



the pioneer

Established 1865 LUCKNOW, SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

INSIDE

SPORTS 11 MESSI AND INTER MIAMI WILL TAKE ON ATLANTA UNITED IN AN MLS CUP PLAYOFF OPENER



Germany extends a warm hug to skilled Indian students



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during a press meet after their delegation level talks, at the Hyderabad House, New Delhi, Friday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern and India is ready to make every possible contribution for restoration of peace. He also said war is not a solution to problems. His remarks came after talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who called upon India to contribute to find a political solution to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Prime Minister Modi also said the confidence that Germany has expressed in India's skilled manpower is amazing as the European nation has decided to increase visas for the skilled Indian workforce from 20,000 to 90,000 per year and this will give a further push to the economic growth of Germany.

"This is the right time to join India's growth story... India becoming a global trade and manufacturing hub," Modi said, adding, today India stands on strong pillars of democracy, demography, demand and data. He further said India is doing record investments in roads, railways, airports and ports and the Indo-Pacific region is very important for the future of the world. Modi made these assertions at the 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business. The Chancellor attended the conclave. The conference was held on Friday after a gap of 12 years. "The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern for both nations. India has always been of the view that war cannot be a solution to problems. India is ready to make every possible contribution for the restoration of peace," Modi said

after the seventh Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) with the visiting German Chancellor. Modi said he and Olaf agreed that the global forums established in the 20th century were inadequate to address the challenges of the 21st century. "There is a need for reforms in multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council," the prime minister said. Modi said India-Germany ties were a transformational partnership of two capable and strong democracies and not a transactional relationship. "The world is passing through times of tensions, conflicts and uncertainty. In the Indo-Pacific region, there are serious concerns about the rule of law and freedom of navigation. In times like this, the strategic partnership between India and Germany has emerged as a strong anchor," he said.



Court rejects Hindu petition in Gyanvapi case

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

In a significant development in the Gyanvapi case, Judge Yugal Shambhu has rejected the appeal filed by the Hindu side in the lawsuit between the self-styled idol 'Adi Vishweshwar' and the Anjuman Intezamia Committee. The decision pertains to the 1991 lawsuit in the Varanasi court. Vijay Shankar Rastogi, the 'friend of the petitioner' representing the Hindu side, expressed his dissatisfaction with the court's ruling, stating, "We will appeal against this decision in the High Court." Rastogi further clarified that their side had requested an additional survey, which has been dismissed by the court. "We had argued that the earlier survey was incomplete, as it was conducted solely by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team. The order originally mandated a five-member team to carry out the survey. This court has disregarded all aspects of our plea and has violated the order of the High Court. Now, we will approach the High Court for further redressal," he added. The case remains a focal point of tension, with both sides preparing for further legal battles in their pursuit of justice. The Hindu side's submission came in response to the arguments presented by the Muslim side, the Anjuman Intezamia Committee. The Muslim side argued that another survey was unnecessary, as the ASI had already conducted one previously.

Continued on page 8

Terrorists deployed modus operandi of previous ambushes

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A group of highly trained Pakistani terrorists, who targeted the army vehicle in the high-security area of Bota Pathri near the tourist resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district Thursday evening, adopted the same modus operandi of previous ambushes carried out in the frontier districts of Rajouri, Poonch, and Machhedri in Kathua. The terrorists had first targeted the driver's cabin by opening a barrage of fire from the front. At the same time, the army truck was fired upon from the right side to inflict maximum injuries to the soldiers present inside the truck. The terrorists, it is believed, used both AK-47 rifles and M-4 carbines to pierce the truck frame. Two army jawans and two porters were 'killed in action' while three others were undergoing treatment in the military hospital. The condition of one of the injured soldiers was stated to be critical. So far the Indian army has lost over 50 soldiers including seven officers in at least 15 incidents of ambushes since October 2021. Highly placed sources revealed the army truck, transporting grass bags, was targeted by the group of four to five terrorists while it was negotiating a sharp curve along the serpentine road. In the absence of any local population living in the restricted area, the local police and army columns arrived on the spot as first responders to evacuate the injured soldiers and porters



A security personnel stands guard on the Gulmarg-Botapathri road during a search operation following a terror attack on an army vehicle in which two soldiers and two army porters were killed, in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, Friday

lying in a pool of blood. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid homage to the brave soldiers and Defence Porters who made the supreme sacrifice in the service to the nation in Bota Pathri Sector on October 24, 2024. The martyred soldiers have been identified as Rfn Jeevan Singh, Rfn Kaiser Ahmad Shah, and Defence Porters Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary and Zahoor Ahmad Mir. In Udhampur, reacting to the recent incidents of terrorist violence in Kashmir valley Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar Friday said, the Unified Headquarters has discussed the spate of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting in Srinagar and formulated a strategy, highlighting the focus is on breaking the cycle of violence and

dismantling the terror ecosystem. "I must assure you that the situation is under control," the Army Commander told reporters. On security forces' ongoing response, Lieutenant General Kumar said the security forces have been able to neutralize 720 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years. "As far as residual terrorists are concerned, multiple agencies keep updating figures. They are varying between 120 to 130. Now, the recruitment figures are in single digits... And is at its lowest." He said that the anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control and focused counter-terrorism operations in the hinterland have managed to create an environment of peace and development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on page 8

Negligence only if doctor lacks qualification: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said a doctor can be held liable for negligence only when there was no requisite qualification and skill, or a failure to exercise reasonable expertise during treatment. A Bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Pankaj Mishra said when reasonable care, expected of the medical professional, was extended or rendered to the patient unless contrary was proved, it would not be a case for actionable negligence. "A medical professional may be held liable for negligence only when he is not possessed with the requisite qualification or skill or when he fails to exercise reasonable skill which he possesses in giving the treatment," the Bench said. The SC made the observations while setting aside an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) which had held a doctor negligent. According to the complainant, their minor son was diagnosed with a congenital disorder in his left eye which required a minor surgery, which was performed in 1996 by one Dr Neeraj Sud at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.

Continued on page 8

India, China to complete LAC disengagement before Diwali



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and China are likely to complete troops' disengagement from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh by October 28-29, and commence patrolling thereafter as agreed upon. Both sides started disengagement, and moved back from the two friction points in Demchok and Depsang plains two days ago, sources said here on Friday. They said patrolling will begin at the two friction points once the disengagement is complete

and both sides will move their respective troops and dismantle temporary structures. Eventually, they added, the patrolling status is expected to move back to pre-April 2020 level. India is hopeful of commencing patrolling at Points 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13 at tabletop plateau in Depsang. The agreement framework for disengagement was first agreed upon at the diplomatic level and then military-level talks took place, sources said, adding the nitty-gritty of agreement was worked in Corps Commander-level talks.

Adhering to agreements between the two sides, Indian troops have begun to pull back equipment to rear locations in these areas. Five tents on each side in the Demchok area and half of the temporary structures in Depsang have been dismantled. Indian soldiers are moving back to the west side of the Charding Nala, while Chinese soldiers retreat to the east side, sources said. There are about 10 to 12 temporary structures and around 12 tents on both sides, all of which are set to be removed. Once all tents and temporary structures have been fully removed, a joint verification process will begin, both on the ground and through aerial surveys. Moreover, the Chinese army reduced the number of their vehicles in the area, and the Indian army also withdrew some troops in the area. After this process is completed, patrolling is likely to resume in Depsang and Demchok within the next four to five days, sources said.

Continued on page 8



Over 25 hoax threats on Friday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The deluge of hoax bomb threats slowed down a bit on Friday with around 25 domestic and international flights operated by Indian carriers receiving bomb threats. Seven flights each from IndiGo, Vistara, and SpiceJet received threats, while six Air India flights were targeted. The barrage of threat messages have left civil aviation stakeholders alarmed and disrupted operations as most major airports over the past two weeks. Thousands of passengers have also been forced to contend with extensive delays as the warnings forced officials to undertake thorough inspections. Some planes were also forced to make emergency landings after receiving bomb threats in mid-air. The number of hoaxes has increased the airlines' burden as a number of flights have had to be diverted, delayed, or subjected to searches after posts on social media said they had bombs on board. Some threats have also led to much more serious situations.

Continued on page 8

AAP claims Arvind Kejriwal attacked

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has alleged that individuals associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attempted to attack its convener Arvind Kejriwal during his padyatra in West Delhi's Vikaspuri on Friday evening. The Delhi BJP leaders have denied the claim. The AAP also blamed the police and alleged that "Delhi Police did not stop the BJP goons". However, the Delhi Police has denied the claim, stating there has been no attack on the AAP chief, and no complaint has been registered on the same. Trashing the claims made by AAP, Delhi BJP Virendra Sachdeva claimed that there has been no attack on Kejriwal and said "it is public resentment, which has grown steadily since election campaigning began", adding that "Kejriwal must realise that the people are fed up with him and his MLAs. He should refrain from contesting elections, and the tickets of all

88 AAP MLAs should also be revoked." Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijendra Gupta called the AAP's claim another attempt to play the victim card. "The AAP government is attempting to mislead the public with new dramas each day. Facing declining popularity and unsuccessful policies, AAP leaders are now playing the victim card. Today's so-called attack on Kejriwal is yet another orchestrated ploy aimed solely at gaining public sympathy," Gupta said. Taking to social media, AAP leader Manish Sisodia said the attack on Arvind Kejriwal is extremely condemnable and worrying.

Continued on page 8



Brace for a weekend of Diljit Dosanjh, satsang and traffic jams

The areas most affected include South, South West and Central Delhi

BY RAJESH KUMAR

As the National Capital region grapples with high volumes of vehicles, leading to traffic congestion due to the festive season, commuters will have to be ready to face some of the worst traffic this weekend. The areas most affected include South, South West and Central Delhi thanks to a two-day-live concert of renowned actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh who has brought his "Dil Luminati" tour to town. Then there is a massive satsang gathering at Chattarpur. Delhi Traffic Police have advised people to use public transport to avoid congestion on roads. In view of Diljit Dosanjh's live concert at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium for two days beginning from Saturday, traffic police have advised commuters to avoid BP Marg, Lodhi Road, Lala Lajpat

Rai Road and roads connecting around Nehru stadium. According to the traffic police advisory, adequate traffic arrangements have been made for diversion and regulation of traffic. To ease congestion, the police have advised general people and motorists are also advised to use public transport. Dosanjh has performed in Canada, US, England, New Zealand, Italy and Australia. Interestingly, Dosanjh's fans will have to pay Rs 12,999 for the gold (standing) category to watch him perform live at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. The 'fan pit' passes are priced at Rs 19,999, while standing lounge area access will cost Rs 60,000. Meanwhile, tickets for the 'MIP lounge', a seating area, will be available for Rs 55,000. Meanwhile, people of Delhi and NCR have been facing harrowing traffic jams these days as roads



Representative File Photo

here are often five to six times the capacity they can handle. Illegal parking, unregulated auto rickshaws, broken roads, breakdown of vehicles and encroachment on roads are issues, plaguing the traffic in Delhi. Besides, traffic police seem to be helpless to handle it. According to the advisory, the Satsang congregation will be held from 4 am to 6 pm at Chattarpur, Mehrauli from Friday to Sunday. Around three to four lakh people are expected to attend the event. Around 80,000 devotees generally stay overnight at the satsang complex, while the remaining commutes in the morning from different parts of Delhi and NCR from 5 am and leave by 6 pm for which elaborate traffic arrangements have been made, the advisory said. Entry to the satsang complex is from Bhati Mines Road for all

devotees and all types of vehicles. All invitees and devotees intending to go to the satsang complex are advised to reach before 6 am to avoid congestion enroute. The organisers have made separate entries for different categories of vehicles and visitors, it stated. Devotees coming from Faridabad and Gurugram are advised to reach the complex, Bhati Mines via Dera Border to avoid any inconvenience. Restrictions on plying of heavy transport vehicle on Bhati Mines road between Chattarpur Road (SSN Marg) - Gurgaon Road T-Point and satsang complex will remain effective from Friday to Sunday between 4 am to 6.30 pm to avoid any traffic blockage, it said, adding that the general public is hereby advised to avoid Chattarpur Road (SSN Marg) during 4 am to 6.30 pm.

Continued on page 8

Woman duped of ₹1.71 lakh on plot sale pretext

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was allegedly duped of Rs 1.71 lakh under the pretense of being provided a plot of land, police said on Friday. When she confronted the accused and demanded her money back, they threatened her with abduction and murder, they added.

The incident took place in the Ghazipur police station area and an FIR has been registered in this regard.

In her complaint, Nasreen, a resident of Nirala Nagar, reported that she had met an agent, Prashant Srivastava from Hari Nagar in Dubagga, regarding the purchase of a plot through a realtor in Chak Malhouri, Gomti Vihar Colony, Lucknow. She agreed to buy a 1,000 sq ft plot in the Samesi village, Mohanlalganj, paying Srivastava an advance of Rs 51,000 and subsequently making the full payment.

Nasreen stated in the complaint that two companies, which operate in partnership, sold the plot to her. On June 18, 2020, an agreement was signed in her favour under the Company Act. However, she claimed that the agreement was fraudulent, with the director's

signature forged—suggesting an intent to embezzle her money by conspiring and falsifying documents.

Despite multiple requests, Nasreen stated, the directors and agents failed to execute the sale deed in her name. She alleged that Srivastava procrastinated until 2023-24. When she approached him again to finalise the sale deed, he, along with five unknown individuals, came to her home around 7:45 pm on August 10 last. "They verbally abused me and threatened to kidnap, assault, and kill me," she alleged. "They also said that they would neither return my money nor provide me with the land. They even warned they would harm me and my family," she added, alleging.

Meanwhile, a woman was allegedly duped of Rs 45,000 under the pretext of displaying her child's photographs on a social media platform. The woman, a resident of Narhi, was browsing Facebook when she came across an advertisement for 'Charming Kids Models'. "I found out about the ad on Facebook. I inquired about the models, and the advertiser asked me to send photos of my child. After selecting the photos, he demanded payment. I transferred Rs 9,000 and Rs 35,000 via GPay to Soham Kulkarni and Pramod Rao respectively in September. When I did not receive any response from them, I realised that I had become a victim of cyber fraud," she stated in her complaint. Police have registered a case under relevant sections as investigations are ongoing.



सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरा नाम पहले पुनम राय पुत्री स्व. राजेन्द्र राय था, शहीद के बाद अपना नाम बदल कर सीमा फातिमा पत्नी श्री सगीर अहमद कर दिया है। मेरे सम्बन्ध शैक्षिक एवं अन्य अभिलेखों में पुनम राय के स्थान पर सीमा फातिमा के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। सीमा फातिमा पत्नी श्री सगीर अहमद निवासी 14/849 निकट आरएलबी स्कूल इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ, 226016

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Faroukh to Mohd Faroukh, Mohd Faroukh S/o Mo Rasheed R/o 117/135 K Block, Ambekar Nagar Geeta Nagar, Kakadeo Naveen Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE

I Krishna Kumar Rajpoot S/o Jagdev Singh Rajpoot R/o - 2/2 Shahpahari Tahsil and District Mahoba Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Krishna Kumar s/o Jagdev for all future purposes. These two names are the same person.

NOTICE

I have lost my property papers, which chain deed no-10834, vahi no-1, jild no-15305 dated 19/10/2011 somewhere. FIR (no-202400135513) also lodged for this matter. Kiran W/o Manoj Kumar, R/o-Manjhiyawa, post-Uzmanpur, thana-Kothi, Distt-Barabanki.

NOTICE

Informed that I ABHA FRANCIS have change my name to ABHA CHARLES FRANCIS. I shall hereafter be known as ABHA CHARLES FRANCIS W/O ALFRED CHARLES FRANCIS R/O 21/28 Christian colony Vikramaditya marg Lucknow

NOTICE

It is notified to the general public that I have changed my name from Moon Moon Makhija to Moon Moon Rabha. In future I will be known as Moon Moon Rabha. Moon Moon Rabha W/o Shri Sudeep Makhija, resident of 538, Sector 18, Indira Nagar, Lucknow - 226 016. UP

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my correct name is Geeta Yadav, daughter of Kali Charan Yadav, as recorded in my PAN card and educational records. Due to an error, my name has been incorrectly mentioned as Dr. Geeta Yadav in my Aadhar Card No. 757247390171, which is incorrect. In the future, I should be recognized and referred to by my correct name, Geeta Yadav. It is also hereby certified that all legal formalities related to this matter have been duly completed by me personally. Geeta Yadav Address: MI 300 D/S Near Sabzi Mandi, Barra-2 Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

Girl alleges rape by friend; threatened by accused's parents

Lucknow (PNS): The parents of a youth, accused of raping his long-term friend, allegedly threatened to kill the victim in a staged police encounter while claiming to be UP Police personnel.

The victim, a native of Barabanki, is currently residing in Pawanpuri area under Alambagh police jurisdiction. The accused allegedly committed the crime at the victim's residence. Following the incident, the victim filed a complaint urging the police to take strict action against the accused youth and his parents.

In her complaint, she stated that while she was at her office on October 16, her friend Harsh Srivastava (alias Akash) from Osho Nagar, Kanausi, under Krishnanagar police station in Lucknow, took her to her residence. She alleged that once there, he allegedly assaulted her, causing head injuries, and threatened to kill her. She further alleged that he also raped her.

After Harsh left, his parents Sarita Srivastava and Rajesh Srivastava called her, allegedly claiming to be police inspectors. They verbally abused her and her family, threatening her with a police encounter to silence her. The victim stated that this incident has permanently impacted her future. "I request that strict action be taken against Harsh Srivastava (Akash) and his parents and that he faces the harshest punishment," she stated in her complaint. The police have registered a case in this connection.

Woman promised post of govt dept chairperson loses ₹5.45L

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man from Bihar allegedly duped a woman of Rs 5.4 lakh by promising to secure her appointment as chairperson in the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, while also claiming to arrange positions for her two acquaintances as Secretary in NCERT and Chairman of the Khadi Commission in Delhi, Government of India.

In her complaint, the woman, identified as Ranjana Tiwari from Aliganj, said that she came into contact with the accused, Ajit Tiwari from Bihar, through Facebook, and they exchanged phone numbers.

Ajit Tiwari allegedly claimed to be the president of a political party in Bihar to gain the victim's trust. Gradually, they began communicating via call and WhatsApp.

"Ajit Tiwari asserted that his party was in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party and that the presidents/chairpersons of all corporations and boards would be from his party as per their alliance. He claimed to be the president of his party and stated that appointments to various boards and institutions would be made solely on his recommendation," she stated in her complaint.

Ranjana Tiwari connected with Ajit Tiwari through social media (Facebook) in July 2020. After Ajit Tiwari lured her in and gained her full confi-

dence, he demanded a total of Rs 6 lakh, which she transferred to his bank account. Subsequently, Ajit assured her that she would be appointed as chairperson in the Department of Women and Child Development. In addition to Ranjana, two others known to her — Dharampal and Yogesh — were promised appointments as secretary in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, and chairman of the Khadi Commission in Delhi in exchange for Rs 6 lakh, which Ranjana had provided.

After a few days, when Ranjana enquired about her appointment, Ajit Tiwari responded evasively, saying that her application was in progress and would be completed soon.

However, no progress was made, and a few months later, when Ranjana contacted Ajit Tiwari again, he assured her that her job was confirmed and that her appointment letter would be issued soon.

On August 27, 2020, he informed her that her name was on the waiting list and that she would receive her appointment letter after November 20, 2020.

On January 20, 2021, Ajit Tiwari sent a message stating that her work would be completed that day, but after a considerable delay, nothing happened. When Ranjana inquired about the status of her application, Ajit assured her that it would be done by that evening.

On January 21, 2021, when she followed up again, Ajit gave her the same response. After five months of receiving such answers with no results, Ranjana began to suspect that she, along with Dharampal and Yogesh, had been defrauded.

As Dharampal and Yogesh pressed her for updates, she once more reached out to Ajit Tiwari, who told her not to worry, claiming that the con-gratulatory list was ready and would soon be published through the press.

On March 20, 2021, after multiple false promises and fabricated claims, Ranjana confronted Ajit, demanding to know how long he intended to continue deceiving her. Ajit replied via WhatsApp that he would return every single penny she owed him as a loan.

He requested her to remain calm, citing the ongoing pandemic.

On February 15, 2021, Ajit Tiwari returned Rs 60,000 to Yogesh's bank account. Ranjana contested that she did not give him the money as a loan, but rather as payment for appointments that he had yet to secure.

"I have recordings of all conversations with Ajit Tiwari in which he stated that my money would be returned to me, and not given to any third party. Ajit Tiwari has not refunded Rs 5.4 lakh and is threatening to kill me if I file an FIR," the victim alleged in the complaint. A case has been registered in this connection.

DMs, commissioners to be accountable for investment progress

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a landmark move to boost investment and economic growth, the Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a new monitoring system that will hold district magistrates and divisional commissioners accountable for investment progress in their respective districts and divisions.

Under this initiative, each officer's annual confidential report (ACR) will now include specific assessments of their efforts in promoting investment and facilitating loans in their area of work, with grading based on performance.

By incentivising performance, the state government seeks to create more employment opportunities and support state-wide growth. Uttar Pradesh will be the first state in India to implement such a comprehensive system.

Giving information about the government's decision, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said on Friday that district magistrates and divisional commissioners would now be required to prepare reports detailing their efforts to attract investment in their respective areas.

These reports will assess the measures taken to ensure the security, facilities and conveniences for investors, promoting a better business environment.

Additionally, the evaluation will include timely land allotment, land subsidies, changes in land use, land clearance and the establishment of a land bank for entrepreneurs, along with regular monitoring

and updates.

This new system aims to ensure that officials take their responsibilities seriously in bringing and encouraging investments within their districts, ultimately enhancing the ease of doing business in Uttar Pradesh.

The chief secretary further mentioned that district magistrates who excel in attracting investment will receive higher grades and special recognition. This will foster competition and accountability among officers. The performance of district magistrates and divisional will be assessed based on their efforts to increase investment in their districts during their tenure.

Reports will include detailed accounts of the steps taken, investment initiatives, and improvements in the credit deposit (CD) ratio. This new system is set to be implemented within the next two to three weeks, enhancing officer accountability and encouraging faster development efforts in their areas. An increase in investment is expected to not only boost economic activity in the state but also create more job opportunities for the youth.

According to the chief secretary, the CD ratio of Uttar Pradesh was 47 per cent in the year 2017, while in the financial year 2023-24, it registered a significant increase and touched the figure of 60.32 per cent. The Yogi Adityanath government aims to achieve a CD ratio of 65 per cent by the end of the current financial year. This growth in the CD ratio indicates economic stability and a favourable investment climate in the state.

Lucky escape for students as shots fired on school bus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three masked miscreants struck terror in Amroha when they opened fire on the school bus of Chaudhary Virendra Singh, husband of Bharatiya Janata Party district vice-president and block chief Meenakshi Chaudhary.

The miscreants also threw stones but the driver sped up the vehicle to a safe place and also informed the authorities. There were 28 students in the bus at the time of attack but luckily all of them remained unharmed.

The circle officer of Gajraula and police inspector took information about the incident from the children and the driver and later launched a hunt to trace out the miscreants. They also visited the spot and made investigations.

SSRS International School is on the road to Dariyapur Buzurg village adjacent to the city. Chaudhary Virendra Singh is the managing director of the school and his nephew Puneet Singh is the director of the school.

Monty Saini of village Chowkuri is the driver of the school's mini bus. He was ferrying 28 children to the school on Friday morning.

When the school bus reached near a culvert between Khadgujar and Nagla Mafi, a youth standing on the road stopped it by bringing his motorcycle in front of it. When Saini stopped the bus, two companions of the youth who were hiding in a mango orchard nearby came out and opened fire at the bus and threw bricks. Saini, however, drove the bus at high speed

towards Gajraula even as the youth and his accomplices chased the bus. The bus driver called UP-112 and informed police about the incident. He also informed the school management about the attack. Inspector (Crime) Jitendra Singh went to the school and enquired about the incident both from the students as well as from the driver. CO Shwetaabh Bhaskar, BJP district vice-president, director of the school and principal Dharmendra Chaturvedi also reached the spot. A few days ago, while driving the bus, Saini had hit a scooter rider at Khad Gurjar turdu to which he fell down. The scooter rider and the person on the pillion fell down and were injured and they had threatened the driver with dire consequences.

Youth attacked

Lucknow (PNS): A youth, who was at the KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium to watch a match, was allegedly attacked by his rivals on October 16. A case was registered based on the complaint given by the victim on Friday.

As per reports, Dhruv Kumar, a resident of Indiranagar, was attacked by his rivals, who were identified as Hrithik Valmiki, Raj Arya alias Harsh, Shubham Valmiki and Tarun (all residents of Nehrunagar), Nihal and Tarun (both of Hussainabad), and Ranjeet Valmiki of Lavkush Nagar. He stated that he was attacked by the named accused and their unidentified accomplices with sharp-edged weapons. He said he ran away to save his life and reached the police outpost from where he was taken to the police station.

He was taken to Civil Hospital where he was examined. He suffered injuries to his head, stomach, back and chest. A case was registered in this connection.

Mango growers to benefit from new export initiative

Lucknow (PNS): Mango growers in Uttar Pradesh are set to benefit from higher prices due to a new initiative by the Central Government aimed at expanding the export of 20 selected fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, through sea routes. This export push is expected to directly aid farmers in one of India's top mango-producing states.

The Yogi government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure for exporters ensures that Uttar Pradesh is well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity. By improving logistical support and meeting global standards, the government aims to facilitate the seamless export of local produce, promising a profitable future for UP's mango cultivation.

Under the guidance of T Damodaran, Director of the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture in Rehmankheda, efforts are underway to improve mango quality and develop varieties suited to international tastes.

To ensure high-quality produce, farmers are regularly informed through seminars. A recent seminar, co-hosted by India and Israel, focused on advanced cultivation techniques. The Yogi government also plans to establish a radiation treatment plant near Jewar International Airport, which will enable compliance with US and European export standards, reducing costs and delays currently faced when sending mangoes to Mumbai and Bengaluru for treatment.

CITYBRIEFS

ANNUAL CONCERT



The annual concert of St Francis' College featured a vibrant array of performances. It began with a prayer dance titled 'Harmony of Faith' by students of Classes III to V, expressing gratitude to the Almighty. The English horror play, 'The Monkey's Paw', was enacted by Classes IX-XII, followed by the soulful Qawwali medley, 'Ibaadat-e-Ishq'. A humorous Hindi play, 'Akbar - Birbal Ke Mazedar Kisse', entertained while conveying important values. Dance performances showcased the cultures of Maharashtra and Goa, along with a vibrant journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The event concluded with a choir performance and the college anthem, attended by dignitaries and parents.

WORKSHOP

The Legal Aid Centre at the Faculty of Law, Lucknow University, conducted a workshop titled 'Tipping Points of Climate Change: The Impending Existential Crisis and Challenge for the Youth' to raise environmental awareness. Under the leadership of Dean Prof BD Singh, Advocate Jitendra Narayan Mishra discussed the causes and impacts of climate change, while Advocate Vikas Kumar Agarwal encouraged individual actions for climate protection. Advocate Anita Mishra emphasised the need for collective awareness. Dr Abhishek Kumar Tiwari introduced an Eco Club, and the interactive Q&A session engaged attendees. Garima Bhardwaj concluded by thanking everyone for their participation.

FRAGRANCE SUMMIT

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hosted the '3rd International Fragrance Summit 2024' at CSIR-CIMAP in Lucknow, under the 'CSIR One Week, One Theme' initiative. Collaborating with the Ministry of MSME, Bureau of Indian Standards, and industry partners, the summit focused on sustainable economic growth, emerging fragrance markets, and consumer safety standards. Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi highlighted CSIR-CIMAP's sustainable cluster model. Chief guest Avnish Kumar Awasthi emphasised the importance of fragrant crops for India's economy. MoUs were signed between FICCI, IFRA, and local universities, with technology transfers to several companies and the release of a short film on sustainable aroma clusters.

CLINIC ON WHEELS



State Bank of India's Managing Director Ashwini Kumar Tewari, along with key officials, flagged off 'SBI Sanjeevani-Clinic on Wheels', a mobile medical unit project at SBI's head office in Lucknow. In partnership with NGO Gramin Vikas Trust, the initiative aims to provide primary healthcare services in Bharawan, Hardoi. Tewari highlighted that this initiative focuses on improving quality of life in remote areas, offering doorstep healthcare and promoting hygiene awareness. The unit, equipped with diagnostic facilities and a dedicated medical team, will also conduct specialised health camps and collaborate with local health departments.

Guv nod to LU's new one-year PG ordinance

Lucknow (PNS): The University of Lucknow has received approval from Governor Anandiben Patel for its new one-year PG ordinance and lateral entry guidelines, which were discussed in a meeting on July 31 last. LU spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said that the one-year PG programme would be a first in India, featuring 20 credits per semester and offering more elective options for students. The new lateral entry guidelines will allow students to join undergraduate programmes in semesters 3, 5, and 7, as well as semester 3 of PG programmes. "Students from LU-affiliated colleges can transfer between institutions or to the university campus. Additionally, students from other accredited colleges with NAAC A+ ratings can also apply. They must be enrolled in a four-year undergraduate programme that complies with NEP 2020," he noted.

Srivastava emphasised that students wishing to transfer must have their previous credits recognised in the Academic Bank of Credits. "Students entering semester 7 need a CGPA of 7.5 or above through semester 6. The University Admission Cell will announce available seats during the admission process," he added.

LU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai thanked the governor for supporting these initiatives. "This approval will help us implement the ordinances effectively and enhance the learning experience for our students," he said.

LDA to construct two skating rinks

Lucknow (PNS): To promote skating, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Friday announced to construct skating rinks in two phases, partnering with a private entity.

This initiative follows the recent opening of the first rink at Janeshwar Mishra Park. The estimated cost for the new rinks is Rs 1.50 crore, funded from the LDA's internal sources.

According to LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar, a private partner has been selected for the project, though their identity will remain undisclosed until the rinks are operational. The LDA has opted for a private partnership due to budget constraints, as no government or LDA funds have been allocated for maintenance. The proposed rinks will be built on a defunct water body that is currently dry.

The rinks will be divided into two phases: the first, covering 4,050 square metres, will be dedicated to routine practice, while the second, at 2,400 square metres, will cater to beginners.

Trainers from both sports authorities and private entities will be appointed on an ad-hoc basis to guide skaters, with strict instructions to prevent beginners from skating on roads, following past incidents that resulted in accidents.

Levelling of the water body is set to begin immediately after Diwali and will take approximately two weeks to complete. The rinks are expected to be open to the public by the first week of next year.

Man stabbed to death, friend found dead on railway track

Gonda (PTI): A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death while his friend was found dead near a railway track in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Friday. Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said information was received about a body being found behind the medical college in the Kotwali Nagar police station area early on Friday. Senior officers reached the spot with a field unit of forensic experts and collected evidence. The man was identified as Vijay Pandey, a local. Jaiswal said knife marks were found on the body. According to his family members, Vijay Pandey left home after receiving a call around 3 am, Jaiswal said. Later, the body of Vijay Pandey's friend Deepak Pandey (24) was found near a railway track a short distance from the Chitnapur crossing.

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Ashok Jain & Ms Anita Jain are the owners of Ground Floor & First floor with Roof rights of property bearing No. 5991, area measuring 145 sq. yds. Ward No. XII, Gali Zamir Wali, Pul Bangash, Nawab Ganj, Delhi. The Ownership was acquired through Sale Deeds i.e. Sale deed dated 09.06.1984 regd. as doc. No. 4554 executed by Mr. R.N. Gupta, Mr. Alok Kumar & Mr. Ashok Kumar in favour of Anita Jain, in respect to 1st floor with roof right and Sale deed dated 09.06.1984 regd. as doc. No. 4549 executed by Mr. R.N. Gupta, Mr. Alok Kumar & Mr. Ashok Kumar in favour of Sh. Ashok Kumar Jain in respect to ground floor.
The Edelweiss Retail Finance Limited had untraceable (1) Original Sale Deed dated 09.06.1984 regd. as doc. No. 4554 executed by Mr. R.N. Gupta, Mr. Alok Kumar & Mr. Ashok Kumar in favour of Anita Jain, in respect to 1st floor with roof right (2) Original Sale deed dated 09.06.1984 regd. as doc. No. 4549 executed by Mr. R.N. Gupta, Mr. Alok Kumar & Mr. Ashok Kumar in favour of Sh. Ashok Kumar Jain in respect to ground floor. (3) Original sale certificate dated 20.06.1984 issued by office of the regional settlement commissioner, New Delhi in favour of Mrs. Rita Gupta in respect to Plot No. XII, Flt. No. 224/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 25.10.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Edelweiss Retail Finance Limited, 3-15, 1st Floor, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, Delhi-110005.

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Madhu Surana and Sh. Bharat Surana are the owners of Built-up Property bearing No. 9/111 and 9/112 built on Plot of land area measuring 405 Sq. Yds. part of Kharsa No. 2369/66/3 situated in the area of Village Karkardooma in the abadi of Subhash Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Baga Shahrada, Delhi - 110032 through Sale Deed dated 10.02.2011 regd. as doc. No. 2159 executed by Sh. Bharat Surana in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/111 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. and Sale Deed dated 31.12.1997 regd. as doc. No. 3560 executed by Smt. Preeti Wadhwa Jain in favour of Sh. Bharat Surana in respect of Property bearing No. 9/112 measuring 200 Sq. Yds.
The above-said owners have misplaced the (1) Original Urdu Sale Deed (with translated copy) dated 19.12.1947 registered as Doc No. 3552 executed by Sh. Preeti Wadhwa Surana in favour of Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Lala Angan Lal in respect of Plot No. 111 and 112 total area measuring 405 Sq. Yds. (2) Original Notarized Partition Deed dated 05.04.1971 executed between 1. Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Lala Angan Lal in which Smt. Khushi Devi became owner of Plot No. 112 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. and Sh. Angan Lal became owner of Plot No. 111 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. (3) Original Mutation Letter issued by Authority in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana & Bharat Surana in respect of plot no 111 & 112 Vishwas Nagar, Delhi. FR. No. 224/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 25.10.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of HDFC Bank Ltd., Plot No. 31, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar, Delhi.
The process of mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding the above-mentioned documents should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of the process of mortgaging the said property or with respect to the said property or the interests of your client.
The above-said owners have misplaced the (1) Original Urdu Sale Deed (with translated copy) dated 19.12.1947 registered as Doc No. 3552 executed by Sh. Preeti Wadhwa Surana in favour of Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Lala Angan Lal in respect of Plot No. 111 and 112 total area measuring 405 Sq. Yds. (2) Original Notarized Partition Deed dated 05.04.1971 executed between 1. Smt. Khushi Devi and 2. Sh. Lala Angan Lal in which Smt. Khushi Devi became owner of Plot No. 112 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. and Sh. Angan Lal became owner of Plot No. 111 measuring 200 Sq. Yds. (3) Original Mutation Letter issued by Authority in favour of Smt. Madhu Surana & Bharat Surana in respect of plot no 111 & 112 Vishwas Nagar, Delhi. FR. No. 224/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 25.10.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of HDFC Bank Ltd., Plot No. 31, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar, Delhi.
The process of mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding the above-mentioned documents should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of the process of mortgaging the said property or with respect to the said property or the interests of your client.

Expand civic amenities to generate employment opportunities: Yogi CM inaugurates Mahant Digvijaynath Multipurpose Indoor Stadium

PNS ■ MAHARAJGANJ

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, underscored the need for nagar panchayats and local bodies to focus on development projects that not only improve civic amenities but also create employment opportunities. The chief minister made these remarks during a public address in Maharajganj, where he inaugurated 505 development projects totaling Rs 940 crore and unveiled the newly-constructed office building of Chowk Bazar Nagar Panchayat. Yogi stated, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target for 'Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat' by 2047, encouraging citizens to engage with both development and heritage. The government is working on a war footing to realise this goal, but there is also a unique role for local bodies, gram panchayats, and the public to reflect on how they can contribute in building a developed India." He added, "It is crucial for nagar panchayats and local bodies to connect with developmental areas that not only expand civic services but also open avenues for employment." During the event, Chief Minister Yogi honoured the beneficiaries of Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana, Mukhyamantri Yuva Rojgar Yojana, Divyangjan Swavalamban Scheme, Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana and Matsya Sampada Yojana, along with various beneficiary-oriented schemes from the Rural Development, MSME, Agriculture and Horticulture departments. He presented symbolic cheques, certificates



and gifts to mark their achievements. The chief minister also distributed tablets to youth under the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana and handed out appointment letters to those recently employed in the Revenue, Youth Welfare, Basic Education, Social Welfare and Home Guard departments. He also gave Diwali gifts to all beneficiaries present. The projects inaugurated and for which foundation stones were laid span critical sectors, including roads, education, vocational training, healthcare, support for stray cattle, vending zones for street vendors, drinking water facilities, tourism development, police services and fire brigades. Highlighting the commitment of the Central and state government to make India a developed nation, Chief

Minister Yogi said, "Major highways, airports, medical colleges, IITs, schools and colleges are being constructed. Additionally, significant advancements are underway in industry and employment. To support this development journey, local bodies, gram panchayats and citizens must also reflect on their roles." The chief minister proposed shaping the nagar panchayat secretariat on the gram sachivalaya model. He noted that just as gram sachivalayas have become centres for both citizen services and employment generation, the nagar panchayat secretariat could be developed to serve these dual purposes as well. The chief minister pointed out that gram panchayats are becoming hubs of employment through five key avenues. "Firstly, computer operators have been appointed at gram sachivalayas to assist with the issuance of essential certificates, such as income, birth, death and residence. This enables residents to access these services locally rather than traveling to tehsils or the district headquarters, while also providing employment to youth from the village," he said. He added, "The second employment opportunity comes from the operation of public toilets, where gram panchayats hire a woman caretaker, with her salary funded through user charges. The third role in villages is that of BC Sakhi, who facilitates banking transactions for villagers and earns honorarium and incentives. Currently, there are 42,000 BC Sakhis active across Uttar Pradesh." Referring to employment potential, the chief minister stated, "The fourth job opportunity arises with the establishment of convention centres in villages which not only provide venues for events such as weddings but also create maintenance-related jobs for locals." The fifth employment opportunity, he mentioned, will be at ration shops. "In addition to ration distribution, general consumer goods will now be sold at these shops, supported by government-built warehouses that will provide a job for a local resident," he pointed out. The chief minister said that these initiatives would help ground government schemes effectively while advancing the vision of self-reliant panchayats as part of a self-reliant India. He encouraged local bodies to pursue self-reliance, emphasising that, with the government's support, gram and nagar panchayats have every reason to become financially independent.

PNS ■ MAHARAJGANJ

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, demonstrating his commitment to advancing sports and supporting athletes, inaugurated the Mahant Digvijaynath Multipurpose Indoor Stadium at Chowk Bazar on Friday. This newly-constructed stadium, located within the Shri Digvijaynath Higher Secondary School campus, has been built by the Sports department under the state government's Sports Development Mission at a cost of Rs 9.55 crore. It is the first multi-purpose indoor stadium for rural areas in the district. During the inauguration, the chief minister toured the stadium, inspecting its facilities and instructing officials to ensure that athletes face no difficulties in accessing and utilising the amenities provided. In his address, Chief Minister Yogi expressed optimism that the expanded sports infrastructure would enable local athletes to showcase their talents at national and international stages, including the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Named after Brahmalin Mahant Digvijaynath Ji Maharaj, the 'dadaguru' of Chief Minister and Peethadheeshwar of Gorakhpeth Yogi Adityanath, the stadium offers training facilities for badminton, kabaddi, cricket, basketball, football, a running track, gym and a multipurpose fitness hall, along with essential amenities. The facility will



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during inauguration of the newly constructed Mahant Digvijaynath Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, at Shri Digvijaynath Higher Secondary School in Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh. PTI

provide a robust platform for nurturing local sports talent and allow the organisation of state and national-level competitions in the future. **UNVEILS STATUE OF BABA GAMBHIRNATH** During his visit to Maharajganj on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath honoured the revered Siddha saint of the Nath sect, Yogiraj Baba Gambhirnath, highlighting his

profound spiritual legacy. Baba Gambhirnath, a leading figure of the saint tradition of Gorakhpeth, served as the guru to Chief Minister Yogi's 'dadaguru' Brahmalin Mahant Digvijaynath, the former peethadheeshwar of Gorakhpeth. After unveiling Baba Gambhirnath's statue, Chief Minister Yogi reflected on the saint's life, noting that Baba Gambhirnath was a Siddha

Yogi who left his physical form 107 years ago. Recalling his visits from the Gorakhnath temple to Chowk Bazar, where he stayed for days to bless the local people, the Chief Minister observed that the unveiling of his statue serves as a moment for the residents of Chowk Bazar to honour his memory and express their gratitude and reverence for his teachings and blessings.

UPCC attacks Sanjay over reservation, alleges underhand deal with BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai reacted sharply to UP minister Sanjay Nishad's statement which suggest that discussions on the reservation demands of the Nishad community would take place after Diwali. Rai dismissed this as a mere excuse, claiming that there is an 'under-the-table deal' between the Bharatiya Janata Party and Nishad. "This delay is all part of an under-the-table deal between the BJP and Sanjay Nishad," the Congress leader alleged, suggesting that Nishad may be angling for a more prominent ministerial position in exchange for compliance. "He must have signed a deal on that. Despite all these years in power, they (BJP) have done nothing for reservation," he said. Despite failing to secure seats in the Uttar Pradesh bypolls, the NISHAD Party reaffirmed its alliance with the BJP. Sanjay Nishad acknowledged growing frustration within the Nishad community regarding the reservation issue, noting the discrepancy in reservation policies between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. "There is resentment among

Nishads about the reservation issue. We have different policies for Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, and we will discuss this matter in detail after Diwali, as we have already consulted with the central BJP leadership," he stated. Ajay Rai also commented on the NISHAD Party's recent poster, which depicts Sanjay Nishad as the 'saviour of 27 (27 ka Khevanhaar)'. He remarked, "The issues before us today need to be dealt with urgently. They brought Lord Ram, but the current situation demands helping those who serve society and stand with everyone." Regarding the UP bypolls, Ajay Rai spoke out on the political climate in the state. "The current atmosphere in the state is filled with lawlessness. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is plagued by oppression, injustice, rampant unemployment and violence against women. The Bulldozer Raj must come to an end," he said. "The Congress has decided to join forces to fight against these issues, standing in alliance with the Samajwadi Party. Every worker and leader of our party stands committed to strengthening this coalition and ensuring change in Uttar Pradesh," he asserted.

Akhilesh says BJP has become 'rishtedarvadi'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday, said the Bharatiya Janata Party, which accused his party of being 'parivarvadi' (family-oriented), had become 'rishtedarvadi'; (relative-oriented). Yadav's remark comes a day after the BJP fielded Anujesh Yadav as its candidate for the bypoll in the Karhal assembly seat in Mainpuri district against SP's Tej Pratap Yadav. Anujesh is related to Akhilesh, both being brothers-in-law. "The BJP knows they will never win Karhal or Milkipur (assembly seat in Ayodhya district). Despite their efforts, they are losing in Milkipur, which is why they have postponed the by-election there. They are aware of their defeat in Karhal as well," Yadav said. He further predicted a "major loss" for the BJP coalition in the upcoming elections. "The BJP alliance is headed for a historic defeat," Yadav claimed. "They used to accuse us of being family-oriented, but now they have surpassed us and have become 'rishtedarvadi'," Yadav said while addressing a programme in Karhal's Dihuli

Accusing the BJP government of being "the most corrupt in the state's history", the SP chief said, "The BJP has hollowed out Uttar Pradesh. They have deceived the farmers, youth and traders alike, and they have destroyed the agricultural markets." The BJP has fielded Anujesh Yadav, uncle-in-law (fufa) of SP candidate Tej Pratap Yadav, from Karhal, considered an SP stronghold since 1993. This race will see a 'fufa' versus 'bhatija' (nephew) contest, with Tej Pratap Yadav facing off against Anujesh Yadav, who is related to him by marriage. Yadav also noted Karhal's historic ties with his late father and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, stating, "Karhal has an unbreakable bond with Netaji and socialists. This by-election will yield a historic result and Tej Pratap Yadav will win by a landslide." Meanwhile, BJP candidate Anujesh Yadav filed his nomination papers as BJP candidate for Karhal bypoll on Friday. Addressing a programme in support of Anujesh in Karhal, Minister of State (independent charge) Asim Arun said, "This is not a contest between relatives of a family, but a fight of

policies, a fight between truth and lies, and one between criminals and those abiding by the law." Narrating an anecdote, Arun said he had served in the police. "Once I was in the adjoining Aligarh district and frequently police would arrest criminals from Mainpuri or vice-versa. But in the last seven years, have you heard of any such arrests in Mainpuri or kidnapping incidents? Why is that? Because it is the same law but the enforcer has changed. It is the same bulldozer which has now got the correct driver," Arun said. Campaigning in support of the BJP candidate, he asked the people if they wanted the jungle raj back in the region. Arun also slammed former SP block head Nawab Singh Yadav, who has been jailed in connection with the rape of a minor. The minister also took a jibe at the SP harping on the PDA (picchhde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) plank, saying the BJP was working for all sections of society. By-elections for nine assembly seats, including Karhal, in Uttar Pradesh are scheduled for November 13, with results to be declared on November 23.

Floating restaurant to offer unique dining experience to devotees

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism department is set to further enhance the Maha Kumbh 2025 experience by providing the facility of the floating restaurant for visitors in Prayagraj. Named Kalindi, this first-of-its-kind floating restaurant in Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi in December 2023, situated on the Yamuna river. Operated by the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC), the floating restaurant aims to offer a unique dining experience for tourists both from India and abroad. This initiative is part of the broader preparations to welcome thousands of pilgrims and visitors during the Maha Kumbh, promising to add to the charm and appeal of this spiritual gathering. Tourism Officer Aparajita Singh mentioned that this floating restaurant at the Triveni Boat Club in Prayagraj,



floating on the waves of Yamuna river, marks a significant achievement for the state.

A similar initiative was also launched at Ramgarh Taal in Gorakhpur under the chief

minister's guidance, but Kalindi has been the first successful venture of its kind in Uttar

Pradesh. The people of Prayagraj have been enjoying this unique dining experience for several months. In line with CM Yogi's vision, UP Tourism will now extend this experience to visitors during Mahakumbh 2025. Alongside the traditional holy baths and spiritual experiences of Mahakumbh, the floating restaurant is expected to be a major attraction for tourists. It promises to provide a new and memorable experience for visitors from both India and abroad. Deepak Tandon, the front office manager of the restaurant, stated that Kalindi is fully air-conditioned and has a seating capacity of 40. The restaurant operates from 10 am to 9 pm, with plans to extend hours during the Maha Kumbh to open in the morning. In addition to the floating restaurant, UPSTDC operates the Rahi Triveni Darshan Hotel on Yamuna Bank Road, which offers accommodation for devotees visiting for the Sangam bath.

Bank of Baroda Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region : 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice (Branch : Moti Nagar, Unnao)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower/guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date
Borrower : Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Shri Uma Shankar, R/o : Abhusha Mirrikalan, Unnao Distt. Unnao. Guarantor : Shri Uma Shankar S/o Shri Nanhaku, R/o : Abhusha Mirrikalan, Unnao Distt. Unnao. Demand Notice Date : 15-07-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 24.10.2024 Property : Land and Building Situated Wide Registration No. 4610 on Dated 17-03-2023. Situated at House No. 211/B, Priyadarshani Nagar, Under Nagar Palika Unnao, Distt. Unnao in the name of Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Shri Uma Shankar. Area : 36 Sq. Mtr., Bounded : North : 9 Mtr. Wide Road, South : House No. 172 B, East : House No. 210 B, West : House No. 212 B Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 17,63,685.14 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 23-10-2024 : Rs. 18,24,853.00 + Intt. +Others Charges Date : 24-10-2024 Place : Unnao Authorised Officer

ARYAVART BANK (A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) **आर्यावर्त बैंक** (एक संयुक्त उद्यमता का संयुक्त उपक्रम)

Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/20/K/1 Sneh Nagar V.I.P Road Opp Washd Hospital Alambagh Lucknow

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) for (Immovable Properties)

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

Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Amt. due as per demand notice Date Demand Notice Date of Possession
Mortgagor : Mr. Bagesh Kumar Panedy S/o Mr. Krishna Dutt Panday, Shri Krishanpuri, Bharat Nagar, Madiyon Sitapur Road, Behta Lucknow-226021	Residential Property: Plot No. 45 carved upon Khasra No. 775 Paikaramau, Bakshi ka Talab, District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 11.02.2013, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Bagesh Kumar Pandey S/o Mr. Krishna Dutt Pandey, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot No. 58, North: Plot No. 48, South: Rasta 22 feet wide AREA- 1500 Sq.feet., 139.40 Sq.mt.	Rs. 5,09,495.92 and interest thereon 11.07.2024 25.10.2024
Borrower & Mortgagor: Mrs. Arti W/o Inder Pal, Plot-5B, Khasra No. 201, Khargapur, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010	Residential Property: Plot No. 5B, Khasra No. 201 min., Village-Khargapur, Pargana, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 17.11.2014, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Arti Maurya W/o Mr. Inderpal Maurya, Boundaries: East-Rasta 14 feet wide, West: House of Sandeep, North: Plot No. 7, South: Plot Suresh Vishwakarma AREA- 400 Sq.feet., 37.17 Sq.mt.	Rs. 3,34,464.51 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Co-Borrower: Mr. Inder Pal S/o Mr. Shree Ram, Plot-5B, Khasra No. 201, Khargapur, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Borrower & Mortgagor: Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Ajay Kumar, Village - Narauna, Post-Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Co-Borrower: Mr. Ajay Kumar S/o Mr. Siyaram, Village - Narauna, Post-Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Guarantor: 1. Mr. Arjun Singh S/o Mr. S.B. Singh, Khargapur, Gomti Nagar Lucknow-226010 2. Mr. Chandra Pratap Singh Gautam S/o Mr. Tara Chandra Singh Gautam, C-46, J-Park 2, Maha Nagar Vistar, Maha Nagar Lucknow-226006 Branch : Khargapur	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Borrower & Mortgagor: Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Ajay Kumar, Village - Narauna, Post-Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024
Co-Borrower: Mr. Arjun Singh S/o Mr. S.B. Singh, Khargapur, Gomti Nagar Lucknow-226010 2. Mr. Chandra Pratap Singh Gautam S/o Mr. Tara Chandra Singh Gautam, C-46, J-Park 2, Maha Nagar Vistar, Maha Nagar Lucknow-226006 Branch : Khushhalganj	Residential Property: Plot Part of land Khasra No. 426 Sa Mingi, Village-Narauna, Pargana-Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa Kumari W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar, Boundaries: East-Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot of Ashok Kumar Yadav, North: Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet AREA- 800 Sq.feet., 74.349 Sq.mt.	Rs. 11,07,038.00 and interest thereon 22.07.2024 23.10.2024

Date : 26.10.2024 **Place :** Lucknow **Authorised Officer**

CSJMU launches online distance learning courses



Vice Chancellor, CSJMU, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak addressing mediapersons on Friday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The CSJM University (CSJMU) launched online distance learning courses on Friday. Addressing mediapersons, Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak said these courses will be run under the Dronacharya Centre For Online Education.

He said four courses — MCom, BCA, BBA and BCom - were available under online learning globally while the 11 courses to be run under the open and distance learning will be run in university's studies centres in Uttar Pradesh. All other details, including fee structure etc were available on University's website. He said transgressors, disabled, defence personnel and prisoners will be allowed 50 per cent concession on tuition

fee and e-self learning material. Director, Centre for Distance Education & Online Education Prof Sandeep Kumar Singh and Prof Anshu Yadav also informed about the conduct of the courses. Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav was also present during the press conference.

ANNUAL CONCERT: The annual concert 'Festin-o-Beats' of St Mary's Convent High School was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur on Thursday. It marked 125 years of the inception of the school. The festivities began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Archbishop Most Rev Dr Louis Mascarenhas, chief guest Brig. Shabbarul Hasan SM and guest of honour Stephen PD IDEs. The programme began with a

prayer dance followed by the Resounding Legacies which depicted the school's journey from its founding to the present, highlighting key historical moments and achievements.

Various plays and dance dramas rekindled the magic of music, relevance of positive mindset and the use of media as an aid in every sphere of lives. A skit was performed by the Mary Ward School student as a tribute to the farmers who toil day and night in every season. Traditional and Western dances symbolised the unity and diversity that the school has fostered over the years. Melodious songs sung by the school choir enthralled the audience.

The chief guest Brig Shabbarul Hasan shared his personal experiences of his school life and praised the school for its unwavering commitment to education, moral values and overall development of the students. The programme concluded with Spectrum of Success which showcased this year's school motto 'Honour the past, embrace the present and co-create the future.' The event was not just a commemoration of the past 125 years but a declaration of the school's commitment to continue shaping a bright future for generations to come.

Work underway on Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Following the recent completion of track construction on the 'up-line' from the ramp area at McRobertganj to Kanpur Central Station and on the 'down-line' to Nayaganj station of Kanpur Metro Rail Project, work is now underway on the approximately five km Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section. Additionally, track construction on the 'down-line' between Nayaganj and Kanpur Central in the underground section is expected to be completed soon.

On the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section, the initial phase involved laying railway tracks on the 'down-line' near

which is also employed in high-speed freight corridors. Additionally, a mass-spring system is integrated into the track in the underground section to effectively absorb vibrations and noise. In metro services trains operate regularly for extended periods of 15-16 hours, providing limited opportunities for maintenance during these hours. To ensure stable and comfortable travel with minimal upkeep, an efficient system is crucial. Ballast-less track fulfils these needs, offering a reliable solution for continuous operation.

Expressing happiness on this occasion, Sushil Kumar, Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation



Baradevi Station and welding them using the Flash Butt Weld (FBW) plant. Cranes were used to transport the rail tracks and FBW equipment to the viaduct. After laying and welding the tracks in small stretches, slabs were cast beneath them. Additionally, derailment guards will be integrated into the track slab, along with arrangements for the installation of the third rail. Kanpur Metro utilises ballast-less tracks for its train operations. These tracks require minimal maintenance and offer a longer lifecycle. The rail tracks are constructed using head-hardened technology,

Limited (UPMRC), stated, "The commencement of track construction in the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section marks an important milestone for us. The erection of precast structures and the casting of platforms have already been completed in this section. Currently, alongside track construction, we are also building PEB structures and technical rooms. To optimise efficiency, installation work related to various departments is being carried out simultaneously. I am pleased to see our entire team and contracting agencies working with determination to achieve our goals in a planned manner."



Labourers on Friday build a pontoon bridge on the Ganga river during preparations for the upcoming 'Maha Kumbh Mela' in Prayagraj

Youth's body found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The body of a 25-year-old youth who had gone to see a fair in Mahtikar village under Utraon police station area was found in the straw on Thursday night. On being informed by the villagers the police reached the spot and sent the body for postmortem. The family members are inconsolable. Reports said that Mithlesh Kumar Patel of Mahtikar village had gone to see the Budhwa Mangal Mela on Tuesday but did not return home till late at night. Thereafter his family members launched a search for him and also asked his friends and relatives but he could not be found. On Thursday night, his body was found in the straw at a little distance from the house. A cot and some poisonous substance were also found nearby. The villagers told the police that no one went towards the field after threshing paddy on Monday. On Thursday night, when they went near the field, they saw the body lying in the straw. On getting information, the family members reached the spot. Later the Utraon police and forensic team also reached there investigated the matter and sent the body for postmortem. Utraon police station in charge Pankaj Tripathi said that Mithlesh was the eldest of two brothers. He used to do a private job while living in Delhi. He was at home for the last two months. The body had been sent for an autopsy and further action will be taken after the autopsy report comes, he added.

In another incident an 18-year-old boy committed suicide by hanging himself in Karelbagh area here on Friday. The police was informed about the incident. According to a report received here, Teja, who lived in Karelbagh, worked in a shop in Thatheri Bazaar of Chowk area. Father Ram Bhushan used to stay at home due to illness. His elder brother Jeetu told the police as he was playing a game he did not give the mobile phone to his mother when she asked for it for calling someone and started quarrelling with her. When the dispute escalated, he threw the mobile phone and went to his room. When he did not come down for a long time, his family members went upstairs and found Teja hanging from the ceiling. He was immediately taken to a private hospital where doctors declared him dead. SHO Kotwali Rohit Tiwari said that the teenager committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling.

CBCS celebrates foundation day

Prayagraj (PNS): The Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS), University of Allahabad, celebrated its 23rd foundation day on Friday. Head, CBCS, Prof Bhoomika R Kar, welcomed the dignitaries, which included Prof Janak Pandey, founder head of CBCS and the invited speakers. She then presented a brief report on the accomplishments and advances in the centre during the past year. Following this, there was a special lecture by Dr Tapan Kumar Gandhi, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and School of AI, IIT Delhi. With his PhD jointly from IIT Delhi and MIT USA he has pursued his postdoctoral research at MIT, USA. He is a Fellow of National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Science, India. He is an eminent professor-researcher with rich experience in academia and applied research, especially in Healthcare Technology, Computational Neuroscience, ML/AI, AVR and Responsible Gaming. He has worked on the development of novel gadgets to assist individuals who had been paralysed due to spinal injuries or other debilitating conditions. He has also been involved with Project Prakash- an initiative that restores sight to the blind, as well as on projects catering autism spectrum disorders in India. His talk focused on the convergence of Brain Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its revolutionary potential to transform both healthcare and AI in the coming years. He highlighted ongoing research centred around the same and stressed on how garnering an in-depth understanding of the brain functions is critical - not only for addressing severe neurodevelopmental conditions but also for advancing adaptable AI systems. He also shed light on the humanitarian-focused research undertaken by him and how it contributed towards driving advances in fundamental science, delivering significant societal benefits, and inspiring the next generation of intelligent machines for future applications.

Madhur Sharma's performance dominates cultural evening

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The three day annual cultural extravaganza "Effervescence" kicked off with a series of events at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) on Friday. The cultural evening was dominated by the performance of Madhur Sharma, known for his captivating voice and unique blend of soulful melodies and Indian pop fusion. He presented "Kali Kali Zulfon

Ke," "Samandar Saraab," and "Mere Baad Kisko Satagee." In addition to his original songs, Sharma treated the audience to some of his most popular covers, including his soulful rendition of "Bin Maahi" and the crowd favourite, "Tere Jey Hor Disda." Earlier, Pragati Nagpal, Sare Gama fame artiste also performed. On the first day events such as Art Relay, Unplugged, Face Painting, Tongues on Fire, Footloose, Recipe Rush etc

were held on Jhalwa campus attracting hundreds of students. On the second day i.e. October 26, offline duet dance competition, celebrating creative expression through spray paint, intellectual quiz, electrifying dance extravaganza, debate, foodie adventure, non-competitive event for the institute's prosperous music society, fashion show and play will be organised. All India Permit Band will give its performance at night.

Art & craft provide creative insight: Prof Chaudhary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Hunar Haat was organised by the girls under the joint aegis of the Department of Drawing and Painting, Department of Home Science, Cultural Club and NSS of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, on Friday. Principal Professor Anju Chaudhary inaugurated the Hunar Haat by garlanding the idol of Lord Ganesh. Head of the Department of Painting Professor Vandana Sharma presented a bouquet to the principal and welcomed all the invited guests. Addressing the students, Professor Anju Chaudhary said art and craft provide creative insight to a person in his/her life and in the contemporary scenario, immense employment opportunities are also being created by it. Arts enhance the quality of life, art and culture are complementary to community development. While appealing to the students, she said girls from both the depart-



The 'Hunar Haat' organised at MMV PG College on Friday.

ments of Painting and Home Science can make a better career in this. There is a need to provide opportunities to

their artistry and originality. Professor Vandana Sharma said in the fair the girls have presented useful examples in prac-

tical life by creating material related to art and handicraft in their presentations. About 50 stalls were set up here in which many handmade artworks of the best quality were displayed. These included items like diyas, bandhanbars, durruiya mats, jewellery boxes, pooja thaal, tassels, candles, home decor items, clothes, artworks, accessories, shagun envelopes and gift items. All these items were showing a glimpse of the wonderful tradition of handicrafts and handicrafts of India. The tradition of handicrafts in India is as old as it is full of diversity. The painting department and cultural club of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, is working to promote art and culture. This time the girls of the Home Science department also showed their skills here. However, different types of events have been organised in the department to promote folk arts and crafts of different states of India. Hunar Haat Mela is one of these events. At

the end of the programme, the Head of the Department of Home Science, Dr Sarita Verma thanked all the guests and congratulated the girls of both the departments on the successful organisation of the programme. Dr Sarita Sharma, Dr Seema Kannaujia, Dr Beauty Dixit, Roshni Verma along with the heads of both the departments guided the girls in the successful conduct of the programme. Neha Dixit, Ritu Verma, Akriti Tripathi, Tanu Tiwari, Divya Devi, Mahi Rajput, Avantika Tripathi, Ankita Sonkar, Deepti Bhatt, Rupali Sonkar etc. participated enthusiastically. On the occasion, a lot of handmade products made by the girls were sold. Prof Pragya Shrivastava, Prof Deepali Shrivastava, Prof Neeta Mishra, Prof Pratibha Shrivastava, Dr Saba Yunus, Dr Namrata Pandey, Dr Nishi Singh, Dr Anamika Verma, Dr Gunjan, Dr Pooja Shrivastava, Dr Meera Tripathi and other faculty members supported the programme.

Man stabbed to death, friend found dead

Gonda (PTI): A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death while his friend was found dead near a railway track in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Friday. Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said information was received about a body being found behind the medical college in the Kotwali Nagar police station area early on Friday. Senior officers reached the spot with a field unit of forensic experts and collected evidence. The man was identified as Vijay Pandey, a local. Jaiswal said knife marks were found on the body. According to his family members, Vijay Pandey left home after receiving a call around 3 am. Jaiswal said. Later, the body of Vijay Pandey's friend Deepak Pandey (24) was found near a railway track a short distance from the Chitnapur crossing. Police sources said Deepak Pandey died after being run over by a train.

NTPC partners with Indian Army to establish solar hydrogen-based microgrid



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

NTPC has partnered with the Indian Army to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh. This significant step will provide a stable power supply using green hydrogen in off-grid Army locations. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of this unique project through video conferencing in the presence of Chief of India defence services, CMD, NTPC and other senior officials from Ministry of Defence, Indian Army and NTPC. NTPC has designed this innovative solar hydrogen-based microgrid system to operate independently, using hydrogen as an energy storage medium to supply 200kW of power round-the-clock throughout the year. This system will replace existing diesel gensets at off-grid Army locations, providing a sustainable power supply despite harsh winter conditions where temperatures drop to -30°C at an altitude of 4,400 meters. NTPC will maintain the project for 25 years, aiming to support Indian soldiers stationed in these strategically significant tough terrains and challenging climate. The solar hydrogen microgrid is set to replace existing diesel generators currently in use at off-grid Army locations. These systems offer numerous advantages, including the integration of renewable energy sources, a stable power supply under

Importance of hard work, honesty in achieving success stressed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The closing ceremony and prize distribution function of the three-day Inter School Cultural and Games Extravaganza, Alfresco 2024, organized by Boys' High School (BHS) and College concluded late on Thursday evening. The Max Knack Star Performer of Alfresco 2024 was awarded to Shreyansh Vinay of BHS. Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Sidharth Nath Singh, was the chief guest on the occasion.



BHS Principal DA Luke and Academic Supervisor CB Luke, convener of Alfresco 2024 accorded a warm welcome to the chief guest Sidharth Nath Singh. This year, there were 24 competitive events in the three categories—junior, senior and open in which students from the participating schools showcased their talents and skills in on stage and offstage events. It was a proud moment when the chief guest handed over the prestigious Alfresco Championship Trophy 2024 to Boys' High School. The Bishop's Co-ed School, Pune and DP Public School (DPPS) for their stellar performance in the three-day mega fest. Addressing the students, Sidharth Nath Singh stressed on the importance of hard work, honesty in achieving success in life. He said, "although, it may sound clichéd

but the virtues of honesty and integrity still are the main ingredients for a holistic life." He added that the rigmarole of public life does not allow him the privilege to experience such exuberant cultural events. He applauded the exemplary performance of each school and drew parallel with the best Russian Broadway group Blestyashchiye. He thanked the principal DA Luke for inviting him for such a culturally rich programme showcasing the

teachings of Gita, the colours of Rajasthan, the swag of Michael Jackson and the ballet/ Bharatnatyam fusion. He promised that he will surely take out time to be a part of the cultural mega fest Alfresco in the coming years. Academic Supervisor and convener of Alfresco 2024 CB Luke outlined the 160-year-old rich heritage and history of Boys' High School and also how Alfresco has evolved and enthralled the denizens and students alike for the past 30 years. She thanked everyone for making this event a grand success. She outlined the significance of staying focused in one's objective, "the success might be delayed but will certainly not be denied." The results are as follows: Interlocution: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — St John's Co-ed; Ad Factor: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; En Vogue: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — BHS; Happy Feet: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — Khelgaon Public; Pratibimba: first — BHS, second — Khelgaon; Caption Me: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — BHS; Basketball (Girls): first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — Khelgaon; Basketball (Boys): first — BHS, second — BJS; T10Cricket: first — BHS-B team, second — BHS-A team; Football: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Zip Zap Zoom: first — BHS, second — St John's

Co-ed and Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner); Colloquy: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Quiz: first — BHS, second — Khelgaon; HAM: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Rock On: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Charcoal on Canvas: first — DPPS & Khelgaon (joint), second — Bishop's Co-ed; Shutter Bug: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — BHS; BGM: first — BHS, second — DPPS; Vocabquest: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Sur Sangram: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed; Sing Along: first — BHS & Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner); Creative Muse: first — BHS, second — Khelgaon & Bishop's Co-ed (joint winner); Expressionism: first — BHS, second — St John's Co-ed & Srinivasan Ramanujan (joint winner); Splash: first — Bishop's Co-ed, second — St John's Co-ed; Roll the Reels: first — BHS, second — Bishop's Co-ed.

Government urges people to limit outdoor activities amid toxic air level

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid soaring levels of toxic air in many cities, the government has urged people to restrict outdoor activities, such as sports and exercise, especially for vulnerable populations like the elderly, pregnant women, and those with existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The Union Health Ministry has also asked states/UTs to strengthen the healthcare system to address the pressing issue of air pollution, which is expected to worsen during the festival season and with the onset of winter.

The Ministry has also encouraged the public to use public transport and avoid heavily congested areas.

In a letter to states/UTs, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr. Atul Goel advised discouraging stubble and waste burning and spreading awareness about reducing firecracker use during festivities.



He also emphasised promoting public transportation, limiting reliance on diesel generators, and curbing fossil fuel smoking.

"Additionally, individuals should minimise their exposure to polluted air by

monitoring air quality indices through government mobile applications before venturing outdoors, avoiding congested areas, and opting for cleaner fuels at home for cooking, heating, and lighting," Dr. Goel said in the letter written last week.

He pointed out that air pollution has recently become a serious health challenge, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) in certain states/UTs reaching moderate to poor levels.

The states must scale up participation in sentinel

surveillance systems for air pollution-related diseases under the National Program on Climate Change and Human Health, he added.

Termining the government steps as much-needed one, Dr. Shobha Gupta, gynecologist and IVF expert from Mother's Lap IVF Centre said Diwali celebrations can pose specific risks to pregnant women and those with respiratory sensitivities.

Though firecrackers are banned in the city, violations continue to occur.

"Increased pollution levels from fireworks can aggravate respiratory conditions, negatively impacting both maternal and fetal health. Expectant mothers should avoid areas with heavy smoke or pollution given that fireworks release harmful chemicals like sulfur dioxide and particulate matter that can worsen asthma or cause respiratory distress."

"A pregnant woman should stay indoors as much as possible, and use air purifiers

if needed," advised Dr. Gupta.

Dr. Jyoti Kapoor, Director of Manasthali Wellness, advised individuals with respiratory issues, allergies, or asthma to take precautions, as they are particularly vulnerable to air pollution from fireworks.

"Diwali can be a time of excessively waste. Opt for eco-friendly decorations, such as clay diyas, which are biodegradable, or use LED lights instead of incandescent bulbs to save energy," she added.

While fireworks are banned in Delhi, they are still being sold in neighboring states where restrictions do not apply.

The Delhi government announced a ban on firecrackers on September 9, with Environment Minister Gopal Rai stating that all types of firecrackers, including green crackers, are prohibited from being sold, purchased, stocked, or manufactured in the capital. The formal notification of the ban was eventually issued on October 14.

Education Minister visit Australia to boost research collaboration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has said research collaboration is the bedrock of collaboration between India and Australia during his ongoing visit there.

In a significant move to enhance bilateral cooperation in the education sector, Pradhan is visiting Australia from October 22 to 26. The visit is expected to foster collaboration, participation, and synergy in critical areas of mutual interest in education, the ministry said here in a statement on Friday.



given him several points to ponder and has also convinced him that broader and deeper research collaboration is required between both countries.

It said the minister visited the Macquarie Park Innovation District at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. He was received by the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University Professor. S. Bruce Downton and other officials.

Pradhan explored how the University supports researchers and entrepreneurs in developing and scaling their ideas. He appreciated the University's unique approach to collaborating with industry experts and communities to create a holistic learning experience.

The Minister also noted that the University has been partnering with Indian educational institutions and industries. He emphasized that strong industry-academia links like these are crucial for driving innovation and preparing students for success.

Later in the day, Pradhan interacted with Indian students studying across Australia in an event held by the Group of Eight. He noted that they are working on cutting-edge research in robotics, chemicals, astrophysics, superconductivity, AI in manufacturing, healthcare, med-tech, climate change, water management and urban planning.

He highlighted that research collaboration is the bedrock of collaboration between Australia and India and said the insightful interaction has

The minister visited the campus of University of New South Wales (UNSW). He congratulated UNSW on completing 75 years and noted that Indian students have been in UNSW since its third year of inception.

Pradhan also interacted with start-ups incubated by various schools of the UNSW. He explored their products and services and appreciated their spirit and passion for innovation and change. He encouraged the start-ups to tailor their solutions to Indian society and the market. He also interacted with Indian students in UNSW.

The Minister visited UTS Moore Park, a sporting precinct housed at the University of Technology, Sydney. He noted that this is first-of-its-kind in Australia where university programs in sports are integrated within elite sporting facilities, providing a fertile base for a holistic learning experience in sports management, sports research, and allied health.

He also discussed potential partnerships between UTS and Indian higher education institutions to deliver cutting-edge sports management and research programs.

Earlier this week from October 20-21, Pradhan visited Singapore and met the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Education Minister and other dignitaries to expand bilateral cooperation in skill-based education and research.

Jharkhand CM files nomination for state Assembly polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SARAIKELA/ RANCHI

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, AJSU party chief Sudesh Mahto and others on Friday filed their nomination papers from their respective constituencies for the upcoming state assembly polls.

Soren filed his nomination as BJP nominee from Saraikela, which is among 43 assembly constituencies going to polls in the first phase on November 13. The nomination process for the first phase, which started on October 18, is set to conclude on October 25.

Soren, who joined the BJP on August 30 citing "insult" and "humiliation" at the hands of JMM leaders, claimed that there is a wave in favour of the saffron party in the state.

"There is a wave in favour of the BJP in the Kolhan region as well as entire Jharkhand. The BJP will win all 81 seats and form the government this time," he said.

The former Chief Minister said the population of tribal has decreased in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region. "The



present government in Jharkhand has never worked to stop Bangladeshi infiltrators," he alleged.

The JMM candidate from Saraikela seat, Ganesh Mahli, who recently joined the party after defecting from the BJP, also submitted his documents before the election officials on Friday.

The JMM in its fourth list of candidates on Thursday announced the name of Mahli as party nominee for the seat. AJSU party chief Sudesh Mahto filed his nomination from Silli, which is among 38 assembly constituencies that will go to the polls in second phase on November 20. Mahto was accompanied by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to the nomination centre. Exuding confidence about his victory, Mahto said that people would vote for development.

NIA launches probe into train derailments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has begun a preliminary enquiry to ascertain any sabotage angle in recent train derailments and accidents, officials said on Friday.

They said at least four such cases are being looked into by the anti-terror agency officials. "A preliminary enquiry has been registered to look into sabotage angles in recent train accidents/derailments. At least four such cases are being looked into," an official said. Nothing concrete has come up so far to suggest there were sabotage attempts in these train derailments/accidents, the official added. Some cases have been reported in the past over two months where empty gas cylinders, cement sleeper and boulders among other items were placed on railway tracks, suggesting deliberate attempts to damage railway properties and harm passengers.

On October 9, a goods train on its way to Kundanganj in Uttar Pradesh hit a cement sleeper placed on the



Raebareli-Prayagraj railway section. The driver applied emergency brakes after seeing the construction part, but could not prevent the engine's cattle guard (front portion) from hitting the object.

On September 22, an empty gas cylinder was found on the track by a goods train loco pilot, who applied emergency brakes and stopped the train near Prempur Railway Station in Kanpur.

An attempt was also made to derail the Kalindi Express, heading towards Bhiwani from Prayagraj, on September 8, by placing an LPG cylinder on the track. A bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also found at the site hinting at a

sabotage bid. Twenty coaches of the Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed near Govindpuri station in Kanpur after its engine hit an object placed on the track, in the wee hours of August 17.

The loco pilot of the train said that some boulder hit the cattle guard of the engine which got severely damaged and bent. There were no casualties reported in the derailment that occurred between Kanpur and Bhimsen railway stations at around 2.35 AM. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had last month said that the railway administration was on alert against potential train sabotage bids and was holding talks with authorities including the NIA and police in several states.

Congress slams NDA over terrorist attack in Gulmarg

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday slammed the NDA government at the Centre over the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg, saying its policies had completely failed to establish security and demanded that it should immediately take accountability as well as ensure the safety of Army personnel and civilians.

Two soldiers and two Army porters were killed in the attack on Thursday while another porter and a soldier were injured. Terrorists attacked a vehicle of the force six kilometres from the tourist spot of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The terrorists opened fire on the Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area when it was headed for the Nagin post in Afrawat range. In a social media post in Hindi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said, "The news of the martyrdom of our brave soldiers in the cowardly attack on an Army vehicle in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, is extremely saddening."

Your efforts should be focused on shaping our national vision of 'Viksit Bharat': J P Nadda at UCMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday emphasised the essential contributions healthcare professionals make to society and urged the newly graduated doctors to embody values of compassion, integrity, and dedication as they begin their medical careers.

He was speaking at the 53rd foundation day and convocation ceremony of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) held here.

Nadda highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening India's healthcare system, emphasizing the importance of making medical services accessible to all citizens. He called on the graduates to



align their work with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat'-a developed India-encouraging them to take an active role in shaping this future.

Reaching out to the students, he said, "Your efforts should be focused on shaping our

national vision of 'Viksit Bharat'." On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, VK Saxena, Prof. Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi; Dr Mahesh Verma, Chairperson, Governing Body of UCMS and Vice-Chancellor, GGSU, Prof. B Srinivas, Secretary, NMC and Deputy Director General, Medical Education were among those present at the event.

Nadda also talked about the significant financial investment made by the government in medical education and stated that approximately Rs 30-35 lakh is spent on each MBBS student. This investment underscores the expectation for these new doctors to shoulder greater

responsibilities and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare landscape.

Nadda also outlined important changes introduced in the National Health Policy in 2017, which transitioned the focus of healthcare from a predominantly curative model to a more comprehensive approach.

In discussing recent advancements in the healthcare sector, Nadda noted several achievements, including the establishment of 22 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the opening of new medical and nursing colleges, and a remarkable increase in available medical education seats-over 100% more in MBBS and MD programs. He further announced a

commitment to adding 75,000 more medical seats in the next five years, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The ceremony also celebrated the accomplishments of the graduates, with degrees conferred to 146 MBBS students, 145 MD/MS students, 17 BSc (MT) radiology students, and four MSc (R&MIT) students, alongside 62 awards recognizing outstanding achievements. Besides, four certificates in Medical Laboratory Technology were awarded.

The event was also attended by Dr. Girish Tyagi, Registrar, Delhi Medical Council, President of the Delhi Medical Association, Dr Amita Suneja, Principal, UCMS.

RPSC cancels exam for 111 senior posts due to confidentiality breach

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) has cancelled a competitive examination for recruitment to 111 senior posts of the Local Self Government Department following breach of confidentiality during the conduct of the test.

In the Revenue Officer Grade II and Executive Officer Class-IV Competitive Examination, 2022 conducted by the Commission on May 14 last year, 1,96,483 candidates had appeared for 111 posts.

Of them, a total of 311 candidates were included after the exam in the list issued for eligibility check and document verification.

There were incidents of cheating at examination centres at Bikaner and three FIRs were registered there on



the day of the examination. "It is clear from the FIRs and their challan reports that cheating took place at the examination centres through ultra-modern electronic devices. Regarding the complaints received, the Commission had written to SOG (Special Operations Group) and ATS (Anti-Terrorist Squad) on June 12 this year for investigation of the complaints," a release from the RPSC said.

On the candidates appearing suspicious in the document verification, the Commission also re-examined the

documents of several candidates from August 2 to 8. ADG ATS and SOG has informed the Commission that serious facts have come to light regarding the secrecy of the examination during the examination. The SOG has also registered a case and several accused have been arrested.

"In view of all the above facts, the Commission found that during the conduct of the said examination, there was a complete lack of desired purity at some examination centres. Commission has decided to cancel the Revenue Officer Grade I and Executive Officer Class-IV (Local Self Government Department) Competitive Examination, 2022 and conduct the examination of all the applied candidates again in the near future," it said.

Canada resolves five extradition requests for Khalistani terrorists

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Of the 26 requests sent to Canada for extraditing Khalistani terrorists, Ottawa has resolved only five and the rest remain in limbo, India's top envoy to that country has said, calling it the result of "inaction".

The five men are in the process of being extradited, High Commissioner Sanjay Verma told PTI in an interview this week. He said he is not at liberty to disclose the name or give details.

The interview took place on Wednesday, a couple of days after his return to New Delhi. India recalled him and five other Indian diplomats after they were named "person of interest" in a Canadian investigation into the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani terrorist who was a Canadian citizen. Relations between the two

countries have plunged to their lowest level ever over the issue of Canada's tacit support for Khalistani extremists among the large Sikh-Canadian population of about 8 lakh. New Delhi accuses Ottawa of doing next to nothing to stop the activities of Khalistani supporters who seek to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

"According to the last information that I had, five of them have been resolved. Twenty-one are still pending, and these are pending since decades. So, I would say that there is an inaction rather than consultation. All the issues which get into the judicial system of a country, sometimes need consultations, because we follow two different judicial systems," he said.

But, if there is no action in the



last four-five or 10 years, then "I would only call it inaction", Verma said.

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs said the 26

extradition requests are for people who have been charged in India with terror and related crimes. India has also sought "provisional arrest" of

several of the accused, which remains pending with Canada, under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. Among those named by the

ministry are Gurjeet Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Lakhbir Singh Landa and Arshdeep Singh Gill. Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey in the Canadian province of British Columbia on June 18 last year.

During the interview, the recalled envoy also spoke about the long-standing people-to-people ties between the two countries and the genesis of the Khalistani problem in Canada and how it became a hotbed of this movement.

Asked if the frosty relations can ever warm up, Verma said: "I would only want that ties between the two countries get better. But, it should be better not because we want to make it better but because (we) both respect each other, both want to understand each

other, both understand each other's core concerns." He said India's core concern is very clear. "It has been told many times to our Canadian friends that our core concern is the anti-India elements there, the Khalistani extremists and terrorists over there, who keep challenging India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They (Canada) will need to somewhere handle them."

He pointed out that the Khalistanis in Canada are Canadian citizens, not Indian nationals. "So, what will be the future of India, this will be decided by Indians. Foreigners will not decide it. They are ... Of Indian-origin but for us they are foreigners. Foreigners never had, have or will have any right to interfere in our internal affairs."

Indians first arrived in Canada in the early 1900s by

ship. Despite facing racial discrimination and segregation, the Indians continued to live in Canada and eventually became citizens. A second wave of immigration happened after the 1984 Operation Blue Star on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, and the ensuing Sikh militancy for a separate Khalistan state in Punjab. While the Khalistani movement has no takers in Punjab or India now, it continues to flourish among a small minority of Sikhs in the Canadian Sikh community.

The second round of Sikh immigrants found refuge in Canada due to "lenient Canadian legal system", Verma said. "They were able to get their permanent residence in Canada, citizenship in Canada. They sought asylum in Canada, on fictitious grounds."



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Resilient India

As the threat of climate change grows, the nation's strategies offer a roadmap for dealing with natural calamities more effectively

Cyclone 'Dana' recently made landfall on the eastern coast of India, bringing with it heavy rains, strong winds and high tidal waves. While the cyclone's impact caused damage to infrastructure and disruptions to daily life, the nation's response showcased advancements in disaster preparedness and resilience. The Government's coordinated efforts, improved early warning systems, and proactive measures helped mitigate the cyclone's impact, preventing large-scale casualties and ensuring a quicker recovery. This development marks another step forward in India's ongoing efforts to handle natural calamities more effectively. Cyclone 'Dana' formed over the Bay of Bengal, following a trajectory that saw it intensifying into a severe cyclonic storm as it approached the coast. The eastern states of Odisha and West Bengal, already familiar with the threat of cyclones, were put on high alert. Cyclones are not new to India; in fact, the country has been battling such natural disasters for centuries. However,



a significant shift has been seen in recent years with India's proactive approach to cyclone management. India's approach to disaster management has evolved over the years. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has made significant strides in forecasting the path and intensity of cyclones. With the use of advanced satellite technology, Doppler radar systems, and numerical weather prediction models, the IMD now provides early warnings with much greater accuracy. In the case of Cyclone Dana, the IMD issued timely alerts well in advance, allowing state governments to initiate precautionary measures. Over the past decade, India has vastly

improved its capacity to evacuate people from high-risk zones to safety. For Cyclone Dana, over 300,000 residents from coastal districts were moved to cyclone shelters, which had been strengthened as part of disaster preparedness programmes. Another critical component of India's improved disaster response is the emphasis on community awareness and participation. The improvements in India's cyclone preparedness did not happen overnight. The devastating impact of past cyclones, such as Cyclone Phailin (2013), Cyclone Fani (2019), and Cyclone Amphan (2020), served as a wake-up call for policymakers. For instance, Cyclone Phailin, which struck Odisha in 2013, caused widespread damage despite timely evacuations. The experience underscored the need for more resilient infrastructure and better early warning systems. Cyclone Fani in 2019 showed progress in the country's disaster response, as timely evacuations of over a million people saved countless lives. With Cyclone Amphan in 2020, the Government further fine-tuned its strategies, deploying more resources to affected areas and utilising technology for real-time monitoring. These efforts demonstrated that lessons from past cyclones were being effectively incorporated into future preparedness plans.

PICTALK



Farmers harvest paddy as clouds cover the skyline ahead of the landfall of Cyclone 'Dana', in Nadia

UN's relevance at stake as Israel defies it



ARCHANA DATTA

Israel's continuous assault on Gaza and blatant violations of international law are threatening the very foundation of the UN's credibility and existence

Israel has been following a concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system, particularly those devoted to paediatric and neonatal, sexual and reproductive health services, and thus, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, a UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in a new report, which is being presented to the UN General Assembly very soon. Israel has slammed it as 'outrageous', accusing the investigators of bias. Israel has been on a spree of retaliatory attacks on Gaza for the last year, after Hamas, stormed into its territory, killing and kidnapping several Israeli citizens. So far, Israeli retaliatory strikes, reportedly, had killed more than 42,000 civilians in Gaza and displaced almost its entire population.

Ground reports indicate that Israel has adopted a calculated strategy of meting out 'punishment' to people, by systematically targeting Gaza's health infrastructure. Hospitals are now on the brink of collapse due to a shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialised personnel (WHO). The year-long continuous bombardment had not spared operating rooms, medical equipment, health workers or ambulances with the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem. At least 165 doctors, 260 nurses, 184 health associates, 76 pharmacists 300 management and support staff, and around 85 civil service defence workers lost their lives, and hundreds of bodies have been recovered from several mass graves around hospital grounds. Thousands of wounded people are suffering from life-changing injuries, and their lives are at risk for want of specialised care (WHO).

Israel's denial of medical supplies has endangered also the lives of at least 350,000 chronically ill patients. Patients in hospitals and people in relief centres are also showing signs of diseases associated with overcrowding such as stomach complaints, lung infections and rashes. The incessant bombing has contaminated Gaza's air with asbestos dust, raising the threat of cancer shortly. Even those handful of partial-



ly functioning health institutions in Gaza are receiving repeated evacuation orders. WHO described such orders as 'death sentences for the sick and injured'. UNICEF has declared Gaza as the 'most dangerous place to be a child'. Children have become a majority of the patients in hospitals for blunt, penetrating trauma, and direct gunshot wounds, and lack of basic medical facilities has made treatment of such children difficult.

Every day almost 10 children are losing one or both legs, and operations and amputations are conducted with little or no anaesthesia. The absence of a power supply has also enhanced the death toll of newborns as incubators stop functioning. The children staying a long time in hospitals without adequate nutrition are developing nutritional deficiencies which would result in long-term health consequences. Hospitals have turned into 'graveyards for thousands of children'.

The threats to children go beyond 'bombs and mortars', as over 645,000 school children in the Gaza Strip, have lost a full academic year, and more than 800,000 children, three-quarters of Gaza's entire child population, urgently need mental health and psychosocial support. The UN Commission's report



GROUND REPORTS INDICATE THAT ISRAEL HAS ADOPTED A CALCULATED STRATEGY OF METING OUT 'PUNISHMENT' TO PEOPLE, BY SYSTEMATICALLY TARGETING GAZA'S HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

described the wide-scale disruptions in sexual and reproductive health care services, as 'reproductive violence, and infringement of women and girls' reproductive rights and rights to life, health, human dignity and non-discrimination'. It has had irreversible long-term effects on the mental health and fertility prospects of about 540,000 women and girls of reproductive age.

Women are giving birth in hospitals when hospitals are drastically short of epidurals, anaesthesia and antibiotics. Many have been forced to give birth in unsafe conditions at home or in relief camps, with little or no medical support, risking the danger of life-long injuries and even death. As women's access to food is severely restricted, pregnant and lactating women are at higher health and malnutrition risks (WHO).

The entry of food and water have been blocked to the besieged territory for months together. More than seven hundred water wells have been destroyed, and half of Gaza's cropland (67.6 per cent), over 71 per cent of orchards and other trees, 67 per cent of field crops, and 58.5 per cent of vegetables have been damaged (FAO). Israel has justified its attacks on major medical facilities under the plea that over 85 per cent of them were used

by Hamas for terror operations. But, so far, it has not provided evidence to substantiate the claim, the Commission's report mentioned. Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, ordering Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian territory within one year. Earlier, the ICJ also ruled that Israel's continued occupation was 'unlawful' and ordered to end it 'as rapidly as possible'. Israel, in defiance, intensified onslaughts on the civilian population in Gaza and its natural resources, and declared the UN chief as a persona non grata, barring his entry to Israel.

Israel's actions blatantly breach the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, by intentionally starving a population, and continuing armed assaults on health apparatus and personnel. As the UN celebrates the adoption of its Charter on October 24, which is binding on the UN Member States, and, categorically, prohibits the use of force in international relations. After eight decades of its adoption, Israel's flagrant violation of its principles has threatened the very existence of the UN.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIPLOMACY AMIDST TENSION

Madam — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the BRICS summit has been hailed as historic, particularly for India. The summit, dubbed the "Kazan Diplomacy," made significant strides in easing tensions between India and China, marking a critical ice-breaker since the 2020 Ladakh border dispute. This easing of Sino-Indian tensions has renewed hopes of restoring trade relations. For the first time, BRICS was presented as a non-western grouping, syncing India's tone of dehyphenation between Russia and the West. On the economic front, discussions centred around strengthening the New Development Bank, moving towards alternatives to the SWIFT system, and promoting de-dollarisation.

Additionally, the Nijjar issue, raised by the Five Eyes Alliance, saw India respond with a strong message of international solidarity, affirming that India is not alone. However, while these outcomes appear positive, they may not fully serve India's strategic interests. BRICS, often alliterated as 'non-western', is actually the brainchild of American giant Goldman Sachs. Practically, reviving Indo-China talks is not a landmark achievement but a necessity for BRICS to avoid the fate of SAARC. Plus, China's investments in India have been associated with intellectual property violations, data theft, and interference in domestic politics. The push for de-dollarisation could further tilt the balance towards 'Yuan', exacerbating India's trade deficit with China. In this scenario, India must focus on "strategic self-interest." As External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar notes in The India Way, India's foreign policy must be driven by realpolitik, especially in the context of BRICS, where China's dominance is unmistakable.

Abhisek Pani | Bhubaneswar

OVERWORK JEOPARDISES LIFE

Madam — A four-year-old child and her father died after being run over by a taxi

Priyanka's political debut



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is all set for her political debut from the seat of Wayanad, the peculiar constituency from the heartland of southern India. The Congress is all set to make Wayanad an important position to fortify the states of the south, particularly after

facing a win-win situation in the recent elections, where the INDIA Alliance lost Haryana but managed to settle well in J and K. So far, Priyanka Vadra wishes to enter into full-fledged politics since really long, but never ever fills her the nomination to officially join her political family into reality.

But now that she has finalised her commitment and filled out her nomination on October 23. This will help Congress to gain a personal touch with the people of South India, as after Rahul Gandhi chooses to keep Rae Bareilly, there creates a vacuum of political connection in targeting the southern states specifically. Now it is up to the people of south heartland states, that how the people will respond and support her in her political decision. Whether her debut turns smooth or not, is something only time can tell.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

with an allegedly dozing driver when they were walking to board a bus for school in Kolkata on Tuesday morning. Amid the persistent demand for a 70-hour work culture by Infosys co-founder, N R Narayana Murthy, and other corporate entrepreneurs, overwork makes drowsy drivers meet fateful accidents on highways.

According to a study, almost a third of app-based cab drivers work for 14 hours a day, while more than 83 per cent work over 10 hours and 60 per cent work over 12 hours. This kind of overwork is a slow way to slaughter people. Long work hours made drivers physically exhausted. Plus, the 10-minute delivery at the doorstep policy of certain e-commerce platforms are two of the reasons behind many road traffic accidents in our country. On the other hand, Indian Railways have been playing with our lives by not filling up vacant posts and by forcing their personnel, even loco pilots, to overwork. An RTI reply says that of 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, 18,766-nearly 15 per cent were

vacant as of March 1 this year. How can a loco pilot remain alert if he has to do extra shifts?

Sujit De | Kolkata

FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES

Madam — The Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has promised to name all the districts in Assam with the names of Ram and Krishna. While this may be in consonance with his religious sentiments, how is it going to help the people of the state? Name changing is getting to be the main thrust of the politics of the BJP. Infiltration is a serious problem in Assam, but the numbers dished out seem to be arbitrary with no real data to back it up.

There are much more serious problems Assam is facing than the need for name changing. It would be better for the people and the nation if CM's dealt with issues that matter and not silly games!

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

Overcoming investment biases: The real key to portfolio success



NILESH NAYAK

While market conditions and external events do play a role, the primary driver of investment success is often the investor's own behaviour

The saying "You are not a failure until you start blaming others for your mistakes" by renowned basketball coach John Wooden holds significant truth, especially when evaluating the performance of our personal investment portfolios. It's a common tendency among investors to attribute poor results to external factors such as the choice of stocks or funds, the portfolio managers, market conditions, or other events beyond their control. Although these elements can influence investment outcomes, the primary factor affecting portfolio performance often lies in the investor's own behaviour. As investment expert Benjamin Graham famously noted, "The investor's chief problem, and even his worst enemy, is likely to be himself."

Recent investment trends, including significant inflows into thematic, sectoral, or small-cap funds, suggest that certain behavioural biases may already be influencing investor decision-making. Recognising these biases is crucial for investors to overcome them and make better investment choices. As psy-



chotherapist Nathaniel Branden stated, "The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance." While various investor biases can lead to suboptimal decisions and unsatisfactory outcomes, some are particularly prevalent during a bull market like the one we are currently experiencing. Here are a few common behavioral biases: **Overconfidence Bias:** This bias leads investors to believe they possess more knowledge about the financial markets or specific investments than they actually do, causing them to disregard expert advice or factual data. The impressive returns on equity investments in recent years have left many investors overly confident in their decision-making skills, often without acknowledging that much of

this success is due to the general bull market. Such overconfidence can be dangerous when the markets reverse course, as it may prompt investors to over-allocate to stocks or sectors they think will continue to perform well. **Anchoring Bias:** Many newer investors, especially those who entered the market post-COVID-19, have come to expect unusually high returns from equities, based on the exceptional gains seen in recent years. This anchoring can lead them to expect annual returns of 20 per cent or more, assuming such performance is typical. Setting expectations at these levels is risky because it may influence financial plans that later prove unrealistic when market conditions change.

Herding Bias: Also known as the bandwagon effect, herding bias is common during bull markets, where many investors follow the crowd. The prevailing optimism in a bull market creates an illusion that stock prices will only keep rising, leading to irrational decision-making. This mentality can inflate asset prices and eventually result in significant losses when the

market corrects itself. **Recency Bias:** This bias causes investors to place too much emphasis on recent events while ignoring long-term historical data. For those who began investing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the past few years have shown consistent market growth, leading to the false impression that downturns are rare or manageable. To navigate these biases, investors should strive to make informed and rational decisions, especially during periods of strong market growth. A long-term investment strategy can help counteract the temptations posed by behavioral biases. Regularly investing through systematic investment plans (SIPs), maintaining a disciplined asset allocation and setting realistic expectations are practical approaches to reducing the impact of biases on one's portfolio. Ultimately, the key to successful investing lies in acknowledging that our behaviours and mindsets significantly influence outcomes.

(The writer is head of Investment Products, Share Market; views are personal)

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

DO YOU HAVE A GALLOPING MIND

Through meditation and practices like pranayama, one can anchor the wandering mind



RAVI VALLURI

Long ago, there lived an old farmer who was barely productive. Day after day, he would sit on the porch and gaze at the farmland as his son toiled hard and cultivated the land. Seeing his father unemployed frustrated the son. Finally, he gave in to the obnoxious thoughts in his mind and decided to nail his father in a coffin and throw him off a cliff. As he was about to do so, he heard a knock from inside the coffin. The startled son opened the coffin and saw his father sleeping peacefully in it, and remarked, "Throw me if you want, but save the wood of the coffin for your dire times." The old man was mindful and aware. The ungrateful son had a galloping mind. 'Vitrushnasya vashikara sajana vairagyam' is an aphorism in Sanskrit that implies that a mind that gallops is an obstruction in itself.

We hear from fellow meditators that they experienced bliss, or saw a shimmering light, and felt that they could observe some celestial beings holding and touching them during the process of meditation. And then the mind starts wandering and galloping. Meditation happens very naturally, like a person brushing his teeth or undertaking his daily chores. The human mind, which is free from feverish desires, cravings, illusions and dreams attains poise. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, "You cannot get into yoga (union with self) unless you drop the hankering for desires in you." A former colleague who retired recently mentioned during our morning walks that he was unable to sleep or rest peacefully as his mind was cannonaded with innumerable thoughts, worries and anxieties. If 80 per cent efficacious events transpired in our lives and there were 20 per cent unwelcome situations, the mind focuses on the



20 per cent. A mind that gallops is never grateful nor counts its blessings. Such a mind becomes fossilised, is full of anger and continues living in the events of the past. It suffers from attitudinal problems and great lack. A person with such tendencies should realise and pause to think that everything in life is transitory and ephemeral. The hope of spring is replaced by the simmering heat of the summer, followed by welcome rains in the monsoons, which the dry lands ache for. Autumn provides us with opportunities and then winter makes out a balance sheet of the assets and liabilities of work done and those not undertaken. A wandering mind is akin to a pendulum, swinging between daydreaming and wishful thinking, consequently landing in mediocrity and unproductive activity.

The retired colleague probed further as to whether meditation or reading would assist the mind in composing itself for a good night's rest or sleep. It is indeed a paradoxical situation. The mind needs to be occupied and yet be free from cravings so that it does not gallop or wander. This trait or quality can be cultivated only through the practice of vairagya or dispassion. The 'I' factor in the mind lives in the past or future. Instead of being a repetitive parrot, it needs to reinvent and reengineer its configuration and layout. Freshness ignites a spark for providing a new trajectory or direction in life. Politeness makes the mind humble and is propelled out of its closet to learn and it becomes contemporary to acquire skills hitherto not tried. When challenged, the mind slowly but surely stops galloping and regains composure. By practising pranayama, breathing techniques, yoga and pursuing knowledge over a period, the mind stops galloping, regains its alacrity and glides into a space of dispassionate meditation and joyous living.

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

BRICS Summit: A defining moment for the Global South



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

With calls for economic stability, environmental action and cultural unity, the Kazan Declaration emerges as a manifesto for South-South collaboration



A few days after India's External Affairs Minister's historic visit to Islamabad for the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, the most significant annual event of the Global South unfolded in Kazan, Russia: the BRICS summit. Kazan, conquered by Ivan the Terrible in 1552, marks the end of the Kazan Khanate and the beginning of Russian expansion eastward. As the local Tatar proverb warns, "If the heavens give, they also take away," it serves as a sobering reminder of the precarious balance between fortune and misfortune, urging humility and preparedness for inevitable change. This week's summit signifies a pivotal moment for the Global South, challenging Western dominance while exposing its mockery of international humanitarian laws and the chaos it fuels in West Asia, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon, threatening to plunge the entire world into unprecedented conflict and despair.

As leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and their new members, along with other observers, convene, this summit transcends a mere gathering of nations and boldly asserts the aspirations and capabilities of the Global South. While Brazil's President Lula da Silva could not attend due to health issues, the voices of his counterparts resonated powerfully, highlighting a profound commitment to cooperation, peace and mutual respect—values starkly contrasting the narrative perpetuated by the West. At this critical juncture, it is essential to clarify that BRICS, a coalition dedicated to tackling the pressing issues of our time—from economic instability to environmental crises—is not merely a reaction to Western hegemony but a proactive strategy aimed at reshaping the global order based on equity and collaboration.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated during his address, "In a



AS LEADERS FROM BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND NEW MEMBERS, ALONG WITH OTHER OBSERVERS, CONVENE, THIS SUMMIT TRANSCENDS A MERE GATHERING OF NATIONS AND BOLDLY ASSERTS THE ASPIRATIONS AND CAPABILITIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

world facing unprecedented challenges, our cooperation must be grounded in mutual respect and common interests. The world looks to us for leadership that transcends borders and fosters peace." Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping insisted, "As we navigate the complexities of a multipolar world, our shared responsibility is to promote peace, stability and development. BRICS must stand as a pillar of support for developing nations, ensuring their voices are heard on the global stage." This alliance signals a fundamental shift in how nations engage with one another, moving away from zero-sum games toward a collaborative approach that recognises the interconnectedness of global challenges.

As Kishore Mahbubani recently pointed out in an interview with this writer, we are all in the same boat; if the boat is sinking, there's little value in arguing about who has the bigger cabin. The West, by contrast, continues to entrench itself in a militaristic and hostile narrative, frequently resorting to propaganda that demonises nations like China and Russia. Their actions manifest deadly conflicts that leave the rest of the world in turmoil, profiting from the misfortunes of others.

This perverse approach often disregards the cultural and historical contexts of the Global South, presuming to lecture them on how to behave. The West has abandoned its wisdom; as Henry Kissinger once reflected, "The ability to think and act rationally in the face of adversity is the hallmark of a great power." The

BRICS nations exemplify this capacity, constructively detailed in the Kazan Declaration, prioritising collaboration over confrontation. As President Vladimir Putin asserted during the summit, "Our collective strength lies not in military might but in our ability to forge alliances based on shared interests and mutual respect. It is time for us to reject the outdated paradigms that have long governed international relations."

The declaration issued at the summit serves as a powerful manifesto for South-South cooperation, highlighting that the true strength of nations lies in their ability to unite for mutual benefit, rather than succumbing to the divisive tactics historically employed by imperial powers. As leaders from BRICS nations deliberate on economic collaboration, environmental sustainability, and cultural exchange, they reaffirm their commitment to creating a world where cooperation supersedes historical grievances and petty political squabbles.

This is not a manifestation of warmongering; rather, it represents countries historically struggling to achieve mutual respect and dignity for all citizens. This commitment starkly contrasts the Western obsession with maintaining hegemony through military interventions and economic coercion—shamelessly punishing small nations like Cuba with sanctions while turning a blind eye to the massacre of unarmed civilians in Palestine and Lebanon. Yet, they continue to preach about how to protect democracy and universal human

rights. In this precarious period where the West often exploits humanitarian crises as a pretext for military interventions, BRICS champions a principled approach that prioritises dialogue and partnership.

The commitment to peace-building reflects a deep understanding that true security cannot be achieved through military might but through fostering genuine relationships grounded in respect and equality. This summit represents a pivotal call to action, where BRICS nations acknowledge that their strength lies in recognising shared destinies rather than past grievances. Historical lessons caution against allowing mistrust to dictate international relations, as genuine peace stems from understanding and collaboration.

The BRICS summit challenges the prevailing narrative of fear and division. It highlights the urgent need to tackle global challenges like climate change and economic instability, showcasing the Global South's proactive stance in crafting a future rooted in cooperation and collective growth. Let us hope for a better world, where these Asian giants, India and China, will come together to heal historic scars of mistrust, opening more gates for Indo-Pakistani peace, ensuring no room for proxies to manipulate these countries into becoming pawns of the West. Have been used and manipulated, bullied enough? Is this the final moment for us to unite for greater emancipation?

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

Has celebrity endorsement eclipsed the art of advertising

While famous faces lend instant appeal, the question arises: Have we lost the human touch that made ads meaningful

In the early days of advertising, brands leaned heavily on compelling stories and memorable taglines to forge deep emotional connections with consumers. Think of the Hutch ad with the loyal dog faithfully following a boy, Cadbury Dairy Milk's joyous dancer celebrating in a stadium, or Surf Excel's "Daag Ache Hain" campaign. These weren't just commercials; they became cultural touchstones that left lasting impressions on how we remember those brands. Brands like Hutch and Airtel built their reputations on narrative-driven ads without relying on celebrities, focusing on themes like reliability, friendship and joy. The success of these campaigns lay in making the story the hero and seam-



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

lessly integrating the product into narratives that resonated deeply with audiences. However, there's been a noticeable shift toward extensive celebrity endorsements, with famous faces promoting everything from luxury cars to everyday appliances. This raises the question: Has the art of storytelling been overshadowed by the allure of celebrity charisma? Yet, some celebri-

ty-driven ads have managed to maintain that emotional connection through powerful narratives. Amitabh Bachchan's association with "Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)" is a prime example. The show's branding isn't just about a game show; it's about dreams, aspirations, and life-changing moments for ordinary people. Similarly, Shah Rukh Khan's long-standing partnership with Hyundai has produced ads that go beyond showcasing cars. The recent Hyundai Samarth initiative highlights inclusivity and empowerment for people with disabilities. In these ads, Shah Rukh Khan doesn't just endorse a product; he becomes part of a narrative that promotes positive social values, resonating deeply with audi-

ences. These campaigns succeeded not merely because they featured a celebrity but because they tapped into universal emotions and values that consumers could relate to. The story remained the hero, and the celebrity enhanced the narrative without overshadowing it. It was advertising at its purest—focused on connection and meaning. From Bollywood actors endorsing financial products like mutual funds to cricketers promoting real estate or soft drinks, celebrity endorsements have become pervasive. MS Dhoni's involvement in mutual fund advertisements is a prime example of this. His trustworthiness, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, has made financial products seem more

approachable and credible to audiences that might otherwise be skeptical. Similarly, big-name stars in paan masala ads, while controversial, have undeniably increased the visibility and sales of these products. But why has there been such a shift toward celebrity-centric advertising? Several factors contribute to this trend. In an age of fragmented attention spans, grabbing consumer attention has become more



challenging, and celebrities provide an instant hook. Their recognisable faces and star power can make a product stand out in a crowded media space. Celebrities also embody trust and credibility; consumers often associate a celebrity's success with the quality of the product they endorse, especially where trust in unfamiliar brands may be lacking. The rise of social media has transformed celebrities into influencers

with massive followings, and brands tap into these personal connections to reach audiences. As brands expand globally, they use celebrities with international appeal to reach wider, more diverse markets. While celebrities can help create buzz, technology—particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI)—also plays a significant role in shaping modern advertising strategies. AI algorithms analyse consumer behaviour, preferences, and trends, helping brands create highly personalised and targeted campaigns. However, this data-driven approach can sometimes lead to formulaic ads that prioritise metrics over creativity, risking the loss of the human touch that makes storytelling so powerful. The rise of social media influ-

encers has introduced a new dynamic to endorsements. Unlike traditional celebrities, influencers often have niche audiences and engage with them on a more personal level. Their brand value lies in relatability and authenticity, which can feel more genuine compared to the polished image of mainstream celebrities. Brands now balance using high-profile celebrities for mass appeal with influencers for targeted, authentic engagement, understanding that while star power is influential, content and genuine connections with consumers still matter deeply. (The writer is former additional DG, DFF and festival director, IFFI. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan; Views are personal)

Uddhav outwitted, son Aaditya to take on Shinde Sena's Deora in Worli

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Friday sprang a nasty surprise on the rival Shiv Sena (UBT) by deciding to field two-time MP, former Union Minister and current Rajya Sabha member Milind Deora as its candidate against Uddhav Thackeray's son and sitting MLA Aaditya Thackeray from Worli Assembly constituency in south Mumbai. The decision is being seen as a tactical move by the ruling Shiv Sena to upset the plans of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and tie down its key campaigner Aaditya to the Worli constituency during the electioneering for the November 20 State Assembly

polls. Confirming his readiness to take on 34-year-old Aaditya in Worli constituency, 47-year-old Milind wrote on micro-blogging site "X": "Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ji believes that justice for Worli and Worlikars is long overdue. Together, we're paving the way forward and will share our vision soon. It's Worli NOW!" It may be recalled that Aaditya had won the Worli seat for the first time in 2019 Assembly polls against then united NCP candidate Suresh Mane by a handsome margin of 67,427 votes. At a time when everyone thought that Aaditya's re-election from Worli was a foregone conclusion, Milind's nomination as the Shiv Sena candidate has come a bolt from the

blue. The contest between Aaditya and Milind is going to be tough one, considering that the latter is as much as popular as the Sena (UBT) candidate. The prestigious Worli seat forms a part of the South Mumbai Lok Sabha constituency, from where Milind had been elected to Lok Sabha twice on a Congress ticket in 2004 and 2009. His late father and veteran Congressman Murlji Deora had represented Mumbai south for four terms in 1984, 1989, 1991 and 1998. A former minister in the Manmohan Singh Cabinet from May 2011 to May 2014, Milind Deora quit the Congress and joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in January this year. Subsequently, Milind was elected to Rajya



Sabha on a Shiv Sena ticket in February 2024. Much to the advantage of Aaditya, the Mumbai South constituency is held for the past three terms (2014, 2019 and 2024) by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena. Two

of the six Assembly seats – Worli and Shivadi – are currently held by the Shiv Sena (UBT), while one seat (Byculla) is held by the Shiv Sena. Both Aaditya and Milind have their plus and minus points. Both are convent school back-

grounds. Aaditya completed his schooling from Bombay Scottish School at Mahim, graduated in History from the Bombay University and later obtained an LLB degree from the same university. Milind attended the Cathedral and John Connon School and Sydenham College. He later acquired a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University. Being the son of the soil and coming from the Thackeray family, Aaditya speaks Marathi very well, while Milind – despite being a non-Maharashtrian – speaks Marathi well. Both of them speak English well. Both of them are popular in Worli and have a good influence on middle-class voters. Worli

being an area where a sizeable number of Kolis (fishermen) live, Aaditya will be their first choice, while Milind has already gone on record saying that he would do his bit to Kolis, if elected. What goes in Aaditya's favour is that Worli Assembly has been the parent Shiv Sena bastion, having won all the State Assembly elections since 1990 – except one election in 2009 when the united NCP's Sachin Ahir had won seat. In addition, being a one-term MLA Aaditya is familiar with his constituents and their issues. He has been interacting with his constituents on a regular basis ever since he was elected to the State Assembly from Worli in 2019. For Aaditya, Worli is an

Assembly constituency for keeps, while it is quite likely that Milind may quit as MLA if he wins the polls, because he prefers to be in Parliament and not in the State Assembly. If Eknath Shinde has chosen to put Milind as a candidate from Worli, it is with the intention of making matters difficult for both Uddhav Thackeray and Aaditya. While Aaditya will have to devote attention and time for campaigning, the senior Thackeray will have to pitch in to ensure his son's victory, since it is a prestigious battle for both of them and the party. On the contrary, Milind has little to lose if he is not able to win the Worli seat. All the same, a keen battle is on the cards in Worli constituency.

Cyclone Dana paralyses life in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as severe cyclone Dana grazed past Bengal, tearing through Odisha coastline, its 'tail' and 'wings' packed heavy rains with gusty wind lashed southern parts of the State late on Thursday night and the entire Friday, affecting more than more than a million people, sources in the administration said. If there was no casualty till Friday evening it was because of the State Government evacuating 3.5 lakh people from coastal areas shifting them to safer places, closing down educational institutions and evacuating tourists from beach towns of Digha, Mandarmani, Bakkhali, Mausuni Islands, Namkhana and Udaipur, in East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas police said. The cyclone made a landfall in Odisha at about 3.30 am since when it has been raining heavily throughout the nine districts of Bengal,



sources said. "We saw roaring winds catching and swinging the trees by their heads (read top branches)," a homemaker at Gosaba village by the Sunderbans said adding how the whole night a herd of deers swam across the Zilli river to take shelter inside the village before swimming back during the day. Mandarmani, Digha,

Kakdwip, Canning, Baruipur, Howrah and Kolkata witnessed massive waterlogging. Intermittent power cuts with the exception of Kolkata added to the people's woes, sources said. There was extensive damage in East Midnapore and parts of South 24 Parganas where scores of trees were uprooted, officials said adding sea water had gushed inside the Sagar

Islands where the famous Kapil Muni Ashram is situated. "We have reports that water has entered the temple... It is expected to recede in a few hours," an official said. State minister Sujit Basu said that 13 battalions of SDRF and 14 battalions of NDRF had been deployed in coastal areas. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee along with senior

officials has been monitoring the situation entire night said Minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim. Notwithstanding, large parts of Kolkata reeled under waterlogging with reports of protests coming from several areas as people complained inaction on the part of government. "Much of the waterlogging is because the cyclone coincided with high tide as a result the lock gates of the major canals could not be opened... However the water started flowing out after the high tide," officials said. As part of precautionary measures the State had closed down government schools till Friday. While about 170 express trains were cancelled by Southeastern Railways 68 suburban trains too were not run by the Eastern Railways. The Port and Airport authorities too suspended operation on Thursday. Ship and ferry services had not been resumed till Friday evening, sources said.

Solar hydrogen-based microgrid to power Indian Army's off-grid location in Ladakh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Eliminating dependence on diesel-guzzler gensets, a solar hydrogen-based microgrid will soon power the Indian Army's off-grid location in Chushul, Ladakh, ensuring a reliable energy supply even during harsh winter conditions, where temperatures drop to -30°C at an altitude of 4,400 meters. This innovative eco-friendly system, designed by the NTPC, a Public Sector Unit (PSU) will enhance operational efficiency while promoting sustainability in one of the most challenging environments. On Friday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of this unique project through video conferencing in the presence of Chief of India defence services, CMD, of the NTPC. A statement released from the Government said that this

system will operate independently, using hydrogen as an energy storage medium to supply 200kW of power round-the-clock throughout the year. "This system will replace existing diesel gensets at off-grid Army locations, providing a sustainable power supply despite harsh winter conditions, where temperatures drop to -30°C at an altitude of 4,400 meters. "The NTPC will maintain the project for 25 years, aiming to support Indian soldiers stationed in these strategically significant tough terrains and challenging climate," said the statement. These systems offer numerous advantages, including the integration of renewable energy sources, a stable power supply under adverse conditions, reduced carbon emissions, and the promotion of a cleaner and sustainable energy ecosystem as they are highly scalable and suitable for various applications. Moreover, these systems com-

bine the reliability of battery storage with the extended energy storage capability of hydrogen, ensuring a consistent power supply. Given Ladakh's high solar irradiance and low temperatures, this project will facilitate the production and utilization of green energy, eliminating reliance on fuel logistics and enhancing self-sufficiency in remote areas affected by road connectivity disruptions. Once operational, it would usher in a new era of decarbonisation of the defence sector far off the Himalayas. As a part of the Government's 'National Green Hydrogen Mission', NTPC has started a trial run of a hydrogen bus in Leh recently towards achieving its renewable energy targets and carbon neutrality in Ladakh. The company is further setting up a hydrogen fuelling station and solar plant along with five fuel cell buses for operation on intracity routes in Leh.

AAP claims Arvind Kejriwal attacked

From page 1

He alleged that the BJP has carried out this attack through its goons. AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj labelled the incident a 'cowardly' act, claiming it was due to Kejriwal's growing connection with the public. "If Kejriwal faces any harm, the BJP will be solely responsible," Bharadwaj warned. Ahead of the February 2025 elections, AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, are conducting padyatras across Delhi's assembly constituencies. At a press conference, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP of resorting to "dirty politics" against AAP. "The people of Delhi have seen the depths to which BJP's tactics can sink. Arvind Kejriwal was attacked by BJP goons during his padyatra in Vikaspuri. The BJP knows it cannot defeat AAP and Arvind Kejriwal in elections, so they've resorted to these tactics and want to harm him," she stated.

However, the nature of the attack is not clear as of yet. According to AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, "the BJP cannot tolerate the way people are supporting and loving him. First they tried to kill Kejriwal in jail and now they are doing all this. Whatever they do, these people cannot defeat Arvind Kejriwal." Meanwhile, the AAP approached the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the Centre to allot a residence in the Capital to the party's Convener Arvind Kejriwal. The senior counsel appearing in the court on behalf of the party said according to the guidelines issued in this regard, the president of a national political party is entitled to a residential accommodation in Delhi and therefore, former CM Kejriwal should be allotted a residence. Justice Sanjeev Narula sought the Centre's stand on the petition and listed it for hearing on November 26.

President Murmu bats for tech in medical sector for people's welfare in remote areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said medical professionals have immense responsibilities to deliver as their decisions are often linked to saving lives and pitched for modern technologies in the

medical sector for people's welfare in remote areas. Speaking at the second convocation function of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur in Chhattisgarh, she told the gathering of medical students that there is a very slight gap between working emotion-free

and lack of sensitivity. According to the President, medical professionals will play a decisive role in realising the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047. "We have been passing through such an era wherein modern technologies greatly impact the life of humans rapidly. For

the welfare of people living in remote areas, such technologies can be used," she said. "AIIMS Raipur has been making efforts in this direction. I have been told that AIIMS Raipur has been working on an Artificial Intelligence-based clinical decision support system through which doctors in

remote areas will be provided with assistance in real-time during (medical) emergencies," she said. Established in 2012, AIIMS Raipur has earned a lot of reputation in a few years of its journey, she said. The institution has been working to eradicate malnutrition with national and international

cooperation, the President said. "Treatment is provided to patients in the Sickle Cell Clinic here. Awareness camps are also organised to identify Sickle Cell patients. These works being done by AIIMS Raipur will improve community health and the lives of citizens," she said.

Over 25 hoax threats on Friday

From page 1

For example, last Thursday, an Air India flight from Mumbai to London was intercepted by Royal Air Force fighter jets after receiving a bomb threat. Two days before that, Singapore Armed Forces scrambled two fighter jets to escort an Air India Express plane, which took off from Madurai, away from populated areas following a bomb threat. On Tuesday, the Nepalese Army rushed its bomb squad to the Kathmandu airport after a Vistara flight from Delhi got a bomb threat. Unknown miscreants threatened to blow up Indigo flight 6E133 from Pune to

Jodhpur on Wednesday - for the second time this week. The plane landed at the isolation bay of Jodhpur airport before being searched by police and CISF officials. A bomb disposal squad and a dog squad were also called to the scene. Officials said passengers' luggage as well as every nook and corner of the flight was thoroughly searched before the plane was allowed to take off for its further destination. An IndiGo spokesperson said that among the flights targeted were: 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E 2099 (Udaipur to Delhi), 6E 11 (Delhi to

Istanbul), 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 108 (Hyderabad to Chandigarh) and 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur). "Flight 6E 2099, operating from Udaipur to Delhi, received a bomb threat. Following security agency guidelines, the aircraft was redirected to the isolation bay before take-off and standard operating procedures were followed. All passengers were safely disembarked," the airline spokesperson said in a statement. In 12 days, more than 275 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media.

Negligence only if doctor...

From page 1

The complainant alleged the physical deformity diagnosed on their son could have been cured by a minor operation as there was no other defect in the boy's eyes. The procedure, it was stated, required slightly lifting the left eyelid and making a correction in comparison with the right eye. The doctor, however, was accused of botching up the procedure, which deteriorated the boy's condition post-surgery. The complainant, therefore, alleged medical negligence against Dr Sud and the PGIMER which was dismissed by the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in 2005. Aggrieved by the above decision, the complainants preferred an appeal before

the NCDRC. The NCDRC set aside the State Commission's verdict and held the doctor and the hospital were "jointly and severally liable" for paying a compensation of Rs 3 lakh and Rs 50,000 towards the negligence in treatment. Dr Sud and the PGIMER filed an appeal challenging the NCDRC order in the top court. The SC observed the complainants hadn't brought any evidence for it to establish negligence on the part of Dr Sud or the PGIMER. The Bench noted the deterioration of the patient's condition post-surgery was not necessarily indicative of the surgery being improper or inappropriate. The SC said since the complainants have failed to prove any negligence on part of the doctor or the PGI, they were not entitled to any compensation.

Brace for a weekend of Diljit Dosanjh, Satsang...

From page 1

Besides this, a large number of breakdown of buses / commercial vehicles have further added woes to the commuters here. Friday also witnessed the breakdown of vehicles during the peak hours. To deal with frequent bus breakdowns that choke traffic, the Delhi Traffic Police and the transport department have created a WhatsApp group for swift removal of the stranded vehicles. According to a senior traffic police officer who is a member of this group, if a bus broke down earlier, the process of locating it and sending a mechanic for repairs would take hours. It was mandatory that the mechanics were from the same depot as the bus. This caused delays in the mechanic reaching the breakdown spot if it was far from the depot.

After the WhatsApp group was formed, the transport department changed its strategy and started sending help from the depot nearest to the breakdown spot. Once the repair work is done, the official concerned updates the status of breakdown in the group. "With this group, it becomes easier for us to identify and locate the place of breakdown," police officials said. The Delhi Transport Corporation has a fleet of 7,582 buses. Of these, 2,644 were procured by the state-owned public transporter between 2007 and 2010. "With this group, it becomes easier for us to identify and locate the place of breakdown. Our ground staff immediately alerts us and we put a photo of the bus with the driver's contact on the group," a traffic assistant commissioner of police who is also a member of this group said.

The group includes all depot managers, service providers, traffic police assistant commissioners, deputy commissioners, transport commissioner and other senior transport department members. The depot managers get to know about the breakdown and the one closest to the spot immediately sends help. The traffic personnel concerned regulate traffic till the bus gets repaired or removed by the transport department. Once the work is done, it is also updated on the group, the traffic police officer said. Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary said the cooperation between the two departments led to fruitful results, with the average time for locating the bus and reaching the spot coming down. "We are committed to streamline the system and provide hassle-free transportation," he said.

Terrorists deployed modus operandi of previous ambushes

From page 1

"The adversary is frustrated due to our successes. They aim to push terrorists across, but we have foiled infiltration attempts. Their goal is to instill fear among the population, but we will not allow it," he stated. He said, "The Indian Army will continue to strive to provide a secure environment to the people of the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. Our endeavors in kinetic and non-kinetic operations have facilitated greater security." Referring to the security situation in the Jammu region, he said that various agencies are undertaking operations to achieve the desired outcomes. "Village Defence Groups (VDGs) have ensured the security of remote areas for decades. The VDG setup is being strengthened, with over 600 VDGs being established and 10,000 modern weapons provided to them. They are also being trained," he said.

India, China to complete...

From page 1

Both sides are coordinating the disengagement through communication. Each morning, local military commanders from both nations talk on the hotline to discuss the planned actions for the day, and they also meet at designated points once or twice daily, according to sources. The removal of tents and temporary infrastructure is progressing smoothly, and there is cautious optimism that this momentum will help build confidence for future talks. However, the focus remains on maintaining trust and ensuring that any further steps are mutually agreeable, it was learnt. The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that the agreement was finalised following the issues that arose in 2020. On October 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China President Xi

Jinping endorsed the agreement on patrolling and disengagement along the LAC in eastern Ladakh during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in Russia. China also confirmed the pact the next day with Beijing saying that a resolution has been reached on "relevant matters" and that it will work with New Delhi to implement these resolutions. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said, going forward, his country will work with India to implement these resolutions. The meeting between the two leaders was followed by directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms on both sides, signalling attempts to normalise relations. Referring to New Delhi's consistent position on the eastern Ladakh row, Misri, at a media briefing in Kazan after the bilateral meeting, had said restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas would create space for returning towards the path of normalisation of bilateral relations. "This meeting happened, as you are all aware, close on the heels of the disengagement and patrolling agreement and the resolution of issues that had arisen in the India-China border areas in 2020," he said.

Court rejects Hindu petition ...

From page 1

They questioned the validity of conducting an additional survey while the Hindu side has appealed the case in higher courts, including the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court. The committee's lawyers also expressed concerns about the practicality of excavation, stating that digging within the mosque premises could cause significant damage. The dispute centers around the Gyanvapi complex, where the Hindu side claims that the original location of a 'Jyotirlinga' lies beneath the dome of what they believe is a mosque. They argue that water from the sacred 'Argha' once flowed into the Gyanvapi Kund, a site believed to bestow knowledge upon pilgrims. The Hindu side has demanded an investigation by geologists, water engineers, and archaeologists to examine the water source and determine its historical significance. They have also called for a thorough analysis of the structure identified as a 'Shivling' within the Gyanvapi complex, which the Muslim side refers to as a fountain in the 'wazukhana'.

Israeli strikes kill 38 people in Gaza's Khan Younis, 3 journalists in Lebanon

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli strikes killed 38 people in Gaza and three journalists in Lebanon on Friday as growing worries about supply shortages in Gaza and international pressure for a cease-fire mounted. The deaths reported by Gaza health officials were the latest in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, where people have in recent days lined up for bread outside the city's only bakery in operation. They come a day after United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Israel had accomplished its objective of "effectively dismantling" Hamas and implored both sides to revive negotiations. Also on Friday, an Israeli airstrike on a compound housing journalists in southeast Lebanon killed three media staffers. Outside of now-collapsed buildings rented by various media outlets, cars marked "PRESS" lay covered in dust and rubble after the strike, Associated Press photos showed. The Israeli army did not issue a warning prior to the strike. Representatives of the news networks and Lebanese politicians accused Israel of war

crimes and intentionally targeting journalists. "These were just journalists that were sleeping in bed after long days of covering the conflict," said Imran Khan, a senior correspondent for Al Jazeera English who was among the journalists in the compound. In a social media post, he said he and his team were unhurt. The Beirut-based pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV said two of its staffers — camera operator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida — were among the journalists killed early Friday. Al-Manar TV of Lebanon's Hezbollah group said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed in the airstrike on the Hasbaya region. Al-Mayadeen's director Ghassan bin Jiddo alleged that the Israeli strike on a compound housing journalists was intentional and directed at those covering elements of its military offensive. He vowed that the Beirut-based station would continue its work. Lebanon's Information Minister Ziad Makary said the journalists were killed while broadcasting what he called Israel's crimes, and noted they were among a large group of members of the media. "This is an assassination, after



monitoring and tracking, with premeditation and planning, as there were 18 journalists present at the location representing seven media institutions," he wrote in a post on X. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strike. Ali Shoeb, Al-Manar's well-known correspondent in south Lebanon, was seen in a video filming himself with a cellphone saying that the camera operator who had been working with him for months was killed. Shoeb said the Israeli military knew that the area that was struck housed journalists of different media

organisations. "We were reporting the news and showing the suffering of the victims and now we are the news and the victims of Israel's crimes," Shoeb added in the video aired on Al-Manar TV. The Hasbaya region has been spared much of the violence along the border and many of the journalists now staying there have moved from the nearby town of Marjayoun that has been subjected to sporadic strikes in recent weeks. Earlier in the week, a strike hit an office belonging to Al-Mayadeen on the outskirts of Beirut's southern suburbs,

according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Lebanon's Health Minister said Friday that 11 journalists have been killed and eight wounded since exchange of fire began along the Lebanon-Israel border in early October 2023. In November 2023, two journalists for Al-Mayadeen TV were killed in a drone strike. A month earlier, Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah and wounded other journalists from France's international news agency, Agence France-Presse, and Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV. The killing of journalists has prompted international outcry from press advocacy groups and United Nations experts, although Israel has said it does not deliberately target them. On Thursday, the Committee to Protect Journalists said it had preliminarily counted 128 journalists killed in Gaza since the war began. Israel has accused journalists working for Al Jazeera of being members of militant groups, citing documents it purportedly found in Gaza. The network has denied the claims as "a blatant attempt to silence the few remaining journalists in the region."

CHOGM: LEADERS ASK BRITAIN TO RECKON WITH SLAVERY

King Charles says past can't be changed

AP ■ WELLINGTON

King Charles III told a summit of Commonwealth countries in Samoa Friday that the past could not be changed as he indirectly acknowledged calls from some of Britain's former colonies for a reckoning over its role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The British royal understood "the most painful aspects of our past continue to resonate," he told leaders in Apia. But Charles stopped short of mentioning financial reparations that some leaders at the event have urged and instead exhorted them to find the "right language" and an understanding of history "to guide us towards making the right choices in future where inequality exists." "None of us can change the past but we can commit with all our hearts to learning its lessons and to finding creative ways to write the inequalities that endure," said Charles, who is attending his first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, or CHOGM, as Britain's head of state. His remarks at the summit's official opening ceremony echoed comments a day earlier by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer that the meeting should avoid becoming mired in the past and "very, very long endless discussions about reparations." The UK leader dismissed calls from Caribbean countries for leaders at the biennial event to explicitly discuss redress for Britain's role in the slave trade and mention the matter in its final joint statement. But Britain's handling of its involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade is seen by many observers as a litmus test for the Commonwealth's adaptation to a modern-day world, as other European nations and some British institutions have started to own up to their role in the trade. "I think the time has come for this to be taken seriously," said Jacqueline McKenzie, a partner at London law firm Leigh Day. "Nobody expects people to pay every single penny for what happened. But I think there needs to be negotiations."



Such a policy would be costly and divisive at home, McKenzie said. The UK has never formally apologized for its role in the trade, in which millions of African citizens were kidnapped and transported to plantations in the Caribbean and Americas over several centuries, enriching many individuals and companies. Studies estimate Britain would owe between hundreds of millions and trillions of dollars in compensation to descendants of slaves. The Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis on Thursday said he wanted a "frank" discussion with Starmer about the matter and would seek mention of the reparations issue in the leaders' final statement at the event. All three candidates to be the next Commonwealth Secretary-General — from Gambia, Ghana and Lesotho — have endorsed policies of reparatory justice for slavery. Starmer said Thursday in remarks to reporters that the matter would not be on the summit's agenda. But Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland told The Associated Press in an interview that leaders "will speak about absolutely anything they want to speak about" at an all-day private meeting scheduled for Saturday. King Charles said in Friday's speech that nothing would right inequality "more decisively than to champion the principle that our Commonwealth is one of genuine opportunity for all." The monarch urged leaders to "choose within our Commonwealth family the language of community and respect, and reject the language of division." He has expressed "sorrow" over slavery at a CHOGM summit before, in 2022, and last year endorsed a probe into the monarchy's ties to the industry. Charles — who is battling cancer — and his wife, Queen Camilla, will return to Britain tomorrow after visiting Samoa and Australia — where his presence prompted a lawmaker's protest over his country's colonial legacy. He acknowledged Friday that the Commonwealth had mattered "a great deal" his late mother Queen Elizabeth II, who was seen as a unifying figure among the body's at times disparate and divergent states.

Trudeau vows to lead his Liberal Party into next election

AP ■ TOTONTO

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday that he will lead his Liberal Party into the next election, dismissing a request by some party members to not run for a fourth term. Trudeau met with his Liberal members of Parliament for three hours Wednesday, where he learned that more than 20 lawmakers from his party signed a letter asking him to step down before the next election. He said there were "robust conversations" ongoing about the best way forward, but "that will happen with me as leader going into the next election." No Canadian prime minister in more than a century has won four straight terms. Trudeau's Cabinet ministers have said he has the support of the vast majority of the 153 Liberal Party members of the House of Commons. Sean Casey, one of the Liberal lawmakers who signed the letter asking Trudeau to step down, said he was disappointed Trudeau didn't take the time to reflect but said he now considers the matter done and



raising doubts about Trudeau's leadership. The federal election could come anytime between this fall and next October. The Liberals must rely on the support of at least one major party in Parliament, as they don't hold an outright majority themselves. The leader of the opposition Bloc Québécois has said his party will work with the Conservatives and the New Democratic Party, of NDP, to bring down the Liberals and force an election if the government doesn't boost pensions.

Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, said pressure is building on Trudeau but that some of his unhappy lawmakers don't have much power to force him out. "Trudeau holds all the cards. It is up to him if he wants to stay. The Liberal Party revised its rules in 2016 so that the party leader is immune to any challenge to his leadership so long as he is prime minister," said Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto. Trudeau channeled the star power of his father in 2015 when he reasserted the country's liberal identity after almost 10 years of Conservative Party rule. But the son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau is now in trouble. Canadians have been frustrated by the rising cost of living and other issues including the country's emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Liberals trail the Conservatives by 38 per cent to 25 per cent in the latest Nanos poll. The poll of 1,037 respondents has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

10 securitymen killed in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Ten security personnel were killed and three others injured when militants attacked their checkpoint in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said on Friday. The security personnel were killed when a gunfight erupted following the attack on Thursday at the checkpoint in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan district, a police official said. A contingent of troops rushed to the site immediately after the attack, the official said, adding that troops have launched a massive search operation to arrest the assailants. Ten security personnel have lost their lives in the attack, another official said. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been active in the area, with several similar attacks targeting security forces. The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the TTP of operating from sanctuaries in Afghanistan. There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy.

Gangs in Haiti open fire, hit UN helicopter mid-air

AP ■ PORT-AU-PRINCE

Gangs on Thursday opened fire and hit a UN helicopter as it prepared to land in Port-au-Prince, marking the latest attack in Haiti's capital as violence surges once again. No one was injured as several rounds of gunfire hit the helicopter that was carrying three crew members and 15 passengers, according to a UN source who was not authorised to confirm the incident. The helicopter landed safely. The attack comes five months after Haiti's main international airport reopened following coordinated gang attacks that

forced it to close for nearly three months. The violence has spilled to nearby areas including Arcahaie, where some 50 suspected gang members died this week after attacking the coastal town located just northwest of the capital. Among the dead are at least a dozen gunmen who drowned after their boat capsized, a government official said Thursday. While the majority were killed by police, a group of gunmen drowned on Wednesday after their boat hit the reef as they ferried ammunition to gangs attacking the town of Arcahaie, said Wilner René from Haiti's

Civil Protection Agency. He told Radio Caribes that the attack began on Monday, with gunmen burning homes and cars across Arcahaie. When the gangs ran out of ammunition, they hid in nearby areas and were ferreted out by residents and police, he said. The attack is still ongoing, and René warned that officers on the scene urgently need reinforcements from soldiers and special police units. The attack is blamed on a gang coalition called Viv Ansanm, which also has targeted communities in Port-au-Prince in recent days.

4 astronauts return to Earth after delays

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL

Four astronauts returned to Earth on Friday after a nearly eight-month space station stay extended by Boeing's capsule trouble and Hurricane Milton. A SpaceX capsule carrying the crew parachuted before dawn into the Gulf of Mexico just off the Florida coast after undocking from the International Space Station mid-week. The three Americans and one Russian should have been back two months ago. But their homecoming was stalled by problems with Boeing's new Starliner astronaut capsule, which came back empty in September because of safety concerns. Then Hurricane Milton interfered, followed by another two weeks of high wind and rough seas. SpaceX launched the four — NASA's Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt and Jeanette Epps, and Russia's Alexander Grebenkin — in March. Barratt, the only space veteran going into the mission, acknowledged the support teams back home that had "to re-plan, retool and kind of redo everything right along with us ... and helped us to roll with all those punches."

Kurdish militants claim attack on Turkish defence firm

AP ■ BAGHDAD

A banned Kurdish militant group on Friday claimed responsibility for an attack on the headquarters of a key defence company in Ankara that killed at least five people. A statement from the military wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, said Wednesday's attack on the premises of the aerospace and defence company TUSAS was carried out by two members of its so-called "Immortal Battalion" in response to Turkish "massacres" and other actions in Kurdish regions. A man and a woman stormed TUSAS' premises on the outskirts of Ankara, setting off explosives and opening fire.

Four TUSAS employees were killed there. The assailants arrived on the scene in a taxi that they had commandeered by killing its driver. The assailants were also killed in a subsequent battle with security teams and more than 20 people were injured in the attack. Türkiye blamed the attack on the PKK and immediately launched a series of aerial strikes on locations and facilities suspected to be used by the militant group in northern Iraq or by its affiliates in northern Syria. The attack on TUSAS came at a time of growing signs of a possible new attempt at dialogue to end the more than four-decade-old conflict

between the PKK and Türkiye's military. Earlier this week, the leader of Türkiye's far-right nationalist party that's allied with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the possibility that Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK's imprisoned leader, could be granted parole if he renounces violence and disbands his organisation. Ocalan, who is serving a life sentence on a prison island off Istanbul, said in a message conveyed by his nephew on Thursday that he was ready to work for peace. The PKK's military wing, the People's Defence Centre, said, however, that the attack was not related to the latest "political agenda," insisting it was

planned long before. It said TUSAS was chosen as a target because weapons produced there "killed thousands of civilians, including children and women, in Kurdistan." TUSAS designs, manufactures and assembles civilian and military aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and other defence industry and space systems. Its defence systems have been credited as key to Türkiye gaining an upper hand in its fight against Kurdish militants. On Friday, an Iraqi security official said Turkish warplanes intensified their airstrikes on sites belonging to the PKK and other loyal forces in northern Iraq's Sinjar district. The intensive bombing targeted

tunnels, headquarters and military points of the Workers' Party and the Sinjar Protection Units inside the Sinjar Mountain area. A local official and a security official said the bombings killed five Yazidis. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said Thursday that the Turkish warplanes and drones struck bakeries, a power station, oil facilities and local police checkpoints. At least 12 civilians were killed and 25 others were wounded. The People's Defence Centre statement said there were no casualties among PKK fighters in the airstrikes.

33 killed in landslides after storm hits Manila

AP ■ MANILA

A Philippine provincial police chief said Friday that 33 people were killed mostly in landslides set off by Tropical Storm Trami in a province south of Manila. The deaths caused by landslides and flash floods in Batangas province brings to 65 the overall death toll from Trami, which blew away Friday from the northwestern Philippines, Batangas police chief Col Jacinto Malinao Jr said. Eleven other villagers remain missing Malinao Jr. told The Associated Press by telephone from the lakeside town of Talisay, where he stood beside a villager whose wife and child were buried in the deep mound of mud, boulders and trees. With the use of a backhoe and shovels, police scrambled to search into 10 feet of mud, rocks and debris and found a part of a head and foot that apparently were those of the missing woman and child.

Zelenskyy claims N Korean troops will be deployed by Russia in coming days

AP ■ KYIV

North Korean troops are poised to be deployed by Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine as early as this weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed Friday. Western officials have warned that such a development would stoke the almost three-year war and bring geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region. Zelenskyy said Ukrainian intelligence had determined that "the first North Korean military will be used by Russia in combat zones" between Sunday and Monday. He said on Telegram that the deployment was "an obvious escalating move by Russia." He didn't provide any further details, including where the North Korean soldiers may be sent. Russia has been conducting a ferocious summer campaign along the eastern front in Ukraine, gradually compelling Kyiv to give up ground. But Russia has struggled to push Ukrainian forces out of its Kursk border region following

an incursion almost three months ago. The deployment of North Korean forces under a military pact between Moscow and Pyongyang brings a new dimension to the conflict, which is Europe's biggest war since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians. The US said Wednesday that 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations, calling the move very serious. Zelenskyy said a week ago that his government has intelligence information that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being readied to join Russian forces fighting against his country. He said that a third nation wading into the hostilities would turn the conflict into a "world war." North Korea had already been supplying ammunition to Russia under a defence pact, but putting boots on the ground could complicate a war that has divided international politics, with most Western countries supporting Kyiv.



A man navigates flooded streets caused by Tropical Storm Trami on Friday in Cainta, Rizal province, Philippines. AP/PTI

Government doubles loan limit under Mudra Yojana

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has doubled the loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to Rs 20 lakh to promote entrepreneurship in the country. This increase aspires to further the overall objective of the Mudra Scheme which is funding the unfunded, the finance ministry said in a statement on Friday. A notification in this regard was issued on Thursday. As announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, in the Union Budget 2024-25, the limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been enhanced from the current Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. "The limit of Mudra loans will be enhanced to Rs 20 lakh from the current Rs 10 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully



repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun category', Sitharaman said while presenting the Budget in the Lok Sabha. This enhancement is specifically beneficial to upcoming entrepreneurs facilitating their growth and expansion. The move is in alignment with the

loans under the Tarun category. The guarantee coverage of PMMY loans up to Rs 20 lakh will be provided under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU). PMMY was launched on April 8, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs for income-generating activities. Loans under PMMY are provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) banks, Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), and other financial intermediaries. As per the existing scheme, banks provide collateral-free loans up to Rs 10 lakh under three categories -- Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh) and Tarun (Rs 10 lakh).

government's commitment in fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem. As per the notification issued in this regard, the new category of Tarun Plus is for loans above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh and would be available to the entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous

Right time to join India's growth story, PM Modi tells German business forum

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inviting German businesses to invest in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said there is no better place for investment than India and this is the right time to join the country's growth story. Addressing the 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business 2024 here, the prime minister emphasised that the time was 'right' for foreign investors to participate in India's growth story, join 'make in India' initiative and 'make for the world'. He also said the confidence that Germany has expressed in India's skilled manpower is amazing as the European nation has decided to increase visas for the skilled Indian workforce from 20,000 to 90,000 per year and this will give a further push to the economic growth of Germany. "This is the right time to join India's growth story... India becoming a global trade and



manufacturing hub," Modi said, adding, today India stands on strong pillars of democracy, demography, demand and data. He further said that India is doing record investments in roads, railways, airports and ports and the Indo-Pacific region is very important for the future of the world. The conference was held on Friday after a gap of 12 years. Modi said that the

firms. For investors and businesses, he said, "what could be a better place than India?" He added that the four key pillars of India's growth are talent, technology, innovation, and infrastructure, and to drive all this, "we have the power of aspirational India (AI). India is focussing on skills and democratisation of technology and its important missions related to sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductor, green hydrogen, and space technology too provide opportunities for investments and collaborations, the prime minister said. He added that the visiting delegation should enjoy India's culture, cuisines and shopping also. The bilateral trade is over USD 30 billion at present. Hundreds of German companies are operating in India while Indian firms are also increasing their presence in Germany.

Jobs creation most pressing global issue: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called jobs creation the most pressing global issue, given the continued economic headwinds and rapid technological changes that are reshaping the skills needed for youth to enter the job market. She also asked the World Bank to collaborate with countries to identify high-priority skill sectors that generate employment. Sitharaman's remarks came during her intervention at the plenary lunch "How Should the World Bank Shape Its Future Strategic Direction and Help Clients Create More Jobs to Keep Pace with Evolving Megatrends." She emphasised that jobs are the most pressing global issue, given the continued economic headwinds and rapid technological change that are redefining the skills required for youth to enter the job market, the Ministry of Finance said on X. The World Bank has previously conducted several studies on sectoral trends and their potential impact on employment, covering areas like 'green jobs,' jobs after artificial intelligence, and shifts due to changing demographics, she said on



Thursday. However, she stressed that the need for the hour is a more comprehensive, multi-sectoral analysis - one that examines how emerging trends interact and influence both job loss and job creation. This analysis should also consider factors like geopolitical fragmentation and its effects on sectors such as food production, exports, and related employment, she added. In addition to the traditional manufacturing-led development pathway, Sitharaman highlighted the need to explore alternative growth strategies and the types of jobs they will generate. During her intervention, the finance minister urged the World Bank to collaborate with countries in identifying high-priority skill sectors based on data, analysis, and

knowledge work, with a focus on generating employment, skill matching, and labour retention. She also underscored the importance of an outcome-oriented roadmap with a clear implementation strategy to effectively put these plans into action. Currently in the American capital to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Sitharaman on Thursday held a bilateral meeting with Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom. The two leaders discussed bilateral issues. Sitharaman said that India looks forward to the next Economic and Financial Dialogue during first half of next year in London. She also conveyed best wishes to her for her first Budget presentation next week.

Gold drops ₹ 1,150 to ₹ 80,050 per 10 grams; silver declines ₹ 2,000

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price dropped Rs 1,150 to Rs 80,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday on slackened demand from jewellers and retailers, according to All India Sarafa Association. Silver also remained under selling pressure and slipped below the Rs 1 lakh mark by declining Rs 2,000 to Rs 99,000 per kg. The metal had closed at Rs 1.01 lakh per kg in the previous close on Thursday. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 350 to Rs 80,450 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,800, while the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity declined Rs 1,150 to Rs 80,050 per 10 grams against Rs 81,200 on Thursday. Traders said tepid demand from jewellers and retailers in the local markets and a weak trend in the overseas markets weighed on gold prices. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery declined Rs 406 or 0.52 per cent to trade at Rs 77,921 per 10 grams. Silver contracts for December delivery plummeted Rs 1,134 or 1.17 per cent to Rs 95,898 per kg on the bourse. In the global markets, Comex



gold futures fell by USD 15.90 per ounce or 0.58 per cent to USD 2,733 per ounce. "Gold declined on Friday as US macro data fuelled growing bets that the US Federal Reserve's rate-cutting cycle will be less aggressive than expected," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. US unemployment claims declined for a second week, highlighting a resilient labour market, while a rise in the S&P PMI reinforced strong private sector momentum impacted gold prices, Gandhi added. However, the demand for a safe haven and the expectation of improving India's retail demand for upcoming festivities capped the heavy losses, he noted. According to Praveen Singh -

Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, gold traded lower in delayed response to Thursday's US data. Further, the lack of specific details of alternate payment systems at the BRICS summit is also pressuring the metal. Silver was traded 1.39 per cent lower at USD 33.33 per ounce in the Asian market hours. "On the market outlook, the bullion is likely to close the week in positive, amid support from safe-demand, ETF buying, uncertain US Presidential elections outcome, and rising bets for aggressive rate cuts from global central banks," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services, said.

Piyush Goyal says no free trade pact if EU insists on opening dairy business

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday emphasised on understanding and respecting mutual sensitivities to fast-track India-EU free trade agreement talks, and said there would be no pact if the European Union insists on opening the dairy sector. Speaking at the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business, the minister also said that "extraneous" issues like labour and climate change should be discussed at international forums. He added that the two sides have to understand, listen and appreciate the sensitivities of each other. "You (EU) are 27 countries, who have different priorities; India has 27 states. I may be growing apples in one state which does not permit me to open apples," he said, adding that the per capita income of EU member countries is much higher than that of the

Indian states. He also said that there is a need to focus the energies on trade and on promoting investments and deeper strategic partnerships to push the talks. It will have to be a political decision and the negotiations cannot be left to the bureaucracy alone, the minister said. "If we respect (these) things, the FTA can be done very honourably, admirably, and fast," Goyal said. "First the sensitivities between the 27-countries of the EU and my 27 states collectively as the Union of India... If we respect each other's sensitivities like with UAE, Australia and EFTA, we respected each other's sensitivities and not encroach on issues which can hurt. For example dairy, I just cannot open up dairy. If the EU insists that I open up dairy, there is no FTA," he added. Australia did its first FTA without dairy with India as they respected India's issues.

YouTube launches shopping affiliate programme in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

YouTube on Friday launched the YouTube Shopping affiliate programme in India, that would allow eligible creators to tag products in their videos and earn revenue when viewers purchase them on retailers' site. Announcing that the programme will roll out starting with Flipkart and Myntra, Google-owned video streaming platform termed India market as a "shining contributor" to creator economy globally. Travis Katz, General Manager and Vice President, Shopping, YouTube, said the global success of YouTube Shopping, with over 30 billion hours of shopping-related content watched in 2023 alone, underlines the power of connecting creators, viewers, and brands in exciting new ways. "We're now bringing this same momentum to India with the launch of the YouTube Shopping affiliate programme starting with Flipkart and Myntra. We're unlocking a new phase of product discovery, powered by the strong connections between creators and their viewers," he said, adding that the programme offers Indian



creators a unique opportunity to diversify their revenue streams and deepen their connection with audiences. Put simply, YouTube Shopping affiliate programme allows creators to earn by recommending products, across videos, shorts and live streams. The programme makes it easy for viewers to discover and shop, and creates new revenue opportunities for creators, according to YouTube. The YouTube Shopping affiliate programme builds on existing monetisation options like ads revenue, YouTube premium, brand connect, and other fan-fuelled features like channel memberships, super stickers, providing a comprehensive suite of tools for creators to engage and thrive on the platform. "We're always looking to provide creators with more choice in how they connect their viewers to products they love. We will look to gradually expand to more partners in the future, as we continue to build our capabilities," Katz added.

Sebi comes out with periodic reporting format for research analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday came out with a standardised format for periodic reporting for research analysts (RAs) and proxy advisers (PAs). The regulator has recognised the Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body (RAASB) for the administration and supervision of RAs under the RA Regulations. As the Proxy Advisers (PAs) are registered under the RA norms, they will also come under the purview of RAASB. In its circular, Sebi said that RAs will submit their periodic report to RAASB, and PAs will submit their periodic reports to Sebi. The periodic reports will be submitted by RAs/PAs within 30 days from the last date of the reporting period. Further, RAs/PAs are required to submit periodic reports for half-yearly periods ending on September 30 and March 31 of every financial year. The first reporting period will be a half-yearly period ending on March 31, 2025, and reports thereof will be required to be submitted by April 30, 2025. Hence, a time of around six months has been provided to RAs and PAs



for submission of their first periodic report to give them sufficient time to make necessary arrangements for providing the required data. Under the periodic reporting format, research analysts/proxy advisers need to disclose details of registration number, official website address, details of social media handles, advertisements issued, bank accounts used for receiving fees from clients, details of directors/partners, shareholding pattern and details of the complaints against them, among others. In a separate circular, Sebi has allowed a non-individual investment

advisor to obtain an annual compliance certificate for client-level segregation from any auditor to promote ease of doing business. Under the rule, a non-individual investment adviser is required to maintain on record an annual certificate from its statutory auditor, confirming compliance with the client level segregation requirements. It has been decided to grant 30 days to submit periodic reports to LAASB. "For the subsequent half-yearly periods, IAs shall submit periodic reports within 30 days from the end of the half-yearly period for which details are to be furnished," Sebi said.

Credit growth for banks to moderate to 12 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ratings agency Ica anticipates a steady slowdown in credit growth for banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) on account of regulatory measures and tighter funding conditions in the domestic markets. The agency estimates the incremental bank credit growth to slow down to Rs 19-20.5 lakh crore in 2024-25, around 12 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) growth, compared to Rs 22.3 lakh crore, or 16.3 per cent rise, in the previous fiscal. For the NBFCs, Ica said the growth in assets under management (AUMs) is expected to slow down sharply to 16-18 per cent in the current financial year from 25 per cent in 2023-24. The recent regulatory actions on certain entities are expected to push others to adjust their business practices and models, which shall also have a bearing on near-term growth, it said. Once the rate cut cycle starts, "the regulatory measures to slow down bank credit growth will be crucial for banks to cut their deposit rates... This will especially be important for maintaining the margins, as the cut in policy rates expected in H1 CY2025 will exert downward pressure on lending rates," Anil Gupta,



Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Financial Sector Ratings at Ica, said. However, the proposed changes in guidelines for liquidity coverage ratio could mean the immediate cut in deposit rates, resulting in delayed transmission of rate cuts, Gupta added. During the last two years, the high credit growth in the retail segment has potentially resulted in overleveraging and slower credit growth, impairing the refinancing ability of some of these borrowers. Such tightening often results in weaker borrowers falling behind in their repayment schedule, thereby increasing the asset quality pressure for the lenders, the rating agency said. "As bank funds constitute a

larger share in the overall funding of NBFCs, a slower credit flow from banks to the NBFCs will also compress their AUM growth. The NBFCs in unsecured and digital lending businesses shall face a higher squeeze in funding compared to others," said A M Karthik, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head - Financial Sector Ratings at Ica. The agency further said that loan segments, which have high lending rates or marginal borrower profiles, like microfinance, personal loans, credit cards or unsecured business loans, are already showing a rise in delinquencies. It expects these segments, which are largely unsecured, to continue to be a source of stress in the near term.



The LalitArpan Festival celebrated its 23rd edition, a poignant dance drama that illuminated the emotional journeys of legendary women from the Mahabharata, says SAKSHI PRIYA



POWERFUL DANCE NARRATIVES IN

“STREE SPANDAN”

The LalitArpan Festival, now in its 23rd edition, captivated audiences at the Stein Auditorium, New Delhi with an enchanting display of classical Indian dance. The festival, founded by the illustrious Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan, along with Dr. Jyotsna Suri and the late Ustad Shafaat Ahmed Khan, continues to serve as a prestigious platform for both established and emerging talents in the performing arts. This year's highlight was the evocative dance drama “Stree Spandan: Why I Did What I Did,” which explored the profound emotional journeys of three iconic female characters from the Mahabharata: Kunti, Draupadi and Gandhari. The performances by Shovana Narayan, Gopika Varma and Sharon Lowen mesmerised the audience, each dancer showcasing her unique style while remaining deeply connected to the narrative.

Shovana Narayan, embodying Kunti through Kathak, delivered a performance filled with grace and strength. Her intricate

footwork and expressive gestures resonated with the audience, allowing them to feel the weight of Kunti's struggles and her resilience. The fluidity of her movements made it seem as though she was telling a story that goes beyond time, drawing the viewers into her emotional world.

In contrast, Gopika Varma's portrayal of Draupadi through Mohiniyattam exuded both elegance and power. Varma's ability to blend delicate movements with fierce expression highlighted Draupadi's dignity in the face of adversity. The gentle sway of her body and the eloquent use of her hands articulated a narrative of defiance and strength, capturing the essence of Draupadi's character.

Sharon Lowen, performing as Gandhari through Odissi, brought a poignant depth to the production. Her portrayal was a heartfelt exploration of a mother's grief, with every movement reflecting the weight of her sorrow. Lowen's ability to convey such raw emotion through the graceful arches and bends of her body transformed the stage into a space of profound vulnerability, leaving the audience deeply moved.

Together, they created a powerful synergy, seamlessly transitioning between different styles while highlighting the themes of resilience and emotional complexity. The audience was visibly engaged, reacting with gasps and applause as the performers conveyed their narratives with authenticity and artistry.

As the final curtain fell, it was clear that “Stree Spandan” had left a lasting impact. The LalitArpan Festival not only showcased the beauty of classical dance but also reinforced the importance of these timeless narratives in connecting audiences to their cultural roots.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

IN CONVERSATION WITH SHOVANA NARAYAN

How did your journey into classical dance begin and what initially drew you to Kathak?

I was initiated into dance when I was barely three years old by my mother. The two motivating factors for my mother were (a) that she had been brought up in a family where all the children had to be given training in all forms of learning, which included scholastics, knowledge of our ancient texts and also the fine arts and (b) in order to channelise my excessive energy. As for me, the moment I entered this world, I subconsciously knew that I had found my life, my soul.

Who were your biggest influences and mentors in shaping your artistic career?

My mother played a key role in my development. Even though my schooling was throughout Convent schools, it was at home that I received a solid grounding in knowledge of Sanskrit and of our ancient Sanskrit texts and Hindi literature. After my initiation into Kathak under Guru Sadhona Bose (the well-known dancer-actress of the 40s and 50s) at Calcutta, I received further training from Guru Kundanlal Sisodia (at Bombay) and Guru Pt. Birju Maharaj at Delhi. Guidance to delve deep into the spirit of dance was nurtured within me by my mother and by Smt. Naina Devi, the well-known thumri singer.

Over the years, how has your understanding and interpretation of Kathak evolved?

Since I was introduced to Kathak, Kathak became my medium to express myself. It was the medium where I was myself. Since none of us live in a vacuum, we therefore are impacted in some way or the other by external surroundings and herein, it was Kathak that has

been my outlet for my own inner churning of thoughts. Also, as one evolves with time and with my innate curiosity, I found myself trying to find more about the origins of Kathak, the manner in which it evolved and lived through two and half millennium, a period that saw several socio-political changes.

Classical dance, especially in modern times, is often seen as a way to preserve culture. What role do you think Kathak Plays in contemporary Indian society?

Ever since the first mention of the Kathak community in the Mahabharata and in the 4th century BC / 3rd century BC Prakrit inscription, this community of devotional dancers has seen and lived through various ages, each of which saw contemporariness of their times. This river of Kathak has seen turbulent phases in its over two and half thousand years of recorded journey, yet this art form breathes, lives and carries with it the ethos and spirit of the philosophy reflected in our 'shastras' and in our literature, the cultural habits and practices of this sub-continent, which is still so relevant in the present times that we are living in.

What initiatives have you undertaken to promote classical dance among the younger generation and why do you believe this is important?

I love to share whatever knowledge I have. And hence whatever I have gathered in this journey of mine through experience or through my research, I share with all through teaching, mentoring young minds, discussions, publications et al. It is important to be aware of our heritage. For example, until recently, people were unaware that Kathak is a still living temple tradition. Such knowledge helps emotionally in giving a person a sense of praxis.

How do you view the future of Kathak in the face of rapidly changing cultural trends and technology?

Kathak has always evolved with time in its presentation and in the use of technology. Even in yester-years, the introduction of electric light was effortlessly adapted, as was the system of sound amplification. Hence, the technology of today is being used very effectively and judiciously by serious well-grounded classical artists. It is this ability to adapt to changing times and ethos that has been the strength of our classical art forms that have survived several millennium.

What advice would you give to young dancers who wish to pursue a career in classical dance?

If one follows the heart, then the voyage should be taken with care, with clarity, with passion and dedication. The creative spirit and the ability to delve deep into a subject only adds to the sense of inner joy.



Dastak-E-Dil

Shankar Mahadevan's Spectacular Show

BY TEAM VIVA

The Gunjan Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary with the *Dastak-E-Dil* concert featuring the renowned singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan, drawing a sold-out crowd at Siri Fort Auditorium. The event, a perfect fusion of music and philanthropy, was organised to raise funds for the Foundation's educational and vocational programs supporting underprivileged youth. The evening began with inspiring performances by students supported by the Gunjan Foundation. Their display of talent set a moving tone for the night, showcasing the tangible impact of the Foundation's work in transforming young lives through education and the arts. The concert attracted a distinguished audience, including prominent dignitaries, philanthropists and cultural figures, reinforcing the importance of the Foundation's mission. Their presence highlighted the shared commitment to providing opportunities for underserved communities.

Shankar Mahadevan's electrifying performance captivated the audience, leaving them spellbound. The concert was not only a celebration of his legendary musical prowess but also a powerful reminder of how community efforts can drive meaningful change. “We are truly grateful for the overwhelming support tonight. The performances from our students and Shankar Mahadevan reflect the heart of what Gunjan Foundation stands for,” said a spokesperson for the Foundation. The success of *Dastak-E-Dil* furthers the



Gunjan Foundation's mission of empowering the next generation through education. Proceeds from the concert will directly fund the Foundation's programs, helping to create more opportunities for underserved youth. This night of music and unity celebrated two decades of impactful work, and its legacy will continue to shape brighter futures for many more students.



BY TEAM VIVA

Art exhibitions are a celebration of creativity, where artists pour their minds and emotions into their work, allowing their art to communicate in ways that words cannot. Visitors bring their own interpretations, adding layers of meaning to each piece. This unique exchange of ideas is the true beauty of an art exhibition, as it becomes a shared experience that connects every individual to the artwork in their own personal way. The ‘Embrace’ exhibition at Pullman New Delhi, hosted in collaboration with The Art Registry buzzed with energy as guests explored themes of human connection, love and unity. Running until December 25, 2024. Each work invites viewers to reflect on connection and empathy by highlighting the power of coexistence. Walking through the gallery, I felt immersed in a visual dialogue that celebrates how contrasts, when embraced, enhance unity rather than conflict.

The ‘Embrace’ exhibition brings together nine diverse artists, each offering a distinctive take on themes of connection and coexistence. Promud Boruah's striking woodcuts, including *Life VI*

Unified Expressions Art Show Celebrates Coexistence



and *Samay I*, draw viewers in with their intricate craftsmanship and reflections on time and existence, encouraging contemplation of life's fragility. Ravi Thakur's *Desert Tale of an Imaginary Horizon* series blends fabric, charcoal, and ink to create intimate, layered narratives of resilience and survival, adding personal memory to his art. Kannu's *Immortal Culture* series offers a vibrant exploration of cultural identity, using oil on canvas to merge tradition with modern storytelling. Suniyata's ethereal



pieces, such as *Vibhuti*, introduce a philosophical dimension, drawing on ancient symbols like the *lotus* and *sun* to explore the connection between the self and the universe, transforming her canvases into spaces for reflection. Pritam P's *All in a Day's Work* series provides a minimalist yet poignant look at everyday life, capturing small, overlooked moments with sharp ink and acrylic lines, while Shrikant's vibrant acrylics like *Gulam* and *Devotion* blend traditional

Indian miniature painting with modern digital aesthetics. Subhadip's paper pulp emboss works, such as *Connection* and *Autonomy*, offer a deeply personal and nostalgic look at his journey, blending traditional scroll formats with childhood memories. In contrast, Meghanshi's charcoal works, including *Family* and *Enlightenment*, delve into spiritual themes with bold black-and-white compositions, exploring narratives of faith and devotion.

Manvendra Singh's *Metro Culture* series rounds out the exhibition with vibrant portrayals of modern urban life in India, capturing the energy of cityscapes while juxtaposing traditional elements. Together, these artists contribute to an engaging exploration of ideas, reflecting on the delicate balance of coexistence, tradition and modernity.

In essence, EMBRACE is a show that resonates deeply, uniting diverse artistic voices in a shared exploration of coexistence, balance and connection. It challenges the viewer to reconsider strength as understanding rather than dominance, urging us to reflect on how we relate to each other and the world.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

AFTER PACE, INDIA FAIL SPIN TEST

PTI ■ PUNE

India's inadequacies against quality spin bowling stood thoroughly exposed, leaving the side staring at its first ever home Test series loss to New Zealand after the visitors claimed a formidable 301-run lead on day two of the second Test here on Friday. Tom Latham (86) led New Zealand's charge with the bat after Mitchell Santner's brilliant 7/53 destroyed India. His knock consolidated a handy 103-run first-innings lead that the Kiwis had grabbed before reaching 198/5 at stumps. Tom Blundell (30 not out) had Glenn Phillips (7 not out) for company when stumps were drawn. The only silver lining for India was Washington Sundar's continuing good show. He completed 11 wickets in the match, adding four more to his career-best first-innings haul of seven. New Zealand are looking at a historic maiden Test series win in India, having first come here in 1955-56. None of the New Zealand batters faced any apparent trouble batting on the pitch shortly after the star-studded Indian line-up cut a sorry figure for the second time in this series, making elementary mistakes. In the last Test in Bengaluru, their all-time lowest score at home of 46 all-out caused India's first loss to New Zealand in 36 years in their own backyard.

NEW ZEALAND LEAD SOARS TO 301 RUNS IN PUNE



India haven't lost a Test series at home since their defeat to England in the 2012-13 season and their unbeaten record in 18 series since then is under serious threat now. India's highest successful chase in Tests at home was 387 against England at Chennai in December 2008. On Friday afternoon, India folded at a mere 156 in 45.3

overs as spunky New Zealand continued to perform way better than the hosts. As India endured yet another 'one bad session of play', six wickets fell in the morning for a mere 91 runs which made the pitch look unfavourable for batting when it was not the case. Skipper Latham led from the front as he blunted the Indian

spinners with ease but New Zealand batters deserved full credit for executing their plans. The Kiwis' batters were formidable in defence while they rotated the strike deftly to keep pressure on the Indians. Latham did well to raise hopes for a first century since December 2022 but Washington Sundar ended his progress at 86 off 133 balls with

10 fours. Every added run tightened the screws further on India whose spinners appeared to have been out-bowled by their Kiwi counterparts. While Sundar completed his maiden 10-for in Tests with 4/56 after his 7/59 in the first innings, R Ashwin took 1/64. Ravindra Jadeja (11-1-50-0) continued to be wicket-less in

the game wherein spinners have ruled the roost. While Santner's orthodox spin tested the Indians' defence and resolve, India's failure to rotate strike added to their woes. The biggest shock for India in the day arrived in the 24th over when their batting superstar Virat Kohli missed a juicy full toss from Santner to be cleaned up for a nine-ball one. The sight of Kohli missing an innocuous full toss angling into his wickets, going past his awkwardly swinging bat to crash into the middle and leg stumps and leaving the batter stare at the ground beneath him in utter despair, was something that will linger for some time to come. Yashasvi Jaiswal had done fairly well to reach 30 with four boundaries but going with hard hands to defend a delivery outside off, spinning away from his bat to take an edge to the first slip, gave Glenn Phillips his first wicket. If that wasn't enough, Rishabh Pant's (18) failure to read the lack of bounce while going for a mighty heave across the line against the part-time spin of Phillips, resulted in the ball crashing into his off-stump, leaving India in a desperate situation at 83 for five. Sarfaraz Khan (11), whose recent outings include 222 not out in Irani Cup and 150 in the last innings at Bengaluru, only had himself to blame after recklessly hitting one straight to mid-off for William O'Rourke to grab an easy catch, off Santner.



David Warner's leadership ban has been lifted by Cricket Australia

AP ■ SYDNEY

David Warner's lifetime captaincy and leadership ban has been lifted by Cricket Australia, a move which could see the retired test player captain the Sydney Thunder in the Twenty20 Big Bash league this season. Warner received the penalty for his role in the 2018 sandpaper scandal in South Africa, on top of a one-year ban from cricket, which was also imposed on Steve Smith with a lesser playing suspension given to Cameron Bancroft, who was caught on film rubbing and scuffing the ball with yellow sandpaper at a test match in Cape Town. But the leadership sanction was lifted Friday by an independent three-member review panel who deemed the opener had met the necessary criteria. Warner appeared before the independent panel content earlier this month. It ruled that he met the criteria to be considered for future leadership roles.

"The respectful and contrite tone of his (Warner's) responses, as well as the content impressed the Review Panel and led it to the unanimous view that he was sincere and genuine in acknowledging responsibility for the conduct and in his statement that he had extreme remorse for his conduct," the panel said in a statement Friday. "Mr. Warner's conduct and behavior since the imposition of the sanction has been excellent and he appears to have made a substantial change, one example of which is that he no longer sledges or tries to provoke the opposing team." Warner played his final test match in January against Pakistan, an Australian win. He has also said he will no longer play one-day internationals, only the T20 format of the game. The move could also be considered an early birthday present from Cricket Australia - Warner turns 38 on Sunday.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australia's white-ball star Glenn Maxwell may not have donned the Baggy Green for seven years, but the 36-year-old believes he would be doing "injustice" to his younger self by giving up his Test cricket dream, which still burns brightly within him. From overcoming a broken leg to scoring Australia's fastest double century with his 201 in the lead-up to their 2023 World Cup triumph, Maxwell has enjoyed remarkable highs in his career. However, his Test appearances remain limited to just seven matches, with his last outing during Australia's 2017 tour of Bangladesh. "I think if I gave up on that Test dream now, I don't think I'd be doing justice to that younger Glenn Maxwell who was dying to put on the baggy green

Giving up on Test dream would be doing injustice to my younger self: Glenn Maxwell

when he was a kid," he tells ESPNcricinfo. "And I think while there's still a glimmer of hope, I'll keep going for it." Though his selection for the upcoming India series is unlikely, Maxwell remains committed to chasing a Test spot on the Sri Lanka tour in January after narrowly missing out in 2022. "I think the hard thing with Test cricket is, when I grew up, that's all I wanted to do," Maxwell says. "I definitely got my chance at Test level a bit prematurely. It all happened really fast when I got my chance to debut. It was just a whirlwind. I had no idea what I was doing. I probably hadn't



had the experience at first-class level that I would have liked. "And then when I came back in 2017, I felt like I was a ready-made first-class cricketer and was really at peace with my

game and where I was at. A lot of these things in Test cricket are timing. Adam Voges is probably the perfect example. He came in and he averaged 60-odd (61.87) in his Test

career. He got his opportunity when he was at the top of this game." "I suppose the thing I'm proud about in my Test career — I was able to sort of fight back at different times, get back in squads and be really resilient that way." Maxwell's lack of first-class centuries — only seven in 69 matches, including a lone Test ton in Ranchi — has been a hurdle for Test selection, Maxwell writes in his soon-to-be-released autobiography. He recalls a frustrating exchange with selector Trevor Hohns during the 2017-18 season, after notching scores of 60, 64, 45 not out, 278, and 96 in consecutive games. When Maxwell questioned his exclusion from the Ashes squad. "The answer was blunt: 'Not enough tons.'" "It's the only time I've come close to losing it in a situation like that," Maxwell writes in The Showman. Australia's selectors have eased requirements for Shield cricket in preparing for Sri Lankan Tests, encouraging Maxwell's quiet red-ball return with Victoria's second XI. Managing a leg injury, Maxwell feels ready to adapt quickly to red-ball batting if picked for the Sri Lanka tour. "The interesting thing about last week, even just playing the second XI game, was having a few technical changes and working through them, having a few different sets of eyes looking at your batting, and just trying to work your way through that has been really enjoyable," he says.

Loss in 2018-19 series more hurtful than 2020-21 defeat to India: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia skipper Pat Cummins believes that the 2018-19 Test series loss to India was more hurtful than the 2020-21 debacle under his captaincy as the home team was simply outplayed in that engagement. India, under Virat Kohli, defeated Australia 2-1 in the 2018-19 rubber with the skipper and Cheteshwar Pujara playing a pivotal role in the historic triumph against the Tim Paine-led side. During the 2020-2021 series, a hugely-depleted Indian side again bagged the series 2-1, defeating the hosts at their stronghold Gabba for the first time in a Test match in 32 years. "I actually thought the series before (2018-19) was worse because we got completely beaten whereas that series (in 2020-21) was quite (keenly) fought. I thought they (India) played like fantastically well to win at the Gabba," Cummins told The Grade Cricketer podcast. "That (defeat) was annoying but I felt like the series before, where we were like completely

outplayed, that would hurt more for me," he said. **WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME INDIA WITH GREEN-TOPS:** The pace bowling stalwart, who will again be leading in a five-match Test series against India starting November 22 in Perth, said that if he had his way, he would welcome India with green tops to make life difficult for the visitors. "I wish if I had it my way I would be looking like those bushes behind you. Unfortunately, I don't have any sway (on the preparation of wickets), so we'll wait and see," said Cummins in response to the host's question on the amount of grass he would like to see on the pitches for the crucial series. David Warner has offered to come out of retirement to help the side if needed but Cummins indicated that the team has moved on. "Dave we are very interested, we're taking it very seriously and we'll be in touch, mate just watch that phone," said Cummins in jest before adding, "Uh, we love Davey (Warner) but he's retired, sorry."

India hold NZ to a thrilling 3-3 draw at Sultan of Johor Cup

PTI ■ JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA)

India colts displayed remarkable composure to finish their round-robin stage with a thrilling 3-3 draw against New Zealand at the Sultan of Johor Cup here on Friday. Gurjot Singh (6'), Rohit (17') and Talem Priyobarta (60') put their names on the scoresheet, while drag-flicker Jonty Elmes (17; 32; 45') scored a hat-trick of goals for New Zealand. While India continue to lead the points table with 10 points, their fate to make the final will be determined by Great Britain and Australia's matches against Japan and Malaysia respectively later in the day. India got off to a strong start with a fine goal from Gurjot in the 6th minute. Gurjot's first shot on goal, assisted by Sukhvinder, bounced straight back after the goalkeeper made the save. In his second attempt, he skillfully lofted the ball to the



roof of the net to earn India an important 1-0 lead. India had a chance to extend their lead in the 8th minute after earning two back-to-back PCs but the New Zealand custodian produced outstanding saves. In the following minutes, New Zealand created an attacking formation that helped them make a successful foray into the striking circle, but Rosan Kujur was sharp in his defence to keep them from scoring.

New Zealand eventually worked their way through Indian defence in the 17th minute when Elmes scored a fine field goal to equalise. But India was quick to respond, with Rohit striking from the PC to regain the momentum and also lead 2-1. Both teams played with frantic speed and though India created a flurry of PCs towards the end of the second quarter, they could not find success.

To their dismay, New Zealand began the third quarter with a fine PC conversion by Elmes, who had struck for the second time. Elmes' fierce power in his drag-flick was a pain-point for Indian defence, as he completed a hat-trick of goals in the 45th minute to take New Zealand 3-2 ahead. India's woes with penalty corner conversion continued in the fourth quarter as they missed a chance in the 46th minute. New Zealand, on the other hand, came up with brilliant counter attacks in the following minutes but Indian defence held sway. With 90 seconds left on the clock, India found a golden opportunity to equalise when they earned a PC. This time, they found success with a splendid variation which was executed to perfection by Priyobarta, ending the thrilling encounter with a 3-3 draw.

NorthEast United FC hope to halt Jamshedpur FC's winning streak

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Jamshedpur FC will look to continue their winning streak when they face a doughty NorthEast United FC in an away Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Saturday. The Jamshedpur side is placed second on the table, having accumulated 12 points from five games, and the hosts have managed only five points from as many contests and are positioned 10th. But beyond those contrasting numbers, the Highlanders have remained unbeaten in their previous two fixtures against the Red Miners. Meanwhile, scoring a goal in this match will mark NEUFC's joint-longest goal-scoring streak against JFC, having done so earlier between January 2021 and February 2022. But JFC have also been taking risks up front, as indicated by their passing accuracy of 57.1% in the opposition's half

this season. The number also proves that they have been creating chances in the final third, allowing them to score 10 goals until now. Their possession rate of 36.2% is the lowest in this ISL, but it allows them to play fearless football by letting the opposition dominate with the ball before launching their counter-attack. NorthEast head coach Juan Pedro Benali played down the talk that his team is under pressure after managing just one win in their last five games. However, he stressed on the need to improve their defence. "There is no pressure on us. But, we are hungry. I don't look at points, but I look at the goals scored against us. Two goals against us per game is too much," Benali said on the eve of the clash. "We need to decrease that and if we do so, then we will automatically do well as we are one of the teams to have scored the most goals this season."

Messi and Inter Miami will take on Atlanta United in MLS Cup playoff opener

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (USA)

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi played in only one Major League Soccer loss in 2024. It was in May, at home, against Atlanta United. Messi makes his MLS playoff debut Friday night - at home, against Atlanta United. Inter Miami, which set the MLS records for most points and best winning percentage

in the regular season, gets a big challenge right out of the gate in the playoffs by facing an Atlanta team in a best-of-three Eastern Conference first-round series. Messi is coming off a hat trick in the regular-season finale, a 6-2 romp past New England. And even though he missed nearly half the MLS season because of injury and commitments to Argentina's

national team, Messi is still a serious contender for league MVP after 20 goals and 16 assists in 19 appearances. "If I could vote for him, I would have voted for him," Inter Miami defender Julian Gressel said. "Yes, because for me, the MVP stands for the best player in the league. And Leo, is that, by far. You know, there's other people out there that have the definition of an



MVP that maybe makes the team better or that a team can't live without. In a sense, to me, Leo is that, too." MVP or not, Messi is obviously the key to Inter Miami's MLS Cup hopes. Friday night will be the first home playoff match in club history. If Inter Miami wins this series, it would stay home for the rest of the season - with home-field edge for the single-

game conference semifinals, conference final and MLS Cup, provided it keeps winning. "This was always about creating history for Miami," said soccer icon David Beckham, part of Inter Miami's ownership group - and the person who originally announced plans to bring an MLS team back to Miami more than a decade ago. "This was always about our family,

La Familia, the people in this stadium, the people in this city." Messi's arrival midway through 2023 was the big step toward Inter Miami getting to the global stage. The team won the Leagues Cup last year shortly after Messi arrived, won the Supporters Shield this year as the best MLS regular-season team and now goes after the MLS playoff title.

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