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INSIDE

SPORTS  
VIVAAN WINS SILVER  
MEDAL IN SHOOTING  
WORLD CUP FINAL



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## Extradite Bishnoi gangsters: India to Canada

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid ongoing diplomatic tension between the two countries, India on Thursday said it had sought extradition of Lawrence Bishnoi gang members from Canada a few years back but it has not yet responded.

from Canada. He also informed there are 26 extradition requests from India pending with the Canadian side for a decade or so. The MEA gave names of Gurjit Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Arshdeep Singh Gill, Lakhbir Singh Landa, Gurpreet Singh for extradition, saying that the members of the Bishnoi gang were among them. "We informed Canada about the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and its syndicates and requested their provisional arrest and extradition some years back, and also recently. However, there has been no response from Canada so far", he said during a media

briefing. "We had shared some requests with the Canadian side for the arrest of those from Lawrence Bishnoi's gang. They haven't taken any action on our core concerns. There is a political motive also behind this," Jaiswal said. He also reiterated that Canada did not share any evidence in connection with the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "We have made our position very clear on this particular matter. You would have seen that several press releases have been issued in the last two days



putting out our position. Since September 2023, the Canadian government has not shared any shred of information with us", he

asserted. The Ministry also said Canada always brought forth 'freedom of speech' as their argument whenever India sought action against anti-India and separatist elements. The government's statement came a day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau named gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who was earlier mentioned by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for being allegedly involved in Nijjar's murder in September last year. Trudeau alleged that Indian diplomats were collecting

information on Canadians and passing it to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Trudeau, who testified before the country's foreign interference inquiry, claimed that the Canadian agencies tried to work behind the scenes with India before he went public with the allegations in the Nijjar killing. Jaiswal also said the current diplomatic row with Canada has been precipitated by the Trudeau government's "baseless" allegations, and reiterated that "no evidence" has been shared in support of Ottawa's serious allegations against New Delhi. Continued on page 8



## 15 bomb hoax threats received in a day

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The pattern of domestic airlines receiving bomb threats to their flights continued for the fourth consecutive day as Air India got a threat for five flights - Mumbai-London (AI 129), Delhi - New York JFK (AI 119), a Chennai-Singapore and two domestic - IndiGo and Vistara threats for two flights each, were targeted in the similar manner on Thursday. Air India Express is also learnt to have got similar messages for six flights but a confirmation is awaited from the airline. Four of these flights were still on the ground, while three were airborne at the time when the threats were received. The number of flights that have received such threats is now close to around three dozen since Monday, forcing flight diversions and delays, piling up massive operational costs.

On Thursday a Mumbai-bound Vistara flight from Frankfurt with 147 persons on board was immediately taken to security checks on its arrival from Frankfurt following the Boeing 787 aircraft receiving a bomb threat. The flight, UK 28, was over Pakistan when it transmitted the code 7700, having 134 passengers and 13 crew onboard indicating a general emergency at around 6 am (IST) on Thursday, landed in Mumbai at approximately 7.45 am. At the same time, an IndiGo flight operating from Istanbul in Turkey for Mumbai also received a bomb threat and was taken to an isolation bay here for the security agencies to carry out a comprehensive security check. "The Vistara flight UK 028 operating from Frankfurt to Mumbai on October 16, 2024 was subject to a security threat received on social media," the airline said. Continued on page 8



## Hooch returns to haunt Bihar, leaves 25 dead in its wake

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

In one of the biggest hooch tragedies in Bihar since the state went dry in 2016, at least 25 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in the adjoining districts of Siwan and Saran, a top officer said on Thursday. Director General of Police Alok Raj said that while Siwan accounted for 20 fatalities, five deaths have been reported from Saran even as 12 people have been arrested for allegedly selling spurious liquor and they were likely to be "tried under the most stringent laws and punished by the court". Chief Minister Nitish Kumar chaired a high-level meeting to review the situation where he instructed officials concerned to visit the site and ensure strongest possible



action against those found guilty. Kumar, who is the state's longest-serving CM, also made an impassioned appeal to the people of the state to "be on guard against elements who are trying to encourage consumption of liquor which plays havoc with people's lives and disrupts peace in families". Notably, the state government had confirmed more than 150 deaths on account of hooch since the ban on liquor came into force. Police said two special investigating teams have also been set up in the aftermath of the incident. Continued on page 8

## Team India gifts match to NZ



(L-R) Virat Kohli, Sarfaraz Khan, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin walking off the ground after being dismissed for a duck during the second day of the first Test cricket match between India and New Zealand, at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, Thursday PTI

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Taking the sparkle out of the Diwali mood, team India was bowled out for just 46 runs in a span of the first session of day's play on Thursday. India after winning the toss missed the opportunity to give their bowlers a crack against New Zealand in overcast conditions after day one got washed out due to rain, which bamboozled their batting strength on day two in Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

India's total of 46 has now become the lowest team score at home after 75 all out against West Indies in Delhi (1987). India who were riding sky high in ICC world Test Championship (2023-2025) got stunned by Kiwi bowlers. Matt Henry and William O'Rourke were the star performers under the grey sky. Indian Skipper Rohit Sharma was the first wicket down by Tim Southee, Virat Kohli who came after one down which usually is not his position to bat on test matches on

unfriendly conditions for batters, this move shifted KL Rahul to number six. However both Virat and Rahul went scoreless and were dismissed by William O'Rourke. Matt Henry who achieved a five wicket haul against India's batting lineup dismissed Sarfaraz Khan, R.Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on ducks and William O'Rourke took four wickets. India's scorecard includes five ducks which were the talking point of debaters in India's innings. Continued on page 8

## Police shoot at, arrest Bahaich prime accused

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Sarfaraz alias Rinku, the sprime accused in the murder of 22-year-old Ram Gopal Mishra, was reportedly injured in a police encounter near the Nepal border. Alongside Sarfaraz, another suspect, Talib, sustained bullet injuries during the exchange of fire. Both suspects were shot in the legs and were admitted to a State-run hospital for treatment. No fatalities have been reported as of now. They were among the five suspects arrested in this case.

## Work for national development: PM to NDA allies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

All the 13 Chief Ministers and 16 Deputy CMs of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies such as Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janata Dal (United), Shiv Sena viz chief ministers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Meghalaya vowed to work together for national development during the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance Chief Ministers' Council in Chandigarh, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting was called to discuss national development issues. The meeting schedule holds significance as it has come ahead of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls, and soon after the historic victory in Haryana and formation of a new government in Jammu and Kashmir. Twenty CMs of the NDA, and their deputies engaged in the half-day conclave, the first of its kind after many years. "Chaired a meeting of NDA Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers. We had extensive discussions on aspects of good governance and ways to improve people's lives. Our



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister JP Nadda with NDA Chief Ministers during National Democratic Alliance Chief Ministers' Council Meeting, in Chandigarh, Thursday PTI

alliance is committed to furthering national progress and empowering the poor and downtrodden," Modi said on his social media handle soon after the meeting. The proceedings of conclave commenced immediately after the swearing-in ceremony of newly-elected Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP National President J P Nadda, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu were present in the meeting. According to sources, the deliberations in this meeting covered a structured agenda covering all aspects of national development. "It also discussed subjects like observance of Sanvidhan Ka Amrut Mahotsav and

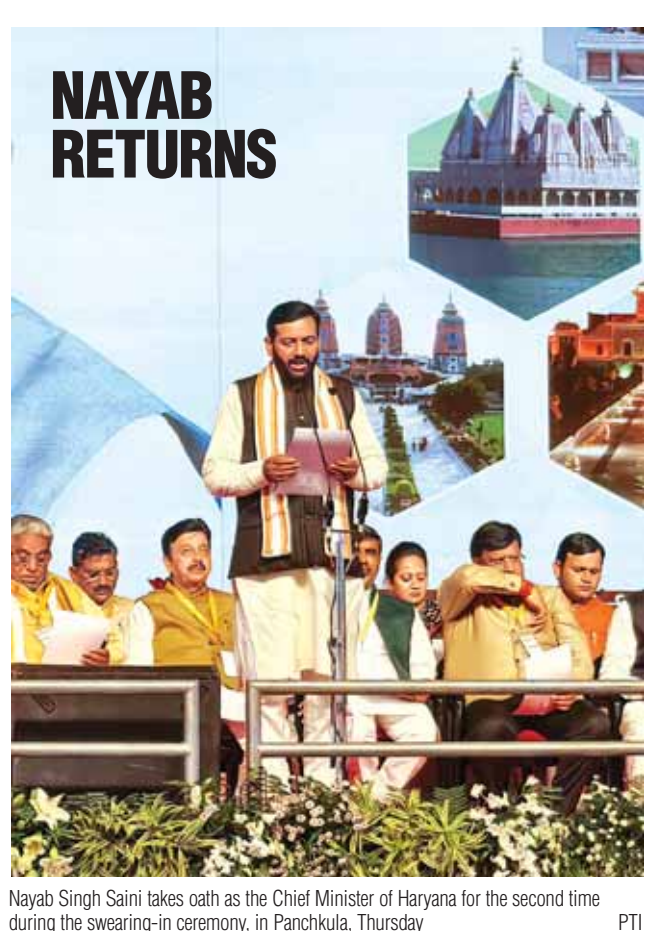
the Year of 50th anniversary of the attempt to murder democracy," sources said. Sources added that the PM also emphasised that people should find solutions to their problems from governance, and the administration's basic concept depends on how we address the grievances of the people. "This is why there should be an attempt to focus on P2G2 - pro-people, proactive, good governance. Today, 17 CMs and 18 Deputy CMs of the NDA attended the meeting," BJP chief JP Nadda said at a press conference on NDA Chief Ministers' council meeting. "Six proposals were discussed upon in today's meeting and all six proposals were unanimously passed..." Nadda added.



## J and K politics in peace, terror groups to target forces

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

With the peaceful culmination of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan-based terrorist groups, operating in the Pir Panjal region, are once again planning to target security forces in the area. Late Wednesday night, alert troops after observing suspicious movement of a group of heavily armed terrorists challenged them in the thickly forested area of Gursai top in Poonch. Taking advantage of the pitch-dark conditions and undulating hostile terrain the group of terrorists may have managed to flee the area. To track down their footprints, the security forces swiftly launched a massive search operation at Mohri Shahstar in the Gursai top area of Poonch district. Continued on page 8



Nayab Singh Saini takes oath as the Chief Minister of Haryana for the second time during the swearing-in ceremony, in Panchkula, Thursday PTI



## New flyovers, underpasses are pretty, but useless

Central Road Research Institute report suggests these add to the problem

BY RAJESH KUMAR

As Delhi is grapples with congested roads and the increasing volume of traffic, the Central Road Research Institute (CRR) in one of its report had suggested that construction of flyovers and underpasses, and widening roads or right of way are not better approaches and solutions to deal with congestion and heavy road traffic. The report found that new infrastructure projects like flyovers and underpasses can actually increase the number of cars on the road and worsen sustainability. The report, titled: "Gradual sustainability approach for urban transport through subtle measures", highlights that within a few years of construction, such approaches have increased the number of personal vehicles on roads and worsened sustainability without reducing

congestion. The report was based on a study conducted at five key Metro stations in Delhi. To understand the traffic situation on the ground, the CRR selected five key Metro stations - Karol Bagh, Laxmi Nagar, Kailash Colony, Lajpat Nagar and Inderlok - in the most crowded locations in the city that always see heavy traffic outside the premises. These are also stations where not only vehicle users face problems, but Metro users as well as pedestrians complain of discomfort in movement and safety issues. The study has clearly demonstrated that parking related policies (including segregated parking lanes for cycle rickshaws and electric-rickshaws) can result in improvement in vehicular speed by two to six km/h in the influence zone of the selected metro stations for all categories of motorised vehicles.



This is expected to result in total daily savings of 593 litres of petrol, 103 litres diesel and 643 kg CNG, and total CO2e (equivalent) reduction of 3.5 tonne/day in all the five metro stations. It is evident that the sustainable scenarios (viz. segregation/shifting of on-street parking, signal design, etc.) or similar to those that have been suggested, would result in

significant reduction in fuel consumption and corresponding CO2e (equivalent) emissions. This report also shows that minor corrections on roads like improving facilities for sustainable modes, no new construction for vehicle users, implementing on-street parking, lane and segregated parking for cycles and e-rickshaws and better crossing facilities for pedestrians can reduce congestion. Further, it is also suggested that for effective improvement measures (covered through alternate scenarios), the following areas need to be addressed while preparing traffic circulation plans: (i) On-street parking needs to be channelised and preferably on minor roads. (ii) Segregated parking lanes for cycle rickshaws and e-rickshaws. (iii) Redesign of signals, including 'no free left' turn and 'all red' phase around metro stations. (iv) Pedestrian crossing at-grade as

well as through metro stations. (v) Alternative bus stops locations suited to traffic and road users. (vi) Providing bus stops with 'bus bays' only for roads with less than two-lane carriageway. (vii) Possibility to provide segregated pick-up/drop off zones underneath metro stations for taxis, private vehicles and autos. (viii) Explore potential spaces for utilisation of different road users, metro commuters. The Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre, the nodal agency for traffic planning for the National Capital has specific guidelines for road construction including desirable aspects such as drainage and pedestrian and cycling tracks. But frequently, footpaths, where they exist, turn into parking lots or are encroached upon, while the roads themselves have no consistency in terms of lanes, width or signage.



# Real estate firm director alleges ₹2-crore fraud by manager

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A manager at a real estate company has been accused of committing fraud amounting to Rs 2 crore, police said on Thursday. The director of the company lodged a complaint at the Mahanagar police station, alleging that the manager misrepresented tenants as defaulters despite having collected rent from them. The director further claimed that the accused had been cheating people for several years by forging signatures. Anil Kumar Tejpal, the director of Metro City, reported that Manoj, a resident of Keshav Nagar, had been employed as the company's manager since October 2017. Tejpal owns multiple flats in Metro City, and the fraud was uncovered when a company employee was sent to show a flat to a prospective tenant, only to find that it was already occupied. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that Manoj had rented out the flat two months prior without notifying the company. Following this discovery, the company conducted an investigation by contacting all tenants and sending out notices. It emerged that Manoj had collected rent in cash and deposited it into his personal account, while falsely reporting the tenants as defaulters in the company records.

## Two, including cop, lose over ₹4L in cyber fraud

**Lucknow (PNS):** In a case of cyber fraud, a sum of Rs 4.04 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn from the accounts of two individuals, including a PAC constable. The fraudsters first tricked the victims into revealing their OTPs by posing as acquaintances or customer care representatives before draining their bank accounts. The police have registered three cases and investigations are ongoing. Rahul Kumar, a constable from Ambedkar Nagar stationed in Lucknow, reported that he received a call while on duty in Hazratganj. The caller claimed to be an employee of PhonePe and convinced him to share his account details by promising cashback rewards.

Subsequently, Rs 84,476 was withdrawn from his account. Kumar then filed a report at the Hazratganj police station. In a separate case, Devki Nandan Kandpal, a resident of Vikasnagar (Sector 7), reported that he experienced issues with his Jio WiFi on October 7. After searching online, he found a customer care number and called it. The caller, posing as a customer care officer, inquired about his account details and subsequently withdrew Rs 3.20 lakh from Kandpal's Union Bank of India account in three separate transactions. Upon realising he had been defrauded, Kandpal filed a case at the Vikasnagar police station.

Notably, tenant Mohammed Aariz and his wife were informed they had a long-standing dues of Rs 1.66 lakh, yet there was no actual balance owed. Additionally, Manoj had collected two undated cheques worth Rs 85 lakh from them in the company's name. The investigation further revealed that the leave and licence agreement between the couple and the company was fraudulent.

When the director called the victim couple and the manager for clarification, Manoj became apprehensive. A review of the documents confirmed the agreements were fake, and Manoj had issued 11 cheques using forged signatures. As a result, the director has filed a case against Manoj for fraud exceeding Rs 2 crore. The police are currently investigating the matter.

# Talkatora house robbery fabricated by woman who needed money

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The recent report of a house robbery in Talkatora turned out to be a fabricated story by the complainant, a woman who needed money to purchase a mobile phone and cover personal expenses, police said on Thursday. This revelation came to light during the police investigation, which found her claims to be false. Initially, the woman reported to the police that two masked men had robbed her of gold ornaments and cash worth lakhs while she was alone at home. She alleged that one of the accused gagged her around 4-5 am in Mehndi Beg Kheda, within the Talkatora police station area. "After the incident was reported, police arrived to inspect the site, and a dog squad was called. An FIR was registered under relevant sections based on the victim's complaint," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, West, Vishwajeet Srivastava. He added that teams had been formed to apprehend the alleged miscreants. The woman, whose identity was initially withheld by the police, claimed that her father-in-law, brother-in-law, and husband had left the house around 4 am to distribute newspapers, with her husband locking the main gate from outside. However, during the investigation, police found inconsistencies in her statement that did

not align with their findings. It was discovered that all the jewellery and cash were hidden in the kitchen of her house. Upon further questioning, the woman admitted to fabricating the robbery story to satisfy her personal needs and to buy a mobile phone. A special team formed to investigate the incident confirmed that no one had entered the complainant's home after her family members left for work. She was unable to explain why the supposed robbers did not take the jewellery. A police spokesman stated that legal action would be taken against the complainant for providing false information. Meanwhile, police on Thursday apprehended a 17-year-old boy here for allegedly selling over 4,000 child pornography videos online, officials in Gorakhpur said. The accused, who earned a 30 per cent commission on each sale, obtained the videos through Telegram from a supplier named "Raj", police said. The matter came to light after the cyber police department in Gorakhpur received a tip-off from a volunteer organisation, they said. A police team launched a probe and seized the accused's mobile phone after nabbing him on Thursday, they added. During interrogation, the teenager admitted to using one Nekogram mobile application and Telegram to distribute the videos, said Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Grover.



Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav pays homage to Maharishi Valmiki by garlanding his statue on his birth anniversary, in Lucknow on Thursday

PTI

# Valmiki Jayanti celebrated

**Lucknow (PNS):** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party supreme Mayawati shared wishes on the occasion of Maharishi Valmiki's birth anniversary on Thursday. Maharishi Valmiki is the author of the Hindu epic Ramayana and a revered figure, especially among Dalits. Adityanath expressed his rever-

ence on social media platform X, stating, "On the birth anniversary of 'Adi Kavi' Maharishi Valmiki ji, I bow down to him!" Chief Minister Yogi highlighted Valmiki's contribution to literature and society, saying, "Valmiki ji introduced humanity to the ideals of Lord Shri Ram and his virtuous character. His great work, the 'Ramayana', has laid the foun-

ation for the values of religion and truth." Yadav honoured Maharishi Valmiki by garlanding his statue here and sharing his warm wishes, party officials said. Mayawati also extended her greetings on X, writing, "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the countrymen on Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti today. May his life inspire us to move forward."

# 5 killed, several injured in road accident in Mathura

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic accident in Mathura on Thursday morning, a pickup vehicle lost control and crashed into an electric pole, resulting in the deaths of five occupants, including two girls. Approximately a dozen others sustained injuries in the incident. All victims were residents of Het Vidya Heechapur village in the Konch police station area of Gaya district, Bihar. Taking note of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences to the bereaved families and instructed

## ALL VICTIMS WERE RESIDENTS OF HET VIDYA HEECHAPUR VILLAGE IN THE KONCH POLICE STATION AREA OF GAYA DISTRICT, BIHAR

ed officials to ensure the immediate transfer of the injured to hospitals and directed the district administration to oversee their proper treatment. He also wished for the swift recovery of those injured and ordered officials to reach the site to expedite relief efforts.

The accident occurred near Nagariya Saat Visa village on Shergarh Road within the Kosi Kalan police station area. In the early hours, labourers from Bihar were travelling to Hodal in Haryana's Palwal district to work at a brick kiln. They had arrived in Aligarh by train before continuing their journey in the pickup vehicle. As the vehicle approached Nagariya Saat Visa village, it went out of control and rammed into an electric pole. The impact caused electric wires to snap and fall.

In a desperate attempt to escape, the occupants of the pickup vehicle jumped out and ran, while the driver reversed the vehicle, resulting in eight to nine people being run over. Among the deceased were Gauri Devi (35), wife of Sukendar Majhi; her two-year-old daughter Komal; Kunti Devi (28), wife of Prem Majhi, along with her two-year-old daughter Priyanka; and Mona, wife of Suraj Bhan. The injured included Kajal (17), Jeera (19), Mana (21), and Gagan Kumar (3), among others. Following the accident, a crowd gathered at the scene, and local residents assisted in transporting the injured to the community health centre (CHC). Due to their critical condition, several were referred to the district hospital. The driver fled the scene after the incident. SP (Rural) Triguna Vishen, CO Ashish Sharma, and Inspector in-charge Ajit Singh arrived shortly thereafter to gather information about the accident.

# Govt begins free LPG cylinder distribution

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has started distribution of free LPG cylinders for Diwali to benefit 1.86 crore families in the state. The "double-engine" government has allocated Rs 1,890 crore for this initiative. The distribution of the cylinders to a higher number of beneficiaries compared to last year commenced following issuance of a government order in this regard. The state government distributed free LPG cylinders to 1.85 crore families, including over 85 lakh women, last year. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, free LPG cylinders are distributed biannually in the state during Holi and Diwali festivals.

# Now, devotees can donate diyas online for Deepotsav this year

PNS ■ AYODHYA

The Ayodhya Development Authority is launching the 'Ek Diya Prabhu Shri Ram Ke Naam' initiative as part of the grand celebrations for Deepotsav 2024. This annual event, held on Chhoti Diwali, will once again illuminate the banks of the Sarayu River in Ayodhya on October 30. Over the years, Deepotsav has attracted numerous dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. This year, millions of devotees from India and abroad are eager to participate in the festivities. Recognising that many devotees may not be able to attend in person, the Yogi government is offering the opportunity to contribute by donating diyas

online to support the festival. The 'Ek Diya Ram Ke Naam' initiative allows devotees to express their devotion by symbolically lighting a lamp for Shri Ram, ensuring their participation in this festival of lights from afar. Vice-Chairman of Ayodhya Development Authority Ashwani Kumar Pandey announced that devotees can participate in this year's Deepotsav by donating online through the link [www.divyaayodhya.com/bookdiyaprasad](http://www.divyaayodhya.com/bookdiyaprasad). In return, they will receive prasad prepared by the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. This initiative allows those unable to attend the grand celebration in Ayodhya to contribute to the event. Meanwhile, preparations for the festival are progressing

rapidly. Work on the ghats, including Ram Ki Paidi, is already 80% complete, with efforts led by Dr Ranjan Singh, the convener of the Ghat Marking Committee. A total of 28 lakh diyas will be arranged across 55 ghats, lighting 25 lakh lamps under the supervision of coordinators and in-charge officials. On Thursday, the administration of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University set up 22 committees to ensure the grand celebration of Deepotsav is executed flawlessly. Under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof Pratibha Goyal, these committees will oversee various aspects of the festival's planning and organisation. Prof Goyal will chair the Coordination Committee, assisted by Prof Sant Sharan Mishra, the Deepotsav nodal

officer, along with 20 other members, including officers. The committees cover crucial areas such as discipline, security, traffic management, food distribution, lamp counting, cleanliness, photography and media, first aid, rapid action force coordination, fire safety, decoration/rangoli, volunteer management, training, and material handling. Additionally, an overall control and supervision committee has been established to oversee the entire event. Each committee's conveners, co-conveners, and members are working diligently to ensure the Deepotsav celebrations are truly spectacular. Their tasks include marking the ghats, arranging decorations, and coordinating volunteers, all aimed at making Deepotsav 2024 a grand and memorable occasion.



**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from SYED MOHAMMAD FAISAL To SYED MOHD FAISAL S/o Late SYED MOHAMMAD AHMAD R/o L-11/16 KDA Colony Ganga vihar Jaimau Kanpur. In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from RIYA SARKAR To ISHITTA SARKAR D/O- PINAKI SARKAR R/O 316 A, DURG VIKAR TIWARIPUR BAGIYA SHIWAN TENREY KANPUR for future purpose

**NOTICE**

Khushboo Gautam D/o Ram Pyari Singh & Late Randheer Singh R/o LIG 134, Jarauli Phase -1, Barra, Kanpur - 208027, D O B 01.06.2008 Will be Read As Khushboo Gautam D/o Ram Pyari After Correction

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from BIPIN KUMAR to BIPIN KUMAR VISHWAKARMA. In future I shall be known as BIPIN KUMAR VISHWAKARMA. BIPIN KUMAR VISHWAKARMA, S/o Jagdish Prasad Vishwakarma, Ashapur Jethwara, Pratnagarh UP.

**NOTICE**

It is informed to the general public that my name is Neelam Devi in the records of my husband Shiv Viranch Narayan Trivedi Air Force Service Number 669221G, Sergeant (Retd). This is before my marriage. After marriage, I have started writing my name as Neelam Trivedi. Now I should be known and identified only by the name Neelam Trivedi. Neelam Devi and Neelam Trivedi are both names of the same woman. Neelam Trivedi wife of Shiv Viranch Narayan Trivedi resident of village and post Bisundaspur police station and tehsil Dalmou district Raebareli

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Simranjit Arora to Simranjit Singh Arora. Simranjit Singh Arora S/o Diler Singh Arora add:-117/h-1/226, Pandu Nagar Bala Ji Sampada Flat No.101, Kanpur.

**NOTICE**

It is informed that I Asha Singh wife of Sushil Kumar resident, Kanpur Road Near Mataji Ki Bagiya, Sector C, LDA Colony, Lucknow No. 4A/265(A) Vishal Khand Gombi Nagar, Lucknow the lease deed which was in the name of Kailasha Devi bearing serial No. 63 dated 05.01.1993 was declared free hold vide serial No. 5831 dated 29.08.1996 and a sale deed of Mrs. Kailasha Devi and Ram Jiwan Singh bearing serial number 6987 dated 27.08.2024 lost somewhere. It is further stated that an F.I.R. bearing F.I.R. number 20240000826538 dated 10.10.2024 moreover if anybody has any objection may contact Branch Manager State Bank of India within 15 days

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from RAEES AHMAD to RAIS AHMAD for all future Purposes. Rais Ahmad S/O Saghir Ahmad 14/57-B, Civil lines Kanpur Nagar

**NOTICE**

It is informed to the general public that before marriage my name was Upasana Maurya which has now been changed to Upasana Kushwaha. I should now be known and recognised as Upasana Kushwaha. Upasana Kushwaha wife of Ajeet Kumar Kushwaha resident of 120/21 C / 8, Bhola Ka Pura, Sulem Sarai, Prayagraj

# Two accused of gangrape arrested

**Lucknow (PNS):** Chinhat police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two of the people accused of gangrape with a minor. The injured girl, found in thickets, was later admitted to a hospital by her family members. Police took action against the accused on the basis of the victim's statement. It was said that both the accused are her acquaintances. After the victim's health improved, the police recorded her statement in which she named the accused. Thereafter,

the search for both of the accused started and several CCTV footage were scanned. The police then zeroed in on the accused, who were later arrested. After identification, the police reached both the accused by tracking their mobile location. Chinhat Inspector Ashwani Chaturvedi said it is being investigated whether the accused are adults or minors. According to the police, the main accused resides in the same locality as the victim and he committed the crime, taking

advantage of his acquaintance with the girl. When the victim came out of her house, the main accused took her to his house where his accomplice was already present. Both of them allegedly raped her. When she screamed, they tightened her dupatta around her neck. Later, they tied her legs and threw her in the bushes at an empty plot. A woman happened to spot the girl and informed the family of the victim. Several people gathered at the spot and the victim was hospitalised.

# LMC proposes new bye-laws for e-rickshaws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation has begun implementing bye-laws to regulate e-rickshaws operating on city roads. Chief tax officer Ashok Singh announced that these regulations, based on existing bye-laws from Aligarh, will be presented to the LMC executive committee for approval. The 'Lucknow Municipal Corporation Tempo, Taxi, E-Rickshaw, E-Carts, E-Heavy Vehicle Regulation and Control Bye-law, 2024' requires that no vehicle operate within municipal corporation limits without a licence. Licences will be issued only if vehicles are in good working condition. Drivers must be aged 18 to 60 and provide a health certificate confirming they are free from infectious diseases. E-rickshaws must have canopies, cushioned passenger seats, headlights, bells, and red lights.

Vehicles caught operating without authorisation will face penalties and may be auctioned after 15 days unless fees are paid. E-rickshaws are permitted only on designated routes. Violations, such as plying on prohibited routes, will result in fines and potential confiscation of vehicles. Drivers must present a valid driving certificate issued by the divisional transport department. Additionally, the use of intoxicants is strictly prohibited for both drivers and passengers. The municipal commissioner and authorised officers have the right to inspect e-rickshaw licences. Licences will be valid from April 1 to March 31, with applications for new or renewed licences due by May 31. An annual fee of Rs 800 has been proposed, and violations may lead to suspension or cancellation of licences.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Lucknow (PNS):** The 5th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Evolutionary Biologists began at the University of Lucknow on Thursday. The day featured 13 lectures, including two plenary sessions by Prof Tom Tregenza from the University of Exeter and Prof HA Ranganath from the University of Mysore. Tregenza discussed cricket behaviour and climate change adaptations. Dr Anindita Bhadra spoke on stray dog cooperation.

**EOI Notice (ISR/SMA/2024/EOI) & (ISR/OFC interfacing SSNNL Dam/2024/EOI)**  
**INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH**  
 Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382426  
[www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in) Phone: 079-66739009

The ISR invites two separate Expression of Interest (EOI) for  
 1) Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of the Borehole Strong Motion Accelerographs.  
 2) Optical Fiber Cable Interfacing at Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) Dam for connecting Strong Motion Accelerographs Bidders may quote for any one or both EOI, and are downloadable from the institute's website [www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in). The last date for submitting the both EOI is 14-10-2024 up to 12:00 p.m.

Sd/  
**INF/1070/2024-25** Director General

**Tender Notice (ISR/MS/GnG/2024/001, ISR/XRF/GnG/2024/002, ISR/PSA/GnG/2024/003 & ISR/IPC-MS/GnG/2024/004)**  
**INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH**  
 Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382426  
[www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in) Phone: 079-66739009

Online global tenders are invited from reputed OEM/Indian suppliers for the supply of  
 1) Magnetic susceptibility System (MS) with accessories.  
 2) X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (XRF) with accessories  
 3) Particle Size Analyzer (PSA) with accessories  
 4) Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP- MS) with accessories

Bidders may quote for any one or more tender. The e-tender may be downloaded from <https://tender.nprocure.com> or [www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in). The last date for submitting the tender form with offer is 00-00-2024. Tender will be opened on the same day at an n-procure.

Sd/  
**INF/1317/2024-25** Director General

**OFFICE THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION : ROURKELA INVITATION FOR BIR NO. 12644 Dated 15.10.2024**

**C-779 Bid Identification No. :- MC/RMC/31/2024**

The Municipal Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation on behalf of Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites bids for works on percentage rate basis in Double cover on online Mode. Bid Identification No. MC/RMC/31/2024 for 01 nos. Civil work with value of Rs. 3.74 Cr.

- Bid documents will be available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) from 15.10.2024.
- Bids must be submitted on "online" on or before 29.10.2024 by 17.00 hours.
- Bids shall be opened at 11.00 hours on 30.10.2024 in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their authorized agents.
- Other details will be available in the web site [tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in)

Municipal Commissioner,  
 Rourkela Municipal Corporation  
 OIPR-131311/11/0036/2425



# Serve copy of application to parties: HC to BJP ex-MLA

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday asked former BJP MLA Baba Gorakhnath to serve a copy of his application, which seeks the withdrawal of a petition against an SP leader's election, to all parties and take steps for its publication in the gazette within a week. In his petition, Gorakhnath has alleged that SP leader Awadhesh Prasad's oath was incorrect while filing nomination in the 2022 Milkipur assembly bypoll. The SP leader won the bypoll that year and was later in 2024 elected to the Lok Sabha, necessitating by-elections in Milkipur. Justice Pankaj Bhatia directed that the

## MILKIPUR BYPOLL

petition be listed on the 15th day of the said publication, petitioner's lawyer Sandeep Yadav told PTI. In its order the Lucknow bench of the high court said, "an application has been filed seeking withdrawal of election petition filed by the petitioner (Baba Gorakhnath) in view of the provisions contained under Section 109 and 110 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 read with the Chapter XV Rule 10 of the Allahabad High Court rules - 1952". Earlier on Wednesday Gorakhnath moved the high

court to withdraw his petition challenging the election of Prasad from. The Milkipur seat has fallen vacant following Prasad's election to Lok Sabha in 2024. The Election Commission on Tuesday announced bypolls to nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh but left out Milkipur due to proceedings in the matter before the Lucknow bench of the court. Gorakhnath had said he was withdrawing the plea "to pave the way for the by-election in the Milkipur assembly constituency, which had been impeded by the ongoing litigation". The plea had alleged that Awadhesh Prasad had taken an erroneous oath during the submission of his nomination papers. The writ

alleged that the notary who authenticated Prasad's documents did not possess a valid license on the date of attestation. According to Supreme Court directives, it is imperative for the notary's advocate to hold a current license on the day of document authentication. Talking to PTI, Prasad, who was elected to Faizabad Lok Sabha in the recent general elections had said, "I vacated the Milkipur seat almost four months ago. It was Gorakhnath's moral duty to withdraw the litigation and he should have withdrawn his litigation soon after my resignation". SP has named Ajit Parad, the son of Prasad, as its candidate for the Milkipur assembly seat.

# Bihar Police S-I held for smuggling liquor

PTI ■ BALLIA

A sub-inspector (S-I) of Bihar Police was arrested on Thursday in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia for allegedly smuggling liquor. Additional Superintendent of Police (South) Kripa Shankar said, "Ballia city Kotwali police apprehended Ravi Kishan Parashar, a sub-inspector of Bihar Police, near Yamuna Dam Chaabi Ghat, carrying a large quantity of illegal Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and beer in his car." The total quantity of seized liquor was 121.60 litres, police said. Consumption and sale of alcohol is banned in Bihar, making smuggling a lucrative activity, police said.

**SUSPENDED:** Two policemen were suspended for allegedly soliciting a bribe from an e-rickshaw driver, police on Thursday said. According to Ballia Superintendent of Police Vikrant Veer, a matter of an e-rickshaw hitting a showroom wall near the railway crossing in the city was reported on October 14. Constables Ashish Saini and Saurabh Kumar Tiwari brought the e-rickshaw to the police post Civil Lines. The two then demanded a bribe for releasing the e-rickshaw despite a mutual agreement reached between the showroom owner and the owner of the e-rickshaw, the SP said.

# Opp attacks govt over encounter in Bahraich



District Magistrate Monika Rani and Superintendent of Police Brinda Shukla on Thursday conduct a route march to maintain peace in the violence-hit area of Maharajganj in Bahraich. PTI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Opposition Parties once again attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over the encounter in Bahraich in which two of the accused involved in violence were injured in cross-firing with the sluths of Special Task Force (STF) on Thursday. Sarfaraz and Talib, accused of killing Ram Gopal Mishra during violence, were injured in a police encounter on Thursday. Both were absconding since the violence. Reacting to the development, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that this is happening due to the failure of the government. "In the new definition, it is a half encounter. This is the failure of the administration.

This half encounter or encounter has been done to scare people. The government is hiding its failure by doing all these encounters. The incident that has happened is sad. Such an incident should not have happened. It could have been prevented. The government is running on the policy of divide and rule," he said. The SP chief added, "If law and order improves only due to encounters, Uttar Pradesh would have been better than other states in many statistics. It was an administrative failure that when the programme there (Bahraich) was in the knowledge of the police, why could they not conduct the program peacefully? Encountering and promoting hatred is the new way of working of this govern-

ment. What kind of justice system is this?" The Congress also attacked the UP government, claiming that it has completely failed. "Encounters are being done just to cover up its failure. The government has been doing fake encounters," UP Congress chief Ajai Rai said. Meanwhile, Rukhsar, the daughter of accused Abdul Hameed, the landlord accused of firing at Mishra, said: "At around 4 pm yesterday, my father and two brothers, Sarfaraz and Faheem, and another youth were picked up by the UP STF." "My husband and brother-in-law have already been picked up. There is no news of them. We fear that they may have been killed in an encounter," she claimed in a video.

# Akhilesh to discuss seat-sharing plan for Maharashtra elections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress continue to negotiate seat-sharing for the Uttar Pradesh bypolls, SP president Akhilesh Yadav announced on Thursday that efforts are underway for INDIA bloc to contest elections together in Maharashtra. He is scheduled to travel to Maharashtra on Friday for discussions regarding seat-sharing, expressing optimism that a decision will be reached soon.

While addressing journalists, Yadav reiterated the unity and strength of the INDIA bloc. When asked about the Maharashtra assembly elections, he stated: "I am going to Maharashtra tomorrow... We will strive to contest alongside the INDIA bloc. We have requested seats and hope to increase our representation from the two MLAs we currently have." Yadav emphasised that seat-sharing discussions in Maharashtra are expected to conclude soon, and he expressed confidence that similar negotiations in UP would also be resolved shortly. He is set to embark on a two-day visit to Maharashtra, with programmes planned in Malegaon and Dhule, where he will engage with the public. The SP is actively working to expand its influence beyond UP, indicating that it may contest elections as part of the INDIA bloc. The party claims

# Bypolls: SP says Congress agrees to contest 2 seats, Ajay Rai 'not aware'

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A Samajwadi Party spokesperson on Thursday said its INDIA bloc ally Congress has agreed to contest just two of the 10 seats where bypolls are due in Uttar Pradesh, giving the rest to the SP, but state Congress president Ajay Rai claimed "we are not aware of this". "Our agreement is final with the Congress. Of the 10 seats, the Congress will contest on two Khair (Aligarh) and Ghaziabad, while on the rest eight, the SP will contest," SP

Spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhury told PTI. But when contacted by PTI, Congress state president Ajay Rai said, "We are not aware of this. As of now, we stand by our demand of five seats." The SP has already declared candidates for seven seats including Meerapur from where it has fielded Sumbhul Rana. Bypolls are set to be held to 10 assembly seats — Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad,

Majhawan (Mirzapur), Sisamau (Kanpur city), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj) and Kundarki (Moradabad). Nine of these seats fell vacant after its MLAs were elected as MPs in the Lok Sabha polls, while bypolls are being held in the Sisamau seat due to the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case. Except Milkipur, the Election Commission has announced polls on the rest nine seats. The polling seats will be held on November 13.

a significant presence in 30 seats but is particularly focused on 10-12 constituencies, notably those with sizeable Muslim populations and migrants from UP. Reports suggest that the SP may secure 3-4 seats in the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance. Currently, the SP holds two MLAs in the Maharashtra assembly: Abu Azmi from Shivaji Nagar and Raees Sheikh from Bhiwandi. Recently, Yadav convened a meeting with Maharashtra unit leaders in Lucknow to strategise for the upcoming elections. Should the SP officially join the INDIA bloc, Yadav is expected

to actively campaign in Maharashtra. In response, SP MLA Abu Azmi took to X, stating, "If any party within the Mahavikas Aghadi—be it Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party, or Shiv Sena—issues an assembly candidate list without consulting the Samajwadi Party, it indicates that they do not regard us as a part of the Mahavikas Aghadi. It would be inappropriate for any party to announce candidates without our involvement, especially when the objective of the Mahavikas Aghadi is to unite all secular forces against the communal government. Therefore, I seek permission from our

National President Akhilesh Yadav to contest as many seats as possible in the assemblies where we are strong, regardless of the election outcome." Additionally, the Samajwadi Party has announced candidates for six seats in the upcoming by-elections in UP. Tej Pratap Yadav will contest from the Karhal assembly seat, which became vacant when Akhilesh Yadav was elected MP. Other candidates include Naseem Solanki from Sisamau, Mustafa Siddiqui from Phulpur, Ajit Prasad from Milkipur, Shobhavati Verma from Katehari, and Dr Jyoti Bind from Manjhwa.

# BJP spreads division, riots when faced with defeats: Sanjay Singh

Lucknow (PNS): Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh alleged on Thursday that the BJP spreads division, riots, and hatred when faced with electoral defeats. He accused the party of attempting to secure victory in the Uttar Pradesh by-elections by inciting animosity and urged the public to unite for the state's development, emphasising that Hindus and Muslims should stand together and not be misled by the BJP. Singh claimed that "Jungle Raj" prevails in Uttar Pradesh, with brutal murders and rapes occurring in broad daylight while the government remains inactive. He criticised the appointment of Jay Shah, son of Home Minister Amit Shah, as the

chairperson of the ICC, suggesting that the youth are being drawn into a cycle of hatred and violence. During a press conference, Singh targeted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. He pointed to incidents in Bahraich, Deoria, Muzaffarnagar, Hathras, and Aligarh as evidence of the chaos. "Whenever the BJP loses elections, it spreads fights and riots. The party has lost badly in the Lok Sabha and now seeks to win by fanning hatred. They have a history of leveraging unrest for electoral gain and neglect the pressing needs for

schools, hospitals, and infrastructure," he stated. Singh further criticised the BJP's leadership, questioning why prominent figures like the sons of Adani and Amit Shah are not seen during riots. He condemned the government's lack of focus on education and healthcare, saying, "The party talks only about crematoriums, and a prime minister who prioritises that cannot bring good to the youth." He also raised concerns about the BJP's treatment of marginalised communities, noting that prominent leaders from these groups, such as former President Ram Nath Kovind and current President Droupadi Murmu, were not invited to significant events like the Ayodhya temple's inaugu-

ration. "The BJP undermines the organisation of Dalits and backward tribals, using division and conflict to weaken their movements," he added. Regarding the recent violence in Bahraich, Singh expressed sorrow over the murder of Gopal Mishra, calling for strict action against the perpetrators. He appealed to the people of the state to prioritise unity and not fall prey to divisive politics. To further engage the public, Singh announced that AAP would conduct press conferences in all districts to demand peace in Bahraich and justice for the victims. He also revealed plans for a membership campaign starting November 4, aiming to recruit 50 lakh new members.

# Yogi congratulates Saini at swearing-in ceremony

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Haryana government along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Panchkula on Thursday. During the ceremony, Yogi congratulated Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and the newly-appointed cabinet members. Yogi Adityanath met and greeted PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, as well as other dignitaries, including his counterparts from various states.



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Haryana government in Panchkula on Thursday. PTI

Taking to social media platform X, Yogi congratulated Saini, stating, "Heartly congratulations and best wishes to Nayab Singh Saini ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Haryana state!" Yogi expressed his confidence that under the leadership of PM Modi and Saini, the vision of 'Viksit Haryana-Viksit Bharat' would be achieved. The cabinet ministers, who took oath of office, included Aarti Singh Rao from Ateli, Krishna Kumar Bedi from Narwana, and Shyam Singh Rana from Radaur. Yogi had held election rallies in their respective constituencies. Yogi had campaigned for Krishna Kumar Bedi on September 22, and for Aarti Singh Rao and Shyam Singh Rana on September 28.

Initially envisioned as a forestry college, the proposal was later upgraded to a full-fledged university. Following this directive, officials have accelerated preparations, including course planning and land identification for the new university. After evaluating multiple locations, the forest division has identified 50 hectares of land near the Jatayu Conservation Centre, which lies within Maharajganj district, as suitable for the project. The Gorakhpur Forest Division has initiated correspondence with the state government to secure the land for the university's construction. According to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Vikas Yadav, preparations are underway to establish the university. A technical experts' committee is currently drafting the curriculum, with plans to offer specialised degree and diploma programmes in forestry, agroforestry, and social forestry. These courses aim to equip students with practical skills, as well as creating new jobs and employment opportunities for youth in the field.

# Efforts expedited to set up forestry university in Gkp

Gorakhpur (PNS): The Gorakhpur Forest Division is fast-tracking efforts to establish North India's first and the country's second forestry university. This institution will operate under the same division that launched the world's first King Vulture (Jatayu) Conservation Centre in Campierganj (Bhariwasi), showcasing the region's commitment to ecological preservation and education. Notably, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced plans for the university during the inauguration of the Jatayu Conservation Centre on September 6.

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# Zero deaths due to AES, JE in UP this year

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a significant achievement for Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have plummeted from 149 in 2018—comprising 137 AES-related and 12 JE-related fatalities—to zero as of October 2024, according to data from the Jal Jeevan Mission. The statistics also reveal a sharp decline in AES cases, dropping from 1,472 in 2018 to 116 in 2024, while JE cases fell from 174 to just five over the same period. The survey covered the districts of Gorakhpur, Basti, Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Siddharthnagar, and Sant Kabir Nagar in the Purvanchal region, which has been the hardest hit by the two diseases. Notably, Yogi has been actively combating these diseases—responsible for the deaths of 50,000 children in Purvanchal between 2005 and 2017—since his tenure as an MP from Gorakhpur. However, his efforts gained further momentum after he assumed office as chief minister in 2017. The districts covered in the survey include Gorakhpur, Basti, Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Siddharthnagar and Sant Kabir Nagar of the Purvanchal region, which has been the most affected region by the two diseases. Current statistics reveal a significant success with only one death each reported in Bahraich and Kushinagar over the last two years, with no other JE fatalities elsewhere. AES cases have dropped by an

astonishing 99%. The turning point came with the launch and expansion of the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission. This initiative aimed to provide tap water to every household, a critical factor in curbing water-borne infections and enhancing overall health. Recognising the seriousness of the situation and prioritising health in affected regions, the Yogi government accelerated efforts to deliver tap water to households in districts heavily impacted by diseases like JE and AES, significantly improving access to clean water. According to the Jal Jeevan Mission reports, 85-92% of households in the affected districts now have tap water connections. This achievement is credited with reducing water-borne infections and boosting public health resilience. The initiative not only ensures hydration but also fortifies the immune system, crucial in combating mosquito-borne diseases like JE. Notably, the year 2005 witnessed the JE and AES epidemic, with over 6,000 children falling victim and more than 1,400 deaths. Gorakhpur, the epicentre of the outbreak, was under scanner. Despite concerted efforts and policies, the situation remained dire, with fatalities surpassing 50,000 by 2017. The first case of JE in Uttar Pradesh was reported in 1978. Over the next two decades, more than 30 per cent of those affected succumbed to the disease, with children in the eastern districts of the state being the hardest hit. JE, caused by the bite of Culex mosquitoes, and AES, com-

monly known as brain fever, became a persistent threat. The Yogi government implemented a comprehensive plan to combat these diseases by ensuring cleanliness, providing clean water, and accelerating vaccination efforts through the Health department. Additional Chief Secretary, Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply, Anurag Srivastava said: "Availability of clean water across eastern Uttar Pradesh has reduced cases of deadly AES and JE, which had claimed the lives of thousands of children in the past. We will soon achieve our goal of providing tap water to 100% households. Clean water is the primary requirement for a healthy life. We are committed to achieving this goal." The numbers up to August 13, 2024, show the turnaround in the battle against JE and AES in Uttar Pradesh. In Gorakhpur, where about 92.13% of households now have access to tap water, there have been no JE-related deaths reported this year, a stark contrast to three deaths recorded in 2018. Similarly, 87.83% households in Maharajganj and 86.53% households in Basti are connected to tap water, and there have been no JE deaths this year or in 2018. Siddharth Nagar has achieved 85.06% tap water connectivity as of August 13, with no deaths reported this year, despite four deaths in 2018. Kushinagar, with 90.73% tap water connectivity, has also seen zero deaths this year, compared to two deaths in 2018. Sant Kabir Nagar reports 89.20% water connectivity, with no deaths in either 2018 or 2024.

# UP govt plans rejuvenation of warehouse infrastructure

Lucknow (PNS): As part of its efforts to increase Uttar Pradesh's storage capacity, the state government has prepared a strategic blueprint for the comprehensive rejuvenation of 21 warehouses across 10 districts, allocating a budget of ₹15.14 crore for the project. The rejuvenation project is aimed at bolstering the state's warehousing infrastructure. The Uttar Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation will spearhead the initiative, focusing on modernising infrastructure, as well as repairing and enhancing the storage capacity of these facilities to meet future storage needs of the state. Selected warehouses undergoing transformation are located in districts such as Fatehpur, Gorakhpur, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Mahoba, Hardoi, Ghazipur, Shahjahanpur,

Bulandshahr, and Ghaziabad. In tandem with warehouse modernisation, the state government is also advancing major logistics projects. The Multi-Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH), functioning as a dry port, is being developed on 823 acres in Dadri, Greater Noida, with an investment of ₹7,064 crore. To complement this hub, a Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) is being constructed in Bodaki, Greater Noida, enhancing connectivity and positioning Uttar Pradesh as a logistical powerhouse. Under the action plan, four godowns in Bulandshahr and six godowns in Shahjahanpur will be renovated. More than Rs 3 crore will be spent on the renovation of three godowns located in Part-A, Part-B and Part-C in the new market of Bulandshahr. At the same time,

development work will be completed in the godown located in Secunderabad, Bulandshahr with an amount of Rs 44.46 lakh. Similarly, preparations have also been made for the renovation of six warehouses located in Jamour, Shahjahanpur. Construction and development work will be completed by spending ₹1.9 crore in the godown located in Part-A of Jamour-A, ₹67.34 lakh in Part-B of Jamour-A, ₹73.36 lakh in Part-C of Jamour-A, ₹1.16 crore in Part-A of Jamour-C, ₹97.23 lakh in Part-B of Jamour-C and ₹26.09 lakh in Part-C of Jamour-C. The detailed action plan for warehouse rejuvenation includes a transformation of two godowns each in Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, and Etawah. The warehouse locat-

ed in GIDA Industrial Area of Gorakhpur will be rejuvenated at a cost of Rs 1.35 crore while the one in Chauri-Chaura will be rejuvenated at a cost of Rs 39.60 lakh. The warehouses in Jangipur Part-A and Part-B of Ghazipur will be rejuvenated at a cost of ₹26.25 lakh and ₹1.31 crore respectively. Similarly, the rejuvenation process will be completed at Sarai Aisar in Etawah at a cost of ₹39.68 lakh and at Bharthana at a cost of ₹18.22 lakh. Apart from this, all the construction, maintenance and development works in the warehouses will be completed at a cost of ₹18.39 lakh in Jahanabad, Fatehpur; ₹32.32 lakh in Khimsepur, Farrukhabad; ₹24.69 lakh in Jaitpur, Mahoba; ₹50.10 lakh in Sahibabad, Ghaziabad; and ₹1.12 crore in Sandila, Hardoi.



# BJP intensifies preparations to welcome PM



Regional BJP chief Dilip Patel addressing party meeting in Varanasi on Thursday in view of PM's visit on October 20.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its preparations to accord warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on October 20. In this direction, a meeting of selected and experienced workers engaged in the arrangements for public meeting to be held at Varanasi Sports Complex on the proposed Varanasi visit of PM Modi was held at the party's Gulab Bagh office here on Thursday.

Addressing the BJP office-bearers and workers, regional president Dilip Patel said after the party's victory in the Haryana assembly for the third consecutive time and good performance in Jammu and Kashmir, PM Modi is coming to his parliamentary constituency for the first time. He said on October 20 when the PM lands at Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport in Babatpur in the afternoon, he will be given a grand welcome and when the prime minister comes out of the airport, BJP workers under the leadership of Pindra MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh will give a grand welcome to him by showering flowers amidst the beats of drums, damru and 'shankhs' (conches). Patel said later, the party workers under the leadership of Ajagra MLA T Ram will give a grand welcome to PM Modi at Wajidpur

trijunction. Similarly, workers of Shivpur assembly will give a grand welcome to Prime Minister Modi at Atulanand crossing. Regional BJP chief said Prime Minister Modi will gift projects worth thousands of crores to the people of Kashi during his proposed Varanasi visit. He said after reaching Varanasi, the PM will go to Shankar Eye Hospital by road, after which he will inaugurate the sports complex equipped with modern facilities at Sigra and address the public meeting. He said all the officers and workers engaged in the arrangements of the public meeting should form their own teams and reach the venue one hour before the scheduled time. He said it is the responsibility of the arrangements team to make the public meeting successful by establishing coordination with the administration. "Special care has to be taken to ensure that the people coming to the public meeting do not face any kind of problem", he said. Addressing the arrangements team, MLC Ashwani Tyagi said all workers engaged in the arrangements are senior and experienced. He said they have successfully completed the public meetings of PM Modi held earlier so all the office-bearers and workers included in the arrangements team should discharge their responsibilities with full devotion and honesty.

He asked the team members to stay at their designated places till the public meeting is over. Before the arrival of PM Modi, party's district and city units will run a special three-day cleanliness campaign from October 18 in major temples, crossings, statues of great men, monuments, parks in which public representatives, BJP office-bearers and workers will participate. The meeting was conducted by city chief Vidyasagar Rai and the vote of thanks was proposed by district president and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma. The meeting was also attended by Khadi Village Industries Board member Nagendra Raghuvanshi, regional secretary Rakesh Sharma, regional media incharge Navratan Rathi, Santosh Solapurkar, Anil Srivastava, Nandji Pandey, Naveen Kapoor, Jagdish Tripathi, Sanjay Sonkar, Rahul Singh, Praveen Singh Gautam Suresh Singh, Madhukar Chitransh, Surendra Patel, Ashok Patel, Adv. Ashok Kumar, Vijay Gupta, Satish Pandey, Arvind Pandey, Akhand Singh, JP Singh, Vinay Morya, Shailendra Mishra etc.

## MINISTERS REVIEW PREPARATIONS

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee Registration (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal and Minister of State for AYUSH

and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' held a meeting with the officials at the Circuit House on Wednesday and reviewed the preparations made so far during the upcoming Prime Minister's visit to Varanasi. The two Ministers especially emphasised that along with the arrangements for cleanliness and lighting in the entire city, tight security arrangements should be ensured. They instructed the officers that a solid traffic plan should be made to ensure smooth traffic arrangements for the general public during the prime minister's visit so that there is convenience in the movement of people. They directed the officers to check the venues and the routes of the PM and get them immediately repaired wherever the same are required. They also laid emphasis on proper parking arrangements for the vehicles coming to the venues and directed the concerned officials to get the hanging electric wires fixed and to get the barricading done on the roadside properly. Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, Commissioner of Police Mohit Agarwal, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Kumar Verma, ADM (Finance) Bandita Srivastava etc were prominently present in the meeting.

# Modi to inaugurate Sankara Eye Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the state-of-the-art Sankara Eye Hospital at Varanasi on October 20. Sankara Eye Hospital, one of leading eye care service providers in the country with the support of prominent investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala Family and Sankara Eye

the legendary Southern India (Tamil Nadu)-based Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust, which supports Sankara Eye Hospital, infuses itself into the city. This world-class eye care facility, which has been set up with an investment of around Rs 110 crore, has capacity to perform 30,000 surgeries and will have nine operation theatres among many other facilities. To ensure the viability of its operations as well as help



The Sankara Eye Hospital to be inaugurated by PM Modi in Varanasi on October 20.

Foundation, USA to provide world-class eye care treatment to all people in the region. The hospital will be inaugurated by the PM in the presence of Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Peethadipathi of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham (Kanchipuram) Jagadguru Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal, Chairman of SEFI SV Balasubramanian, Padma Shri Dr RV Ramani (Founding and Managing Trustee of Sankara Eye Foundation India), Murali Krishnamurthy (Executive Chairman, Sankara Eye Foundation, USA) and Rekha Jhunjhunwala (member of the Board of Trustees). The Varanasi hospital is Sankara's 14th in the country and will undertake 30,000 free eye surgeries for the poorest patients every year. The establishment of the hospital assumes significance as

the poorest in eye care and treatment, the hospital will function on a cross-subsidisation model (75:25 model) wherein the income from paying patients (25 per cent of our beneficiaries will subsidise the costs of free surgeries of 75 per cent of the beneficiaries) will be utilised for those in need. Dr RV Ramani said, "India has the largest population of blind people globally, and more than 80 per cent of these are avoidable blindness cases. We at Sankara Eye Hospital are dedicated to providing quality eye care to all. Our aim is to perform five lakh free surgeries annually across India by 2030. This hospital will operate on a unique hybrid model, offering subsidised services to the poor not only at Varanasi but also in the nearby villages and districts of Uttar Pradesh, by using resources from those who can afford treatment".

# Maha Kumbh: UP govt to roll out AI-powered surveillance system for safety of devotees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Uttar Pradesh government will roll out a state-of-the-art surveillance system powered by artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure the safety of the crores of devotees expected to attend the Maha Kumbh next year. Held every 12 years, the Maha Kumbh is scheduled to take place in Prayagraj from January 14 to February 26, 2025. More than 2,750 CCTV cameras, including AI-enabled units, are being installed throughout the city for the mega event. The cameras will be linked to a central control room, allowing for real-time monitoring and swift response to any incidents.

As per a press statement, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently reviewed the preparations for the Maha Kumbh wherein he emphasised the importance of completing all the work by December 15. The government is focusing on enhancing the security measures to ensure a seamless experience for the devotees, the statement said. "AI-powered cameras are being strategically installed at key locations in and around the fairground to monitor the crowd and identify the potential threats. So far, 1,000 such cameras have been installed and connected to the control room," it added. Additionally, 80 TV screens will be placed throughout the city to display important information. To address the expected influx of more than 25 crore devotees, a dedicated monitoring unit is being set up in the control room, while a 50-seat call centre will be made operational for the Maha Kumbh with the Helpline No. 1920, the statement said. Police officers will manage the helpline round the clock to provide continuous updates to the officials. The system will instantly notify the relevant authorities of any suspicious activity, objects,

or large gatherings, enabling swift crowd management. Also, CCTVs with real-time alerts will play a crucial role in preventing crowd congestion. Given the anticipated number of devotees, parking arrangements are being made to accommodate 5,00,000 vehicles with strict security measures. An AI-based parking management system will be implemented to track vehicle movement and ensure comprehensive monitoring. **SUSPENDED:** An assistant engineer (AE) and junior engineer (JE) of Jal Nigam have been suspended after negligence and irregularities were found in the works being carried out for Maha Kumbh here. Both the officers are accused of irregularities in the sewer line project. Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant had caught the irregularities during inspection on October 10. After this, he had recommended the suspension of both the officers. Divisional Commissioner had inspected the works of laying sewer lines in Chaufatka, Mundera, Vishnupuri and Transport Nagar areas of the city on October 10. The work of laying bed concrete and backfilling under the pipeline near Chaufatka bridge was not found to be up to the standard. On the instructions of the divisional commissioner, both the officers have been removed from the works of Maha Kumbh and attached to the chief engineer's office. **FELICITATED:** Ten railway employees who did excellent work in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were felicitated by Prayagraj division of North Central Railway (NCR). The campaign was conducted in 131 stations, hospitals and training institutes. The divisional railway manager (DRM) gave certificates and cash prizes. Senior Divisional Environment and Maintenance Manager Alok Kesharwani and other officials were present.

# Event empowers adolescent girls with crucial health knowledge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a significant effort to promote adolescent health, the Adolescent Centre, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), in collaboration with the Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child, New Delhi, and the National Health Mission (NHM), UP Government, organised a health awareness programme at Maharani Banaras Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Ramnagar here on Wednesday. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Nodal Officer Prof Sangeeta Rai. The event, aimed at empowering adolescent girls with crucial health knowledge, covered a range of topics, including anaemia management, balanced nutrition, menstrual hygiene, and awareness about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Prof Mamta from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at IMS-BHU provided a detailed session on menstrual hygiene and the importance of HPV vaccination. She highlighted the causes, symptoms and prevention of HPV, stressing the need for vac-

ination to safeguard young women against the virus. Counsellor Naveen Pandey delivered an impactful presentation on the significance of a balanced diet and proper nutrition, with a particular focus on anaemia. He discussed the causes, signs, symptoms, and simple management strategies for anaemia at home, emphasising the role of good nutrition in maintaining overall health and preventing anaemia, which is common among adolescent girls. Principal Saroj Upadhyaya of Maharani Banaras Mahila Mahavidyalaya also attended the event, offering her full support for such initiatives that focus on the well-being and empowerment of young women through education about their health. Interns from BHU, including Rohit, Anshika, and Nikita, played an active role in engaging with the students, conducting interactive discussions on various health topics. Their participation helped make the programme more dynamic and fostered a better understanding of the health challenges faced by adolescents. The event successfully raised awareness among the students about the

importance of health and hygiene, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their well-being. **DEBATE COMPETITION:** In order to effectively implement the policies made by the Central Vigilance Commission to deal with corruption, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is running a special vigilance awareness campaign of three months from August 16 to November 15. Under this campaign, for public awareness, Varanasi Sub-Centre of Powergrid organised a debate competition for students on the topic 'Prosperity of the nation with the culture of integrity' on Wednesday at Purv Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Thatra in Sewapuri block area in which a total of 26 students out of 280 students present participated. In the competition, Bunty of class-VIII got first place while Roshni of class-VII finished second and Neha of class-VII third. Akibul, Anjali and Akanksha Giri of class-VIII got consolation prizes. The prizes were given to the winning students by Deputy Senior General Manager of Powergrid Rajkumar and Deputy General Manager Alok Jaiswal.

# KDA organises lottery for allotment of 993 flats



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) organised a lottery for allotment of 993 flats constructed by the builder M/s Trade Stone Limited under the Magarwara (Gokuldham), Unnao, scheme for EWS at Lajpat Bhavan, Motijheel, on Wednesday. As 1,030 people had applied a lottery was organised on Wednesday and 794 of them were allotted flats following the norms of reservation. For the remaining 199 flats, KDA will invite fresh applications. The cost of this 24 square metre flat is ₹6.09 lakh which comprises a room, a verandah, bathroom and kitchen. During the lottery, DUDA Project Officer Arvind Singh, Finance

Controller Sushil Kumar, OSD Ajay Kumar, Ravi Pratap and Brijendra Upadhyaya of KDA, Directors of M/s Trade Stone Limited Krishna Kumar Badhwa and Udit Badhwa along with others were present. **TOURNAMENT:** The three-day TSH Stag Global UP State Third Ranking Table Tennis Tournament concluded on Wednesday. In the veterans category, Poonam Goel won the gold medal by defeating Shakshi Rajput in U-49 category. Besides, Parag, RK Tandon, MN Khare (Lucknow), Mridula, Rishi, Aryan (Ghaziabad), Deepak (Prayagraj) and Shalini (Bareilly) also emerged winners in their respective veterans' category. ADG Alok Singh was the chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony.

# 'Significant increase in institutional deliveries'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Medical and health services are being continuously increased in the district. Under this, high health standards have been established by doing innovative experiments in the programmes conducted for maternal and child care. Giving this information here on Thursday, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that there has been a significant increase in institutional deliveries, Caesarean (delivery by operation) and effective treatment of low weight babies. "These efforts have significantly reduced infant mortality rate (IMR), maternal mortality rate (MMR), and neonatal mortality rate (NMR)", he said and informed that more than 3,000 model VHND (Village Health and Nutrition Day) centres are being organised in the district. At these VHND centres, pregnant women and infants are being examined as well as vaccinated, which are being continuously monitored. The CMO said the VHND sites have been shifted to more accessible and suitable places. "Infants are being taken care of by better NBSU (Newborn Stabilisation Unit) at major delivery sites. A total of 10 FRUs (First Referral Units) have been established including Sir Sundar Lal Hospital (BHU) for complicated deliveries. Twelve new MNCUs (Maternal and Newborn Care Units) have been established for the care of low-weight babies," he said. Besides, Dr Chaudhary said the facilities of modern equipment and medicines have been provided at more than 200 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Health Sub Centres). "Home-based newborn care has been effectively ensured through ASHA workers. HRP (High Risk Pregnancy) tracking by ANM and ASHA is constantly improving. Surgery and delivery rooms have been improved as per the standards of the Lakshya programme.

# MLA inaugurates mini tube well

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former UP Minister and Varanasi South MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari inaugurated the mini tube well in Pitrikund ward here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that 80 small and big tube wells have been installed in his assembly constituency since 2017, due to which today the



MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari inaugurating a mini tubewell in Varanasi on Thursday.

residents of the area are getting pure water everywhere. "With the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the government is determined that every person should get every thing of basic need and water is the basis of life", he said. BJP's Mandal president Gopal Gupta, corporators Amresh Gupta, Sanjay Keshari, Manish Gupta, Shrawan Gupta, Amanraj Gupta and Indresh Singh, along with other party workers and local citizens were present in the programme.

# Importance of preserving Indian culture highlighted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A seven-day-long seminar on "Roots of Heritage" was inaugurated in the Biotechnology auditorium of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) on Thursday. The inaugural ceremony was graced by keynote speakers Prof Shambhunanath Tripathi and Anant Narayan Shukla, along with chief guest, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of SHUATS, Dr Vishwarup Mehra. The ceremony commenced with a prayer by Dr Lalchung Gange, Associate University Chaplain. Keynote speaker Dr Ram Chandra emphasised the significance of reconnecting with one's civilisation through the "Roots of Heritage" programme. He highlighted the importance of preserving Indian culture,

which extends beyond spiritual significance to being an integral part of livelihood. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Bishrup Mehra praised India's diversity, citing the unity among people despite differences in clothing, food, caste and religion. Dr Sunita B John proposed the vote of thanks. **MAN DIES:** A 30-year-old man died after he falling into a well while washing clothes in Bahariya police station area here. On hearing the noise, people reached the spot and got down into the well and pulled him out. However by then he had died by drowning. The family members cremated the body without informing the police. Bahria police station in charge Mahesh Mishra said the family members cremated the body without informing the police. The matter is being investigated.

# Novel 'Suno Sunila Sarang Ki Shokgatha' released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The novel 'Suno Sunila Sarang Ki Shokgatha' written by eminent storywriter Raj Kumar Singh of the city in two volumes was released here at a function organised by Bagmisewa Samiti. Young poet Rangoli Awasthi along with Samiti treasurer Shashi Bala Shukla and anchor of the programme Avali Mishra released the novel. Earlier, president Arun Shukla welcomed the guests and other dignitaries. Anchor Avali Mishra threw light on the creative works and writings of Raj Kumar Singh. The event was followed by a literary symposium under the chairmanship of litterateur Harbhajan Singh Malhotra which saw the presentation of two stories 'Do Chehre' and 'Roshi Ke Rubru' by their writ-



Novel 'Suno Sunila Sarang Ki Shokgatha' being released at a function of Bagmisewa Samiti.

ers Arun Shukla and Shashi Srivastava respectively. Arun Shukla proposed the vote of thanks. **MISHAP:** An elderly man was fatally knocked down by a speeding car near Nagar Pachayat office in Sheoli police station area of Kanpur dehat late on Wednesday night. His kin took him to CHC Sheoli from where after first aid, he was referred to LLR (Hallet) hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

# Youth festival organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A district level youth festival was organised on Thursday in the auditorium of Government Girls Inter College (GGIC), Maldahiya under the aegis of the Department of Yuva Kalyan (Youth Welfare) and Pradeshik Vikas Dal. The programme was inaugurated by MLC Dharmendra Singh by garlanding the statue of Maa Saraswati and lighting a lamp. District Youth Welfare Officer Nitish Rai, GGIC Principal Nisha Yadav, Jagatpur Inter College Principal Vipin Rai, jury members Rajni Dwivedi, Chitra Mahotra, Ragini Prajapati and Regional Youth Welfare Officer of Youth Welfare department Reena Yadav, Vivek Singh, Vivek Ranjan, Ragini Singh were present in the programme.

# Emphasis on using green crackers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With the onset of festive season, "Just for Environment" organisation intensified its campaign for creating awareness about preventing pollution. One such drive was conducted by the organisation at Upper Primary School, Ram Krishna Nagar here on Wednesday. "While celebrating Diwali and other festivals to follow, most of us do not care for the air, land and water pollution which is created due to our carelessness. During Diwali, toxic gases and pollutants emitted during burning of crackers contaminate air, water and soil and are harmful to birds, wildlife, pets, wildlife and human beings and thus we should resort to using green crackers. Indiscriminate use of single-use plastic for carry bags is also considered responsible for creating pollution and thus use of environment-friendly compostable carry bags is the solution",



said Anita Agrawal, president of the organisation. "We aim at educating the coming generations about importance of preventing pollution in any form and thus this programme has been organised where we are also educating the students about recycling of waste for making useful products which while reducing the pollution may also result in converting waste to wealth", said Dr Jahar Singh, Secretary. During the programme, members of the organisation, Anushka,

Shruti, Kavya and Archana demonstrated utilisation of waste plastic bottles for making flower pots, pen stands etc and in preparing other decorative and utility items from various household wastes. On the occasion patron of the organisation Prof Narendra Mohan handed over dustbins and other cleaning material to school and also distributed cloth bags while making an appeal to use such bags while going for marketing avoiding use of plastic carry bags.



# PM criticises Congress for neglecting India's culture, urges embracing of Buddha's teachings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after India recognised Pali as a classical language, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday criticised past Congress Governments for neglecting the country's cultural legacy after Independence and urged the global community to embrace Buddha's teachings to promote peace amidst current geopolitical tensions.

In his address at an event held here to mark the International Abhidhamma Divas, he also referred to the current geopolitical scenario and called upon the whole world, "to learn from Buddha, keep the war away, and forge a path for peace".

Modi said conferring the status of a classical language on Pali by the government recently, makes this occasion even more special.

The prime minister said while every nation associates its heritage with its identity, India was left far behind.



Invaders tried to erase India's identity before its Independence, and those suffering from "slave mindset" did so afterwards, he said, adding that an ecosystem captured the country which took it in a direction opposite to its heritage.

Modi said his government's policies and programmes have been guided by the teachings of Lord Buddha, reiterating that the world plagued by instability and insecurity can find

solutions to its problems in his teachings. The entire world can find solutions not in "yuddh" (war) but in Buddha, and it should learn from his teachings to pave the way for peace, he said. Buddha is not only relevant but also a necessity, he said, referring to the current geopolitical situations.

"With a lot of faith, I call upon the whole world to learn from Buddha, keep the war away, and forge a path for peace,"

Modi said. In his address, he also quoted some lines from the teachings of Lord Buddha, and said, strife and discord do not lead to peace, and that there is no bigger happiness than peace. "Welfare for everyone this is the message of Lord Buddha," the prime minister told the audience which included a large number of monks, some diplomats and others.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju, besides a few monks were also present on the dais.

Modi underlined that Buddha is both 'bodhi' (consciousness) and 'shodh' (research) subject, and his government was laying emphasis on both academics and research in this area. "I am happy that we have had the privilege of giving the status of a classical language to the Pali language in which the teachings of Lord Buddha have been inherited by the world," Modi said, adding, the honour

accorded to Pali "honours the great heritage of Lord Buddha". He lamented that this ancient language is not in use today, and said to preserve Pali is "the responsibility of all of us". Languages are the soul of a civilisation and culture and this step for honouring Pali is a "humble endeavour" of the government.

Modi rued that Pali language took seven decades after Independence to get this status. Lord Buddha, he said, resides in India's soul, and his teachings will "guide us in this Amrit Kaal". He also said that "every language of ours, including Pali, has played an important role in nation building. Our new National Education Policy is becoming a medium for their preservation".

Modi also paid tributes to B R Ambedkar, an iconic figure who hailed from Dalit community and converted to Buddhism later, noting that his government has been developing places associated with him and Buddhism.

# SC upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a majority verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who came to Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971. Section 6A was inserted into the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the Assam Accord was a political

solution to the problem of illegal migration. The CJ, writing for himself, upheld the validity and said the magnitude of influx of migrants in Assam is higher as compared to other states considering the smaller land size and the detection of foreigner is an elaborate process.

Besides, Justice Surya Kant, who wrote for himself and Justices MM Sundresh and Manoj Misra, concurred with the CJ and held that Parliament had the legislative competence to enact such a provision. Justice J B Pardiwala, however, dissented and held Section 6A as unconstitutional.

The majority verdict held that cut off date of March 25, 1971 for entry into Assam and granting citizenship is correct. Mere presence of different ethnic groups in a state does not mean infringement of Article 29(1), it added. The bench rejected the petitions questioning the constitutional validity of Section 6A.

Section 6A of the Citizenship Act grants Indian citizenship benefits to illegal immigrants - mostly from Bangladesh, who entered Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971. The provision was incorporated in 1985 following the signing of the Assam Accord between the Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

It says those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, from specified territories, including Bangladesh, in accordance with the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of the north-eastern state, must register themselves under Section 18 for acquiring Indian citizenship. As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971, as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to migrants, particularly those from Bangladesh, residing in Assam.

# CDS launches framework for trustworthy AI in defence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Thursday here artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionising warfare and stressed the need to ensure trustworthy AI defence systems are resilient to adversary attacks.

He made this assertion while launching Evaluating Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ETAI) Framework and Guidelines for the Armed Forces alongwith Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief Samir V Kamat.

The ETAI Framework and Guidelines mark a pivotal role in the country's approach to integrate Trustworthy AI into critical defence operations. In his address, the Chief of Defence Staff underscored the urgent need to incorporate trustworthy AI, pointing out



that recent global conflicts have demonstrated how AI is revolutionising modern warfare. He stressed that it is essential to ensure these systems not only work as intended but are also resilient to attacks from adversaries. He congratulated Scientific Analysis Group for developing the ETAI Framework and praised their efforts in advancing the trustworthiness of AI in defence applications. The DRDO Chairman pointed

out that reliability and robustness are no longer optional, but are essential to prevent mission failures and unintended consequences. He highlighted that AI applications are required to be reliable, robust, transparent and safe for the success of future operations. Distinguished Scientist & Director General, Micro Electronic Devices, Computational Systems & Cyber Systems Suma Varughese stated that the ETAI

Framework is a risk-based assessment framework developed specifically for the defence sector.

Its principles, criteria and measures are equally applicable to other sectors as well. She affirmed that DRDO will play a key role in implementing the framework and assured that all necessary support will be provided to ensure its success.

The ETAI Framework focuses on five broad principles: Reliability & Robustness, Safety & Security, Transparency, Fairness and Privacy. It further defines a comprehensive set of criteria for evaluating trustworthy AI. Complementing the framework, the ETAI Guidelines provide specific measures to be implemented in the AI pipeline to meet these criteria. The framework and guidelines offer developers & evaluators, a structured approach to build and assess Trustworthy AI.

# Justice Sanjiv Khanna recommended as next CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has set in motion the process of appointment of his successor by recommending to the Centre the name of senior-most Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjiv Khanna. CJ Chandrachud had on Wednesday handed over the letter of his recommendation to Justice Khanna. Justice Khanna is set to become the 51st Chief Justice of India on November 11.

Justice Khanna will have a tenure of little over six months. Elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019, Justice Khanna will superannuate on May 13, 2025.

He was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and was made a permanent judge in 2006. Born on May 14, 1960, Justice Khanna studied law at the



CJI DY Chandrachud shows Justice Sanjiv Khanna the letter recommending Justice Khanna as next Chief Justice of India. Justice BR Gavai looks on.

Campus Law Centre of Delhi University. Some of the notable judgments of Justice Khanna in the Supreme Court include upholding the use of EVMs in elections, saying the devices were secure which eliminates booth capturing and bogus voting. He was also part of the five-judge bench which

declared the electoral bond scheme, meant for funding of political parties as unconstitutional.

Justice Khanna was also part of the five-judge bench which upheld the Centre's 2019 decision abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Youth can register for Yuva Sangam initiative

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Youth from across the country stand a chance to represent their respective states and Union Territories by participating in the "Yuva Sangam", an initiative of the Ministry of Education under the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme, officials said on Thursday.

Online registration for the fifth edition of Yuva Sangam is open till October 21.

Interested candidates in the age group of 18-30 years, including students, NSS and NYKS volunteers, and employed or self-employed persons, may register through the Yuva Sangam portal before the deadline.

Off campus youth, including those enrolled in online courses in different skilling institutions, can also register for the event.

"It is an exciting opportunity for students and young professionals to learn about the country, its people and even about themselves through this transformative journey of over 5-7 days," a senior Education Ministry official said.

"Yuva Sangam allows participants to experience the diversity of India first-hand, recognise the cultural-social similarities and challenges, and develop inclusive solutions to address problems or tap opportunities through their professional/academic areas of expertise," the official added. The idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between people from different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on October 31, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. To crystallise this idea, the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBBSB) programme was launched on October 31, 2016.

# US holds meeting with officials of India Enquiry Committee

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States had a "productive meeting" with visiting officials of the India Enquiry Committee, a State Department official said on Wednesday, adding they were satisfied with the cooperation from the Indian side.

"We are satisfied with the cooperation. It continues to be an ongoing process. We continue to work with them on that, but we do appreciate the cooperation and we appreciate them updating us on their investigation as we update them on ours," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference.

He was responding to a question on the visit of officials from the India Enquiry Committee, which is investigating the American allegations of



involvement of an Indian official in the assassination plot of a Sikh separatist, who is also an American citizen.

"The meeting that occurred yesterday we updated we being the US government broadly updated members of the Committee of Inquiry about the investigation that the United States has been conducting.

We've received an update from them on the investigation that they have been conducting. It was a productive meeting and I will leave it at that," Miller said. "They did inform us that the individual, who was named in the Justice Department indictment is no longer an employee of the Indian government," he said in response to a question.

# Researchers develop nasal delivery for TB drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A team of Indian researchers have developed a unique way to deliver Tuberculosis (TB) drugs directly to the brain bypassing the challenging blood-brain barrier (BBB) that limits the effectiveness of many brain TB medicines.

This innovative drug delivery method can effectively treat brain TB, a life-threatening condition with a high mortality rate.

TB that affects the brain, called Central Nervous System Tuberculosis (CNS-TB), is one of the most dangerous forms of TB, often leading to severe complications or death.

One of the biggest challenges in treating CNS-TB is that the drugs used to treat TB struggle to reach the brain because of a protective barrier known as the blood-brain barrier (BBB). This barrier prevents many medicines from entering the



brain, limiting their effectiveness.

Scientists at Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Central Nervous System Tuberculosis (CNS-TB), used tiny particles made of a natural material called chitosan, to deliver TB medicines directly to the brain through the nose, bypassing the BBB.

These tiny particles, known as nanoparticles, were then made into slightly larger clusters called nano-aggregates, designed for easy nasal delivery. They can hold TB drugs like

isoniazid (INH) and rifampicin (RIF).

The drug delivery technology used was nose-to-brain (N2B) drug delivery, which utilizes the olfactory and trigeminal nerve pathways in the nasal cavity to bypass the BBB. By delivering the drug through the nasal route, the nano-aggregates can transport the drugs directly into the brain, bioavailability at the infection site.

Besides, chitosan is known for its mucoadhesive properties, and sticks to the nasal mucosa, which helps the nano-aggregates stay in place and

prolongs the time they can release the drug, enhancing its therapeutic effectiveness.

When tested in the lab, these particles stuck well to the inside of the nose and were able to deliver much more medicine into the cells compared to regular TB drugs.

When the new treatment was tested on mice infected with TB, the nasal delivery of these nano-aggregates reduced the number of bacteria in the brain by nearly 1,000 times more than in untreated mice. The new treatment could be applied to treat other brain infections, neurodegenerative diseases (like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's), brain tumours, and epilepsy by enabling efficient drug delivery to the brain.

This study published in the journal Nanoscale (Royal Society of Chemistry), is the first to show that delivering TB drugs through the nose using these advanced particles can effectively treat brain TB.

# CBI charges Congress MP Karti Chidambaram in visa bribery case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and others in connection with alleged bribery in facilitating visas of Chinese nationals for a power company in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister. In its charge sheet submitted before a special court here, the CBI has named Karti Chidambaram, the Lok Sabha MP from Sivaganga, his close associate S Bhaskararaman, company Talawandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL), a subsidiary of Vedanta and Mumbai-based Bell Tools, through which bribes were routed.

The CBI has invoked charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating, and forgery under the

Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Other charge-sheeted accused include Viral Mehta, Anup Agarwal, Mansoor Siddiqui and Chetan Shrivastava, said CBI. The agency has filed the charge sheet after two years of probe into its FIR registered in 2022 where it had alleged that the Punjab-based TSPL was setting up a 1980 MW thermal power plant and the work was outsourced to a Chinese company Shandong Electric Power Construction Corp (SEPCO). The project was running behind its schedule and the company was allegedly facing prospects of penalty. "In order to avoid penal actions for the delay, the said private company (TSPL) of Mansa was trying to bring more and more Chinese persons and professionals for their site at district



Mansa (Punjab) and needed project visas over and above the ceiling imposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs," the CBI said in a statement in 2022.

The CBI FIR, which contained findings of the investigating officer who probed the preliminary enquiry, alleged that an executive of TSPL approached Karti

Chidambaram through his "close associate/front man" Bhaskararaman. "They devised a back-door way to defeat the purpose of the ceiling (maximum of project visas permissible to the company's plant) by granting permission to re-use 263 project visas allotted to the said Chinese company's officials," the agency had said after the registration of FIR and searches.

Project visas were a special type of visa introduced in 2010 for the power and steel sector for which detailed guidelines were issued during Chidambaram's tenure as home minister but there was no provision for the re-issue of project visas, the FIR had alleged. "As per prevalent guidelines, deviation in rare and exceptional cases could be considered and granted only with the approval of the Home

Secretary. However, in view of the above circumstances, the deviation in terms of re-use of project visas is likely to be approved by the then Home Minister...," said CBI.

A TSPL executive allegedly submitted a letter to the home ministry on July 30, 2011, seeking approval to reuse the project visas allotted to his company, which was approved within a month and permission was issued, the FIR had alleged. "On August 17, 2011, the executive, on being directed by Bhaskararaman, sent a copy of the above a letter dated July 30, 2011 to him through e-mail which was forwarded to Karti... Bhaskararaman after discussion with P Chidambaram, the then Home Minister, demanded an illegal gratification of Rs 50 lakh for ensuring the approval," said CBI.

The FIR had alleged that the payment of said bribe was routed from TSP to Karti Chidambaram and Bhaskararaman through Mumbai-based Bell Tools Ltd with payments camouflaged under two invoices raised for consultancy and out-of-pocket expenses for Chinese visas-related works, the CBI FIR said, adding that the TSPL executive had later thanked Karti Chidambaram and Bhaskararaman on email.

Payment against the invoices was made by TSPL to Bell Tools Limited through cheque and then the said amount was paid in cash to Bhaskararaman, it had alleged. "... Whereas the private company based at Mumbai was never in any kind of work relating to visas rather it was in an entirely different business of industrial knives," the

agency had said in a statement. "Information exists that Chidambaram had been on the board of Vedanta Group whereas his son Karti had taken financial favour from Sterlite Optical Technologies Limited, Mumbai (a Vedanta Group Company), which had lent Rs 1.5 crore in November 2003 to his company namely Meltraack India Limited, Chennai and the interest thereupon was waived off in August 2004 (when...P Chidambaram sworn as the Finance Minister," said the FIR of CBI.

CBI charged that Karti Chidambaram and his frontman Bhaskararaman indulged in the collection of undue payments for settling the issues pending with the offices under the influence of P Chidambaram as minister in various Ministries.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Jaishankar holds a mirror

At the SCO Summit, S Jaishankar urges regional powers to tackle terrorism, extremism and separatism

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit held in Islamabad, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar took the opportunity to deliver a pointed message to China and Pakistan, highlighting the erosion of trust in the region. His address focused on the principles outlined in the SCO Charter, underscoring the need for genuine cooperation, respect for sovereignty and an uncompromising stance against the 'three evils' of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Jaishankar's remarks came at a time when India's relations with China and Pakistan have reached a nadir. The minister subtly pointed out the prevailing trust deficit, stating, "If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate, if friendship has fallen short and good neighbourliness is missing somewhere, there are surely reasons to introspect and causes to address." His words alluded to China's unilateral border violations along the Line of Actual Control and Pakistan's use of cross-border terrorism as state policy. A central theme of Jaishankar's address was the urgent need to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism—the 'three evils' that, according to him, have plagued the region. He argued that these threats undermine peace and stability, which are prerequisites for development. Without addressing these issues, the prospects for economic growth, trade, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges remain bleak. Jaishankar's participation at the Islamabad summit marked a significant moment in India's diplomatic strategy.



Despite the strained relations, his address indicated India's willingness to engage in dialogue—provided that the foundational issues of trust and security are addressed. The summit showcased the growing rift between India's expectations for regional conduct and the policies pursued by some of its neighbours. It remains to be seen whether China and Pakistan will introspect on Jaishankar's remarks or continue to pursue policies that hinder regional integration. India's position remains clear: trust must be restored through actions that respect the sovereignty and security of all nations. The ball is now in the court of its neighbours to demonstrate a commitment to peace and stability. In his address, Jaishankar effectively used the SCO platform to hold a mirror up to China's border aggressions and Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, laying bare the challenges to regional cooperation. His words served not just as a critique but as a call for renewed commitment to the principles of the SCO Charter, signalling India's firm stance on upholding peace and good neighbourliness. The question now is whether China's and Pakistan's leaders will see the reflection and act accordingly, or if the region will continue to grapple with a status quo marked by distrust and discord.

### PICTALK



A Royal Bengal tiger yawns at the National Zoological Park, in New Delhi

## Pinarayi Vijayan: A tale of U-turns and controversies

CM Pinarayi's U-turn on sensitive data disclosures, coupled with the BJP's election triumph in Thrissur suggests a shifting balance of power

Man, woman and Child was a novel by best-selling author Erich Segal (1937-2010) which has been translated into many languages. It was made into a movie in English as well as in many languages. Our own Shekhar Kapur shot the movie *Masoom* based on the same novel. Well, *Masoom*, and "Man, Woman and Child" came to mind after seeing the plight of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the last fortnight. Vijayan, known for his determination, decisiveness and dictatorial tendencies, was a pale shadow of his old self during the last few weeks. Though he was seen laughing at flippant questions put to him by some of the journalists "studying to become Kerala's own Lutyens media", it was visible that Vijayan had lost most of his demeanour which in the past had silenced his detractors and rivals alike. The U-turn made by him viz-a-viz the data about the seizure of smuggled gold and hawala cash from Malappuram had shocked even his critics. Various Islamist organisations expressed their displeasure



over the quantity of gold and amount of illegal money seized from Malappuram which houses the Calicut International Airport. Though the Chief Minister had disclosed these figures in the 140-minute long press meet held on September 21 at Thiruvananthapuram, newspapers and TV channels did carry it in their reports. The present controversy in Kerala had its roots in the meetings held by M R Ajith Kumar, additional director general of police with two senior RSS leaders in 2023 and the fiasco of the 2024 edition of Thrissur Pooram, Kerala's mega cultural extravaganza, the impressive victory scored by the BJP candidate Suresh Gopi in the Lok Sabha poll from Thrissur constituency and the unprecedented increase in gold smuggling and hawala dealings in Malappuram dis-

trict are much ado about nothing. The ADGP has every authority to meet the people of his choice as part of his policing job is known to one and all. Many IPS officers and intelligence officers with whom this issue was taken up were unanimous in their view that there was nothing wrong with the ADGP calling on RSS leaders. One of the severe critics of the meeting between Ajith Kumar and RSS bosses is Binoy Viswam, the CPI Kerala secretary, who has been crying for the ADGP's blood for violating the Lakshman Rekha (or is it the Lenin Rekha?). But what is left unsaid is that Surya Binoy, daughter of Binoy Viswam, is a standing counsel of the BJP Government the Centre, yet another branch of the RSS! Binoy Viswam, who considers himself the global face of Communism and a stickler for propriety should openly admit that his criticism of RSS is with an eye on the minority vote bank. The Congress, CPI and the Muslim League allege that the CPI(M) had a tacit under-

# AI: Redefining learning in the 21st Century

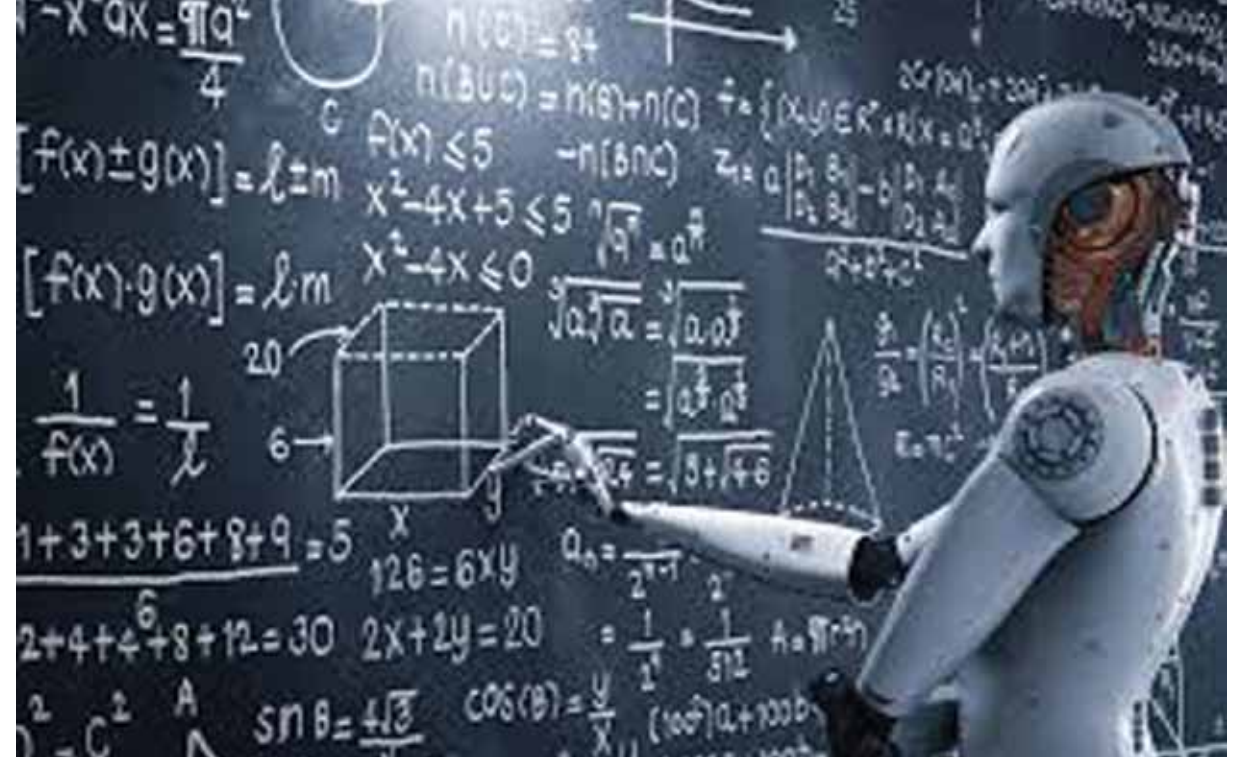
Teaching methods and workplace demands are evolving rapidly, pushing educational institutions to adopt new paradigms that keep pace with the changing times



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

It is now being increasingly recognised that artificial intelligence and technology use are going to alter the nature of learning, as few things have in the last 100 years. The fundamental nature of change and its pace is nothing new if one goes back over six or seven decades ago. The digitisation process altered the nature of learning numerals. The use of calculators rendered memorising multiplication tables substantially irrelevant. There was a sea change that has only increased its reach and depth with each passing decade. From calculators to the computerisation and successive upward scaling of computerisation competencies rendered not only the tables and the algorithms only marginally relevant, but even the log tables became a matter of history.

After some initial reluctance to allow a mechanical instrument into the classroom and the examination hall, the nature of learning was adjusted to the new realities. The machine-added reality became the new paradigm. The nature of learning changed slowly but surely from working through one's memory to getting used to machines and their algorithm. The orientation changed from falling back on mental collaborations to machine-led solutions. Changes in technology also needed learning but of a different order. The dualism of specialisation was more in demand for staying current in the employment market. Indeed, machines started competing with each other in a manner of speaking and a classical example would be the different technology modes used in the manufacture of a jet plane (Ilyushin) in Russia and the technology used in a Boeing aircraft. The new realities required a new approach to what could be termed as 'new learning'. The nature of teaching arithmetic, mathematics, and more all underwent a change, and a revolution bigger than many had hit the classroom. The nature of this revolution was significant because it was a



continuing revolution, and today, it confronts the learner through various forms of artificial intelligence, also. The notions of mechanical search have not only revolutionised the search for information but even rendered encyclopedias decoration pieces in fancy drawing rooms. They have now, perhaps, become a showcase of how learning used to be not so long ago. All this has implications not only for the classroom but also for the workplace. The exact manifestation of this is not clear, but the rumblings go on. Whereas earlier on, learning organisations used to pay equal focus on how to teach. Now the focus is equally on what and how to teach. The pressure in both the classroom and the workplace is equally intense, calling for a paradigm shift. The real challenge for learning organisations lies in embodying the paradigm shift. It will be useful to remind oneself that learning



TODAY, LEARNING REQUIRES THE COMPETENCE TO APPRECIATE THE NEW AND EMERGING PATTERNS OF TECHNOLOGY. NOT SO LONG AGO, LITERACY WAS IMPORTANT TO THE USE OF A MACHINE BECAUSE ONE HAD TO PUNCH THROUGH THE ALPHABET

organisations is nothing new. As a proposition, the need to keep reinventing oneself has been commonplace. Not so long ago, the focus was on keeping the mind open. Much of that has now metamorphosed into almost a new paradigm: keeping the mind growing. Enhancing of skills and competencies continues to be a defining trait of a learning organisation. It is simply not possible to confine oneself just to 'keeping the mind open'. Today, learning requires the competence to appreciate the new and emerging patterns of technology. Not so long ago, literacy was important to the use of a machine because one had to punch through the alphabet. Now the situation has reached a context where even if one does not have the competence to punch an alphabet, one can speak into a machine and the machine will comply. At the moment, this process is at an early stage, but the problems that it means to tackle are

expanding every day. The change in the gamut of learning is important because if one can solve problems without being able to write, there indeed is a revolution in the entire paradigm of learning. The proposition, therefore of a learning organisation is undergoing several fundamental reformulations. There was a time in the 20th century when technology altered the nature of distance, and now there seems to be an emerging approach to technology that can alter the nature of time itself. Time present and time future are ready to merge into each other through technological interventions, allowing one to pass through a time machine, even if only temporarily. These are fundamental postulates and need rethinking far more deeply than what we have been able to do at present. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute; The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA-CANADA TENSIONS RISE

Madam — The Indian government has once again officially denied the allegations of the murder of Khalistani supporter Hardeep Singh Nijjar levelled by the Canadian government. Not only this, it has also taken diplomatic revenge by ordering the Canadian ambassador in India and other officials to leave the country. Have we reached the lowest point in diplomatic history in our relations with Canada? Is it possible that all diplomatic relations between India and Canada come to an end? In some circles of India, even senior journalists of international affairs believe that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is playing all these games to save his chair. Is it really true that the Canadian Prime Minister, due to his lust for power, is hell-bent on ending diplomatic, political and business relations with India? I think this story is not so simple that it will remain just a story of the chair. Because many Sikhs have been murdered in the same way all over the world, for which the governments there have blamed India. For example, in Lahore, Pakistan, on 6 May last year, Paramjeet Panjwar was shot dead, and the Indian government was also blamed for it. Okay, let's assume that Pakistan is our enemy, so it can make false allegations against us. But the United States of America is our friend. It has also made a similar allegation against us. It had alleged that an Indian citizen was involved in the conspiracy to murder Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York. Therefore, the Canadian government should also present evidence if it has it in the International Court of Justice and not just raise the issue by holding press conferences.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### EMPOWERING INDIA'S YOUTH

Madam — The government in its Budget this year had proposed to launch a scheme to provide internship opportunities to 10 million youths in the top 500

## Tackle mental health challenges



The most admirable and analytical article 'The invisible battle for mental health in India' (October 16), encourages us to evaluate and recognise our mental wellness and seek counselling for physical illness. The worst part is that we are vitiating and spoiling our mental health despite warnings of being too much glued to our mobile phones, social media, late-night lifestyle, and orientation of ourselves, isolation and so many

other factors. Women suffer more from social and family pressures and they don't speak out. The major enemies are mobile phones and social media platforms, anxiety of getting too much in too little time, gaining public attention all the time, competition with the peers and us, working from home for longer hours, fear of failures, loss of family members, sensory issues and marital discord. The obvious symptoms are anxiety attacks, anger, depression, anger, misbehaviour and violence. However, many easily overcome these symptoms in public posture, delaying the solution and treatment. The work from home should be restricted to prescribed working hours only as scheduled. Yoga is the best option for mental wellness. Vacating, holidaying, playing games, music, bhajans and romanticism with hobbies and passion are the self-healing methods to keep us happy and tranquil, cheerful and bubbly.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

companies over a span of five years. This helps youth to gain exposure to real-life business environments in different areas for a year. Internship schemes are as old as industrialisation as the means to perpetuate skill sets. With rapid mechanisation, it was losing impetus and formalisation. A pilot for the scheme in 2024-25 was kicked off last week with internship opportunities in 24 sectors, including energy, hospitality, auto, and banking and financial services. Companies are expected to bear the cost of training and 10 per cent of internship costs from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. Major corporations over the years have been focusing on health, education and women empowerment. This new internship scheme hopefully should not affect their continued funding.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

### PRIYANKA'S POLITICAL DEBUT

Madam — The bypoll for Wayanad has been announced by the Election Commission and the Congress leader

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to make her debut for Lok Sabha. The seat went vacant while her brother Rahul Gandhi got elected to Lok Sabha also from Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh in the general elections. When the elected members who hail from the same place have not used to visit their constituencies, where is the question of Priyanka serving the people of Wayanad once she gets elected? One should recall the promise of the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi that he vowed that the Congress would construct 100 houses for those who lost their dwellings in the landslides at Chooralmala and Mundakkai during his visit on August 2, 2024. Winning elections matters most for the leaders and by consolidating the dynastic politics, the Congress can increase their numbers on the floor by wooing the voters but there is no justification to serve the people of the constituency in a real sense.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## UNDERSTANDING THE BIG PICTURE

By living according to dharma, we can strive for a higher quality of life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What is this Big Picture, that finds mention in spiritual talks? Simply stated, it means to know something in its totality. For example, we wish to know about ourselves in great detail, i.e. who we are; where have we come from; where are we going; and so forth. These and many more questions can be answered if we go to the source of everything, i.e. God, who is everything. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 7.19) We, souls, are His parts (15.15); we exist eternally; we are presently in material bodies. This happened because that is all we qualified for. There are superior planets like Heaven and, of course, the Vaikuntha – God's planet (15.6). How are we judged? It is purely based on 'karmas' (our acts), both material and spiritual. Most of us are engaged mainly in material acts. We may have a slight percentage of spiritual acts like occasional visits to a temple, hearing a spiritual talk, etc. These count but are not enough to go to the highest planet, i.e. the Vaikuntha. We keep on getting born on the earth's planet with an occasional visit to Heaven.

What is the role of God in all these? God is the creator of all that we see; He is its controller also. Logically, God must know the Big Picture. He does; God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Just as our present is the result of our past, our future will be the result of our present. God is aware of how we will use our free will because that is influenced by our nature – part of our fate. As the Creation is to last for a very long time, control must be exercised to ensure its continuity. God does that. He uses the



Divine Authority to assist Him; it works under His superintendence. (9.10) They in turn reward and punish us based on our karma. There is nothing like chance, whatever happens to us is already pre-ordained. In short, there are three levels of control. God is the head. Then comes the Divine Authority and, lastly, it is the material nature, which has been set in motion by God.

That is how we have seasons, rains, etc. We must live in synchronisation with it to have a healthy life. Our all acts must be 'yukta', i.e. appropriate according to the highest principles known as 'dharma'. These rules have been formulated by God Himself. The Big Picture won't be complete without a detailed description of our souls and how we can get help from God to improve our lives. We are many, eight billion plus on the earth planet itself. Surely, we are small and need help all the time, especially from God, who only knows the Big Picture. We are relocated after the present lifespan is over, which is preordained. Quality of life is all-important for all of us.

Unfortunately, we seek it from material objects, which are never satisfied. We must serve other souls to be served in turn by others. How can we improve the quality of our lives? We must begin by accepting the reality. This is where the Big Picture enters our lives, whatever we can know with our limitations.

This includes accepting the Cosmic Design, and having faith in God and His System. We should try to be good in whatever we do; we generally know what that is. We must be useful to others, otherwise the world would not have any use for us. We need to be tolerant, because the earth planet is no heaven, but is not a concentration camp either. One can have a reasonably good life.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

## Empower urban local bodies for climate resilience



SONAL SINGH

Despite their economic importance, most urban areas are ill-prepared for the growing risks of climate change; these local bodies must be trained to fight climate changes



Cities are centres of economic growth, contributing around 63 per cent to India's GDP while housing approximately 36 per cent of its population.

This urban population is expected to reach 50 per cent by 2050, further intensifying the challenges cities face from extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts as recently witnessed in Wayanad, Chennai, New Delhi and other cities. According to a study by IIT Gandhinagar, the proportion of urban areas exposed to extreme weather events is set to increase significantly as global temperatures rise beyond 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. While the growing vulnerability is felt across rural and urban centres, the multiplier effect of damage caused to urban infrastructure, lives and livelihood on the larger socio-economic conditions as cities drive national GDP. Moreover, most of the cities are ill-equipped to tackle these climate risks. A lack of clearly mandated roles in climate response, insufficient financial allocations, and limited institutional capacities exacerbate this challenge. To enable transformative, city-led climate action, it is essential to align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the specific needs and capacities of cities. This requires designing enabling frameworks to help urban areas build climate resilience. Without such frameworks, cities may struggle to cope with mounting climate risks. India has played a very proactive role in shaping policy and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The country's early adoption of environmental policies can be traced back to the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, a direct result of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972. This laid the foundation for key initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) in 2015. India has also spearheaded international efforts, including the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for



MOST OF THE CITIES ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO TACKLE THESE CLIMATE RISKS. A LACK OF CLEARLY MANDATED ROLES IN CLIMATE RESPONSE, INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS, AND LIMITED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES EXACERBATE THIS CHALLENGE

Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

At the sub-national level, 34 States and Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) to address state-specific vulnerabilities in line with the NAPCC framework. Although the concept of city-level Climate Action Plans (CAPs) is relatively new in India, cities are developing these plans to address local risks such as heatwaves, water scarcity, and flooding for example, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Rajkot, Siliguri, and Udaipur.

These climate action plans are often in collaboration with international networks like C40 cities supported by global donor agencies. However, a major limitation remains: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not have a clear mandate to respond to climate challenges. While the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 assigns ULBs certain responsibilities, such as urban forestry and environmental protection, "climate change" is not explicitly mentioned among the 18 functions designated to ULBs. This creates a significant governance gap at the local level. Although the National Mission for Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) 2.0 encourages ULBs to design action plans as one of the key strategies, it falls short of providing concrete guidelines, financial assistance, or incentives to assist city governments in these efforts.

The absence of a designated decision-making authority at the city level further compounds the problem.

While the SAPCC guidelines call for establishing climate cells at the state level, there is no similar provision for cities. Even when ULBs do develop climate action strategies, their implementation is hampered by overlapping mandates across multiple agencies and

parastatals, with no centralised body to oversee or coordinate these efforts.

Additionally, national climate policies such as the Net Zero by 2070 target and NDCs do not mandate the collection of city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data, limiting the ability to undertake data-driven climate actions. As India transitions towards a more urban future, with 50 per cent of the population estimated to live in cities by 2050, amid rising climate risks, the devolution of powers to ULBs for climate governance becomes crucial. Empowering local governments through the principle of "climate subsidiarity"—which ensures that climate action is undertaken at the most appropriate level by adequately resourced and empowered agencies—can be a key step toward achieving climate resilience and national climate goals. One such long-term measure often suggested by experts involves amending the Constitution to include "climate action" as one of the functions of ULBs.

While constitutional amendments may be a long-term goal, an immediate step could involve making a comprehensive central law on climate mitigation and adaptation with the city as a unit of governance. Also, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) could update NMSH 2.0 with detailed guidelines for city-level Climate Action Plans. Such guidelines would ensure a standardised approach across cities while allowing for localized strategies aligned with national goals. Additionally, providing financial incentives—such as climate finance or additional transfers from the State Finance Commission (SFC) or Central Finance Commission (CFC)—would encourage ULBs to initiate climate risk assessments, imple-

ment green mobility projects, and undertake other climate-resilient initiatives.

Institutionalising climate governance at the local level is only the first step. Local governments must also be given clear and measurable targets, necessitating the localisation of NDCs and SDGs. Incorporating cities into future updates of the NAPCC and SAPCC would allow for a more bottom-up approach to planning adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Furthermore, establishing a centralised decision-making body at the city level would facilitate better collaboration among city agencies, ensuring a more coordinated response to climate risks.

As global and national conversations on climate action gain momentum, it is imperative to build a similar focus at the sub-national level to ensure tangible results. The dynamism seen at the national level must be replicated in cities, towns, and districts, which are at the frontline of climate impacts. This will require a realignment of governance structures and a re-evaluation of climate strategies to bring the focus to the smallest units of governance—cities and ULBs.

A blend of long-term strategies and short-term action plans must be developed with sub-national governments to ensure accountability and cohesion in how cities perceive and address climate change. By empowering ULBs with the necessary resources, mandates, and institutional support, India can ensure that its urban centres are not just engines of economic growth but also pillars of climate resilience. This is essential if the country is to meet its ambitious goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

(The writer is Research Associate, TERI; views are personal)

## Aurangzeb: A contested legacy shaping India's political discourse

The portrayal of Aurangzeb as a ruthless oppressor reflects a blend of folk tales and myth rather than a verified account of his reign

The figure of Aurangzeb remains deeply embedded in India's contemporary political and cultural landscape, reflecting a blend of historical memory, myth and modern political rhetoric. His name frequently surfaces in electoral campaigns and public debates, evoking emotions and controversies centuries after his reign.

When leaders criticise each other with references to Aurangzeb, it signifies how his legacy continues to shape national politics. In the modern narrative, Aurangzeb is often depicted as a ruthless tyrant—a figure equated with notorious symbols of intolerance, such as Hitler or extremist ideologies. This perception paints him as someone who dedicated his life to eradicat-



NIHARIKA DWIVEDI

ing Hinduism and oppressing Hindus. Consequently, there's a prevalent notion that contemporary Indian Muslims are somehow connected, either by ancestry or ideology, to the Mughal emperor's legacy, which is accused of inflicting harm on India's cultural and religious heritage. This view draws heavily on VS Naipaul's concept of India as a "wounded civilisation," enduring centuries of subjugation by

foreign invaders, including Muslim rulers who allegedly dismantled the country's glorious past. Yet, the belief in deliberate, systematic destruction by Muslim conquerors is not a continuous historical memory nor entirely grounded in verified historical records. Instead, it reflects deep emotional and cultural wounds, often fueled by present-day anti-Muslim sentiments.

Historically, Aurangzeb was the last significant Mughal ruler, governing much of the Indian subcontinent for nearly five decades. His reign is marked by controversies, such as imprisoning his father, Shah Jahan, his perceived orthodoxy, and the inability to consolidate the Deccan region into the Mughal Empire.

Central to the debates on Aurangzeb is the question of his motivations and policies. Some historians, such as Sir Jadunath Sarkar, argue that his primary aim was to establish an Islamic state in India by enforcing Sharia law and converting the population. Pakistani historian Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi asserts that Aurangzeb's policies were intended to preserve Muslim dominance and to maintain the empire's unity.

This included discouraging religious pluralism that could undermine Muslim hegemony in a state where they were responsible for defence and administration. However, Aurangzeb's actions were not always consistent with the idea of enforcing an Islamic state. For example, while he did



destroy certain Hindu temples, including the Vishwanath temple in Banaras, there is little evidence supporting the claim of a widespread, systematic campaign of temple destruction. Many temples, like those in Vrindavan, continued to receive royal patronage. The destruction of some temples appeared more politically motivated than religiously driven, often tied to punitive

actions against local rebellions or defiant rulers. Aurangzeb's revival of the jizya tax in 1679, a levy on non-Muslims, further complicates the interpretation of his policies. While some scholars, like Sarkar, view this as an attempt to pressure Hindus into conversion, others argue that the tax was intended more as a political tool to rally support from conservative Muslim factions. Its reinstatement after two decades of the rule suggests it was not a priority-driven solely by religious zeal but rather a measure aimed at consolidating power during times of conflict, particularly against the Rajputs and Marathas. Qureshi contends that Aurangzeb sought to reverse the damages caused by Akbar's more liberal policies, which

had integrated Hindus into administrative roles. Ironically, the number of Hindus in government service increased during Aurangzeb's reign, reaching 33 per cent by 1689, despite the emperor's reputation for religious intolerance. Dr RP Tripathi views Aurangzeb's actions as primarily politically motivated, aimed at consolidating power in a diverse and vast empire. His policies, while sometimes harsh, were not necessarily born from a deep-seated animosity toward Hindus. Instead, they reflected the complexities of ruling an expansive and multi-ethnic empire where shifting political, social, and military factors required adaptable strategies. Modern scholarship increasingly emphasises the need to

view Aurangzeb beyond simplistic labels of heroism or villainy. His reign is better understood within the broader context of socio-economic, cultural, and political dynamics of the time. While his orthodox leanings and authoritarian tendencies shaped some of his policies, his actions also mirrored the challenges of ruling a fragmented and turbulent subcontinent. Aurangzeb's legacy, thus, remains a complex and contested chapter in Indian history. It serves as a reminder of the intricate interplay between history and politics, and how the past is continuously invoked to influence the present.

(The author is a freelance writer and a documentary filmmaker; views are personal)



# Nayab Singh Saini returns as Haryana CM for second time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Senior BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as chief minister of Haryana for a second time on Thursday in a grand ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a galaxy of NDA leaders. Thousands of people packed into the Dussehra Ground to watch Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administer the oath of office to the low profile OBC leader and 13 others. For the BJP, the messaging was not just in its show of strength with a power packed dais seating its chief ministers, ministers and NDA partners but also in its choice of the day – Valmiki Jayanti. “For the third time with full majority, the BJP government will work with full energy for good governance, equality and welfare of the poor,” Saini said in a social media post after being sworn in for the second time as chief minister. Among those present were Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and BJP president J P Nadda. Chief ministers of several BJP-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh’s Yogi Adityanath, Assam’s Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chhattisgarh’s Vishnu Deo Sai, Gujarat’s Bhupendra Patel and Uttarakhand’s Pushkar Singh Dhami. NDA partner, TDP leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, was there too. The 54-year-old, who was the surprise pick to replace strongman M L Khattar as chief minister ahead of the assembly elections, proved his naysayers wrong by steering the BJP to a win in an election many thought would go to the Congress. Saini is heading the BJP’s third consecutive government in the state, a strategic victory after the Lok Sabha elections that many party leaders hope sets the pace for next month’s crucial assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The BJP won 48 seats in the 90-member assembly. Three Independents, including



Chandrababu Naidu, was there too. The 54-year-old, who was the surprise pick to replace strongman M L Khattar as chief minister ahead of the assembly elections, proved his naysayers wrong by steering the BJP to a win in an election many thought would go to the Congress. Saini is heading the BJP’s third consecutive government in the state, a strategic victory after the Lok Sabha elections that many party leaders hope sets the pace for next month’s crucial assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The BJP won 48 seats in the 90-member assembly. Three Independents, including

Hisar MLA Savitri Jindal, also extended support to the party. Haryana can have a maximum of 14 ministers, including the chief minister. The 13-member council of ministers includes the party’s most senior leader Anil Vij, Ahir leader Rao Narbir Singh and Jat leader Mahipal Dhandu. It also has two women – former Congress leader Shruti Choudhary, daughter of Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhary, and first time MLA Arti Singh, the daughter of Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh. Rajesh Nagar and Gaurav Gautam took oath as state ministers (independent charge).

## SWEARING IN CEREMONY

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

After Nayab Singh Saini, Rao Narbir Singh (55), MLA from Haryana’s largest assembly seat Badshahpur, also took the oath. Rao Narbir Singh has become the state minister for the fourth consecutive time. Rao Narbir has become MLA from Badshahpur for the second time. In the year 2014, he was the one who made the lotus bloom for the first time in Badshahpur. Singh represented Jatusana, Sohna and Badshahpur constituencies in Haryana in 1987, 1996 and 2014 respectively. Singh held several ministries, including Public Works, Public Health Engineering, Architecture and Forest in the first Manohar Lal Khattar government from 2014 to 2019. In the 2014 Haryana polls, Narbir Singh won the Badshahpur seat by defeating independent candidate Rakesh Daultabad. Rao Narbir has inherited politics. His father and grandfather have been MLAs in the past. After Rao Inderjit Singh, Rao Narbir is considered the biggest leader of Ahirwal. He was also a minister in the Manohar Lal Khattar government in 2014.



But in 2019, the party did not give him a ticket. This time too, when there were talks of his ticket being cut, he announced to contest the elections. However, later he also met the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and got the ticket. Singh is one of the big leaders of the Ahirwal belt in Haryana. He is said to have a good hold in the Badshahpur area, which has the highest number of voters. He also has direct links with the high command. The biggest victory in the area is also registered in his name. In Haryana Assembly

Elections 2024, Rao Narbir Singh Singh was the only leader who got a ticket directly from the BJP high command. Singh won the Badshahpur seat in the Haryana Assembly elections. Singh defeated Congress candidate Vardhan Yadav by a huge margin. Rao Narbir got a total of 1,45,503 votes in the election. He defeated Vardhan Yadav by 60,705 votes. As soon as the counting of votes for the assembly elections started, Rao Narbir Singh took the lead and then he kept increasing this margin and won.

## BJP top brass present during Nayab’s Oath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEWS DELHI

With the top brass of BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, descending, the oath-taking ceremony of Nayab Singh Saini assumed the air of a grand event. All roads leading to Dussehra ground were choc-o-block as thousands of BJP supporters from across Haryana made their way to the ceremony. Saini, 54, an OBC face of the party in the state, on Thursday, took oath as the chief minister of Haryana in Panchkula. A total of 13 ministers also swore beside him. While the BJP formed the government for a third time in a row, Saini became the chief minister of Haryana for the second time. Ahead of the BJP’s estimate of over 50,000 people turning up at the ‘Shapath Grahana Samaroh’, arrangements were made on a grand scale. After Saini took his oath, his supporters chanted ‘Nayab Saini ko Jai Shri Ram’ and ‘Bharat Mata ki jai’. A huge multicolour ‘pandal’ was set up to accommodate VVIP guests, which included several Union ministers,

chief ministers, NDA partners and BJP workers. Outside the venue, artists clad in traditional attire played Haryanvi folk music, featuring ‘been’ (used by snake charmers), ‘chimta’, and ‘dhol’. Flex boards with welcome messages were set up all along the road leading to the venue in Panchkula. Besides Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda attended the event amid heavy security. Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Chirag Paswan, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma and Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami were also present at the swearing-in. BJP leader Tarun Chugh termed the ceremony “historic”. Hari Ram, a Saini supporter, said he was excited at the BJP forming government for the third time.

## Need for new collective quantified goal on climate finance: UN Executive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At the upcoming UN climate conference in Baku, countries must establish a new international climate finance goal that effectively addresses the needs of developing nations, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said on Thursday. He emphasised that COP29 must be a “stand-and-deliver” conference, recognising the critical role of climate finance in protecting both the global economy and the livelihoods of billions affected by climate change. In a virtual event hosted by the Brookings Institution, Stiell stressed the necessity for a new goal that centers on public finance, with a



preference for grants or concessional funding to ensure accessibility for those in greatest need. During COP29, nations are expected to agree on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), which will

determine the annual amount developed countries need to mobilise starting in 2025 to support climate initiatives in developing nations. Historically, high-income countries have been responsible for providing

financial and technological support under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted in 1992. These developed nations, which include the US, UK, Canada, and members of the EU, pledged in 2009 at COP15 to provide USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to assist developing countries. However, this commitment has not been fully realized. While a report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicated that developed countries surpassed the USD 100 billion target in 2022, with nearly 70% of funding coming in the form of loans, concerns remain about the adequacy and structure of this financial

support. Stiell pointed out that at COP29, nations will have the opportunity to decide on contributions, but he cautioned against renegotiating the Paris Agreement. Some developed nations propose broadening the list of contributors to include emerging economies like China and certain Gulf states, a move that developing countries argue undermines equity principles and shifts responsibility away from those historically responsible for emissions. “More work also has to be done to rapidly ramp up funding for adaptation and get international carbon markets working for everyone. We must fund a new generation of national climate plans,” he added.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Dy. Chairperson Harivansh and Indian Parliamentary delegates on the sidelines of 149th Assembly of IPU in Geneva on Thursday.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### EXTRADITE BISHNOI GANGSTERS: INDIA TO CANADA

At his weekly briefing, the spokesperson said Prime Minister Trudeau’s own admission during a public inquiry tells the value of allegations levelled against India. Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau on Wednesday acknowledged that he had only intelligence and no “hard evidentiary proof” when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in Nijjar’s killing last year. Early on Thursday, the MEA reacted to this and said what it has heard only “confirms” New Delhi’s consistent stand that Canada has “presented us no evidence” in support of the serious allegations Ottawa chose to level against India and Indian diplomats. During the briefing, Jaiswal reiterated that so far no evidence has been shared by Canada. “The current crisis (in India-Canada relationship) has been precipitated by the Trudeau government’s baseless allegations,” he said. Diplomatic ties between India and Canada soured further earlier this week when Canada announced that top Indian diplomats in Ottawa were ‘persons of interest’, as far as its investigation into Nijjar’s killing was concerned. India rejected Canada’s stand and, in retaliation, recalled six of its top diplomats from Canada, including High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma. In a tit-for-tat series of actions, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats.

### 15 BOMB HOAX THREATS RECEIVED IN A DAY

Given this persisting situation for the last few days, over half-a-dozen social media handles that issued hoax bomb threats to multiple Indian airlines this week, have been suspended or blocked by cyber security agencies till now. According to

sources, the handles were ‘analysed’ by a joint team of cyber, aviation security and intelligence agencies following which orders were issued to suspend these accounts as they continued to issue ‘mindless’ threats. About seven-eight social media handles, majority of them on microblogging site X, have been suspended or blocked since Monday, when these hoax bomb and terrorist attack threats started being sent to virtually all the Indian airlines for both their domestic and international route operations, the sources said. The agencies have also found some common lines and words used in these fake threats like ‘bombs’, ‘blood will spread everywhere’, ‘explosive devices’, ‘this is not a joke’ and ‘you will all die’ and ‘bomb rakhwa dia hai’ (Hindi for bomb has been placed) among others. Sources said that the agencies, apart from getting police FIRs registered in each such hoax bomb messages case, have enhanced ‘cyber patrolling’ on the social media and the dark web to check for possible linkages or trends where threats are being posted online leading to grounding or diversion of the aircraft. The online surface is being scratched to find the primary email registration and geographical locations of these threat-issuing handles, some of which are possibly being prompted from overseas locations, the sources said. These details are being shared with jurisdictional police departments, they said. Notably, two common IPs from London and Germany have been traced. “The users have tweeted after using a virtual private network or virtual private network (VPN) — an encrypted connection over the Internet between a device and a remote server that’s aimed at masking one’s online identity,” sources said. At least 30 flights have been affected by these social media posted threat messages, all of which have come out of India or false since Monday. In two cases, fighter jets of Singapore and Canada had to be scrambled to help the Indian planes that were carrying hundreds of passengers. On Thursday, Vistara, in a statement, said that its Frankfurt-Mumbai flight

received a security alert but landed safely here. The Vistara flight UK 028 operating from Frankfurt to Mumbai on October 16, 2024 was subject to a security threat received on social media, the airline said. These fake threats have led to inconveniencing hundreds of passengers and airline crew apart from security agencies. They have taken a heavy toll on airline logistics and operational costs. A minor boy of 17 years of age from Chhattisgarh has been detained by the Mumbai Police in connection with the hoax bomb threats posted on social media platform X targeting three flights originating from Mumbai on October 14. Meanwhile Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said the ministry is looking at amending civil aviation regulations to ensure strict action is taken against incidents of bomb threats to airlines. “We are taking things seriously... We will take action,” Naidu said about the bomb threats. At present, the actions against hoax bomb threat incidents are taken by the police under criminal laws.

### TEAM INDIA GIFTWRAPS A DIWALI GIFT FOR NEW ZEALAND

India made some errors right from winning the toss and batting first and switching batting positions at middle order gave New Zealand confidence to dominate this test match. None of the batters gave a prominent display of batting. For India Rishabh Pant was the highest scorer for them (20) while both all rounders R.Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja failed to stabilise the collapse of top order. New Zealand openers gave a solid start with an opening stand of 67 runs while Kuldeep Yadav gave India first wicket of Tom Latham. Devon Conway made a solid start with his innings of 91, closing the day’s play New Zealand made 150-3 in 50 overs with a lead of 134 runs. While R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja got one wicket each in the bank, Rachin Ravindra (22) and Daryl Mitchell (14) were at the crease when the stumps were

drawn for the day due to bad light. Not only India batters who disappointed to make a mark but also Indian Pace attack who went wicketless after the day’s play. New Zealand who were thrashed down by Sri Lanka (2-0) last month now have a strong possibility to beat India at home.

### HOOCH HAUNTS BIHAR AGAIN, 25 DEAD

“The one set up at the local level will be looking into the criminality involved in the latest episode. Another SIT has been set up by the Department of Prohibition in Patna which will carry out a comprehensive study of all such incidents that have taken place in the recent past, based upon which a plan of action will be drawn out,” a police official said. “The name of a liquor mafioso has cropped up. He happened to be involved in a similar case earlier and is currently out on bail. We are investigating the matter from all angles,” he added. According to officials in the two districts, tragedy befell Maghar and Auriya panchayats of Siwan and Mashrakh in Saran on Tuesday night when a number of locals treated themselves to liquor, the sale of which was completely banned in the state by the Nitish Kumar government way back in April, 2016. The officials also said that more than 20 people were still battling for life at hospitals, many of them having lost their eyesight as a side effect of the spurious liquor. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said hooch deaths have become a routine in Bihar but never ever has a high-ranking official faced the music for the lapse.

### J AND K POLLS END, TERROR GROUPS REACTIVATE

According to preliminary reports, security forces also resorted to speculative firing to prevent any ambush in the area. Earlier on May 4, a gruesome attack took place on the Indian Air Force (IAF) vehicles in the same area in

which one IAF personnel hailing from Madhya Pradesh sacrificed his life while four others received multiple bullet injuries in the surprise attack. At daybreak, fresh reinforcements were rushed to plug the gaps. According to official sources, security forces have deployed drones and sniffer dogs, while a helicopter was also seen hovering over the forest area this morning. A similar exercise was launched by the security forces in the Rajouri district following information about the movement of three suspected terrorists in the early hours of Thursday. During the day the security forces searched general areas at Kundan and adjoining villages in the Shadra Sharief area. Additional troops were also rushed to the area to tighten the outer cordon. The jaws of the Indian army have been kept in a state of high alert in the entire area following fresh inputs about the movement of terrorists in the area. Meanwhile, the General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva visited Doda and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness in the hilly district which was rocked by several terror incidents in the recent past. Lt Gen Sachdeva along with the General Officer Commanding of Counter-Insurgency Force Delta visited Sohanda in the Doda sector to review the security situation and operational preparedness, the White-Knight Corps wrote on X. “GOC appreciated the unwavering commitment and dedication of all ranks towards maintaining peace and security in the region,” the army said.

### POLICE SHOOT AT, ARREST BAHRAICH PRIME ACCUSED

As officers approached, the suspects opened fire, prompting the police to retaliate. During the exchange, Sarfaraz and Talib were shot, while the police successfully arrested Sarfaraz’s

brother Fahim, his father Abdul Hamid, and another individual. A doctor in the hospital said that two people were brought here around 2:35 pm-one named Sarfaraz and the other Mohd Taleem. One had injuries on his left leg, and the other on his right leg. The bullet is still inside the body. The incident has attracted significant attention, particularly after a photograph of Sarfaraz holding a gun emerged, heightening concerns about his involvement in the killing. Sarfaraz’s sister, Rukhsar, had earlier voiced her fears about an impending police encounter, worried for the safety of her family. “Yesterday, Wednesday evening at 4 PM, my father Abdul Hamid, my two brothers Sarfaraz, Fahim, and another young man were taken away by the UP STF. My husband and my brother-in-law had already been taken earlier. We have no information about them from any police station. We fear they might be killed in an encounter,” she stated. The town of Bahraich has been reeling from the murder of Ram Gopal Mishra, who was shot on October 13 during a Durga Visarjan procession that descended into violence. A video of the incident shows Mishra on the roof of Abdul Hamid’s house, holding a saffron flag. As he attempts to wrap the flag, a gunshot rings out, and Mishra collapses after being struck in the chest. In the background, children’s voices can be heard shouting, “He’s dead... he’s dead, run... run,” amplifying the distressing nature of the scene. The footage appears to have been recorded from the roof of Abdul Hamid’s residence, where the confrontation escalated during the Durga procession. A minor dispute over a DJ playing music near a mosque turned into a full-blown riot when stone-pelting ensued. Mishra, who had climbed onto the roof amidst the chaos, replaced a green flag with a saffron one, allegedly exacerbating tensions. As he attempted to descend, he was fatally shot. Police have named Abdul Hamid, his sons Sarfaraz and Fahim, along with six others, as suspects in Mishra’s murder.

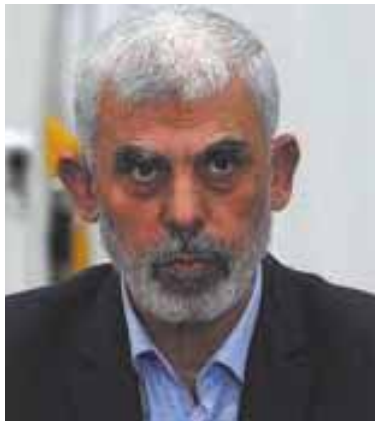


# Hamas' top leader Yahya Sinwar killed in Gaza

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israel's foreign minister has confirmed that Israeli troops in Gaza have killed Hamas' top leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war. Sinwar has topped Israel's most-wanted list since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war just over a year ago, and his killing strikes a powerful blow to the militant group. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of his death. Foreign Minister Katz called Sinwar's killing a "military and moral achievement for the Israeli army." "The assassination of Sinwar will create the possibility to immediately release the hostages and to bring a change that will lead to a new reality in Gaza — without Hamas and without Iranian control," he said in a statement. Earlier, on Thursday, Israeli military said it was looking into whether Hamas' top leader Yahya Sinwar was killed in a military operation in Gaza, while an Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians killed at least 15 people, including five children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The military said in a statement that three militants were killed during operations in Gaza, without specifying where or elaborating further. It said the identities of the three were so far not

confirmed, but it was "checking the possibility" that one of the three was Sinwar. Sinwar was one of the chief architects of Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and Israel has vowed to kill him since the beginning of its retaliatory campaign in Gaza. Throughout the war, Sinwar has been in hiding. For years Hamas' top figure in Hamas, Sinwar was chosen as its top leader following the assassination of Ismael Haniyeh in July in an apparent Israeli strike in the Iranian capital Tehran. Israel has also claimed to have killed the head of Hamas' military wing Mohammed Deif in an airstrike, but the group has said he survived. The report came as Israeli forces continued a more than week-old major air and ground assault in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, where the Abu Hussein school was hit Thursday. Fares Abu Hamza, head of Gaza Health Ministry's local emergency unit, confirmed the toll from the strike and said dozens of people were wounded. He said the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital was struggling to treat the casualties. "Many women and children are in critical condition," he said. The Israeli military said it targeted a command center run by Hamas and Islamic Jihad inside the school. It provided a list of around a dozen names of people it identified as militants who were present



when the strike was called in. It was not immediately possible to verify the names. Israel has repeatedly struck tent camps and schools sheltering displaced people in Gaza. The Israeli military says it carries out precise strikes on militants and tries to avoid harming civilians, but its strikes often kill women and children. Israel launched its campaign in Gaza to eliminate Hamas after the militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 others. Some 100 captives are still inside Gaza, about a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, accord-

ing to Gaza's Health Ministry. It does not differentiate between civilians and combatants but says women and children make up a little more than half of the fatalities. Northern Gaza was the first target of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago and has suffered the heaviest destruction of the war, with entire neighborhoods in Gaza City and other towns reduced to rubble. Most of the population fled after Israel issued evacuation orders in the opening days of the war, but about 400,000 are believed to have remained despite the harsh conditions. Earlier this month, Israel once again ordered the full-scale evacuation of the north, and allowed no food aid to enter the area for around two weeks. That led many Palestinians to fear that it had adopted a surrender-or-starve strategy suggested by former Israeli generals. Israel allowed two shipments of aid to enter the north earlier this week after the United States warned it might reduce its military aid if its ally did not do more to address the humanitarian crisis. Since the start of the conflict, Israeli forces have launched repeated operations into Jabaliya, a densely populated urban refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. The military says militants have repeatedly regrouped there after major operations.

# I represent a new generation of leadership: Kamala Harris

PTI ■ WASHINGTON



US Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday said she represents the next generation of leadership and her presidency would be different from that of her boss President Joe Biden and Republican rival Donald Trump. "My presidency will not be a continuation of Joe Biden's presidency. Like every new president that comes in to office, I will bring my life experiences, my professional experiences, and fresh and new ideas. I represent a new generation of leadership," Harris said in an interview to Fox news channel. "I, for example, am someone who has not spent the majority of my career in Washington, D.C. I invite ideas, whether it be from the Republicans who are supporting me, who were just on stage with me minutes ago, and the business sector and others, who can contribute to the decisions that I make about," she said. "You've been vice president for three and a half years. So, what

are you turning the page from?" she was asked. "Well, first of all, turning the page from the last decade in which we have been burdened with the kind of rhetoric coming from Donald Trump that has been designed and implemented to divide our country and have Americans literally point fingers at each other; rhetoric and an approach to leadership that suggests that the strength of a leader is based on who you beat down instead of what we all know. The strength of leadership is based on who you lift up," Harris asserted. "The strength of an American president which is one who understands that the vast majority of us have more in common than what separates us. That is turning the page on rhetoric that People are frankly exhausted of," she said. Harris slammed her Republican rival Trump and said he is unfit to run for presidency. "If he's as bad as you say, that half of this country is now supporting this person who could be the 47th president of the United States? Why is that happening?" she was asked. "This is an election for president of the United States. It's not supposed to be a cakewalk for anyone... If you listen to Donald Trump, if you watch any of his rallies, he's the one who tends to demean and belittle and diminish the American people. He's the one who talks about an enemy within, an enemy within, talking about the American people suggesting he would turn the American military on the American people," Harris said.

# US bombers target bunkers of Yemen's Houthi rebels

AP ■ DUBAI

US long-range B-2 stealth bombers launched airstrikes early Thursday morning targeting underground bunkers used by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said. It wasn't immediately clear what damage was done in the strikes. However, there are no previous reports of the B-2 Spirit being used in the strikes targeting the Houthis, who have been attacking ships for months in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel reported airstrikes around Yemen's capital, Sanaa, which the group has held since 2014. They also reported strikes around the Houthi stronghold of Saada. They offered no immediate information on damage or casualties. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement that the B-2 bombers targeted "five hardened underground weapons storage locations in Houthi-controlled areas of

Yemen." The strike also appeared to be an indirect warning to Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, which has targeted Israel with ballistic missile attacks twice over the past year. The B-2 would be used in any American attack on hardened Iranian nuclear facilities like Natanz or Fordo given it is the only aircraft in service that can drop the GBU-57, known as the "Massive Ordnance Penetrator." "This was a unique demonstration of the United States' ability to target facilities that our adversaries seek to keep out of reach, no matter how deeply buried underground, hardened, or fortified," Austin said. Austin and the US military's Central Command offered no immediate assessment on the damage done. However, Central Command said in a statement that initial assessments suggested no civilians had been killed. The Red Sea has become a battlefield for shippers since the Houthis began their campaign targeting ships traveling through the waterway, which

once saw \$1 trillion of cargo pass through it yearly. Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October 2023. They have seized one vessel and sunk two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels. The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the US or the United Kingdom to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. The Houthis also continue to launch missiles targeting Israel and have shot down a number of US military MQ-9 Reaper drones. The rebels have threatened new attacks in response to Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon and its killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

# China prefers Harris over Trump as US president, says top official

PTI ■ BEIJING

China will prefer Kamala Harris to Donald Trump as the next US presidential candidate, according to a top Chinese official. The Chinese government prefers not to comment on the US presidential election because it doesn't want to be accused of interfering in American domestic politics, Jia Qingguo, member of the Standing Committee of the national advisory body CPPCC said. The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is a key component of the state governance system and a distinctively Chinese political institution. The views of the Chinese general public are divided over Harris and Trump, but "I would prefer Harris because of the bad experience with Trump. We don't want to have that experience again," he told BBC in a rare comment voicing Beijing's preferred choice in the US presidential election. During Trump's presidency, the relations declined sharply and the two countries ended up in seri-

ous confrontation. "From China's point of view, US Vice President Kamala Harris, who has worked under President Biden, represents the continuity," he said. Trump, during his Presidency, was quite emotional and spread a lot of bad information about China, said Jia, who is also the Director of the Institute of Global Cooperation and Understanding of the Peking University. "We have problems with the Biden admiration too," but Biden inherited a lot of tough measures initiated by Trump against China for the reasons of domestic politics and perhaps out of his ideological conviction, he said, adding, "Under Biden, the US policy towards China is more stable, predictable." "We are re-engaging with each other. Officials are meeting with each other, talking about issues," which he said is stabilising the relations. While following a tough policy towards China, including firming up US policy to challenge Beijing's claims over the disputed South China Sea and Taiwan, and restricting China's ambitious move to export its electric vehicles, Biden, however, has maintained regular dialogue with President Xi Jinping to keep the tensions under control.

# 'Broken immigration system needs to be repaired'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has a broken immigration system that needs to be repaired, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Wednesday in a rare interview with the Republican-leaning news channel during which she sparred with its popular host. Harris made these remarks in an interview with Fox News anchor Bret Baier. Baier repeatedly pressed the Democratic presidential nominee on illegal immigration, taxpayer support for gender transition surgery and other areas that closely aligned with former President Donald Trump's regular attacks against her. With 20 days before the election, Harris tried to defend her record on immigration and the economy. On being asked how many undocumented immigrants have illegally entered the US under the Biden-Harris administration, Harris did not give a number. Harris responded: "Bret, let's just get to the point, OK? The point is that we have a broken immigration system that needs to be repaired." "So, your Homeland Security Secretary said that 85 per cent of

apprehensions," Baier interjected. "I'm not finished. We have an immigration system," Harris tried to continue with her answer. "It's a rough estimate that 6 million people have been released into the country," the Fox News anchor interrupted again. "And let me just finish. I'll get to the question. I promise you. I was beginning to answer," the vice president pleaded. "When you came into office, your administration immediately reversed a number of Trump border policies. Most significantly, the policy required illegal immigrants to be detained through deportation, either in the US or in Mexico. And you switched that policy. They were... released from custody awaiting trial. So instead, included in those were a large number of single men, adult men, who went on to commit heinous crimes. So looking back, do you regret the decision to terminate Remain in Mexico at the beginning of your administration?" Baier asked again. "At the beginning of our administration, within practically hours of taking the oath, the first bill, practically within hours of taking the oath, was a bill to fix our

immigration system," Harris said as Baier kept on interjecting in between. "We recognised from day one that this is your first question. It is a priority for us as a nation and for the American people. Our focus has been on fixing a problem. From day one, then, we have done a number of things, including addressing our asylum system and putting more resources, getting more judges, what we needed to do to tighten up penalties and increase penalties for illegal crossings, and what we needed to do to deal with points of entry between border, entry points," she said. "We worked on supporting what was a bipartisan effort, including some of the most conservative members of the United States Congress, to actually strengthen the border. That border bill would have put 1,500 more border agents at the border, which is why I believe the Border Patrol agents supported the bill. It would have allowed us to stem the flow of fentanyl coming into the United States, which is a scourge affecting people of every background, every geographic location in our country, killing people," she said.

# Secret Service needs fundamental reform, says panel probing attack on Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

An independent panel investigating the attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania campaign rally faulted the Secret Service for poor communications that day and failing to secure the building where the gunman took his shots. The review also found more systemic issues at the agency such as a failure to understand the unique risks facing Trump and a culture of doing "more with less." The 52-page report issued on Thursday took the Secret Service to task for specific problems leading up to the July 13 rally in Butler as well as deeper one within the agency's culture. It recommended bringing in new, outside leadership and refocusing on its protective mission. "The Secret Service as an agency requires fundamental reform to carry out its mission," the authors

wrote Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Homeland Security Department, the Secret Service's parent agency, in a letter accompanying their report. "Without that reform, the Independent Review Panel believes another Butler can and will happen again." One rallygoer was killed and two others wounded when Thomas Michael Crooks climbed onto the roof of a nearby building and opened fire as Trump spoke. The former president was wounded in the ear before being rushed off the stage by Secret Service agents. That shooting, along with another incident in Florida when Trump was golfing — a gunman there never got a line of site on the president or fired a shot — has led to a crisis in confidence in the agency. The report by a panel of four former law enforcement officials from national and state government follows investigations by

members of Congress, the agency's own investigators and by Homeland Security's oversight body. The panel echoed previous reports that have zeroed in on the failure to secure the building near the rally that had a clear line of site to where Trump was speaking and the multiple communications problems that hindered the ability of the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement to talk to each other. "The failure to secure a complex of buildings, portions of which were within approximately 130 yards of the protectee and containing numerous positions carrying high-angle line of sight risk, represents a critical security failure," the report said. The panel faulted the planning between Secret Service and the local law enforcement, and said the Secret Service failed to ask about what was being done to secure the building: "Relying on

a general understanding that the locals have that area covered" is simply not good enough and, in fact, at Butler this attitude contributed to the security failure." The panel also cited the fact that there were two separated command posts at the Butler rally: one with various local law enforcement and another with the Secret Service. "This created, at the highest level, a structural divide in the flow of communications." There were other communications problems. The Secret Service had to switch radio channels because radio traffic of agents protecting first lady Jill Biden at an event in Pittsburgh was popping up on the channels of agents covering the Butler rally. The panel also noted that all the law enforcement personnel on the ground were using a "chaotic mixture" of radio, cell phone, text, and e-mail throughout the day to communicate.

# UN seeks probe into attack on Afghan migrants by Iranian border forces

AP ■ DUBAI

A United Nations expert is calling for an investigation into reports that an attack by Iranian security forces on the border with Afghanistan killed and wounded migrants. Iran has denied any shooting took place Sunday near Saravan, a town in the country's restive southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan, which borders Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. However, anti-Afghan migrant rhetoric has escalated in Iran in recent months as Western sanctions grind down its economy, with the country's police chief claiming some 2 million migrants would be deported in the next six months. The Taliban said on Thursday they will provide updates once their investigation into the reported attack is complete. Their chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said earlier that rumours were circulating

about the deaths and injuries of Afghans on the Iran border. "The information has not yet been confirmed. The necessary decision will be taken after clarification of the matter," he said on a social media platform X. HalVash, an advocacy group for the Baluch people that is broadly focused on Iran, has issued a series of reports over the shooting, citing two unnamed witnesses to the attack and others claiming a death toll that ran at least into the dozens, with more wounded. It published images of what appeared to be several corpses and others with gunshot wounds. HalVash alleged Iranian security forces used both firearms and rocket-propelled grenades in the attack. The Associated Press has been unable to independently confirm the attack. Verifying information remains difficult in Sistan and Baluchistan, which for decades has been home to cross-border

insurgency and violence involving heroin traffickers. However, Richard Bennett, the United Nations' special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, has called for a probe into the reports, saying he was "seriously concerned." "I call for authorities to investigate transparently. Clarity is urgently needed," he wrote on X. "These reports don't stand in isolation. More dignity and safety is needed for Afghans worldwide." On Wednesday, Iran began to push back on the reports. Gen. Reza Shojaei, a commander of the provincial border guard, called the reports of a shooting "basically false." Hassan Kazemi Ghomi, the Iranian president's special representative for Afghanistan affairs, also called the claims "not true" on X and blaming the story's spread on "the frenzy of the lying media." Large numbers of Afghans have called Iran home for decades, from the

1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, through the first rule of the Taliban, the 2001 US-led invasion and the 2021 Taliban takeover. The United Nations' refugee agency estimates 3.8 million displaced people live in Iran, the vast majority of them Afghans. Some in Iran suggest the number of Afghans is even higher. Police and authorities are signalling they want to deport more Afghans. Iranian police chief Ahmad Reza Radan earlier this month signalled the country planned to deport 2 million undocumented migrants in the next six months, though he stopped short of identifying them as Afghans. He said some 500,000 already had been deported. "We cannot allow individuals to enter the country illegally, reside, and work," he said. "Citizens and business owners should know that employing these individuals and housing illegal foreign nationals is a crime."

# Zelenskyy heads to EU, NATO seeking support for his 'victory plan'

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday that support from his embattled nation's Western allies is key to his "victory plan" to end the country's devastating war with Russia as he laid out details of the plan to European Union leaders. He told reporters the plan aims "to strengthen Ukraine" and pave the way for a diplomatic solution to end the conflict on Europe's eastern flank. "I think that this plan doesn't depend on Russian will, only on the will of our partners," he said before addressing leaders at an EU summit. Zelenskyy was later shut-

ting across Brussels to meet with NATO defence ministers. The EU is a key supporter of Ukraine, a candidate member of the 27-nation bloc, as it fights Russia's invasion that began more than 2 1/2 years ago. Zelenskyy outlined the five-point plan to Ukraine's parliament on Wednesday without disclosing confidential elements that have been presented in private to key allies, including the United States. The Institute for the Study of War in Washington said that Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to draw out the war and he believes "that Russian forces can outlast Western support for Ukraine

and collapse Ukrainian resistance by winning a war of attrition." NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte was muted in his response to the plan on Wednesday. On Thursday he said that Kyiv can rest "absolutely assured that 32 allies are united in making sure that collectively, we will do whatever is needed to make sure that Ukraine can prevail, that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will not get his way." Rutte reiterated that Ukraine's place is among NATO's ranks, but he would not say when it might join. Zelenskyy insists that a membership invitation is central to

his "victory plan" and would provide his country with the ultimate security guarantee to protect it from Russia. "Ukraine will be a member of NATO in the future," Rutte said. "The question is exactly about the when? I cannot answer that now." However, Rutte said, Putin must understand that "we are in this, if necessary, for the long haul. And obviously we want to be in a place where Zelenskyy and Ukraine, from a position of strength, is able to start talks with Russia." Major points of the plan include an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western-supplied longer-range missiles to

strike military targets deep inside Russia, steps that have been met with reluctance by Kyiv's allies so far. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz downplayed the chances of Berlin changing its opposition to the use of long-range weapons against Russian targets. "You know Germany's position on the questions that are touched on here; nothing will change about this," he said. Zelenskyy said he needs to "move some partners forward" on the issue. "And I think only with the unity in EU we can move and can move not only EU leaders, we can move other leaders." A draft copy of EU summit

conclusions — a text that will likely be tweaked before publication at the end of Thursday's meeting — reaffirms the bloc's "unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed. Russia must not prevail." Thursday's talks in Brussels come as Ukrainian troops are struggling to hold off better-equipped Russian forces, especially in the eastern Donetsk region where they are gradually being pushed back. Kyiv is surviving with Western help, but Ukraine says it is coming too slowly.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda criticized slow Western decision-making over Ukraine and said it "would be a great mistake to think that our hesitance is the best way to de-escalation." If Western allies bolstered support to Kyiv, leading to gains on the ground for Ukrainian forces, "then I think Putin would be pressed to go to negotiations table. Right now, he thinks he is prevailing," he said when entering the EU summit. Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said EU leaders "have to give a strong signal and unified signal that we continue to support Ukraine as much and as long as needed".

At their summit in Washington in July, the 32 NATO members declared Ukraine on an "irreversible" path to membership. But for now, NATO is in a holding pattern. Its biggest and most powerful member, the United States, is facing a presidential election. European allies expect little movement on Ukraine until a new president takes office in January. Beyond that, the United States and European heavy-weight Germany remain deeply concerned about being dragged into a wider war with nuclear-armed Russia, and they lead a group of countries that oppose allowing Ukraine to join NATO until the conflict ends.



# India's logistics cost will come down to single-digit in two years: Nitin Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said India's logistics cost will come down to single-digit within the next two years. Addressing an event organised by NITI Aayog, Gadkari said the ministry is constructing several highways and expressways, which will help reduce India's logistics cost. "Within two years, we are going to reduce our logistics cost to 9 per cent," he added. According to quick estimates of the economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), logistics costs in

India ranged between 7.8 per cent to 8.9 per cent of GDP for the fiscal 2021-22. Gadkari said there is huge potential for India to export alternative fuels and biofuels. He also pointed out that low-quality coal is useful for making methanol. The minister added that India is making significant strides in the biofuel sector, especially in methanol. Further, Gadkari said he aimed to make the Indian automobile industry number one in the world. Last year, India had overtaken Japan to become the third-largest automobile market in the world, only behind the US and China, he said.



The size of India's automobile industry rose from Rs 7.5 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 18 lakh crore in 2024 and this industry is creating a maximum number of jobs, Gadkari added. Gadkari highlighted that materials like recycled tyre powder and plastic are being utilised in road construction, which helps in the reduction of bitumen import. He also emphasised how the

initiative of using crop waste is helping to increase the incomes of farmers across the country. Gadkari spoke about the stubble-burning problem in Punjab and Haryana. He said that right now, "we can process one-fifth of the Parali, but with better planning, we can reduce the seasonal air pollution from stubble-burning by using parali as raw material for alternative fuels." The minister said that India needs to move ahead with a policy which is cost-effective, indigenous, import substitute and employment-generating to address the major issues of rising pollution and fossil fuel imports.

# Hyundai Motor India records ₹27,870 cr fully-subscribed IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, got fully subscribed on the third day of the bidding on Thursday. The Rs 27,870 crore initial share sale got bids for 14,07,68,187 shares against 9,97,69,810 shares on offer, translating into 1.41 times subscription, as per NSE data till 13:21 hours. The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got 3.88 times subscription while the portion meant for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 44 per cent subscription. The non-institutional investors part fetched 39 per cent subscription. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMI) on Monday raised Rs



8,315 crore from anchor investors. This is the largest IPO in the country, surpassing LIC's initial share sale of Rs 21,000 crore. The IPO has a price band of Rs 1,865-1,960 per share. The IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 14,21,94,700 equity shares by promoter Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), with no fresh issue component. This is the first initial share sale by an automaker in over two decades, following Japanese carmaker Maruti Suzuki's listing in 2003. Since the public issue is

completely an OFS, Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the second largest carmaker in India after Maruti Suzuki, will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. HMI stated that it expects that the listing of the equity shares will enhance its visibility and brand image, and provide liquidity and a public market for the shares. At the upper end of the price band, the IPO size has been pegged at Rs 27,870 crore (USD 3.3 billion), and the company's market valuation at around Rs 1.6 lakh crore (about USD 19 billion) post-issue. HMI commenced operations in India in 1996 and currently, sells 13 models across segments. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Ltd, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Ltd, J P Morgan India Private.

# Andhra eyes Rs 10 lakh cr investment in clean energy, net zero by 2047

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh is eyeing Rs 10 lakh crore investment in the clean energy sector in the state as it unveiled a new policy that incentivises investments across solar, wind and round-the-clock renewable energy projects to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2047. Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the AP Integrated Clean Energy (ICE) Policy that envisages incentives ranging from hassle-free land acquisition at reasonable price to power subsidy to certain sectors. The ICE Policy will involve a proposed investment outlay of Rs 10 lakh crore, creating direct and indirect employment for 7,50,000 workers, the policy document said. The policy looks to leverage the state's vast renewable energy potential across wind, solar and hybrid sources, storage capabilities through pumped storage projects, a long coastline, six operational ports (with four under development) and skilled manpower availability as it pivots energy transition. The Andhra Pradesh government is committed to promoting generation from renewables by creating a more conducive policy and investment framework to spur competition and private participation in the sector while maintaining a balance in the interests of all stakeholders, it said. The policy will aid in setting up of projects that generate electricity from abundant sunlight and wind energy as well from pump-storage projects on water bodies. Andhra Pradesh is targeting 78.5 gigawatts of solar capacity, 35 GW of wind energy, 22 GW of pumped storage and 1.5 million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen manufacturing capacity. It is also looking to set up 25 GWh of battery energy storage as well as projects to manufacture ethanol and biogas from biomass and 5,000 EV charging stations. It is also looking at 25-30 GW of cleantech manufacturing



that will create jobs for the local population. To develop relevant skills in our workforce, the University for Green Energy and Circular Economy (UGC) will be established in collaboration with the government of India and industries under PPP (Public-Private Partnership) Mode, it said. Clean Energy Knowledge & Skill Development Center (CEKSDC) will be formed to serve as a knowledge and training hub and enable partnerships with academia, think tanks, and industry. The incentives in the policy include concessional land lease for all clean energy projects as well as renewable energy component manufacturing units. Stamp duty will be waived for mini-hydro, pump storage projects, battery storage, biofuels and manufacturing units while capital subsidies provided for battery storage, green hydrogen, biofuels and renewable energy manufacturing projects. Electricity duty and other open access charges will be waived. Other incentives include a capital subsidy for electrolyser and biofuel projects, reimbursement of

net state GST for 5 years, waiver of ED and reimbursement/waiver of intra-state transmission charges. Capital subsidy of up to 25 per cent is being offered for renewable energy manufacturing projects as also reimbursement of net state GST, off-take guarantee, and power subsidy of Re 1 per unit for 5-10 years. New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation Of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) will be the state nodal agency facilitating access to land parcels, and will support power evacuation and open access, help in availing central government incentives, facilitate relevant approvals and clearances and support capacity allocation. The policy will be operational for five years. The ICE policy is in line with Andhra Pradesh's ambitious target of net zero carbon emission by 2047, the document said, adding with renewed efforts under the policy, Andhra Pradesh will attract investment for the next 5 years, scaling up its renewable energy capacity manifold and claiming its rightful place as a leading state in the energy transition.

# DGCA releases 2024 domestic winter flight schedule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday released Domestic Winter Schedule 2024, in which Indian carriers will operate 25,007 flights every week to and from 124 airports in the winter schedule starting October 27, higher by three per cent, than the flights operated during summer period this year. In comparison to the winter schedule 2023, the number of flights has increased by 5.37 per cent. As per Winter Schedule 2024 (effective from 27th October 2024 till 29th March 2025) of the scheduled domestic airlines has been finalized after the slot conference meeting held in September 2024. "Out of these 124 airports, Pondicherry airport is proposed by the scheduled airlines whereas operations



from Pakyong and Tezpur airport were suspended in the winter schedule 2024," the DGCA said in a release. More than half of the total 25,007 domestic departures per week during the winter schedule will be handled by IndiGo. The Gurugram-headquartered airline will see

13,691 departures per week, up 4.91 per cent from 13,050 departures per week in the on-going summer schedule. Also, Tata Group, which currently has three airlines -- Air India, its subsidiary Air India Express and, its JV airline with SIA Vistara -- will have a total of 7,611 departures per week during

this winter, as per the DGCA. Of this, Air India will handle 2,586 departures per week, 13.52 per cent more compared to 2,278 departures per week in the summer schedule of this year, while Air India Express (which saw the merger of AIX connect with it this month) will see 2,832 departures per week

during the winter schedule, up 16.21 per cent from 2,437 departures per week in the summer schedule of 2024. Vistara, however, will see 5.64 per cent less departures per week at 2,193 from 2,324 departures per week in the summer of this year, it said. Budget carrier SpiceJet will also handle less number of departures at 1,297 per week from 1,657 departures per week in the summer schedule of this year, a drop of 21.73 per cent, according to the DGCA. Akasa Air, as per the DGCA, has filed for 989 departures per week for the winter schedule of 2024, which would be an increase of 9.52 per cent compared to the summer schedule. Out of these 124 airports, Pondicherry airport is proposed by the scheduled airlines whereas operations from Pakyong and Tezpur airport were suspended in the Winter Schedule 2024.

# Nestle India Q2 profit dips on high costs, soft demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

FMCG major Nestle India Ltd on Thursday reported a marginal decline of 0.94 per cent in its net profit at Rs 899.49 crore for the second quarter that ended September 2024 as some of its key brands faced softer consumer demand and high commodity prices. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 908.08 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Nestle India. However, Nestle India's revenue from the sale of products was up 1.3 per cent to Rs 5,074.76 crore in the September quarter. It was at Rs 5,009.52 crore in the corresponding period of last fiscal. Commenting on the results Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan said, "Despite a challenging external environment with muted consumer demand and high commodity prices, especially for coffee and cocoa, we remained resilient in our pursuit to deliver growth."

"This quarter, 5 of our top 12 brands grew at double-digit. However, some key brands witnessed pressure due to softer consumer demand and we focus on them and have in place robust action plans," he said. Nestle India's domestic sales were up 1.23 per cent to Rs 4,883.14 crore, as against Rs 4,823.72 crore in the corresponding July-September period. In the domestic market, Nestle India delivered growth in organised trade, which includes retail chains, hypermarkets etc "spurred by noodles, beverages and overall premiumisation," according to an earning statement by the company, which owns brands like Maggi, Nescafe, KitKat and Milkmaid etc. Similarly in the Out of Home (OOH) segment, Nestle India has a "robust growth" helped by portfolio transformation, premiumisation, new customer acquisition and driving reach beyond metros. "Our Out-of-Home business continues to be one of our fastest growing businesses with strong double-digit growth," said Nestle India



adding that while in e-commerce, Nestle India has accelerated growth by almost 38 per cent. This was "primarily driven by Quick Commerce and fueled by brands such as Kitkat, Nescafe, Maggi and Milkmaid." "E-commerce delivered high double-digit growth, which was the highest in the last seven quarters contributing to 8.3 per cent of domestic sales," it said. Growth on this new age channel was also supported by premiumisation, new user acquisition, festive participation and targeted digital communications. Its petcare business Purina

also witnessed a strong e-commerce momentum, it added. "Felix and Friskies cat food continued to receive positive feedback from trade and cat parents. Building on the superpremium pillar, Pro Plan dog food witnessed strong growth," said Nestle India. Its revenue from exports was also up 3.13 per cent to Rs 191.62 crore in the September quarter. Its export business "continued to expand its footprint by introducing new SKUs across categories to Canada, Middle East, Maldives and Papua New Guinea," it said.

# Infosys Q2 net profit rises 4.7 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infosys Ltd on Thursday reported a 4.7 per cent rise in the September quarter net profit and raised revenue guidance after broadbased growth. Net profit of Rs 6,506 crore in July-September was up 4.7 per cent when compared to Rs 6,212 crore earnings in the same period last year. It was 2.2 per cent higher quarter-on-year, according to a company statement. Revenue was up 4.2 per cent at Rs 40,986 crore. Infosys for the second consecutive quarter raised the 2024-25 fiscal year revenue guidance. It now anticipates a growth of 3.75 to 4.50 per cent in revenue in the fiscal year April 2024 to March 2025, up from 3-4 per cent band it had given in the previous quarter. The company had in July raised the revenue guidance for the fiscal from 1-3 per cent anticipated previously.

# Sarla Aviation, Bengaluru airport launch electric flying taxis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is set to be a key hub for cutting-edge urban air mobility solutions with Sarla Aviation joining hands with the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to launch electric flying taxis. Last month, the two entities signed a statement of collaboration to explore sustainable air mobility, specifically electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. This initiative, developed in Karnataka, aims to revolutionise air travel by introducing seven-seater electric flying taxis, which promise faster, cleaner, and more efficient transportation. While operations may still be two to three years away, Sarla



Aviation's electric taxis promise a cleaner, quieter, and more cost-effective alternative to traditional helicopter services previously offered in Bengaluru. The Bengaluru-based company, co-founded by Adrian Schmidt, Rakesh Gaonkar and Shivam Chauhan, is at the forefront of this transformation. Sarla Aviation plans to focus on four of India's most congested cities-Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune -- bringing affordable electric aerial taxis to the public. The

company's proposed route from Bengaluru Airport to Electronics City would take just 19 minutes, compared to the 152 minutes required by road, with a fare of Rs 1,700. "We aim to redefine urban air transport with operational efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, and scalable infrastructure. Our electric flying taxis will set new benchmarks in reliability and performance, aligning with global standards for sustainable aviation," said Schmidt, Sarla Aviation co-founder and CEO.

# Collective responsibility to improve corporate governance, follow global standards: NFRA Chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Chairperson Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey on Thursday underscored the need for improving corporate governance and aligning Indian auditing with global standards to attract investors. Observing that there is a need to continue to take cognizance of corporate governance reforms, he said company management, independent directors and audit committee, statutory auditors, shareholders, and regulators constitute five lines of defence to improve corporate governance. "It is our collective responsibility...We should continue to create trust. Improve the corporate governance, and we should work in that direction," he



said, addressing an event organised by industry chamber Assocham here. Adopting global auditing standards would improve the trust of global investors in the Indian economy, which is on its way to becoming the third largest from the present fifth position, he said. Making a pitch to align Indian audit practices with the global standards, Pandey said it is in the interest of corporates. Adopting global audit norms

is easier as "we have global precedents", he said. "We cannot have Indian accounting standards in isolation while not adhering to global standards...Some big corporate failures have been due to related party transactions and subsidiaries siphoning off funds...We must take corrective action like new Standard of Quality Management, changes in the auditing standard SA 600 to reduce the probability of frauds via subsidiaries," he said. These will lead to early detection of frauds, he said, emphasising that India cannot be a developed economy by 2047 without audit reforms. He expressed confidence that Indian accountants and CAs can dominate the world with adherence to global standards.

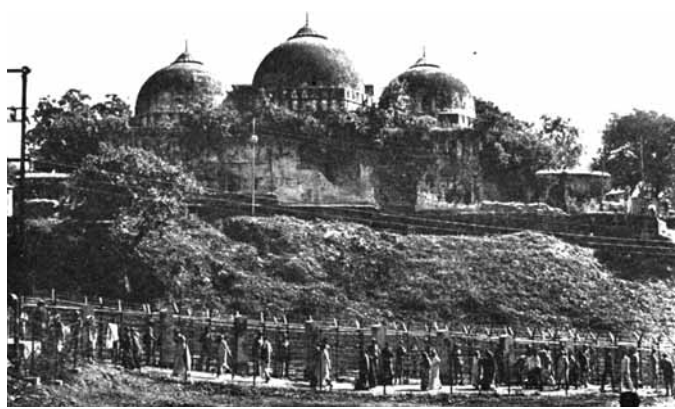
# INBRIEF

**TATA AUTOCOMP SYSTEMS ACHIEVES DOUBLE DEMING RECOGNITION**  
NEW DELHI: A leading automotive components conglomerate serving Indian and global OEMs, announced today that two of its entities— Tata AutoComp Composites Division & Tata Ficos—have been awarded the prestigious Deming Prize for 2024..

**GNU A-ZONE YOUTH FESTIVAL INAUGURATED**  
AMRITSAR: The A-Zone (Amritsar District Colleges) Youth Festival of Guru Nanak Dev University was inaugurated here today in the Dasmesh Auditorium of the University/Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 2 PM.

**POWERGRID ACQUIRES THREE ISTS PROJECTS**  
HARYANA: - a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power has on 15th October 2024 acquired three (03) Project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to execute Inter-State Transmission Projects related to transmission of renewable energy.





# A PHOTO JOURNALIST'S JOURNEY LIFE BEHIND THE LENS

In 'Viewfinder' by veteran photojournalist *Jagdish Yadav*, readers are taken through the life of a photojournalist, uncovering the challenges and achievements that shaped his career. The book offers an extensive look into the power and ethics of photojournalism in capturing the truth behind the headlines, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In today's society, where we are constantly bombarded with photographs and visuals, the deeper meaning and impact of photography can sometimes be lost or overlooked. With the fast-paced nature of digital media, where images are produced and consumed at lightning speed, it's easy for the essence of what a photograph conveys to fade into the background.

In contrast, *Viewfinder* by *Jagdish Yadav* offers a thoughtful examination of photojournalism, urging readers to consider how powerful storytelling can be when captured through photography. It highlights the importance of understanding not just the technical aspects of taking a photo, but also the stories and emotions behind the images. Essentially, it positions photography as a vital medium for narrative and expression in a visually saturated world.

*Yadav* begins with a compelling analogy, describing photojournalism as the "writing of stories through light." This powerful concept resonates throughout the book, drawing readers into the essence of photography as a universal language capable of going beyond barriers. His unique perspective highlights the intricate relationship between light, structure and narrative, an often-overlooked aspect that enriches the understanding of both seasoned photographers

and novices. By establishing this foundation, *Yadav* encourages a deeper appreciation for the medium that conveys emotions and narratives that words alone cannot capture.

The personal narrative work with professional insights makes *Viewfinder* particularly impactful. *Yadav* candidly recounts his rural upbringing in Uttar Pradesh, revealing the stark contrast between his humble beginnings and his eventual success in journalism. He details the struggles he faced, including language barriers and educational hurdles, creating a relatable picture for readers who may have encountered similar challenges. His resilience in the face of adversity serves as a source of inspiration, proving that determination can lead to remarkable outcomes.

The author also provides a timely commentary on the evolution of journalism, particularly the impact of digital media. He argues that, in today's fast-paced world, where attention spans are fleeting, the importance of powerful imagery has never been greater. A striking photograph, he asserts, can convey emotions and narratives that text alone fails to articulate. This reflection on contemporary relevance makes *Viewfinder* not only a recounting of the past but a significant contribution to discussions about the future of photojournalism.

A standout point *Yadav* makes is how



**ABOUT THE BOOK**  
Book: VIEWFINDER  
by JAGDISH YADAV  
Publication: IIP ACADEMY  
in association with  
MANAK Publication  
₹1200.00

a gateway for readers to dive deeper into the article, establishing a connection that pure text might struggle to create.

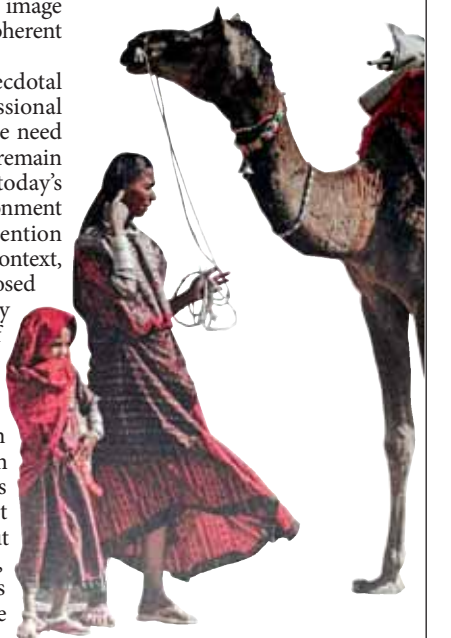
The book explores the technical and ethical responsibilities of photojournalists. *Yadav* highlights the importance of collaboration between reporters and photographers to ensure that images not only match the narrative but also enhance it. The photojournalist, he argues, must make real-time decisions about how to frame a story visually, often needing to act independently of the editorial team. *Yadav* offers a technical breakdown of how photo composition, whether horizontal or vertical, parallels the structure of a well-crafted article, ensuring that the image tells a complete and coherent story.

Through a mix of anecdotal experiences and professional insight, *Yadav* stresses the need for photojournalists to remain vigilant, especially in today's fast-paced media environment where the public's attention span has shrunk. In this context, a well-timed, well-composed photograph can convey the news in a fraction of the time required to read an article.

*Viewfinder* is a thoughtful reflection on the role of photography in journalism. *Yadav* shows how photojournalists not only document events but also interpret them, offering the public a lens through which to see the

unfiltered reality. His accounts, often humorous and always candid, bring to light the challenges and triumphs of a profession that is crucial but often overlooked.

*Jagdish Yadav's Viewfinder* is a must-read for anyone interested in the power of images in media. For those interested in photojournalism or seeking an inspiring life story, this book offers a window into the experiences of someone who has spent decades capturing the world through their lens. *Yadav's* reflections on the evolving landscape of photography create a compelling narrative that resonates long after the final page is turned.



## Festive Reads!

HarperCollins Picks for Your Festive Reads!



### The Forest of Enchantments

By CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI (PRICE: ₹799, PAGES: 372)

In *The Forest of Enchantments*, *Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni* offers a captivating retelling of the Ramayana, centering the narrative around Sita and other often-overlooked women of the epic, such as Kaikeyi, Surpanakha, and Mandodari. This powerful novel explores themes of duty, betrayal and the quest for autonomy in a patriarchal society. Through Sita's eyes, *Divakaruni* poses vital questions about women's rights and treatment in relationships, transforming an ancient story into a contemporary tale of resilience and empowerment.

### In The Footsteps Of Rama: Travels with the Ramayana

By VIKRANT PANDE and NEELESH KULKARNI (Price: ₹599, Pages: 272)

In *In The Footsteps Of Rama*, *Vikrant Pande* and *Neelesh Kulkarni* embark on an enlightening journey to retrace Rama's travels during his exile. Beginning with their quest to locate Chitrakoot, they explore significant sites mentioned in the Ramayana, traveling from Ayodhya through the Dandakaranya forest, Panchavati, Kishkindhya, Rameshwaram, and even Sri Lanka. Along their adventure, they uncover the deep connections between the epic's narrative and local folklore, revealing how the stories of the Ramayana continue to resonate with the people of the land. This book is a delightful read for both armchair travelers and enthusiasts of epic tales.

### Sita: Warrior of Mithila (Ram Chandra Series Book 2)

By AMISH TRIPATHI (PRICE: ₹399, PAGES: 376)

In *Sita: Warrior of Mithila*, set in 3400 BCE India, chaos reigns as the nation grapples with division, resentment, and corruption. The demon king Ravana of Lanka grows ever more powerful, exploiting the vulnerabilities of the Sapt Sindhu. In this tumultuous time, two tribes seek a savior and discover an abandoned baby, protected by a vulture from a pack of wolves. Adopted by the ruler of Mithila, this seemingly ordinary child is destined for greatness. This thrilling sequel in the Ram Chandra Series chronicles the rise of Sita, an orphan who evolves into a prime minister and ultimately becomes a goddess.

## Faith and Morals of Hinduism

# A Clear Path for the Curious Mind

In 'Quintessence of Hinduism' by *Girdhari Lal Chaturvedi* explores the core beliefs and moral principles of Hinduism, providing an insightful guide for young readers to rediscover and understand their faith.

ABHISHEK SONKAR

The Book offers a concise, comprehensive and insightful exploration of the core beliefs and moral principles that define Hinduism. The book, authored by *Girdhari Lal Chaturvedi*, is divided into 14 chapters, beginning with a historical overview of Hinduism and delving into the significance of the Bhagavad Gita as a philosophical text on faith. The author's aim is to create a guide for Hindu youth, who are often misinformed about their own faith, while also making the book a valuable resource for beginners and those familiar with Hinduism who wish to deepen their understanding.

However, the book struggles to fully achieve its purpose. The author emphasises that Hinduism, unlike many other religions, does not have a single founder or a rigid doctrinal structure. Instead, he describes it as a "bipolar faith." This term is problematic, as it can be misinterpreted to suggest conflicting or mutually exclusive aspects within Hinduism. In reality, Hinduism is a pluralistic tradition that has evolved through diverse paths and perspectives. Describing it as bipolar oversimplifies its inherently multifaceted nature. The book

extensively addresses critics of Hinduism, particularly from other religious backgrounds, who present Hinduism as a religion lacking in moral values. Yet, Hinduism is unique in that it has a long history of self-reflection and reform, with many philosophers and movements challenging established norms. This quality of self-critique is one of the aspects that sets Hinduism apart from other world religions. *Chaturvedi* provides readers

with a deeper understanding of the fundamental aspects of Hindu philosophy, including faith, morality and spirituality, and explains how these elements shape the daily lives of Hindus. The book also explores central texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, Vedas and Upanishads, offering summaries and interpretations of these works. The author does an admirable job of breaking down complex Sanskrit verses and ideas from the Bhagavad Gita into simple, relatable language without diluting their essence. This is one of the book's major strengths.

The author also discusses key Hindu concepts such as dharma (moral duty), karma (the law of cause and effect), and the nature of the atma (soul) and Brahman (universal consciousness), illustrating how these concepts are interconnected and central to Hindu philosophy. One of the book's main strengths is its ability to explain complex philosophical ideas in an accessible manner

HINDUISM, UNLIKE MANY OTHER RELIGIONS, DOES NOT HAVE A SINGLE FOUNDER OR A RIGID DOCTRINAL STRUCTURE. INSTEAD, HE DESCRIBES IT AS A "BIPOLAR FAITH"



### ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Quintessence of Hinduism: Fundamentals of Hindu Philosophy of Faith and Morals by GIRDHARI LAL CHATURVEDI

Pages: 383

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Availability: Amazon

while retaining their depth and significance. The clear and well-researched writing style makes the book a valuable resource for readers with little prior knowledge of Hinduism.

*Chaturvedi* highlights the accommodating nature of Hinduism, which encompasses a wide variety of beliefs, practices, and paths to spiritual realisation. Whether one follows a path of devotion (bhakti), knowledge (jnana), or selfless service (karma), all are considered valid approaches within the Hindu framework. However, there are limitations. Readers without prior knowledge of Sanskrit may find some sections challenging and those seeking a more detailed and nuanced exploration of specific texts or schools of thought may not find the depth they are looking for. These aspects could be viewed as potential shortcomings of the book.

'Quintessence of Hinduism' provides a useful introduction to Hindu philosophy and its moral framework. While it may not satisfy those looking for an in-depth scholarly analysis, it serves as a helpful starting point for anyone interested in exploring Hindu philosophy and is particularly recommended for readers who already have some familiarity with Hinduism.



# BUOYANT NEW ZEALAND FACE UPBEAT WEST INDIES IN T20 WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Buooyant New Zealand will seek to continue their inspirational run in the women's T20 World Cup when they face the West Indies in the second semifinal here on Friday. New Zealand has undoubtedly been the story of the tournament so far in which they got the better of Asian sides India and Sri Lanka to make the final four from Group A, putting behind their 10-match losing streak before the competition. With her towering presence, Sophie Devine has rallied the Kiwis troops impressively. Their success story features solid contributions at the top from Georgia Plimmer and veteran Suzie Bates, along with the all-round threat posed by Amelia Kerr further down the order. Kerr has been at the forefront of the Kiwis attack with 10 wickets and 85 runs in what has been a largely low-scoring tournament, providing New Zealand with a lot of impetus. Rosemary Mair has also been



at the helm of New Zealand's success in this World Cup with seven wickets on slow pitches of the UAE. Eden Carson set up the tone for New Zealand's high profile clash against India and the Kiwis will hope that the right-

arm spinner is at the top of her game against the West Indies, who are coming off a huge win over England. Hayley Matthews' West Indies topped Group B and like New Zealand they also lost one game in the group stage, but

overall the winners of the 2016 edition have put together robust performances. The West Indies have qualified for their first semifinal since hosting the tournament in their back yard in 2018, while the biggest moment for the

Caribbean side arrived in this edition when they pipped England in their last group stage match. The West Indies had lost 13 matches in a row against England before the two teams met in their last Group B

fixture, but their run-chase of 142 showed no signs of mental fatigue against this opponent. Matthews teamed up with the young Qiana Joseph to shut England out of the tournament with a rapid 102-run stand in which both the batters brought up their respective half-centuries. While Matthews is the only Caribbean batter to have crossed the 100-run mark in the competition, Sarah Taylor and Deandra Dottin remain vital cogs in their batting. Spinners Afy Fletcher (8 wickets) and Karishma Ramharack (5 wickets) have been the most successful bowlers for the Caribbean side. New Zealand hold upperhand against the West Indies when it comes to bilateral record, having won 15 out of 23 matches so far with two tied games and one without a result. The winner of this contest will take on the triumphant team from the first semifinal, to be played in Dubai on Thursday between the six-time winner and defending champions Australia and South Africa.



## Vivaan wins silver medal, Naruka claims bronze in Shooting World Cup Final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vivaan Kapoor claimed silver in men's trap event after compatriot Anant Jeet Singh Naruka's bronze in the men's skeet competition, taking India's tally to four medals at the ISSF World Cup Final here on Thursday. Vivaan shot 44 in the final to finish behind gold medal winner Ying Qi of China. Turkey's Tolga N Tuncer won the bronze medal with a score of 35. Vivaan had come up with a score of 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to enter the six-man final. Earlier, Naruka, the 26-year-old from Rajasthan, shot 43 in

the six-man final, earning third place, while Italy's Tammaro Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti took home the gold and silver with scores of 57 and 56, respectively. Naruka made it to the finals by scoring 121 out of 125 in the qualification round. Sonam Maskar had won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle on Tuesday and Akhil Sheoran clinched a bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions on Wednesday. Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan had settled for a fourth-place finish in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics after losing the bronze medal match to China.



## Ganguly named director of cricket at JSW Sports

### ROLE TO COVER IPL, WPL AND SA20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Thursday appointed Director of Cricket for JSW Sports, his role covering all its cricketing properties including the Delhi team in the IPL and the WPL along with the Pretoria Capitals franchise in SA20. JSW Sports and GMR Group co-own Delhi Capitals in the IPL and WPL (Women's Premier League) while Pretoria Capitals is owned solely by JSW Sports. "In his role, Ganguly will spearhead all cricketing properties owned by JSW Sports, including the Delhi Capitals men's IPL and women's WPL teams, and the Pretoria Capitals that plays in the SA20 League in South

Africa," said JSW Sports in a statement. Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, where he worked alongside coach Ricky Ponting, and later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after his stint as BCCI president. Ganguly's appointment came soon after it was decided that the management of cricket operations for Delhi Capitals' teams in the IPL and the WPL will be handled in a two-year rotation policy between GMR Group and JSW Group. The GMR Group will handle the operations of the Delhi Capitals in the IPL for the next two years, while JSW Sports will handle the franchise's team in the WPL. Former India batter Hemang Badani is expected to be named head coach ahead of

IPL 2025. Speaking on the appointment, JSW Sports founder Parth Jindal said, "Dada has always had a special place at JSW Sports. For us, he is family first and then the cricketing icon that he is. 'I've said this in the past and it stands true even today - he is one of the sharpest brains in cricket and we will always stand to benefit from his guidance and wisdom of the sport.' Ganguly added, "I've had the pleasure of knowing the JSW Group and the Jindal family personally and professionally which made this an easy decision. 'JSW Sports has been doing visionary work across the board, and I am pleased to be able to lend my experience to all its cricketing projects.'"

## Nadal-Alcaraz and Djokovic-Sinner are the Six Kings Slam exhibition matches in Saudi Arabia

AP ■ RIYADH

Rafael Nadal starts his pre-retirement farewell tour against Carlos Alcaraz on Thursday at the Six Kings Slam, and Novak Djokovic faces Jannik Sinner at an exhibition event that awards money but no ATP ranking points and is Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis. Riyadh will host the WTA Finals next month to open a three-year deal as the kingdom continues to invest in various sports, despite concerns about LGBTQ+ and women's rights

there raised by Hall of Famers Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova and others. In Wednesday's matches at the Six Kings Slam, the top-ranked Sinner — who was cleared in a doping case shortly before winning the U.S. Open last month, although the World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed that exoneration — beat Daniil Medvedev 6-0, 6-3, and Alcaraz defeated Holger Rune 6-4, 6-2. Nadal, an ambassador for the Saudi Tennis Federation, and Djokovic were given byes into the semifinals.



The matchup against Alcaraz will be the first contest for Nadal since his exit at the Paris Olympics in July — and his first match since he announced last week that he

would be retiring after playing for Spain in the Davis Cup next month. Nadal and Alcaraz played doubles together at the Paris Games and could team up again for

Davis Cup. Looking ahead to Thursday's exhibition, Alcaraz called Nadal a "legend" and "a really important person for my life, for my career." Djokovic and Sinner met for real on Sunday: Sinner won in straight sets to earn the trophy at the Shanghai Masters. After a day off on Friday, the winners of Thursday's two matches in Riyadh will meet in the event's final on Saturday. Nadal, 38, owns 22 Grand Slam titles; Djokovic, 37, has won 24, a record for the Open era.

## Pogba ready to give up money to play for Juventus again after doping ban

AP ■ MILAN

Paul Pogba says he's ready to give up money to play for Juventus again. The Serie A club may not want him, though, or need him. Pogba recently had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning the France World Cup winner will be free to resume his career in March 2025. Juventus has not been overly enthusiastic about welcoming him back but Pogba says that is the only club he is thinking about playing for. "I am ready to even give up money so that I can still play for Juve," he said in an interview with Italian sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport. "I want to return." Juventus sporting director Cristiano Giuntoli and new coach Thiago Motta

are dubious about whether Pogba can return to the top level after being out for so long since testing positive for testosterone in August last year. But the 31-year-old Pogba, who said he "felt like a caged lion" for the past year, has been training hard on his own and is ready to prove them wrong. "I am a Juve player now. That is all I have in my mind today," he said. "I don't have to talk. What I do on the pitch will do my talking and then Thiago Motta will judge with his own eyes, based on what he sees. 'Talk is nice, but I want to play and I want to be the best one at Juve and in the France team.' But not only has Juventus changed coach since Pogba was banned, it has also changed strategy. It has brought in fresh new faces, including bright talents who



progressed through its youth team, and got rid of the — costly — old guard with the offseason departures of Federico Chiesa, Wojciech Szczesny, Alex Sandro and Adrien Rabiot. Pogba, who was the most expensive soccer player in history when he joined Manchester United from

Juventus for 105 million euros (\$113 million) in 2016, returned to the Bianconeri as a free agent in 2022. He signed a contract worth eight million euros (\$8.7 million) a year — plus two million (\$2.2 million) in bonuses — but injuries limited him to just eight Serie A appearances in his second spell at the club before his ban. The judges who cut Pogba's ban acknowledged the lack of intent but suggested the 2018 World Cup winner should have taken more care about his treatment in Florida. "What I did wrong was not looking at what a professional gave me. I repeat, a professional," Pogba said. "Like a lot of soccer players, I have a cook, a trainer and a personal physiotherapist. 'It's not a matter of reading the leaflet better, a professional outside the club had given it to me. But I won't do the same thing again, that's certain.'"

## Nationality matters less than it used to in international soccer

AP ■ LONDON

The question was inevitable. At his first news conference as England's newly appointed head coach, Thomas Tuchel — a German — was asked on Wednesday what message he had for fans who would have preferred an Englishman in charge of their beloved national team. "I'm sorry, I just have a German passport," he said, laughing, and went on to profess his love for English football and the country itself. "I will do everything to show respect to this role and to this country." The soccer rivalry between England and Germany runs deep and it's likely Tuchel's passport will be used against him if he doesn't deliver results for a nation that hasn't lifted a men's trophy since 1966. But his appointment as England's third foreign coach shows that, increasingly, even the top

countries in the sport are abandoning the long-held belief that the national team must be led by one of their own. Four of the top nine teams in the FIFA world rankings now have foreign coaches. Even in Germany, a four-time World Cup winner which has never had a foreign coach, candidates such as Dutchman Louis van Gaal and Austrian Oliver Glasner were considered serious contenders for the top job before the country's soccer federation last year settled on Julian Nagelsmann, who is German. "The coaching methods are universal and there for everyone to apply," said German soccer researcher and author Christoph Wagner, whose recent book "Crossing the Line?" historically addresses Anglo-German rivalry. "It's more the personality that counts and not the nationality. You could be a great coach, and work with a

group of players who aren't perceptive enough to get your methods." Not everyone agrees. English soccer author and journalist Jonathan Wilson said it was "an admission of failure" for a major soccer nation to have a coach from a different country. "Personally, I think it should be the best of one country versus the best of another country, and that would probably extend to coaches as well as players," said Wilson, whose books include "Inverting the Pyramid: The History of Football Tactics." "To say we can't find anyone in our country who is good enough to coach our players," he said, "I think there is something slightly embarrassing, slightly distasteful about that." That sentiment was echoed by British tabloid The Daily Mail, which reported on Tuchel's appointment with the provocative headline "A Dark



Day for England." While foreign coaches are often found in smaller countries and those further down the world rankings, they are still a rarity among the traditional powers of the game. Italy, another four-time world champion, has only had Italians in charge. All of Spain's coaches in its modern-day history have been Spanish nationals. Five-time World Cup winner Brazil has had only Brazilians in charge since

1965, and two-time world champion France only Frenchmen since 1975. And it remains the case that every World Cup-winning team, since the first tournament in 1930, has been coached by a native of that country. The situation is similar for the women's World Cup, which has never been won by a team with a foreign coach, though Jill Ellis, who led the U.S. To two trophies, is a naturalized U.S. Citizen born

in England. Some coaches have made a career out of jumping from one national team to the next. Lars Lagerbäck, 76, coached his native Sweden between 2000-09 and went on to lead the national teams of Nigeria, Iceland and Norway. "I couldn't say I felt any big difference," Lagerbäck told The Associated Press. "I felt they were my teams and the people's teams." For Lagerbäck, the obvious disadvantages of coaching a foreign country were any language difficulties and having to adapt to a new culture, which he particularly felt during his brief time with Nigeria in 2010 when he led the African country at the World Cup. Otherwise, he said, "it depends on the results" — and Lagerbäck is remembered with fondness in Iceland, especially, after leading the country to Euro 2016 for its first ever international tournament,

where it knocked out England in the round of 16. Lagerbäck pointed to the strong education and sheer number of coaches available in soccer powers like Spain and Italy to explain why they haven't needed to turn to an overseas coach. At this year's European Championship, five of the coaches were from Italy and the winning coach was Luis de la Fuente, who was promoted to Spain's senior team after being in charge of the youth teams. Portugal for the first time looked outside its own borders or Brazil, with which it has historical ties, when it appointed Spaniard Roberto Martinez as national team coach last year. Also last year, Brazil tried — and ultimately failed — to court Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti, with Brazilian soccer federation president Ednaldo Rodrigues saying: "It doesn't matter if it's a foreigner or a Brazilian, there's no prejudice

about the nationality." The United States has had a long list of foreign coaches before Mauricio Pochettino, the Argentine former Chelsea manager who took over as the men's head coach this year. The English Football Association certainly had no qualms making Tuchel the national team's third foreign-born coach, after Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson (2001-06) and Italian Fabio Capello (2008-12), simply believing he was the best available coach on the market. Unlike Eriksson and Capello, Tuchel at least had previous experience of working in English soccer — he won the Champions League in an 18-month spell with Chelsea — and he also speaks better English. That won't satisfy all the naysayers, though. "Hopefully I can convince them and show them and prove to them that I'm proud to be the English manager," Tuchel said.

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