. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; the views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RTI POWER FADES

Madam — It is really unfortunate that the RTI Act, which came into effect in 2005, promising a new era in transparency in government functioning, has almost died its own death, with the executive not showing any keenness to infuse a fresh life into it. The Act has slowly weakened due to unwarranted amendments, overreach of the executive and restrictive judicial interpretations. Lack of adequate infrastructure and shortage of staff in government offices to deal with RTI applications is another cause for worry. Ever since its ratification, several attempts have been made to deliberately dilute this law and hamper access to information by the public.

The proposed amendments were dropped due to widespread public defiance. In the administration and functioning of a democratic government, the right to access and seek information is a sine qua non for transparency, openness and accountability. Unless citizens are empowered with the right to ask questions, democracies cannot and will not survive. The need of the hour is to promote the free flow of information to limit tyrannical tendencies and reinforce democratic ideals.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

RAILWAY SAFETY NEGLECTED

Madam — Gone are the days when a Railway minister used to apologise for a train accident and even tender his resignation for it. Now, it is too much to expect even an explanation for the snail's pace at which the Train Collision Avoidance System is being installed and the lack of manpower that makes even loco pilots do the extra shifts. In such a scenario, there is no wonder why train accidents have become a regular event in our country. Train Collision Avoidance System, which was later renamed as Kavach, is an automatic train protection system that helps prevent collisions if two trains are on the same tracks. Senior railway officials said that a field trial was

Peacekeepers under attack



Just a week ago, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz announced that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been banned from entering Israel, accusing him of "supporting" Hamas, Hezbollah,

Houthis and Iran. Now a new order has been issued from Tel Aviv, which says that all UN peacekeepers should be removed from Lebanon. Israel is accusing without any proof that Hezbollah is using peacekeepers as human shields.

On the contrary, Israel has been continuously attacking the peacekeepers since last week. Dozens of peacekeepers have been injured so far. UNIFIL, a mission of about 9,500 soldiers of various nationalities, was created after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978. It is currently tasked with monitoring the ceasefire that ended the 33-day war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006. Israel's actions have been criticised by the whole world, except the US.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

started for Kavach in 2016. But it has been installed only in less than 1,500 km of tracks out of the total 70,000 km covered by the Indian Railways across the country.

That means this lifesaving device has so far been placed in only a little over 2 per cent of railway tracks in eight years after its field trials! An RTI reply says that of 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, 18,766-nearly 15 per cent - were vacant as of March 1 this year. Indian Railways have been playing with our lives by not filling up vacant posts and by forcing their personnel, even loco pilots, to overwork. How can a loco pilot remain alert if he has to do extra shifts?

Sujit De | Kolkata

LAW AND ORDER CRISIS

Madam — The shooting of Baba Siddiqui could not have come at a worse time for the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, as elections to the assembly are just around the corner. The opposition has been handed over an issue of

The invisible battle for mental health in India

Mental health remains an afterthought in our healthcare narrative. The true healing encompasses both body and mind

As a psychologist, I've seen how health in India isn't just a battle of the body—it's a struggle of the mind. Behind every disease is a person dealing with fear, frustration and, at times, loneliness. Whether in rural areas, where diseases like tuberculosis persist or in urban centres where lifestyle illnesses are on the rise, the emotional toll is often invisible but deeply felt.

In rural India, patients face challenges that go beyond medical diagnoses. I remember a man from a small village battling tuberculosis, but what weighed on him most wasn't just his illness—it was the isolation. He felt forgotten and cut off from the world because healthcare facilities were far away, and his family didn't know how to support him. This emotional isolation is something many rural patients experience, and it can be as damaging as their physical symptoms, compounding their sense of hopelessness. In cities like Gurgaon, the struggles are different but equally pro-



found. I think of Anjali, a young woman overwhelmed by anxiety. To the outside world, she seemed to have it all—a great job, a busy social life, and a bright future. But inside, she was spiralling. She hesitated for months before seeking help, afraid that admitting to her struggles would make her appear weak. This fear of judgment keeps many people from asking for help, and it's heartbreaking to see how common this is in urban environments. Mental health remains an afterthought in our healthcare system.

We focus on physical symptoms—treating heart disease, diabetes, and other

conditions—but the emotional weight people carry is often ignored. I've seen people suffer for years in silence, feeling their emotional pain isn't valid because it can't be measured like a physical illness. There's an urgent need for change. India's healthcare system mirrors this divide. In cities, private care offers options, but mental health services are still limited and expensive. In rural areas, mental health is rarely even discussed. Socioeconomic barriers, especially for women, make it even harder to access mental health care. Women often put their health—both emotional and physical—on the back burner,

prioritising their families' needs over their own. One of my patients, a mother of two, delayed seeking help for her anxiety for years. She was exhausted, overwhelmed, and losing her sense of self. But like so many women, she felt guilty for even considering that her health deserved attention.

This is a common story—too many women in India silently endure mental health struggles, dismissing their needs as unimportant, further isolating themselves in the process.

We need to change this narrative. Mental health is not a luxury or a sign of weakness. It is an integral part of overall well-being. We must make mental health care as important as physical health in our conversations and our healthcare system. Only then can we address the full scope of health challenges in India—because real healing isn't just about the body; it's about the mind too.

(The writer is Psychologist and founder - Kavita Kabira wellness clinic; views are personal)



KAVITA KABIRA



FIRST COLUMN

CLEANLINESS AND SPIRITUALITY

The connection between a clean space and a peaceful mind is undeniable



RAVI VALLURI

When I recall our college days, particularly the hostel rooms, it takes me on a nostalgic trip. The days were full of fun and frolic, books scattered around, beer and rum bottles lying randomly, with cigarette butts strewn rather carelessly. The rooms were full of stench.

Most of the guys would ogle, there was no Google back then, at the girls. Posters of Pink Floyd, the Beatles, and Led Zeppelin populated the grubby and unwashed walls of the rooms. The politically inclined would paste large printed pictures of Che Guevara, Marx and Lenin among others, professing their ideological baggage unequivocally.

Some rooms were relatively cleaner and tidily kept. In our hail-fellow-well-met attitude we ended up ostracising such students. But they were our Gurus during examination times, much to their chagrin. A close friend had put up a poster which read: "Cleanliness is the sign of a sick mind." His room was particularly unclean and stained.

Cleanliness is both the abstract state of being clean and free from dirt, and the process of achieving and maintaining that state. However, to my mind cleanliness and spirituality are intertwined like Siamese twins. The human mind normally slips into a state of meditation and involuntarily has a spiritual experience at places which are relatively clean. Cleanliness is positively next to godliness.

India has of late embarked upon a major cleanliness drive where villages, bijou towns, cities, rivers, among others, places of historical importance and important religious places are being refurbished. This is indeed a positive statement made by the government. A gurdwara is the place of worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths and those who do not pro-



fess any faith too, are welcomed in Sikh gurdwaras. To me gurdwaras are among the cleanest spots in the country and it is a lesson in humility to observe how the devout keep it absolutely spick and span. The mind gravitates to the pristine spirit and listens to the soulful and mellifluous Gurubani being sung. The human mind, which is normally canonaded by innumerable thoughts, gradually settles down and is at rest and peace.

It would be interesting to mention that Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Darbar Sahib are informally referred to as the Golden Temple. Guru Ram Das constructed the Golden Temple in 1577. He was the fourth Guru in the pantheon of Sikh Gurus. A Sikh friend mentioned that a gurdwara is a community asset and serviced by unpaid and committed volunteers, those who perform seva from the kitchen to the shoe rack.

Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and non-violence, championed the cause of truth only as he could. His autobiography, The Story of My Experiments with Truth, like his life, documents every aspect where he does not dissemble anything. During my days of quotidian drinking, I drank heavily and remained inebriated. In that state of arrogance and hubris, I walked into the holy precincts of the Golden Temple carrying a packet of Wills Navy Cut. The act was certainly sacrilegious. For perpetrating this sinful act, I could have been trolled on social media. Today, I regret the mistake committed and apologise sincerely from the depths of my heart. I am sober today because of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and have given up drinking, smoking and eating non-vegetarian fare. The twisted personality in me is making amends and I hope those afflicted with these vices seek the grace of a Guru to extricate themselves from this cesspool of negativity and embark upon the voyage to discover the quintessential quality of cleanliness and spirituality.

(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)

Migration issue polarises Canada ahead of 2025 election

Canada is struggling to reconcile the benefits of foreign influx with stagnant wages, strained services and a housing crisis; analysis by AMAL CHANDRA and AJAY P KARUVALLY

Canada has recently cut down on international student permits and tightened eligibility for work permits in a bid to cut down on the number of temporary residents. As the federal election approaches in October 2025, immigration remains the most contentious issue in Canadian politics. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy — but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." Said Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a post on X. However, things are a little more complicated. Canada presents a unique case of population dynamics, with rapid growth despite record-low birth rates. Between 2023 and 2024, Canada's population surged by 3.2 per cent, outpacing even some African nations known for their high population growth. While the population is increasing rapidly, the total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.33 children per woman in 2022 was the lowest in Canadian history. Canada's population growth, despite a very low TFR, is a testament to the power of immigration. In 2023, 97.6 per cent of the growth in the Canadian population came through immigration.

This reliance on immigrants is a long-standing strategy to offset the country's ageing population. While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed population growth to just 0.4 per cent in 2021, immigration quickly rebounded, fuelling a rapid recovery in population growth. A significant portion of Canada's immigrants come from India, making up 10.8 per cent of all immigrants in 2023. The proportion of Indians among all the immigrant groups entering the country has increased from 9.6 per cent between 1991 and 2000, to 18.6 per cent between 2016 and 2021. Projections for the period between 2022 and 2026 suggest this trend will continue to accelerate.

Canada's Immigration Dilemma: Canada's immigration system comprises four main programs: economic, family, refugee, and temporary work. The first three lead to permanent residency, while temporary workers must follow specific pathways with quotas and criteria to attain permanent residency. The preferred route for international students is the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP), which is issued to foreign students who have completed a diploma or degree at a Canadian institution. This permit allows them to qualify for permanent residency programs. While all immigration programs have grown, the 127 per cent surge in international student permits issued in 2023 compared to 2006 is particularly remarkable. A 2015 study showed that between 20 per cent and 27 per cent of international students transitioned to permanent residency within ten years of receiving their first study permit. This conversion rate is likely even higher in more recent years, reflecting the growing appeal of Canada as a destination for long-term settlement through the student migration route.

Economic Growth or Illusion? The influx of immigrants and their economic activity has fuelled Canada's GDP growth (1.8 per cent average from 2000 to 2023), but population growth is masking underlying economic challenges. The GDP per capita rate for the same period from 2000 to 2023 is only



CANADA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM COMPRISES FOUR MAIN PROGRAMS: ECONOMIC, FAMILY, REFUGEE, AND TEMPORARY WORK. THE FIRST THREE LEAD TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY, WHILE TEMPORARY WORKERS MUST FOLLOW SPECIFIC PATHWAYS WITH QUOTAS AND CRITERIA TO ATTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENCY

0.7 per cent, among the lowest in the G7. The Canadian economy and the living standards of its population have largely stagnated over the last decade.

While immigrants are contributing to economic growth, the GDP per capita rates are declining. Many new immigrants earn less than the national average, and there are doubts about their ability to achieve upward mobility as rapidly as past generations of immigrants, especially given that the majority are temporary residents.

The Government's Immigration Gamble: To course-correct a stagnating economy and compensate for poor growth rates, Canadian policymakers have made a bet on immigration. By letting in massive numbers of permanent and temporary residents, Canada has prioritised short-term growth, in hopes this can translate to a sustainable long-term growth strategy through the upward mobility of the recently introduced immigrant cohorts. While it may be too early to say this is not working, Canadian public opinion against immigration is at an all-time low. Many Canadians feel the rapid influx of immigrants is exacerbating critical issues like the housing shortage and the strain on social services, including healthcare and emergency response. Despite placing their hopes on immigration, the government has failed to make parallel investments in infrastructure to support both immigrants and the existing population.

Wages in Canada have struggled to keep pace with inflation and there is rising concern among Canadians that immigrants are

suppressing wages. Although evidence suggests that immigrants have little to no impact on the average wages of native workers, the perception of such effects tends to fuel stronger anti-immigration sentiments. Corporations, however, have capitalised on this dynamic, employing temporary workers, including international students, in low-wage, precarious jobs. The promise of permanent residency keeps them in the system, even when working conditions are poor.

For corporations, this represents a windfall of cheap labour. Coincidentally, working these low-paying jobs means the immigrants are unlikely to undergo the upward social mobility the government is hoping they would. Rising Hostility and Public Sentiment As frustrations over the government's immigration policies mount, this frustration is being increasingly manifested as resentment toward immigrants themselves. Public sentiment has noticeably shifted in recent years, with more Canadians expressing negative views toward international students and other immigrants. While this is hard to quantify and prove, public sentiment analysis using machine learning models on social media platforms like Reddit provides a useful indication.

We analysed all the comments under posts containing the word "international students" in the r/Canada subreddit (community) from 2010 to 2022. While the r/Canada subreddit is not in any way a reflection of Canadian society, it could be a fair representation of a microcosm of Canadian centrist views on immi-

gration. Till 2015, There was minimal discussion or negative sentiments related to international students (see figure below). Starting from around 2015, the number of negative comments saw a sharp rise. This trend peaks significantly after 2020, indicating a growing negative discourse, especially in recent years. The number of positive comments seems to plateaued after 2017. Although positive sentiment persists, sentiment analysis reveals a shift in public discourse toward increasingly negative views on the broader issue of international students in recent years.

Conclusion: A Broken System For many international students and temporary immigrants, these growing negative sentiments could lead to increased hostility and more barriers to integration. Instances of food bank usage, cultural misunderstandings, and economic struggles may further inflame these tensions. Canada's immigration system, which lacks a strategic vision, seems to benefit neither Canadian citizens nor immigrants.

Without meaningful reforms, only corporations exploiting cheap labour will see long-term gains, while social unrest and economic stagnation will continue to grow. The future of Canada's immigration policy hinges on the ability of the government and its citizens to address the current challenges and find a path forward that benefits all residents.

(Chandra is an author, policy analyst and columnist and Ajay P Karuvally is a Research Fellow at The International Institute of Migration and Development; views are personal)

The divisive legacy of British colonialism: A persistent threat to India's unity

Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity

The legacy of British colonialism in India remains a contentious issue, with far-reaching consequences that continue to impact the country's social fabric. In the contemporary context, this can be seen in the practice of politics by the opposition parties, particularly the Indian National Congress (INC).

The colonial era strategically exploited India's inherent social and cultural diversities, creating fault lines that persist today. These divisions, crafted to serve the interests of the British Empire, have become entrenched in India's societal landscape, posing a significant challenge to national unity. Post-1857, British authorities, scholars, and missionaries collaborated to divide Dalits, tribals and Muslims



SHIV PRAKASH

from the Hindu community. This agenda leveraged scholars and missionaries to separate Dalits and tribals through conversion and social manipulation, as detailed in Arun Shourie's seminal work, "Missionaries in India." By creating artificial distinctions and fueling social conflict, the British successfully fostered alliances and divisions that endured long after

independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted Congress's departure from its founding principles, embracing leftist ideologies instead. Modi cited Congress's original stance on issues like Swadeshi, Swavalamban, and Panchayat Raj, and Mahatma Gandhi's opposition to religious conversion and cow slaughter.

Gandhi's post-1920 emphasis on eradicating untouchability, casteism, alcoholism, and women's oppression, and promoting national unity, has given way to divisive rhetoric. Congress's current leadership, exemplified by Rahul Gandhi, has strayed from these ideals. Gandhi's recent US visit sparked controversy, as he claimed Sikhs face identity crises in India, despite no evi-

dence. His comments fueled separatist sentiments among Khalistani supporters, echoing the tactics employed by British colonialists.

Meanwhile, in Sikh communities, Max Arthur Macauliffe sowed seeds of separation, as detailed in Khushwant Singh's "The Sikh Gurus, Sacred Writings and Authors." These foreign interventions fabricated logic, distorted literature, and spread misinformation to execute their divide-and-rule policy.

Gandhi's stance resonates with the British-era concept that India is not a nation but a union of states. This contradicts the ancient Indian ethos, affirming India's nationhood. The Vedas proclaim, "Vayam Rashtra Jagryam Purahitah" (We are the guardians of the

nation). Even former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's wish to have his ashes immersed in the Ganges reflects his devotion to Mother India. The British exploited these divisions, nurturing enduring fault lines evident in the Direct Action orchestrated by the Muslim League, resulting in the brutal massacre of 16,000 Hindus in Calcutta alone. Notable figures like Jaipal Singh Munda and Jogendra Nath Mandal eventually broke away from the Muslim League, recognising the sinister intentions. Mandal resigned from the Pakistan government and returned to India, highlighting the atrocities faced by Dalits and tribals.

Today, India must recognise and learn from this history,

acknowledging the artificial divisions created by British colonialism and guarding against similar tactics employed by contemporary forces seeking to exploit these fault lines for political gain. Citizens and political parties must remain vigilant, prioritising national unity over sectarian interests.

The 1946 Jharkhand, Chota Nagpur Pakistan Conference and Jogendra Nath Mandal's alliance with the Muslim League exemplified this strategy. British authorities fueled fears among Dalits and tribals, claiming the "Hindu Raj" would oppress them. This manipulation ignored the historical social cohesion and shared struggles of India's diverse communities. Mahatma Gandhi's vision for

a unified India contrasts sharply with the divisive agenda of some contemporary politicians, who seek to resurrect the British-era fault lines. Gandhi's emphasis on eradicating social evils and promoting national unity has given way to identity politics and vote bank manipulation. India's democratic fabric demands that citizens and leaders recognise and resist these divisive forces, promoting national unity and social cohesion. The country must acknowledge its complex history and address the lingering consequences of colonialism. By doing so, India can overcome the artificial divisions imposed upon it and forge a path toward true unity and progress. Despite progress, India faces

significant challenges in overcoming the legacy of colonialism. Politicians continue to exploit social divisions for electoral gains, while foreign forces seek to undermine India's unity. The rise of social media has amplified divisive rhetoric, making it easier to spread misinformation and fuel tensions. The divisive legacy of British colonialism remains a pressing concern for India. By acknowledging this history and resisting divisive forces, India can build a more unified future. Citizens must prioritise national interests over sectarian agendas, and leaders must work toward inclusive governance.

(The writer is National Joint General Secretary, Organisation BJP; views are personal)

Seven Governor-approved Maha Yuti nominees sworn in as MLCs in Maharashtra

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours before the Election Commission of India (ECI) declared the schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, seven Maharashtra Governor-approved ruling MahaYuti nominees were sworn in as the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Tuesday. The seven persons -- whose names were recommended by the BJP-led MahaYuti government on Monday afternoon and were approved by Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan later on Monday night -- were administered oath as MLCs by Maharashtra Legislative Council's deputy chairperson Neelam Gorhe on Tuesday at a hurriedly held swearing ceremony at Vidhan Bhavan. The swearing-in ceremony took place a few hours before the ECI declared the schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly polls.



The newly sworn-in MLCs include three representatives from the ruling BJP and two each from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. The seven new MLCs are: BJP's state women wing chief Chitra Wagh, the party's general secretary; and Dharmaguru Babusing Maharaj Rathod, a priest from the Banjara community (all from the BJP quota), former MLC Manisha Kayande and former MP Hemant Patil (both from the Shinde Sena), senior NCP (Ajit Pawar) min-

ister Chhagan Bhujbal's son Pankaj Bhujbal and Idris Naikwadi, former Mayor of Sangli (both from the Ajit Pawar-led NCP). In all, 12 MLC vacancies from the Governor's quota have remained unfilled for more than four years. At a meeting presided over by chief minister Eknath Shinde, the State Cabinet had on Monday recommended seven names to the Governor who approved the same late in the night. The remaining five MLC vacancies would be filled after the State Assembly polls.

It may be recalled that on October 20, 2020, the previous Shiv Sena-led MVA government had recommended 12 names, including that of Bollywood actress Urmila Matondekar, to the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for nomination as the MLCs from his quota. However, Governor Koshiyari had kept the nominations on hold despite an intervention by the Bombay High Court. Subsequently in June 2022, Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government was toppled by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and BJP alliance. Eknath Shinde became the Chief Minister, while Devendra Fadnis took over as the Deputy chief minister. In February 2023, Governor Koshiyari was replaced by Ramesh Bais. Of the 12 MLC vacancies, the Shinde government recommended seven names which were duly approved by the new Governor Bias on Monday night.

Haryana-wary Congress appoints 11 leaders as senior observers for Maharashtra Assembly polls

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After its bitter experience in Haryana Assembly polls where it failed to translate its expectations into votes, the once-bitten twice shy Congress leadership on Tuesday appointed as many as eleven senior observers and two senior coordinators to supervise the party matters during the State Assembly polls in Maharashtra. On a day when the Election Commission of India (ECI) scheduled the Maharashtra Assembly polls for November 20, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) high command appointed 11 senior leaders drawn from various states as senior observers for five different regions in the state. In addition, the Congress appointed the party's senior leaders from Maharashtra -- Mukul Wasnik and Avinash Pande -- to oversee the details of the party's candidate selection and electioneering during the polls. That the Congress is not tak-



ing any chances in handling the State Assembly elections in Maharashtra can be seen from the choice of leaders chosen as senior observers for various regions for the State Assembly polls. Rajasthan's former chief minister Ashok Gehlot and Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameashwara have been chosen as the party's senior observers for Mumbai and coastal Konkan regions respectively. The responsibility of the politically crucial Vidarbha region has been entrusted to former chief minister of Chhattisgarh

Bhupesh Baghel, Punjab's former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and former minister and sitting MLA of Madhya Pradesh Umang Singhar. Former deputy CM of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and Telangana Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy have been chosen as senior observers for Marathwada region. Western Maharashtra will be under former deputy chief minister of Chhattisgarh T. S. Singh Deo and Karnataka Minister M. B. Patil. Rajya Sabha Member from Karnataka Syed Nasir Hussain

and Telangana Minister Dansari Anasuya popularly known as Seethakka have been nominated as senior observers for north Maharashtra. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Priyanka Gandhi will lead the campaign in Maharashtra. The Congress-led Maha Vikas Agadhi had elicited wonderful response from the people across the State in the recent Lok Sabha polls, in which the three-party alliance had collectively won 31 out of total 48 seats. After its unforgettable experience in Haryana where it failed to come to power despite expectation that it would post a comfortable victory in the state Assembly, the Congress high command has warned the party leaders in the state against bickering among them during the campaigning for the November 20 Assembly polls. Rahul Gandhi has asked the party leaders to put up a united face during the electioneering.

Mumbai cops make fourth arrest in Baba Siddique murder case

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police arrested one more person in connection with the brutal murder of NCP (AP) leader and three-time former MLA Baba Ziauddin Siddique in Mumbai on October 12, taking the total number of arrests made in the sensational crime to four. Identifying the newly arrested person as Harishkumar Balakram (23), the police said that he was arrested from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. Balakram works as a scrap dealer in Pune. He had absconded after the murder of Baba Siddique on Sunday night. The three persons arrested earlier are in police custody. The police will seek the formal custody of Balakram, the fourth arrested person, from a court. In addition, the police have detained two persons -- Gullu and Monu -- from Pune for questioning. It may be recalled that Baba Siddique was shot dead by



three miscreants outside his MLA-son Zeeshan B. Siddique's office in Nirmal Nagar in Bandra (East) in north-west Mumbai on Saturday night. A former minister, 66-year-old Baba Siddique --- who had initially been with the Congress for more than three and a half decades before joining to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP in February this year for some reasons -- had suffered three bullet wounds -- two in his chest and one in his abdomen -- after seven rounds of fire were opened at him by the miscreants. He succumbed to bullet wounds late at the nearby Lilavati Hospital.

DU withdraws circular increasing workload of senior faculty members

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Tuesday withdrew a circular that increased the workload of senior faculty members to match that of junior counterparts after it faced backlash from the teaching staff on social media. The circular, issued earlier in the day by the university administration, directed principals and directors of DU colleges and departments to assign professors and associate professors the same workload typically given to lower-ranked positions like assistant professors. According to UGC norms, senior faculty members (professors and associate professors) are required to work 14 hours a week, while junior faculty (assistant professors) have a 16-hour weekly workload. The circular proposed increasing the workload of senior positions by two hours citing the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) promotions. "The incumbent(s) will assume the workload associated with the core post of Assistant Professor, regard-



less of any promotions as Associate Professor or Professor, since the promotion under CAS is specific to the individual," read the order issued by the deputy registrar's office. The move drew objections and criticism from faculty members on social media, with some accusing the administration of increasing the workload to compensate for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) rather than recruiting additional teaching staff. "When the UGC regulations do not differentiate between associate professors through direct recruitment or promotion, then why is DU issuing this notification? This needs

to be completely rejected, and DU must immediately roll back this notification," said Mithuraaj Dhusiya, a DU professor and member of the Academic Council. Another faculty and secretary of the Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF) said, "Instead of asking the government for additional teachers, existing faculty is burdened with more teaching hours. Yet another assault by Delhi University, while DUTA remains silent on policy issues! The UGC Regulations of 2018 (and prior regulations from 2010) do not make any such distinctions. According to the regulations, direct teaching hours are 14 for senior faculty and 16 for junior faculty. The DU Ordinance also reiterates the UGC Regulations of 2018." Following the criticism, DU issued a fresh circular in the evening stating that the earlier circular regarding the workload of teachers had been withdrawn. "Further, it is informed that subsequent clarification, if any, in this regard will be issued by the university in due course," it added.

Two men held for firing at petrol pump employee during robbery attempt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested two men for firing at a petrol pump employee during an alleged robbery attempt near the facility in northeast Delhi's Gokulpuri. According to the police on Tuesday, the accused has been identified as 45 years old Satender, alias Baba and 39 year old Rahul Kashyap, alias Deepak. The 48 year old Ravinder Pal Singh, who got a gunshot injury at left arm, is currently undergoing treatment at Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) hospital. DCP Northeast Delhi Rakesh Paweriya said, "A PCR call at 10.36 am on Monday was received in the Gokalpuri police station regarding firing by weapon and manager of petrol pump was injured. He along with his associate was going to deposit cash from the petrol pump into the bank when two persons on a bike stopped them and tried to snatch the bag." He added that when he resisted, the accused fired on him. The police said that no cash



was robbed and accordingly a case under sections of 309(5) (robbery), 311 (Robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 3 (5) BNS and relevant sections of Arms Act was registered. Accused Satender was found previously involved in 12 cases including cases of Maharashtra Control Of Organized Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA), Murder, Robbery and Arms Act. Accused Rahul was also found previously involved in

seven cases including cases of Robbery, Theft and Arms Act. The DCP stated that one person who has worked at the Petrol Pump had given information regarding the cash to the accused. "Search of this third accused is being made," Paweriya said. He added that one pistol with one live cartridge and one fired cartridge and one motorcycle, which was stolen from GTB Enclave area, was recovered from their possession.

CEC punctures Exit ...

From page 1

The CEC said associations such as the News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority should do some self-regulation. "Counting happens roughly on the third day after the elections end. Expectations rise from 6 pm, but there is no scientific basis to this in public disclosure," he said. "When counting starts, results start coming (in the media) from 8:05 am and 8:10 am. This is nonsense. My counting starts at 8:30 am," Kumar said, wondering whether the initial trends were shown in the media to justify exit polls. The CEC said the Election Commission starts putting out trends or results on its website from 9.30 am onwards

at two-hour intervals. Kumar said that a correspondent of a media organisation at counting stations can get results early, but the poll authority has to display the result on the screen, get the polling agents to sign it, and offer justification to observers. "It may take 30 minutes for the results to come on the official website," he said. "So, when the actual results start coming in, there is a mismatch. That mismatch can lead to serious issues sometimes. The gap between expectations and achievements is nothing but frustration," the CEC said. The Congress had questioned the delay in displaying results on the EC website in the recently concluded Haryana Assembly polls.

More bomb hoaxes keep airports on...

From page 1

The SpiceJet aircraft landed safely at the Mumbai Airport and was directed to an isolation bay as a precautionary measure. "All passengers disembarked normally, and security agencies were immediately notified. After thorough security checks, the aircraft has been cleared for further operations," a SpiceJet spokesperson said. An Akasa Air spokesperson said their flight received a security alert on board. "The captain followed all required emergency procedures and landed safely at the Kempegowda

International Airport, Bengaluru at 13:39 hours. All passengers were deplaned and the local authorities undertook the necessary safety and security checks after which the aircraft was released for operations," the spokesperson said. Indigo said in a statement that it was "cognisant of a situation involving flight 6E 98 from Dammam to Lucknow". The Dammam-Lucknow flight landed at the Jaipur airport following its diversion. The aircraft has been sent to an isolation bay, an official at the Jaipur airport said. The X handle tagged the airline and police handles, claiming that bombs were

placed on these planes, the sources said. Four different X handles had issued a similar threat to three international flights originating from Mumbai on Monday. All the messages on Monday were declared a hoax after security and intelligence agencies as well as airlines and airport operators carried out stipulated anti-terrorist security drills that are activated in case of bomb or hijack threats, the sources said. Officials said the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has sought the help of Indian cyber-security agencies and police to trace the person or people behind these threats.

Will contest Jharkhand Assembly polls in alliance with JMM: Congress



PNS ■ RANCHI

Congress on Tuesday said it will contest the Jharkhand assembly elections in alliance with the JMM, with a final decision on seat sharing expected soon. "We will contest elections with our alliance partners in the state. A final decision on the seat sharing will be done soon. We are confident of winning elections on the back of development works done by us," Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee president Keshav Mahto said. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) also expressed confi-

dence that its alliance would be voted back to power. However, it raised concerns on how Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma knew that the election dates would be announced on Tuesday. "We are ready to contest elections, though the announcement was made a bit early. However, we would like to know how Sarma was aware that elections would be announced on Tuesday. This is a grave threat to democracy," JMM spokesperson Manoj Pandey said. Sarma, who is BJP's co-in-charge of assembly elections in

Jharkhand, had said on Monday that the election dates would be announced on Tuesday. Reacting to the JMM's allegations, the BJP claimed that the JMM was afraid of defeat in the upcoming elections. The BJP also mentioned that the seat-sharing arrangement among NDA partners for the assembly elections was "almost final," with the first list of candidates to be announced within 48 hours of the polls being declared. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the JMM-led alliance will contest all 81 seats.

November's poll results will...

From page 1

In the 2019 Assembly election, the BJP, and undivided Sena, coalition had come to power in the state which won 105 seats, while the Congress secured 44. The BJP's performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections saw a drop, winning only nine seats out of 48, compared to 23 in the previous term, while the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won 30 seats. Bypolls to the Kedarnath Assembly seat in Uttarakhand and the Nanded Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra will be held on November 20. Bypolls to the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal and Milkipur in Uttar Pradesh were not announced as election

petitions are pending for the two seats. The BJP hopes to make a dent this time in Jharkhand. The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), part of the INDIA Bloc, is up against National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which comprises the BJP, the Janata Dal (United), and the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU). In 2019, Hemant Soren's JMM had won 30 seats while the Congress bagged 16 seats paving way for Soren to be sworn in as CM. The BJP-led NDA has already started campaigning to regain lost ground, deploying Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma who have been raising the issues of "Bangladeshi infiltration" and "rampant corruption". For the much to be watched bypoll, after Rahul vacated the Wayanad seat, Congress announced that Priyanka Gandhi would contest the bypolls there. Rahul chose the Rae Bareilly seat because of the Congress's strong history in the constituency, having won all Lok Sabha elections except in 1977, 1996, and 1998. Rahul's grandparents, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Feroz Gandhi have also represented this constituency, as did his mother the longest serving party president Sonia Gandhi who is now a Rajya Sabha MP.

National Capital Region's second airport almost...

From page 1

Noida International Airport (IATA code - DNX) will connect the greater Delhi area and also Western Uttar Pradesh with other cities in the country and the world. "The airport will combine Swiss efficiency and Indian hospitality to offer rich experiences and comprehensive commercial attractions and services to its passengers. NIA is committed to an ambitious net-zero emissions goal supported by sustainable design and operations principles," said the airport. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi laid the foundation stone of Jewar Airport on November 26, 2021. The airport is expected to be operational later this year, two years before IGI Airport reaches its threshold traffic handling capacity. To facilitate connectivity between the airport and its catchment area, the Uttar Pradesh government has enlisted the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) to develop a proposal for a high-speed rail link. Additionally, plans are underway to integrate the RRTS in Ghaziabad with the forthcoming Noida airport.

Yogi meets Bahraich victim's kin

From page 1

fire. Police intervened promptly, dispersing the troublemakers. The village head reported that a group of 10 to 15 individuals attempted the arson. Following the incident, a strong police and PAC force was dispatched to restore order. Currently, the RAF, PAC, and local police are deployed in the affected areas.

DM Monica Rani stated that vandalised homes were being marked for assessment. To prevent the spread of misinformation, internet services have been suspended in the district until October 16. Senior police officials, including ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash, remain stationed in Bahraich to ensure peace and restore normalcy.

UN Security Council voices 'strong concern' for UN peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council expressed "strong concern" Monday as Israel has fired on and wounded UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region. It's the first statement by the UN's most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began last week, drawing international condemnation.

UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move 5 kilometers (3 miles) north during its ground invasion in Lebanon.

Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon across a UN-drawn boundary between the two countries. The sides have been clashing since the Iranian-backed militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza. Hamas' deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launched the war.

The Security Council statement, issued after emergency closed consultations on Lebanon, did not name either Israel, Lebanon or Hezbollah. Read by Swiss U.N.

Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, the council's current president, it urges all parties "to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and UN premises." The 15-member Security Council has been deeply divided over the war in Gaza, with the United States defending its ally Israel as support for the Palestinians has grown among members and casualties have escalated. The Biden administration has become more critical of civilian deaths as well as the recent attacks on UNIFIL. US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters that "it's good that the council can speak with one voice on what's on the minds of all people around the world right now — and it's the situation in Lebanon."

The council's statement sends a message to the Lebanese people "that the council cares, that the council is watching this issue and that the council today spoke with one voice," Wood said.

Council members also expressed "deep concern" at civilian casualties and suffering, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the rising number of internally displaced people.

More than 1,400 people in Lebanon, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, have been killed and 1.2 million displaced in the past month. Around 60 Israelis have been killed in Hezbollah strikes in the past year. Israel says it wants

to drive the militant group away from the border so some 60,000 displaced Israelis can return to their homes.

The Security Council statement called on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law, which requires the protection of civilians.

Council members also called for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war "and recognized the need for further practical measures to achieve that outcome."

That resolution calls for the Lebanese army to deploy throughout the south and for all armed groups, including Hezbollah, to be disarmed — neither of which has happened in the past 18 years.

Lacroix, the undersecretary-general for peace operations, told reporters after his closed briefing to the Security Council that five UNIFIL peacekeepers have been injured in recent days and that the UN has protested to Israel.

Israel has indicated "investigations will be carried out regarding some of these incidents ... and we will see what comes out of this," he said.

Israeli Army spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani asserted Sunday that Israel has tried to maintain constant contact with UNIFIL and that any instance of UN forces being harmed will be investigated at "the highest level."

North Korea blows up inter-Korean roads as tensions with South soar

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said North Korea blew up the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use on Tuesday, as the rivals are locked in rising animosities over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a brief statement that North Korea blew up parts of the roads on Tuesday.

It said South Korea's military is bolstering its readiness and surveillance posture but gave no further details.

The explosions came a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called a meeting with his top military and security officials. During the meeting, Kim described the alleged South Korean drone flights as the "enemy's serious provocation" and laid out unspecified tasks related to "immediate military action" and the operation of his "war deterrent" for defending the country's sovereignty, the North's state media reported earlier Tuesday. North Korea earlier put front-



line artillery and other army units on standby to launch strikes on South Korea, if drones from South Korea are found over North Korea again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish North Korea if the safety of its citizens is threatened. Destroying the roads would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea, formally cement it as his country's principal enemy and abandon the

North's decades-long objective to seek a peaceful Korean unification.

During the previous era of inter-Korean detente in the 2000s, the two Koreas reconnected two road routes and two rail tracks across their heavily fortified border. But their operations later were suspended one by one as the Koreas wrangled over North Korea's nuclear programme and other issues.

Last week, North Korea said it would permanently block its

border with South Korea and build front-line defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US forces.

South Korean officials said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and laying mines along the border since earlier this year. They said North Korea has also planted mines and removed lamps along its sections of the inter-Korean roads and taken out ties on the northern side of the rail-

Top leaders attend Iranian Revolutionary Guard general's funeral

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The funeral of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard general killed alongside Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah drew the largest crowd of top leaders in the paramilitary organization together Tuesday for the first time since Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack on Israel.

Rumours circulated for weeks over the status of the head of the Guard's expeditionary arm, Gen. Esmail Qaani, but the Quds Force leader was seen in a black bomber jacket wiping away tears early Tuesday morning at the body repatriation at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes in the southern Gaza Strip killed at least 15 people overnight, including six children and two women, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday. In northern Gaza, where Israel has

been waging an air and ground campaign in Jabaliya for more than a week, residents said families were still trapped in their homes and shelters.

It's been more than a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people.

In solidarity with Hamas, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has exchanged cross-border fire with Israel almost daily for the past year. Israel escalated its campaign against the group in recent weeks.



Mourners pray near the coffin of Iranian Revolutionary Guards' deputy commander Brigadier Gen. Abbas Nilforushan who died in an Israeli airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last month during his funeral in Karbala, Iraq. AP/PTI

Iran's General issues threat

AP ■ DUBAI

A general in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard directly threatened the lives of Israelis during a funeral service in Tehran for a general slain alongside Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

The comment from Gen. Ali Fadavi, a deputy commander in chief of the Guard, comes as Iran awaits a threatened retaliation by Israel over its October 1 ballistic missile attack.

"That land is a small land. It's not even as big as one of Iran's small provinces," Fadavi said. "If we will, we can obliterate all the Zionists." Iranian officials routinely refer to Israelis as "Zionists."

Imran's party calls off protest in Pak ahead of SCO summit

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

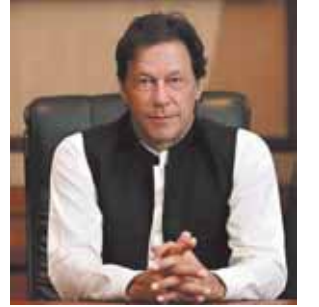
Pakistan's main opposition called off its protest on Tuesday as the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation begins here under tight security.

The two-day meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in fields of economy, trade, environment and socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organisation. Pakistan assumed the rotating chair of the SCO CHG, the second highest forum within the SCO, for 2023-24 at the previous meeting, held in Bishkek in October 2023. The CHG meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Belarus Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, Kazakhstan Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Chairman of Ministers Cabinet Zhaparov Akyzbek, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are participating.

The threat of unrest was avoided when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf last night agreed to call off its protest in the capital after the assurance by the government that a medical team would be allowed to meet its jailed leader 72-year-old Imran Khan.

It has announced a protest to force the government to allow a meeting with Khan in jail after authorities stopped all kinds of meetings with inmates in Adiala Jail Rawalpindi, including Khan, ahead of the



SCO meeting. However, the issue was resolved late Monday night when the PTI accepted assurance by the government that a doctor would be allowed to see Khan on Tuesday.

"After long consideration and negotiations that went back and forth... we decided to call off the protest," Khan's international spokesman Zulfiqar Bukhari said in a WhatsApp voice message.

He also said that the PTI was also urged by its political allies and friendly embassies to postpone the protest.

Earlier, the government had warned to deal with any kind of protest with an iron hand. Elaborate security measures have been taken and about 10,000 police personnel deployed who have the support of paramilitary rangers and regular army troops.

The government announced three-day official leave in the capital and neighbouring Rawalpindi to avoid unnecessary hassle during the conference.

Section 144 has also been imposed in the twin cities to outlaw all gatherings.

Over 400,000 children in Lebanon displaced by war: UN

AP ■ BEIRUT

More than 400,000 children in Lebanon have been displaced in the past three weeks, a top official with the UN children's agency said Monday, warning of a "lost generation" in the small country grappling with multiple crises and now in the middle of war.

Israel has escalated its campaign against the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militant group, including launching a ground invasion, after a year of exchanges of fire during its war with Hamas in Gaza.

The fighting in Lebanon has driven 1.2 million people from their homes, most of them fleeing to Beirut and elsewhere in the north over the past three weeks since the escalation.

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF's deputy executive director for humanitarian actions, has visited schools that have been turned into shelters to host displaced families.



"What struck me is that this war is three weeks old and so many children have been affected," Chaiban told The Associated Press in Beirut. "As we sit here today, 1.2 million children are deprived of education. Their public schools have either been rendered inaccessible, have been damaged by

the war or are being used as shelters. The last thing this country needs, in addition to everything else it has gone through, is the risk of a lost generation."

While some Lebanese private schools are still operating, the public school system has been badly affected by the war, along

with the country's most vulnerable people such as Palestinian and Syrian refugees. What I'm worried about is that we have hundreds of thousands of Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian children that are at risk of losing their learning," Chaiban said. More than 2,300 people in

Lebanon have been killed in Israeli strikes, nearly 75% of them over the last month, according to the Health Ministry. In the last three weeks, more than 100 children were killed and over 800 were wounded, Chaiban said. He said displaced children are crammed into overcrowded shelters where three or four families can live in a classroom separated by a plastic sheet, and where 1,000 people can share 12 toilets. Not all of them work.

Many displaced families found have set up tents along roads or on public beaches. Most displaced children have experienced so much violence, including the sounds of shelling or gunshots, that they cower at any loud noise, Chaiban said. Then there is "evacuation orders upon evacuation orders. We're at the beginning, and already there's been a profound impact," he said.

The escalation has also put over 100 primary health care facilities out of service, while 12

hospitals are either no longer working or partially functional. Water infrastructure has also come under attack. In the last three weeks, 26 water stations providing water to almost 350,000 people have been damaged, Chaiban said. UNICEF is working with local authorities to repair them.

He called for civilian infrastructure to be protected. And he appealed for a cease-fire in Lebanon and in Gaza, saying there needs to be political will and a realization that the conflict cannot be resolved through military means.

"What we must do is make sure that this stops, that this madness stops, that there's a cease-fire before we get to the kind of destruction and pain and suffering and death that we've seen in Gaza," Chaiban said.

With so many needs, he said, the emergency response appeal for USD 108 million in Lebanon has only been 8% funded three weeks into the escalation.

Trump's economic plans would worsen inflation: Experts

AP ■ WASHINGTON

With characteristic bravado, Donald Trump has vowed that if voters return him to the White House, "inflation will vanish completely". It's a message tailored for Americans who are still exasperated by the jump in consumer prices that began 3 1/2 years ago.

Yet most mainstream economists say Trump's policy proposals wouldn't vanquish inflation. They'd make it worse. They warn that his plans to impose huge tariffs on imported goods, deport millions of migrant workers and demand a voice in the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies would likely send prices surging. Sixteen Nobel Prize-winning economists signed a letter in June expressing fear that Trump's proposals would "reignite" inflation, which has plummeted since peaking at 9.1

per cent in 2022 and is nearly back to the Fed's 2 per cent target.

Last month, the Peterson Institute for International Economics predicted that Trump's policies would drive consumer prices sharply higher two years into his second term. Peterson's analysis concluded that inflation, which would otherwise register 1.9 per cent in 2026, would instead jump to between 6 per cent and 9.3 per cent if Trump's economic proposals were adopted. Many economists aren't thrilled with Vice President Kamala Harris' economic agenda, either. They dismiss, for example, her proposal to combat price gouging as an ineffective tool against high grocery prices. But they don't regard her policies as particularly inflationary. Moody's Analytics has estimated that Harris' policies would leave the inflation outlook virtually unchanged, even

if she enjoyed a Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress. An unfettered Trump, by contrast, would leave prices higher by 1.1 percentage points in 2025 and 0.8 percentage points in 2026.

Taxes on imports — tariffs — are Trump's go-to economic policy. He argues that tariffs protect American factory jobs from foreign competition and deliver a host of other benefits. While in office, Trump started a trade war with China, imposing high tariffs on most Chinese goods. He also raised import taxes on foreign steel and aluminum, washing machines and solar panels. He has grander plans for a second term: Trump wants to impose a 60 per cent tariff on all Chinese goods and a "universal" tariff of 10 per cent or 20 per cent on everything else that enters the United States. Trump insists that the cost of taxing imported goods is

absorbed by the foreign countries. The truth is that US importers pay the tariff — and then typically pass along that cost to consumers in the form of higher prices. Americans themselves end up bearing the cost.

Kimberly Clausen and Mary Loberly of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump's proposed 60 per cent tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20 per cent tariff on everything else would, in combination, impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of USD 2,600 a year. The Trump campaign notes that US inflation remained low even as Trump aggressively imposed tariffs as president. But Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that the magnitude of Trump's current tariff proposals has vastly changed the calculations. "The Trump tariffs in 2018-19 didn't have as large an

impact as the tariffs were only just over USD 300 billion in mostly Chinese imports," he said. "The former president is now talking about tariffs on over USD 3 trillion in imported goods." And the inflationary backdrop was different during Trump's first term when the Fed worried that inflation was too low, not too high.

Trump, who has invoked incendiary rhetoric about immigrants, has promised the "largest deportation operation" in US history. Many economists the increased immigration over the past couple years helped tame inflation while avoiding a recession. The surge in foreign-born workers has made it easier for fill vacancies. That helps cool inflation by easing the pressure on employers to sharply raise pay and to pass on their higher labour costs by increasing prices. Net immigration — arrivals

minus departures — reached 3.3 million in 2023, more than triple what the government had expected. Employers needed the new arrivals. As the economy roared back from pandemic lockdowns, companies struggled to hire enough workers to keep up with customer orders. Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, the number of people in the United States who either have a job or are looking for one rose by nearly 8.5 million. Roughly 72 per cent of them were foreign born. Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating the economy. In the past, economists estimated that America's employers could add no more than 100,000 jobs a month without

igniting inflation. But when Edelberg and Watson factored in the immigration surge, they found that monthly job growth could reach 160,000 to 200,000 without exerting upward pressure on prices.

Trump's mass deportations, if carried out, would change everything. The Peterson Institute calculates that the US inflation rate would be 3.5 percentage points higher in 2026 if Trump managed to deport all 8.3 million undocumented immigrant workers thought to be working in the United States.

Trump alarmed many economists in August by saying he would seek to have "a say" in the Fed's interest rate decisions. The Fed is the government's chief inflation-fighter. It attacks high inflation by raising interest rates to restrain borrowing and spending, slow the economy and cool the rate of price increases.

Economic research has found that the Fed and other central banks can properly manage inflation only if they're kept independent of political pressure. That's because raising rates can cause economic pain — perhaps a recession — so it's anathema to politicians seeking reelection.

As president, Trump frequently hounded Jerome Powell, the Fed chair he had chosen, to lower rates to try to juice the economy. For many economists, Trump's public pressure on Powell exceeded even the attempts that Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon made to push previous Fed chairs to keep rates low — moves that were widely blamed for helping spur the chronic inflation of the late 1960s and '70s. The Peterson Institute report found that upending the Fed's independence would increase inflation by 2 percentage points a year.

PM Modi advocates ethical global digital framework

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a fervent pitch for framing of a global digital framework, with clear-cut dos and don'ts for ethical use of technology. Speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication Union - WTSA and India Mobile Congress here, he said just like the aviation sector, where the global community has framed a comprehensive framework, the digital world too needs rules and regulations. Global institutions, he said,



should come together to work out dos and don'ts. He went on to emphasise on ethical use of AI with security, dignity, equity being at the centre. Talking of India's experience, he said after the expeditious

roll out, 5G telecom services are now available in most places across the country and work on 6G has already begun. Giving out statistics, the Prime Minister said India has in the last decade become an exporter of mobile phones

from being an importer, and has laid an optic fibre network that is eight-time more than the distance between earth and the moon. India's digital vision that was unveiled in 2014 rests on four pillars making devices cheaper, connectivity reaching all concerns, affordable data and digital-first, he said. "We have made digital connectivity an effective tool for last-mile delivery," he said. Modi said India is willing to share its experience of successful building of digital public infrastructure with the rest of the world.

India poised to lead global 6G: Scindia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is resolved to lead the world in 6G, communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday, terming the telecom sector of the country as 'aggressive' and 'ambitious'. Scindia, speaking at the inauguration of India Mobile Congress and World Telecommunication Standardization (WTSA) 2024, said with the Bharat 6G Alliance, India hopes to contribute at least 10 per cent patents to 6G standardisation. "It is our belief and our commitment India followed the world in 4G, we marched with the world in 5G, but we shall lead the world in 6G," the minister asserted. With the fastest 5G rollout in India wherein 98 per cent of districts and 90 per cent of all villages were covered in a



span of just 21 months, Scindia said it is the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort of not just embracing, but bracing the country to become the first-mover in 6G technology. "It is noteworthy that the Indian Mobile Congress and the International 6G Symposium demonstrates both local and global advancements in 6G, and also design principles that will shape the future of telecom," he further said.

The recent changes to the Telecommunications Act 2023 have been designed in such a way so as to modernise India's telecom framework, drawing light upon hitherto unaddressed areas such as the high potential sector of satellite communications, addressing the challenges of the digital era, the most important being cyber security, Scindia said. "The telecom sector, much like other growth-critical sectors in India, is aggressive,

is ambitious, and its outlook in our journey from Amrit Kaal to Shatabdi Kaal is to lead the world," he said. India Mobile Congress (IMC) is an annual event organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). IMC 2024 will see participation from over 400 exhibitors, nearly 900 startups, and participation from 120+ countries. About 3,200 delegates from over 160 countries are part of the WTSA assembly. "We are confident that this (WTSA), along with the Indian Mobile Congress in its 8th edition. Will serve as a breeding ground for innovation, but also showcase India's impending but inevitable emergence as a global hub for telecommunications across the world," Scindia said.

Government planning development beyond elections: Vaishnaw

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is laying the process of development which is beyond the cycle of elections for India to be able to grow six to seven times the current level to become a developed nation by 2047, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday. Addressing a symposium by the Indian Foundation for Quality Management (IFQM), the Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, said one of the key elements of the government's goal of a developed nation is having "a very inclusive and harmonious society". For India to become a developed nation by 2047, the target for measurable parameters is "USD 18,000 per capita income



and USD 30 trillion nominal GDP", he said. "Today, we are just shy of USD 4 trillion nominal (GDP), just shy of about USD 3,000 nominal per capita.

It means we have a path where we need to grow about '6x' '7x' in the next 25 years," Vaishnaw asserted. Sharing the government's approach to meet the

target, the minister said, "It needs a very strong foundation, a very carefully thought through strategy, meticulous execution, and laying the process of development, which is beyond the cycle of elections." He further said that the intent of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to build further on the foundation laid in the past ten years. "What we are going to do in these five years of Prime Minister Modi, his third term, will be beyond the cycle of elections will be beyond the cycle of business cycles," Vaishnaw said. Taking a dig at the Opposition without naming anyone, he added it will be beyond "people who can, who have a lot of destructive mindsets. It's beyond the capability

of such destructive mindsets. That's the thought process." Elaborating on what the government meant by becoming a developed nation, the minister said, "First is a very inclusive and harmonious society. First and foremost is a very inclusive and harmonious society, a society which cares for everybody, a society which considers every section of the society as equally important and gives opportunities for everybody to come up." He further said, "The second big element of being a Viksit Bharat is to have the social, physical and digital infra place in place." The third, he said is meeting the measurable parameters of per capita income and GDP to meet the set targets.

Samsung workers call off strike, to return to work: TN govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over a month-long indefinite strike by the employees of Samsung India Electronics Ltd at its plant near here was called off on Tuesday and the workers have decided to resume work, the Tamil Nadu government said. The state government in a statement said the strike at the factory of the Korean electronics giant in Sripurambudur has come to an end and all the workers would get back to work. Pressing for various demands, about 1,100 workers of the total 1,750 employees of Samsung India have been on strike since September 9, which includes wage revision, better work conditions, registration of the newly formed Samsung India Workers Union backed by



CITU by the labour department. The decision to call off the strike was taken at the conciliatory meeting which was held at the office of the Department of Labour Welfare here on Tuesday in which representatives from the Samsung India and the

striking workers took part. "All the striking workers will call off the agitation and return to work immediately. On returning to work the management will not victimise the workers for having participated in the protest," an official release said.

Coal India digitises fuel supply agreements process

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Tuesday said that it has started the online process of signing fuel supply pacts with its various clients including those in the power sector to ensure ease of business. With this move, CIL has discontinued with the earlier practice of physical submission of official papers, while bank guarantees and other required documents can be submitted through digital mode. "Coal India Ltd, in a first ever, introduced online signing of fuel supply agreements (FSA) for power as well as non-regulated sector customers participating under linkage based auctions," the company said in a statement. To ensure ease of business, CIL said, it has also cut down

the number of documents that were required to be submitted. "The online signing of FSAs for linkage auctions...Evades the cumbersome process of physical submission of voluminous documents. It ushers in greater customer ease as they can conduct the entire process from their place of work without having to visit the coal companies," a senior executive of the company said. Previously, in case of any discrepancy in documents, customers had to visit the company to get them rectified. Now, this can be done online. CIL signs hundreds of FSAs annually necessitating maintenance of bulky documents. The electronic arrangement makes the upkeep much easier.



Since the documents are stored digitally, tracking the status of progress also gets simplified at supplier and customer ends. Among non-regulated sectors so far, nearly 700 FSAs have been formalised online for a total of about 19 million tonnes of coal supply. In case of power sector 262 FSAs have been signed digitally till now for a total quantity of around 24 MT. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

Corporate India to maintain 9.5 per cent salary increase in 2025: WTW survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Corporate India is expected to offer a salary hike of 9.5 per cent in 2025, similar to the 2024 actual salary increase, as companies are balancing optimism with caution, a report said on Tuesday. According to WTW's latest Salary Budget Planning Report, the median salary increase in India is forecasted to rise by 9.5 per cent in 2025, similar to the 2024 actual salary increase of 9.5 per cent. Salary increases in India continue to be the highest across the region. Markets such as Vietnam (7.6 per cent), Indonesia (6.5 per cent), the Philippines (5.6 per cent), China (5 per cent) and Thailand (5 per cent) are also projected to maintain a strong salary increase for next year. The Salary Budget Planning Report is compiled by WTW's Rewards Data Intelligence practice. The

survey was conducted in April and June 2024. Approximately 32,000 responses were received from companies across 168 countries worldwide. The survey had 709 participants from India. "While companies in India are optimistic about growth, they are balancing optimism with caution. The era of 'Great resignation' is behind us, both employers and employees are now seeking stability and the market sentiment is notably steadier," Rajul Mathur, Consulting Leader, Work and Rewards, WTW India said. In 2025, salary increases across industries such as the Pharmaceuticals (10 per cent), Manufacturing (9.9 per cent), Insurance (9.7 per cent), Captives and SSO sectors (9.7 per cent) and Retail (9.6 per cent) are likely to be above the general industry salary median, whereas software and



Business Services at 9 per cent are projected below the general industry median of 9.5 per cent. "India's captive sector is thriving, with a forecasted jump from around 1,500 captives in 2023 to 2,000 by 2025. As the home to nearly half of the world's global capability centres, the country's rich pool of skilled talent is driving innovation and boosting projected salary increases", Mathur added. In 2025, variable payouts are projected to remain consistent at 12.5 per cent, following 2024's 12.6 per cent. As organisations prioritise performance, they are assigning larger portions

of their variable pay budgets to top and above-average performers, ensuring talent is recognised and suitably rewarded. "Organisations are placing a stronger emphasis on performance-based pay differentiation. This trend sees top performers potentially earning salary increments three times that of average performers, while above-average performers are expected to receive about 1.2 times the increment of an average performer," Mathur said. In terms of hiring, almost 28 per cent of companies plan to add headcount in the next 12 months, while 68 per cent companies plan to maintain their headcount in 2025 as compared to the previous year. With higher growth rates anticipated, India's voluntary attrition rate continues to be one of the highest in the region. However, it is observed that the voluntary attrition rates in India have reduced slightly from 11 per cent in 2023 to 10.8 per cent in 2024. In addition, around 46 per cent of companies in India expect that their salary increase budgets for 2025 will be similar to 2024, while 28 per cent said that the budgets are likely to be lower than projected. Concerns related to cost management, inflationary pressures, anticipated recession. A tighter labour market are the major factors influencing budget projections for 2025, the report said.

Government to verify air purifier claims amid pollution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday announced plans to conduct market surveillance to verify claims made by air purifier manufacturers, amid rising concerns about pollution in Delhi and other major cities. This move comes in response to Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday accusing some companies of making false assertions about their products. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, addressing a media briefing on Tuesday, stated, "We will try to see through market surveillance and check if the claims are correct or not." Khare also mentioned that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has taken note of the issue and will examine compliance with existing quality control orders on air filters. The announcement follows Joshi's remarks at a World Standards Day event, where



he expressed concern over misleading marketing tactics. "Air purifiers make such false claims. We see air purifiers and so much is written but nothing is there in it. There is just a fan in it, yet claims are still made," Joshi had said, highlighting the need for increased consumer awareness. The minister advocated for a collaborative approach involving the BIS, the consumer affairs ministry, and consumers to address the issue. This initiative comes at a time when rising pollution levels in Indian cities have led to increased public interest in air purifiers.

Soybean output reaches 126 lakh tonnes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Soybean production in the country has increased by about 6 per cent to nearly 126 lakh tonnes in the current kharif season due to favourable weather conditions, an organisation of the crop processors said on Tuesday. Its acreage remained almost the same as last season, the trade body said. During the last kharif season, the average productivity of soybean per hectare in the country was 1,002 kg, while this time it has increased to 1,063 kg. Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) Executive Director D N Pathak told PTI. "This time the distribution of monsoon rains in the major soybean producing areas of the country was good, which boosted the crop yield. The adoption of advanced methods of farming by cultivators and increased the crop yield," he said. After the sowing of soybean during the kharif season of 2023, there was a severe lack of moisture in the fields due to lack of rain for three weeks in the major soybean producing areas in August, as a result the crop productivity



fell, Pathak said. As per the SOPA's estimate, during the kharif season in the country this time, soybean was sown in 118.32 lakh hectares and its yield was 125.82 lakh tonnes. During the kharif season of 2023, soybean was sown in a total of 118.55 lakh hectares in the country and the yield of this oilseed crop was around 118.74 lakh tonnes, as per the association's data. This time in Madhya Pradesh, which is the largest soybean producer in the country, the crop was sown in about 52 lakh hectares and its production stood at the level of 55.40 lakh tonnes, according to the SOPA. In the current kharif season, soybean production is estimated to be 50.17 lakh

tonnes from 45 lakh hectares of area in Maharashtra, while the crop was sown in 11.13 lakh hectares in Rajasthan and its yield was around 10.53 lakh tonnes, as per the organisation. India imports about 60 per cent of its edible oil requirements. In such a situation, experts feel that to achieve the ambitious target of self-sufficiency in the production of edible oils, there is a need to increase the production of major oilseed crops like soybean in the country. The central government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of soybean for the marketing season 2024-25 to Rs 4,892 per quintal from Rs 4,600 per quintal in the last season.

ASSOCHAM, Savlon lead handwashing drive in NDMC schools

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to inculcate the importance of healthy habits among students and encourage widespread behaviour change in hygiene practices through handwashing, ASSOCHAM Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR), the social arm of ASSOCHAM, organised an awareness drive across New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) schools here on the occasion of 'Global Handwashing Day'. Supported by hygiene brand Savlon and covering nearly 28,000 students across 43 NDMC schools, AFCSR conducted the programme in a hub and spoke model in which a mega activity was organised at Atal Aadarsh Bengali Balika Vidyalaya, Gole Market and parallel activities were carried out in other NDMC schools. Speaking about the initiative, Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National CSR Council, said, "There is an old saying that good habits formed at a young age make



all the difference. I believe that on this global handwashing day, the youth have to understand, incorporate and disseminate information on the importance of handwashing. Every year about 1.8 million children under the age of 5 die from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia that are attributed to poor hand hygiene, and therefore, it is my firm conviction that the incorporation of this habit in our daily routine will go a long way in leading a healthy and productive life at an individual level, along with creating a high performing society that will increasingly

contribute towards nation building." Pramod Kumar, Academic Consultant, New Delhi Municipal Council, (NDMC), said, "Awareness and behaviour formation from an early age has a multiplying effect on the potential benefits and impact on human lives. Today's event not only highlights the importance of handwashing, it also delivers valuable lessons on the impact of personal hygiene on public health and betterment. Initiatives such as this will surely have a positive impact on the future of the children and also of the society in general."

Lakshya, Malvika make first-round exits at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

India's Lakshya Sen battled hard against China's Lu Guang Zu but ultimately lost in three games to make an early exit from the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. Lakshya, a 2021 World championship bronze medallist, squandered an opening game advantage, losing 21-12 19-21 14-21 to Lu in a men's singles opening round match which lasted 70 minutes. The 22-year-old from Alмора, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, had previously lost in the second round of the Arctic Open in Finland last week.

Malvika Bansod, who had reached the quarterfinals at China Open, also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down to Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh 13-21 12-21 in women's singles. Panda sisters Rutaparna and Swetaparna also made a first-round exit after losing 18-21 22-24 against Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in women's doubles. Lakshya, competing in his second event since the Olympics, kept pace with his Chinese rival before pulling ahead at 8-8 to take an 11-9 advantage at the break. The Indian kept his nose ahead after resumption and jumped to 20-11 with a



seven-point burst to comfortably pocket the opening game. After the change of sides, Lakshya surged to 8-2 but Lu rallied to narrow the gap to 11-12. The Indian extended his lead to 16-11 but Lu's persistence paid off as he kept troubling Lakshya and reversed the situation, taking 19-18 lead. The Indian drew parity but Lu got the required two points to script a comeback. In the decider, Lu maintained his composure and pulled ahead to 14-9, while the Indian struggled to keep pace. In a jiffy, Lu seized six match points and sealed the victory when Lakshya went long.



Alex Ferguson to step down as club ambassador

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

Manchester United great Alex Ferguson will step down from his role as club ambassador at the end of the season, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the move has not been publicly announced.

Ferguson will be 83 in December and the person said the ending of his ambassadorship was "amicable" and he would "always be welcome at Old Trafford."

Ferguson won 13 Premier League titles with United and is widely regarded as one of the finest managers in the history of soccer. He is United's most successful manager, having won 28 major trophies.

He has been a club ambassador since retiring after leading United to its last league title in 2013. His imminent departure comes at a time when the club is undergoing major change following the partial buyout by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe in February.

United has undergone an extensive restructuring program following Ratcliffe's investment of \$1.3 billion for a 27.7% stake and implemented cost-saving initiatives that it said included staff redundancies of around 250 roles. United reported losses of 113.2 million pounds (\$148 million) in its latest accounts. Ferguson was hired by United in 1986 at a time when the club had long-since lost its place as the pre-eminent force in English soccer.

He ended its 26-year wait for the league title in 1993 and went on to dominate the Premier League era right up until his retirement when United was crowned champion with an 11-point lead over Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City.

He also won two Champions League titles and an unprecedented treble of trophies in 1999 when leading United to victory in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

He has been a regular spectator at United games since his retirement, watching the team home and away during a time when the club has been in obvious decline on the field. Ratcliffe assumed control of United's soccer operations as part of his minority investment. The sporting side had previously been under the control of the majority owning American Glazer family.

A new CEO, Omar Berrada, and sporting director, Dan Ashworth, have been installed, while key figures at Ratcliffe's Ineos Sport, Dave Brailsford and Jean-Claude Blanc, have been appointed to the board.

Udita attracts highest bid in first half of HIL women's auction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian defender Udita Duhan emerged as the costliest buy in the first half of the Hockey India League women's auction after she was acquired by Shrachi Rah Bengal Tigers for Rs 32 lakh here on Tuesday. Dutch star drag-flicker Yibbi Janssen was the second most expensive player and was bought by Odisha Warriors for Rs 29 lakh.

Indian players Lalremisiami (for Rs 25 lakh to Shrachi Rah Bengal Tigers), Sunelita Toppo (for Rs 24 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers), and Sangita Kumari (for Rs 22 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers) attracted significant attention in the first half of the auction.

Several overseas players, including Belgium's Charlotte Englebret (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), Germany's Charlotte Stapenhorst (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), and Australia's Jocelyn Bartram (for Rs 15 lakh to Odisha Warriors) were the notable buys. Veteran India striker Vandana Katariya fetched Rs 10.5 lakh from Shrachi Rah Bengal Tigers.



India captain Salima Tete (Rs 20 lakh), Ishika Chaudhary (Rs 16 lakh) and Neha Goyal (Rs 10 lakh) were picked up by Odisha Warriors. Former India captain Savita (Rs 20 lakh), Sharmila Devi (Rs 10 lakh) and Nikki Pradhan (Rs 12 lakh) are some of the big Indian names bought by Soorma

Hockey Club. Delhi SG Pipers also picked up India internationals Navneet Kaur (Rs 19 lakh), young goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam (Rs 16 lakh) and Deepika (Rs 20 lakh). In the first half of the auction, all four franchises made strategic bids to build their core team.

I waited for many years for women's HIL: Rani Rampal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rani Rampal waited for the historic fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, will be the mentor and coach of Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana in the women's HIL which will make its debut later this year.

Rani, who captained India to a historic fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, will be the mentor and coach of Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana in the women's HIL which will make its debut later this year. "Hockey is my passion and I played my entire career with that. It was always in my mind that I will definitely accept any opportunity to serve Indian hockey. Hockey was always on the sidelines of the HIL women's auction here on Tuesday. "I tried a lot to make a comeback in the national team but could not do so before the Paris Olympics. I had waited for many years for this women's league and when it started, it felt very good to be a part of the coaching staff and not as a player," said the 30-year-old Padma Shri awardee, who has scored 134 goals in 212 matches for India. "Asked why she opted out of the



league as she had not officially announced her retirement yet, Rani said: "I am a female player and I have faced a lot of struggles. A player is always a player. The desire to play never ends. "But sometimes you have to make a difficult decision and I decided to join the coaching staff.

"It is difficult to talk about retirement right now. Now I will face a new challenge in the league and after that I will take a final decision." Rani admitted that India's failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics was a setback for women's hockey in the country, but said there is no point in thinking about the

past now.

"Finishing fourth at the Tokyo Olympics was a watershed moment for Indian women's hockey. It took many years for this and the players, federation, and coaches worked very hard. "We did not qualify for Paris which was a big setback but there is a new learning in sports every day. Winning and losing are part of the game," she said.

"No team wants to lose. We cannot change the past but now we have to look for 2028. The first goal should be to win gold in the 2026 Asian Games and qualify directly for the Olympics. The women's league can be very helpful in preparing a pool of players."

"Rani also lauded the appointment of Harendra Singh as the women's team coach. "The good thing is Harendra Sir has returned as a coach with whom I have played a lot of hockey. The biggest advantage with him is that he knows our culture and language. Many of our players come from rural areas and they understand when we talk to them in Hindi," she said. "Harendra Sir always thinks of winning for the country and instills the same feeling in players.

Bangladesh coach Hathurusingha suspended



Chandika Hathurusingha

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has suspended men's team head coach Chandika Hathurusingha due to inappropriate conduct by him during last year's ODI World Cup in India.

"Hathurusingha, the former Sri Lanka all-rounder under whom Bangladesh recently endured a forgettable tour of

India where they were whitewashed in both the Test and T20I series, will be sacked and replaced by former West Indies player Phil Simmons.

"According to ESPNcricinfo, Simmons, who was also an all-rounder and opened the batting for the West Indies in the early and mid 1990s, will be in charge of the Bangladesh team until next year's ICC Champions

Trophy. "Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha has been suspended following allegations he slapped a player at last year's ODI World Cup. His contract will be terminated after 48 hours of suspension, with Phil Simmons to take over until next year's Champions Trophy," the website said. "The BCB investigated an

allegation from a player that the coach had slapped him during the World Cup last year.

"The contract of the 56-year-old Hathurusingha, who rejoined the Bangladesh team in February last year for a second stint with the Asian side, was to expire after the 2025 Champions Trophy.

"He will therefore not be present with the team for the upcoming two-match Test series at home against South Africa.

"He took the team to India on the back of a historic Test series sweep in Pakistan only to suffer an embarrassing 0-2 defeat in the two-Test series against Rohit Sharma's side and a 0-3 loss in the T20I series. "His exit marks an underwhelming end to his brief stint as Bangladesh coach with debacles in the 2023 ODI World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Arsenal Women coach Jonas Eidevall quits less than a month into the new season

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal Women manager Jonas Eidevall quit on Tuesday, less than a month into the new season. The English team has won just one of its first four matches in the Women's Super League and lost its opening game in the Champions League group stage, 5-2 at Bayern Munich. Eidevall joined in June 2021 from FC Rosengard in his native Sweden and led Arsenal to two League Cup titles as well as the Champions League semifinals in the 2022-23 season. It was the first time in 10 years Arsenal reached that stage in Europe's top club competition. His last game in charge was a 2-1 home loss to Chelsea in the Super League on Saturday. Arsenal said Eidevall



resigned with immediate effect. "We have great respect for the dedication and commitment he showed to our women's first team," Arsenal sporting director Edu Gaspar said of Eidevall, "and recognize the role he has played in the growth and

development of Arsenal Women." Assistant coach Renée Slegers will take charge of the team on an interim basis, starting with the home match against Valerenga in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Italy-Israel soccer match is held without incident despite security concerns

AP ■ UDINE

There were snipers on the roof of the stadium and a heavy police presence throughout the city of Udine for Italy's home match against Israel.

In the end, both the game and an earlier pro-Palestine demonstration passed without incident as Italy beat Israel 4-1 in the Nations League.

Udine was on high alert, with the game being played against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East which has spread to Lebanon after more than a year-long war in Gaza. It was the first match Israel has played outside neutral Hungary this year. After the Israel-Hamas war

started on Oct. 7 last year, the national soccer team played in Kosovo and Andorra last November.

All Israel matches since then have been in Hungary, including last month's game against Belgium in the Nations League after the Belgian Football Association refused to host the game for security reasons.

"We are going to play this match with the hope of convincing ever more people of the wrongness of war," Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said.

"There are many Israelis who don't want it and we must convince ever more people that this is something that has to stop." When Spalletti's team played its "away" match against



Israel last month in Hungary, a group of about 50 Italy fans clad in all black turned their backs in apparent protest during Israel's national anthem.

There were boos from some fans in Udine when the Israeli anthem was played on Monday but the rest of the stadium tried to drown that out with loud applause - just as they had done when the Israel team was read out. At least one Palestinian flag was held up.

There was a highly visible group of around a dozen Israel fans and they loudly chanted their support. Fewer than 12,000 tickets were sold for Monday's match - less than half the capacity of the 25,000-seater Stadio Friuli - amid stringent

security measures, that also included armed military personnel on the roof of the stadium.

Areas around the stadium were blocked off 48 hours before kickoff and declared a "red zone," and only fans with tickets could pass through the tall metal barriers.

Supporters were strongly advised to arrive early because of rigorous checks. Hundreds of extra police officers were called up from surrounding areas.

Around 1,000 people took part in a pro-Palestine demonstration earlier in the city center. Among the placards, there were several posters calling on soccer's governing bodies to ban Israel.

1ST TEST: GILL, JAISWAL CONTINUE GOOD FORM; KOHLI, ROHIT EYE CONSISTENT RUN

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, the torchbearers of India's transition phase, will have to be the team's driving force in its quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand when the two sides square off in a three-Test series, beginning here on Wednesday. The baton has not been completely passed, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are certainly running their last lap and these two young superstars will have to show that they can carry forward the legacy of the titans. Since a productive series against England earlier this year, Gill is now more familiar and comfortable with the rigours of Test cricket. His last 10 innings contain three hundreds and two fifties, while Jaiswal's last eight outings in Test cricket feature a 214 and five fifties. Those numbers are not to be scoffed at. But at the same time, it is important for them to build on the foundation through this series, a precursor to the much tougher journey to Australia next month. Gill seems to have sorted his issues with the in-coming

deliveries from pacers, but a trace of the old failing still remains. In Chennai, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud troubled him with nip-backers before eventually grabbing his wicket. Similarly, Jaiswal has a penchant to go for expansive shots against pace bowlers to get dismissed, evidenced by his three dismissals recently against Bangladesh quicks. In all, the left-hander has fallen to pacers 12 times in 20 innings, and he would want a better record before facing a clutch of top-class Australian pacers. While these concerns are not deeply rooted, they serve as cautionary points against a New Zealand attack that has capable hands in pacers Matt Henry, William O'Rourke and the experienced Tim Southee, if he gets to play here after a sharp decline in his form. There is another angle to the emergence of Jaiswal and Gill as the pillars of the Indian line-up, as Kohli and Rohit have not precisely set the field ablaze. Rohit, who has played 15 innings this year, has made two hundreds but managed only one fifty in the remaining 13, totaling 497



runs in eight Tests at just over 35. Kohli, 53 runs shy of 9000 Test runs, has not made even a fifty in six innings this year,

and while Rohit often perishes in his attempt to grab the momentum, his colleague offers a much more curious case. The 35-year-old Kohli

has not been able to convert the two starts he got this year, ending up with 46 (vs SA) and 47 (vs Bangladesh), stirring the uncomfortable memories

of that great slump between 2019 and 2023. The master batter will also have to keep an eye on New Zealand left-arm spinners -

Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra - the tribe which has been a thorn in his flesh in the past. It has been a while since these two stalwarts embodied their mark across a full series, and a nervy New Zealand could be their golden chance to do so. India has only minor concerns, but New Zealand's troubles across batting and bowling departments are more pronounced. Their batsmen struggled copiously against Sri Lankan spinners recently while losing an away series 0-2, and here they will have to negate two modern-day greats in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. They took 20 wickets together against Bangladesh and with the Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch expected to give some assistance to spinners, the veterans might be itching to have a bowl here. Besides the duo, the Kiwis will have to contend with the genius of Jasprit Bumrah, who rattled Bangladesh by picking up 11 wickets across two Tests. If they persist with the combination from the last series, Akash Deep will be the third pacer behind Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. The weather here is expected

to be gloomy over the course of the Test match, and there could be some delayed starts and truncated sessions. The management will take into account the fact that New Zealand, who have already lost Kane Williamson to an injury, were put through the wringer by Lankan spinners recently. In another blow, right-arm pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the series due to a knee injury. An uncapped Jacob Duffy, who has played six ODIs and 14 T20s, has been brought into the squad. Teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (c), Jasprit Bumrah (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep. New Zealand: Tom Latham (captain), Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Mark Chapman, Will Young, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Rachin Ravindra, Tom Blundell (wk), Ajaz Patel, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, William O'Rourke, Jacob Duffy.

Don't want to take undercooked Shami to Australia: Rohit

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee showdown. Shami last played for India during the ODI World Cup final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that. "To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series. He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual," Rohit told



reporters here on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand. "He was in the process of getting fit, getting close to 100 per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios and the doctors at NCA," he added. Rohit said the team management wants Shami to regain full fitness before returning to top-flight cricket. "We are keeping our fingers crossed, we want him to be 100 per cent fit. We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us. "It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so

much of cricket, and then suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted. Rohit said the National Cricket Academy staff will continue to assess Shami's fitness and he might play a couple of internal matches in that process. "We want to give him enough time to recover and be 100 per cent fit. The physios, the trainers, the doctors have set a roadmap for him. "He is supposed to play a couple of (practice) games before he plays international cricket," he added. Shami has played 64 Tests for India, taking 229 wickets at an impressive average of 27.71. India will play five Tests in Australia starting November 22.



New Zealand pacer Ben Sears ruled out of India tour due to knee injury

PTI ■ BENGALURU

New Zealand right-arm pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the upcoming three-Test series against India due to a knee injury. The opening Test begins here on Tuesday. Sears' departure to India was delayed after he experienced pain in his left knee during New Zealand's recent tour of Sri Lanka. Scans back home revealed a tear to his meniscus, prompting medical consultations in hopes he could be cleared to play. "However, following the medical advice, the decision was made to rule him out of the series. A plan on the best course of treatment and rehabilitation for the injury will be advised in due course," New Zealand Cricket said. Jacob Duffy has been called in as his replacement and the uncapped 30-year-old right-arm fast bowler will leave for India on Wednesday. Duffy has so far played six ODIs and 14 T20s for the

Kiwis and in 102 First-Class outings he has claimed 299 wickets. "We're obviously disappointed for Ben who made a strong start to his Test career during the home summer and offers a genuine pace option," New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said in a statement. "It remains to be seen how long we'll be without him for, but we're hopeful his road to a full recovery will be a short one. It's an exciting opportunity for Jacob who has been around Test the squad before. With three Tests ahead of us he has every chance of making his Test debut." Stead hoped Duffy's experience in County Championship would be beneficial for the player. "Jacob's recent experience playing for Nottinghamshire in the County Championship certainly pushed his place. His performances in white-ball cricket for the Blackcaps have always been impressive and we're confident he'll be able to contribute if called upon," he said.

Keeping Jasprit Bumrah quiet will go a long way in winning against India: Pat Cummins

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Australia will have to find a way to keep Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah quiet if they are to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, reckoned captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday as they draw comfort from success in last two ICC finals against their fierce rivals. The world's top two Test teams will clash in a five-match affair starting on November 22 in Perth and India will enter the contest having held the trophy for nearly a decade, which includes winning two consecutive series Down Under. "I'm a big fan of Bumrah. I think he's a fantastic bowler. Hopefully, if we can keep him quiet, that is going to go a long way to winning the series," Cummins said on the

Star Sports Press Room. "Alongside him, he has got some other guys who haven't played a lot over here in Australia (that) we haven't seen a lot of. We'll see how it goes," he added. Cummins said Australia will lean on happy memories of winning the last two ICC finals -- World Test Championship and ODI World Cup -- against Rohit Sharma's India. "The last two series were a long time ago. We have got over it," he said. "I've never played alongside him (Rohit Sharma), so I don't know him super well. But it has looked like they (Indian team) are pretty organised, pretty well-planned. "Fortunately, over the last few years, we've had some success in the World Test Championship final and (in



a different format for the ODI World Cup. We'll be trying to lean on those memories. As I'm sure they're trying to remember some of the previous series over here as well," he said. Pujara's absence will give a 'different feel' Cummins said playing against Cheteshwar Pujara, whose stoic resistance with the bat laid the foundation of India's away wins in 2018-19 and 2020-21, was 'real Test

cricket'. "It was always great playing (against) Pujara. He was one of those guys who never really felt like he was getting away from you. But then he would (just) bat, bat, bat and bat," he said. "I really enjoyed the contest against him. Some days he won, other days I won. It's going to have a bit of a different feel without him. Pujara is a great player." "(I) had lots of battles against

him over the years. I quite enjoyed them, to be honest. It was real Test cricket. He might score runs, but you always feel like you're in for a chance." Cummins said playing against India's former No 3 batter was a battle of outlasting each other. "It comes down to almost who wants to outlast each other, which I quite like that aspect of Test cricket. It's going to be a shame that he is not there, but I'm sure they'll pick someone else who's in a similar kind of style," he said. Cummins said the India-Australia rivalry will now be "mirroring" the Ashes given that there will be five Tests hereon. "I do think it is," said Cummins when asked if India-Australia rivalry matched that of the Ashes. "Particularly, after the Indian

team won the last couple of series at (our) home. We've had more success against England over the past decade. I think it's right up there," he said. "You know when you play against India, you've got a few Indian fans that are watching. It's a slightly different rivalry to England-Australia rivalry. But again, now having a five-Test match series, it does mirror the Ashes series very closely," he said. Cummins said India's reputation has been consolidated by winning away from home. "Winning (in) Test cricket away from home is as tough as it gets in our sport and India have done that around the world. They are really, really good at home but also, one of the better teams to travel as well that's their reputation," he said.

Latham looking forward to challenge of beating 'well-rounded' India

PTI ■ BENGALURU

New Zealand captain Tom Latham on Tuesday conceded that beating a "well-rounded" India would be an enormous task but said his team is ready to face the challenge over the course of a three-match Test series, beginning here from Wednesday. The presence of a host of experienced batters and bowlers, Latham said, makes India a formidable opponent. "You obviously look at the spinners when you come over these conditions. But they've got an equally good seam attack in Bumrah, Siraj, Akash Deep, who's played the last couple of Tests against Bangladesh. So just a

well-rounded side," Latham said in the pre-match press meet here on Tuesday. "From a batting point of view. You have a lot of match winners who can take a game away from you pretty quickly. "We're looking forward to the challenge. Hopefully, we can lean back on the experiences that we've had here the last couple of times that we've toured," he added. In that context, Latham said the Kiwis will miss the presence of former captain Kane Williamson, who has been ruled out of the early part of this tour owing to a groin injury. "It's disappointing not to have Kane here. Fingers crossed he'll be ready as soon as possible. I think



Youngie (Will Young) will play. He'll bat at three. He's batted all over the order. I guess it's his opportunity to put his hand up. "Yeah, obviously, disappointing when you miss a senior guy like Kane, but it gives opportunities for other guys to put their hand up," he said. However, Ben Sears getting ruled out because of a knee injury has opened up a chance for out of form veteran Tim Southee to get a place in the eleven. "Absolutely, I think last time they played a Test here, Tim took 7 for 60. Obviously, Ben Sears has been ruled out, so I guess if we do end up going with the three seamers, then obviously Tim will come right into the equation."

Latham admitted that the build-up to this series was not ideal after a 0-2 series defeat against Sri Lanka, but hoped to carry over the learning from that contest. "Obviously, results weren't ideal in Sri Lanka. I think that first Test was a reasonably small margin in terms of the defeat. But we actually did a lot of good stuff in that tour. "And, yeah, I guess you come here to India, it's slightly different conditions. That wicket at Galle didn't offer a lot from a bowling point of view," he noted. Latham is no stranger to captaincy but being in the hot seat on a permanent basis from the three-match series against India excites the Canterbury man.

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