

OPINION 6

SPORTS: A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND UNITY

WORLD 8

UK SANCTIONS RUSSIA FOR USE OF 'INHUMAN' CHEMICAL WEAPONS

MONEY 10

TOP EIGHT HOUSING MARKETS SEE ANNUAL SALES DIP IN SEPTEMBER

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2024; PAGES 12 3

Established 1865

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol. 13 Issue 277
*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableHIL CAN TRANSFORM
INDIAN HOCKEY'S
LANDSCAPE: SALIMA
11 SPORTS

Victory for Democracy

Hurrah for the BJP in Haryana Jammu and Kashmir speak up

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/
HARYANA

Quashing exit polls results that were unanimous in projecting a clean sweep by Congress, Haryana poll results presented a dramatic turnaround as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) scored a hat trick by winning 48 seats of the 90 members' Legislative Assembly. The party improved its performance by winning seven more seats than it had in the outgoing Assembly.

Congress won 37 seats, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) won two seats and Independents won three seats. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) have drawn a blank. The half-way mark is 46.

The BJP's astonishing performance will reinvigorate the ruling party cadres, and could deal a debilitating blow to the Congress looking for further ascendancy after its improved show in the Lok Sabha polls.

Among prominent candidates, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and his new party colleague Vinesh Phogat won, as did Independent candidate Savitri Jindal. The INLD's Abhay



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini greets supporters after winning the Assembly elections from Ladwa constituency, at Ladwa, in Kurukshetra district, Tuesday

PTI

A historic win: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the BJP's win in the Haryana Assembly polls as a victory of its politics of development and good governance, assuring people that the party will leave no stone unturned to

fulfil people's aspirations. Addressing the party workers at the party headquarters after the results of the Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, PM Modi said that farmers in Haryana have given Congress a "befitting reply", and showed that they are with the country and with BJP.

"People of Haryana have scripted history by blossoming lotus. They have not only made the BJP win but gave the highest number of votes to the party," he said.

Continued on page 2

Singh Chautala lost, as did JJP's Dushyant Chautala, Haryana Assembly. Speaker and BJP's Gian Chand Gupta, Haryana Lokhit Party Gopal Kanda. After the victory, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the BJP's hat-trick in the state where he took charge barely six months ago. "I want to thank 2.8 crore people of Haryana who have reposed faith in the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is the victory of Haryana's farmers, the poor, women, and youth. People have voted for PM Modi's work for Haryana. It is a historic victory.

Continued on page 2

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Staging a comeback with a 'thumping' majority in this kitty, National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah is all set to become the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the month-long Assembly elections, held for the first time after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, 54-year-old Omar led the alliance partners to victory winning a clear majority of 48 seats in the 90-member house.

The NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah said the verdict was proof that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were against the abrogation of Article 370.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), despite winning the highest tally of 29 Assembly seats in its strong bastion of Jammu, is left stranded staring at the prospect of occupying the Opposition benches. Meanwhile, J&K BJP Chief Ravindra Raina lost his seat in the Nowshera Assembly segment. He was defeated by Surinder Choudhary of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference by a margin of over 7000 votes. The party won 10 out of 11



Supporters of Congress and National Conference (NC) celebrate as the Congress-NC alliance leads during the counting of votes of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, in Srinagar, Tuesday

PTI

Egg on the face of Exit pollsters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All exit polls went wrong once again as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set for a third term in Haryana where counting of votes for Assembly elections 2024 took place on Tuesday, giving the BJP a comfortable lead over its top competitor, the Indian National Congress (INC). This is not the first time exit polls have gone wrong. The Lok Sabha elections 2024, Chhattisgarh assembly polls in 2023,

Results of 2015 Bihar and Delhi Assembly Elections as well as Lok Sabha polls of 2004 and 2014 are examples of how exit polls predictions went wrong. Several exit polls had predicted a Congress victory in Haryana which recorded a voter turnout of 67.90 per cent. However, the BJP claimed it will return to power for a third consecutive term by winning 48 seats. This is a massive victory for the BJP in the state.

Continued on page 2

seats from Jammu district, five from Kathua, four each from Udhampur and Doda, three from Samba, two from Reasi, and one from Rajouri. The party, however, failed to open its account from Kashmir Valley. The party had campaigned aggressively promising a stable government with a 'Hindu' Chief Minister at the helm of affairs. The BJP's gamble to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Paharis in the region failed to improve its tally. All the candidates who joined the BJP failed to win any seat from the twin frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Continued on page 2

NHAI finally responds to nature's calls



The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari launching the 'Humsafar Policy' 2024 at The Ashok Hotel, in New Delhi

PIB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre has finally woken up to address a pressing need expressed by commuters who have nowhere to answer nature's call when commuting across the country's national highways and expressways network. The government by bringing in a policy for facilities such as clean toilets, baby care rooms etc.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday launched 'Humsafar Policy' which will see the introduction of facilities, such as clean toilets, baby care rooms, provisions for wheelchairs, EV charging stations, parking spaces, and dormitory services at fuel stations.

The policy will also offer

convenient, safe, and enjoyable experience for highway users, while empowering entrepreneurs, generating jobs, and enhancing livelihoods for service providers, as per the statement.

The Humsafar policy shall allow commuters access to standardised, well maintained and hygienic facilities. Commuters will be able to find details of relevant service providers near their location instantly on the Rajmarg Yatra app. Commuters will be empowered to rate the service provided and the facilities, along with being able to raise issues.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Gadkari said the Humsafar brand will become synonymous with utmost safety and comfort for travellers and drivers along the nation's world-class highway network. He also emphasised on the need to deliver high quality, standardised services across

the national highways. Gadkari said the Modi government remains fully committed to delivering top-notch amenities across our highway network, ensuring a fast and seamless travel experience for all.

These facilities shall provide multiple options of rest and refreshment for the highway commuters during their journey. Some of the facilities being developed at each WSA are fuel stations, food court / restaurants, dhabas, convenience stores, clean and hygienic toilet facilities, drinking water, first aid / medical room including child-care room, dedicated area for promoting local artisans, car bus/truck parking, drone landing facilities / helipad etc.

A senior National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) official said the Central road making agency has planned to introduce Humsafar policy to onboard existing and upcoming service providers along the Highways/Expressways under the purview of MoRT&H to improve services for commuters by standardising the facilities provided. This will complement the Wayside Amenities being developed by NHAI on National Highways. The policy aims to benefit all the three stakeholders namely Service Providers, NHAI/MoRT&H and commuters, added the official.

Kolkata doctors resign en masse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
KOLKATA

With the condition of eight junior doctors sitting on indefinite fast entering the third day on Tuesday — and no offer of talks coming from the side of the State Government — the senior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital tendered mass resignation warning they would go for bigger struggle should State not respond positively.

To make matter worse the senior doctors of the senior doctors of Calcutta Medical College too threatened to follow in the footsteps of their RGMCH colleagues if the Government did not respond within 24 hours. Earlier in the day, 15 senior doctors also joined their

junior counterparts in a symbolic hunger strike, further demonstrating the growing unrest within the hospital. "About fifty of us senior doctors today tendered mass resignation as a mark of solidarity with our junior colleagues because they are fighting for a just cause," said a senior doctor. The doctors' resignations came on a day when junior doctors of other medical colleges observed a symbolic fast on Tuesday in support of their colleagues in Kolkata.

Eight doctors from different medical colleges of Kolkata have been on an indefinite fast in support of their ten-point demand that includes a centralised referral system, security for all the medical staff inside the hospitals, ending of the threat syndicate and related malpractices that were rampant in most of the Government medical colleges and hospitals, basic amenities like rest rooms and washrooms for doctors, installation of CCTV cameras in all the Government hospitals, real-time monitoring of bed availability, and the establishment of task forces to ensure the proper functioning of essential facilities like CCTV cameras, on-call rooms, and washrooms, etc.

Continued on page 2

MITHUN: FROM FAME TO GLORY



President Droupadi Murmu presents the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty during the 70th National Film Award ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Tuesday

Ranjana Dimri/Pioneer

The multi-crore makeovers that failed

Congestion, water logging at Barapullah flyover, Mathura road, and Pragati Maidan tunnel has only intensified

BY SAUMYA SHUKLA

The multi-crore ambitious projects of Barapullah flyover, Mathura road and Pragati Maidan tunnel, which aimed at solving the traffic woes in the national Capital, and connect satellite cities around Delhi such as Noida, and Ghaziabad has not only failed to take the burden off from the city roads, it has made the situation worse with commuters sitting for hours in the jams on the stretches.

Ironically, the Barapullah Elevated Corridor, which was meant to solve traffic congestion in south Delhi, has now become among the worst stretches for people to cross at peak hours. Hundreds of vehicles are

routinely stranded in massive jams that stretch on for many kilometres on the roads leading to and from the flyover. The flyover is situated between AIIMS Flyover and the Sundial at Sarai Kale Khan over Barapullah Nallah, and is one of the crucial roads linking commuters of Ghaziabad and Noida with South Delhi, and vice versa. Each carriageway of Barapullah Flyover has three lanes.

Several bottlenecks are formed on the flyover leading to vehicles barely crawling in the specific location. Basically, a traffic bottleneck is a localised disruption of vehicular traffic on a street, road, or highway. As opposed to a traffic jam, a bottleneck is a result of a specific



Representative image

physical condition, often the design of the road, badly timed traffic lights, or sharp curves. According to the Delhi Traffic Police department, as per the current traffic flow pattern, the volume of traffic coming from Ghaziabad through NE-03 (Delhi Meerut Expressway) and Noida coming through DND is very high in the morning.

"The traffic coming from Ghaziabad and Noida ascends the Barapullah Flyover near Sundial. Due to heavy volume of traffic coming through in six lanes and discharging only through three lanes of Barapullah Flyover, a bottleneck is created resulting in congestion on Ring Road near Sundial. Similarly, in the evening peak hours, the traffic coming

from AIIMS and Lodhi Road merges near Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti which creates a bottleneck at the said merging point," Additional Commissioner of Police of Traffic Zone 2 Dinesh Gupta to The Pioneer stated. He added that letters have been written to the Public Works Department to increase the width of the carriageways to accommodate more vehicles and reduce the traffic woes. As per the official data accessed exclusively by The Pioneer, a total of 3,252 improper parking e-challans, 7,823 challans, 2,183 tow away challans, and 913 e-rickshaw no entry challans have been issued on the flyover till October 7 this year.

Continued on page 2

Chhattisgarh has potential to be prime investment destination: CM

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday met Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in Delhi and said the state can be a prime investment destination.



Chhattisgarh. A senior official said the meeting focused on Chhattisgarh's development plans, new industrial policies, and opportunities for trade and investment.

sector SEZ for other growth hubs. The discussions dwelt around strengthening the industrial infrastructure in the state, with a focus on boosting investment opportunities.

Hardcore Maoist with Rs 5L reward killed

STAFF REPORTER SUKMA

A hardcore Maoist carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh.

on security personnel. The gunfight ensued on Monday night between the forested hills of Pamlur and Gachchanpalli villages.

Pottam Lokesh was the Area Committee Member (ACM) of the outlawed Maoist outfit, Sukma Additional Superintendent of Police Akash Rao Girepunje said on Tuesday.

A pistol with four round live cartridges, four detonators, four gelatin rods, Maoist uniform and other materials were recovered from the spot.

Four Maoists with Rs 6L bounty surrender



STAFF REPORTER DANTEWADA

Four Maoists carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 6 lakh on their heads surrendered on Tuesday to security personnel in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.

Pojje Nuppo turned himself in, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said. The four were active in Katakalyan, Kerlapal and Malanger Area Committees of the outlawed Maoist outfit.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN-U40108CT2003SGC015820 GSTN-22AADCC5773EJZX OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (LINE) Block-4, Near CSPHCL Dispensary, Daganija, Raipur (C.G.) Website- www.cspc.co.in e-mail- ce.eht@cspec.co.in Ph. No. 0771-2524221 Fax No. 0771-2574222

Complete delimitation, reservation processes in timeframe: SEC

Review Meeting of State Election Commission for Local Body Elections

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Election Commission (SEC) Commissioner Ajay Singh on Tuesday emphasized the importance of completing the processes of delimitation and reservation work within the stipulated time frame for timely and fair elections to local bodies.



He said this at a meeting of the State Election Commission (SEC) convened to review the preparations for the upcoming local body elections.

The meeting was attended by the Secretaries of the General Administration Department and Urban Administration Department along with other concerned officials.

Singh emphasized the need to ensure the accuracy of the voter lists. The Commissioner stated that each stage of the electoral process would be regularly reviewed, and corrective measures would be promptly taken whenever necessary.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN-U40108CT2003SGC015820 GSTN-22AADCC5773EJZX OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (LINE) Block-4, Near CSPHCL Dispensary, Daganija, Raipur (C.G.) Website- www.cspc.co.in e-mail- ce.eht@cspec.co.in Ph. No. 0771-2524221 Fax No. 0771-2574222

Table with columns: दिनांक, धोखा, धोखा, धोखा, धोखा. It contains a list of items or transactions with corresponding dates and descriptions.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015 Branch Office- 3rd Floor, Near Axis Bank, Pujari Chamber, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001

AXIS BANK LTD. (CIN: L65110GJ1993PLC020769) Corporate Banking Group: Structured Assets Group East, 1, Shakespeare Sarani, A.C. Market Building, 4th Floor, Kolkata - 700071. [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Democracy revived in Jammu and Kashmir: Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said democracy has been revived in Jammu and Kashmir with the successful conduct of assembly election as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also said that the massive victory of the BJP in Haryana is a victory of the unwavering faith of farmers, poor, backward, soldiers and youth in the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



when the Congress made a mockery of democracy by openly rigging the elections. Democracy has now been revived in the same Kashmir valley," he said in a series of social media posts in Hindi. Shah said Prime Minister Modi had promised the people of the country that peaceful and fair elections will be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. "I am extremely happy that

for the first time since the advent of terrorism in the 1980s, the people of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed such a transparent and peaceful election and participated in the elections in large numbers. "I heartily congratulate the Election Commission, Jammu and Kashmir Administration, security forces and the people of Jammu and Kashmir for these

successful and historic elections," he said. The senior BJP leader said in Jammu and Kashmir, where under the Congress rule, there was only "reign of terror and democracy was being murdered every day", under the BJP rule, the great festival of democracy was celebrated with full pomp and gaiety. "People elected their representatives without any fear of terror and panic.

Heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for this unprecedented change," he said. The elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir assembly was held after 10 years and for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state. The three-phase polling was concluded on October 1 and the results were declared on Tuesday. Shah also said the people of "Veerbhoomi" Haryana have completely rejected the "negative and divisive politics" of Congress which "divides" people on the basis of caste and region. The people have chosen the 10 years track record of development and welfare of poor of BJP, he added. "Salute to the people of Veerbhoomi Haryana. This massive victory of the BJP in Haryana is a victory of the unwavering faith of farmers, the poor, the

backward, the soldiers and the youth in the BJP government led by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji," he wrote in a social media post in Hindi. The home minister said Haryana, the land of farmers and soldiers, has taught a lesson to those who go abroad and insult the country for their vote bank. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Haryana for giving BJP the opportunity to serve the state for the third consecutive time," he said. Shah said the BJP government at the Centre and in the state under the leadership of Modi will fulfil all aspirations and hopes of the people of the state. The BJP is set to return to power in Haryana for the third consecutive term with an absolute majority in the 90-member assembly. The polling was held on October five and results were declared on Tuesday.

India, Germany review defence ties



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Germany on Tuesday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties during telephonic talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Boris Pistorius. The two leaders also took stock of ongoing defence cooperation including exercises in the air and maritime domains, defence ministry said. The ministers also discussed ways to further strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience, it added. "They planned to meet in the near future to give concrete shape to the defence engagements and joint projects with an aim to transform defence as a key pillar of the India-Germany bilateral relationship," the ministry said. Rajnath also posted on social media about the talks. "Had a telephonic conversation with the German Federal Minister of Defence, Mr Boris Pistorius. We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation activities including the exercises in air and maritime domain. We also discussed ways and means to strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience," he wrote on the social media platform.

activities including exercises in the air and maritime domains," the ministry said in a statement. Rajnath and Pistorius discussed ways to further strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience, it added. "They planned to meet in the near future to give concrete shape to the defence engagements and joint projects with an aim to transform defence as a key pillar of the India-Germany bilateral relationship," the ministry said. Rajnath also posted on social media about the talks. "Had a telephonic conversation with the German Federal Minister of Defence, Mr Boris Pistorius. We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation activities including the exercises in air and maritime domain. We also discussed ways and means to strengthen the defence industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience," he wrote on the social media platform.

Modi to visit Laos for ASEAN, East Asia summits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Laos on October 10 and 11 during which he will attend the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. Laos is the current chair of ASEAN. On the invitation of his Laos counterpart Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, the MEA said in a statement. During the visit, Modi will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit being hosted by Laos as the current chair of ASEAN, it said. Modi is also expected to hold



bilateral meetings on the margins of the two summits, according to the MEA. "India is marking a decade of the Act East Policy this year. Relations with ASEAN are a central pillar of the Act East Policy and our Indo-Pacific vision," the MEA said. The ASEAN-India Summit will review the progress of India-ASEAN relations through "our Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership" and chart the future direction of cooperation. "The East Asia Summit, a premier leaders-led forum that contributes to building an environment of strategic trust in the region, provides an opportunity for leaders of EAS Participating Countries, including India, to exchange views on issues of regional importance," the ministry said.

ED questions Azharuddin under PMLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned former Indian cricket team captain and Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association. ED recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament was first asked to depose before the agency on October 3 but he sought deferment of the notice and asked for a fresh date. The agency subsequently issued him fresh summons to appear on October 8. The probe is



related to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). The ED had conducted searches in connection with the irregularities in November last year. Azharuddin's role during his tenure as the HCA president is under the scanner of the agency, the sources had said. Following the registration of a case in connection with the alleged irregularities by

Telangana Police last year, he had said that the allegations levelled against him were "false" and "motivated" and it was "just a stunt" pulled by his rivals to ruin his reputation. The money laundering case stems from three FIRs and charge sheets filed by the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in connection with alleged criminal misappropriation of funds of the HCA to the tune of Rs 20 crore.

IAF should realign for present, future security needs: AP Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Tuesday highlighted the need for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to realign itself to meet the present and future requirements as the global security environment is in a state of constant flux. The ongoing conflicts have demonstrated the requirement to have a strong and capable Air Force. Therefore, there is a need for the IAF to be prepared to meet any contingency that challenges our national interest, he noted. After reviewing the Parade at the Air Force Station in Tambaram near Chennai on the occasion of 92nd Annual IAF Day celebrations, he said, "Adopting the latest technology along with innovative and out-of-the-box thinking will play a decisive role in today's multi-domain environment." Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Air Force

personnel for their courage and professionalism as he greeted them on the Air Force Day. The day is observed to mark the anniversary of the institution and to commemorate the sacrifices made by air warriors. Modi said in a social media post, "Air Force Day greetings to our brave air warriors. Our Air Force is admired for their courage and professionalism. Their role in protecting our nation is extremely commendable." (Potent, Powerful and Self-Reliant), IAF chief recalled that last year the Indian Air Force made a significant stride in strengthening operational capabilities, enhancing professionalism and adapting to ever-evolving challenging modern warfare. "The global security environment is in a state of constant flux. Ongoing conflicts have demonstrated the requirement to have a strong and capable air force. Therefore, there is a need for the Indian Air Force to be prepared to meet any contingency that challenges



our national interest," he said. Referring to the theme of this year's Annual Day, 'Bharatiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar' (Potent, Powerful and Self-Reliant), IAF chief said, "it perfectly describes our aspirations." "Over the years, we have become more empowered with better technology and achieved new levels of operational exploitation of our systems and weapons." He pointed out that the past year was very eventful and the Air Force proved its mettle on various fronts. In 2024, the IAF chief said, the Air Force expanded its participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises with Air Forces of friendly foreign countries.

"We also conducted the largest multi-national exercise Tarang Shakti on the Indian soil after a gap of 61 years with participation from Air Forces of more than 30 nations," he added. "We have been always the first responder in any calls of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief both within India and abroad. In the last one year, the Indian Air Force has been called upon to provide flood relief in many locations while fighting forest fires in some other," IAF chief said. The Indian Air Force beyond the borders, also played an important role in relief and evacuation from many countries, he added.

India recognised for eliminating Trachoma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has been recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating trachoma, an eye disease caused by a bacterial infection, as a public health problem, becoming the third country in the Southeast Asia region to achieve this milestone, following Nepal and Myanmar. Trachoma, which can cause infectious blindness, is linked to poor hygiene and inadequate water supply, spreading through contact with infected secretions or indirectly via flies. During a 'Public Health Awards' event at the Seventy Seventh Regional Committee Session, WHO officials highlighted the crucial roles played by India's government, ophthalmologists, and healthcare workers in effectively managing trachoma through surveillance, surgical services, and community hygiene initiatives. "India's success is due to the strong leadership of its government and the commitment of ophthalmologists and other



cadres of health-care workers. "They worked together with partners to ensure effective surveillance, diagnosis and management of active trachoma, provision of surgical services for trichiasis, and promotion of water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly facial cleanliness, among communities," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia. The WHO also felicitated Bhutan for achieving interim targets for cervical cancer elimination, Maldives and Sri Lanka for Hepatitis B control in children, Timor-Leste for eliminating lymphatic filariasis and six countries for achieving SDG and global targets for reducing under-

five mortality and stillbirth rates. Bhutan was recognised for reaching the 2030 interim targets towards elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, the first country in the region to achieve this significant public health milestone, the WHO said in a statement. The interim 90-70-90 targets are 90 per cent girls fully vaccinated against Human papillomavirus (HPV vaccine) by 15 years of age; 70 per cent of women screened with a high-performance test by 35 years of age and again by 45 years of age and 90 per cent of women identified with cervical disease provided treatment, the statement said. "The success of the Royal

Government of Bhutan is driven by strong leadership, favourable health policies, organised health systems, well-defined country priorities, motivated health workforce, and efficient coordination by the Ministry of Health. Lauding Maldives and Sri Lanka for achieving hepatitis B control, the Regional Director said that preventing hepatitis B infection in children substantially reduces chronic infections and cases of liver cancer and cirrhosis in adulthood. Bhutan was also recognised for achieving the SDG and global 2030 targets of reducing under-5 mortality and stillbirth rates while Timor-Leste was awarded for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem. It is the fifth country in the Region to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand were felicitated for achieving the SDG and global targets for the reduction of under-5 mortality, neonatal mortality and stillbirth rates, the statement added.

Palliative care crisis: Only 4 per cent of needy patients in India receive support

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After his diagnosis, 79-year-old Raghav Sharma with advanced cancer was referred to a hospital with a palliative care unit, but due to a lack of trained staff and limited resources, he experienced long wait times and inadequate pain management. While his family tried to provide care at home, they struggled to manage his symptoms without professional guidance. Palliative care is a medical approach aimed at improving the quality of life with the compassionate support for individuals with serious illnesses like third or fourth stage of cancer. However, despite the

National Health Policy's inclusion of palliative care, Sharma's experience for care reflects the broader issue where only about 4% of the estimated 10 million people needing such care in India receive it. Dr Rajagopal, founder of Pallium India, which provides pain relief and palliative care for free, laments that despite its inclusion in the National Health Policy in 2017, the MBBS curriculum in 2019, and the BSc Nursing curriculum in 2021, there remains a significant gap in palliative care. "At least 10 million people in India require palliative care, yet only 4 per cent currently receive it," he said at an event recently.

Rajagopal noted that community volunteers are essential for advancing palliative care. Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and former ICMR head, emphasised that palliative care not only addresses the physical pain of patients but also considers the broader suffering experienced by both patients and their families. Ahead of the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on October 12, DS Negi, CEO, of Delhi-based Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCIRC) said, "Doctors and medical support staff face numerous challenges in providing comprehensive hospice and

palliative care. "Apart from the emotional resistance from family to forming support groups, the infrastructure in India is also lacking. There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between patient needs and healthcare provider practices to enhance the delivery of palliative care in India," added Negi. Doing its bit to create awareness about the importance of hospice and palliative care in the country, the RGCIRC organised a daylong event 'Hospice & Palliative Care Event 24' (HOPE'24) here recently. Discussing the need for advanced care planning (ACP) during the cancer treatment, Dr Kinshuki Jain, Head, Department of Pain

and Palliative care, RGCIRC said, "This is especially relevant for life-limiting illness eg- cancer where ACP may ensure that patients do not endure treatment that may not align with their wishes or quality of life preferences. "It's crucial to empower patients and their families to engage in these conversations early on, minimizing the occurrence of futile treatments." A recent study by doctors at AIIMS Jhajjar too has found that providing empathetic treatment to seriously ill patients can improve their quality of life. "It is an effective approach to treatment by establishing better connectivity with critically ill patients," it said.

PM Modi pays tribute to Ram Vilas Paswan on fourth death anniversary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to Lok Janshakti Party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, a prominent leader from the Dalit community, on his fourth death anniversary, praising him as an outstanding leader who was fully devoted to empowering the poor. He said in a social media post, "I pay homage to my very dear friend and one of India's tallest leaders, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji on his Punya Tithi. He was an outstanding leader, fully devoted to empowering the poor and dedicated to building a strong and



developed India." The prime minister said he was fortunate to have worked with Paswan so closely over the years. "I greatly miss his insights on several issues," he said. Paswan was a member of the Modi cabinet since 2014 till his death in 2020. A grassroots politician with a

keen sense of ground pulse, the Bihar leader worked in the Cabinet of different prime ministers representing rival parties and enjoyed good equation with leaders across the aisle. His son Chirag Paswan is now heading the LJP (Ram Vilas) and is a Cabinet minister.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

One year of Gaza war

With no clear end in sight, the war in Gaza risks becoming a protracted conflict that destabilises the entire West Asia

As the Gaza war enters its second year, the devastation continues to deepen, turning a political and military confrontation into a full-blown humanitarian crisis. The conflict, which began as a violent flare-up between Israel and Palestinian militants, has now drawn in regional players like Lebanon and Iran, making the prospects for peace even more elusive. The war's impact has rippled across borders, leaving countless civilians trapped in a spiral of violence, displacement and suffering. One year into the war, Gaza's population bears the brunt of the ongoing violence. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, essential infrastructure is in ruins, and thousands of lives have been lost. With over two million people crammed into a strip of land roughly 140 square miles, Gaza was already grappling with poverty, unemployment and limited access to basic services. The war has exacerbated these challenges to catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, clean water is scarce and electricity is available for just a few hours a day. The United Nations has described the situation as a humanitarian disaster. Around half of Gaza's population is now displaced, living in overcrowded shelters or temporary camps, with limited access to aid. The ongoing blockade of the strip has further restricted the entry of essential supplies, worsening the plight of ordinary citizens. Children, in particular, are facing the harshest consequences, with many losing access to education and mental health support, which adds another layer to the enduring trauma of the war.



What began as a localised conflict between Israel and Hamas has now escalated into a broader regional confrontation, with Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's proxy forces becoming increasingly involved. Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon, has launched attacks on northern Israel, adding a new front to the war. This has drawn in Israeli forces, threatening to destabilise Lebanon, a country already grappling with its own internal crises. Iran's involvement, through its support of Hezbollah and various Palestinian factions, has further complicated the conflict. Tehran's backing of these groups is part of a broader regional strategy, aimed at countering Israeli and the US influence in the West Asia. As Iran's involvement grows, so does the risk of a wider regional war. The US and other global powers have expressed concern over the possibility of an all-out confrontation between Israel and Iran. Diplomatic efforts have been ineffective so far, with talks breaking down repeatedly. The involvement of Hezbollah and Iran signals that the war is no longer confined to Israel and Gaza but is part of a larger geopolitical struggle, further complicating any peace process. In Gaza, the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate unless there is an immediate intervention. The conflict has reached a point where military solutions alone cannot resolve the underlying issues. The time is running out, the UN must intervene to avert a crisis that could snowball into a regional catastrophe.

PICTALK



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a puja venue, in Nadia

Sports: A catalyst for social change and unity



SANTOSH KUMAR BISWAL

Sports have long transcended mere competition, emerging as a profound social force capable of uniting diverse communities and inspiring meaningful change

Nelson Mandela, a Black nationalist and the first Black president of South Africa, once asserted, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." This sentiment underscores the profound influence sports can have on society. Recently, Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, the first female athlete from her country to win an Olympic medal in shooting, echoed this sentiment, emphasising that one does not have to pursue conventional careers like medicine or engineering. She expressed that "sports life is a beautiful life," showcasing how sports can be a fulfilling and empowering path. The release of the Ga-Mashie Boxing Heritage photobook and video in Ghana highlights the socio-cultural dimensions of sports, suggesting that these occurrences should not be viewed in isolation but rather as part of a broader sociological and anthropological landscape. Throughout history, from ancient traditions to contemporary contexts, sports have blurred the lines between sociology and anthropology, influencing everything from local culture to global events.

Breaking Down Barriers Sports possess a unique ability to dismantle barriers related to race, gender and disability. Historically, they have served as a battleground for challenging exclusionary practices and promoting inclusivity. In ancient Greece, for instance, Spartan girls participated in physical training and competed in sports, an early testament to gender equality in athletics. Ghana, renowned for producing world-class boxers, has long viewed the sport as a symbol of hope and resilience. Racial integration in sports has often signified broader societal changes. A landmark moment in American history was Jackie Robinson's breaking of Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947. His courage in facing racial hostility while excelling on



the field not only inspired future generations of athletes but also set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement. **Catalyst for Social Change** Beyond unification, sports have historically acted as powerful catalysts for social change. Athletes often leverage their platforms to advocate for justice and equality, using their visibility to challenge societal norms and highlight injustices. The Paralympic Games, which began in 1960, have been instrumental in promoting inclusion and accessibility for athletes with disabilities. Sports icons like Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, and Billie Jean King have used their influence to push for racial and gender equality. Ali's refusal to be drafted into the Vietnam War due to his opposition to racial injustice is one of the most significant acts of protest in sports history. The 1968 Olympics in Mexico City became a global stage for protest when American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a Black Power salute during the medal ceremony, drawing attention to the struggles of African Americans and other marginalised groups. Moreover, sports diplomacy has been a strategy for nations to ease tensions. A notable example is the 1971 "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" between the United States and China, where a simple table tennis match opened the door to diplomatic relations between



THE 1971 'PING-PONG DIPLOMACY' BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE, WHERE A SIMPLE TABLE TENNIS MATCH OPENED THE DOORS TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS

the two superpowers. **Community Development** Sports play a crucial role in community development, especially in underserved areas. Youth sports programmes provide numerous benefits, including improved physical health, enhanced social skills, and academic achievement. For many, these programmes serve as a safe haven, offering structure, mentorship, and opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable. At the community level, sports unite people around common goals. Local teams often foster a sense of pride and identity, bringing communities together to support their athletes. This sense of unity not only strengthens social bonds but also helps reduce crime rates and enhance community cohesion. **Cultural Dimensions of Sports** The sociological and anthropological impact of sports is undeniable. In India, for instance, sports reflect a complex interplay of caste, community, gender, and sexuality. Historical traditions such as 'Mallakhamb', an ancient Indian martial art that blends yoga and exercise, illustrate how sports can embody cultural heritage. Similarly, traditional games like 'Kabaddi' in Odisha and 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu showcase the socio-cultural significance of sports in various regions. Sports events and local traditions can serve as powerful

tools for social change, transforming communities and promoting inclusivity. The 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa is a prominent example, where sports helped bridge the divide between black and white South Africans during Mandela's presidency. **A Continuing Legacy** The stories of athletes who have championed justice, the communities transformed by sports initiatives, and the barriers dismantled through athletic achievement illustrate the transformative power of sports. The recent resurgence of movements like Black Lives Matter has reemphasised the social power of sports. Athletes across various leagues have taken stands against racial injustice, using actions like taking a knee during the national anthem to raise awareness. Major sports organisations have embraced these movements, reflecting a growing recognition of the role sports play in advancing social justice. As we look to the future, it is evident that sports will continue to be a powerful force for good, uniting people, inspiring change, and contributing to a better world. The power of sports to foster connection and advocate for justice is more important than ever. *(The writer is associate professor and head, Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS 'MAKE IN INDIA' JUST A SLOGAN

Madam — This refers to the write-up on Make in India (October 7). Make in India is more a slogan than a solution. This is because the investments made in the production sector come from FDIs, FII or FPIs which are basically known as butterfly capital that tend to fly away anytime for little more benefit offered elsewhere. They are coming in without any conditionality like increasing employment, exports, or tax income. China utilised the system of foreign capital coming into China by imposing conditions like employing the locals, ensuring exports, bringing in new technology, etc. With such conditions, the country could transform itself from Make in China to Made in China and is able to threaten even the most advanced economies. The Indian model is functioning under 'Ease of doing business' where land, power, tax benefits and cheap labour are offered with the least monitoring, control or regulatory system in vogue or muted. The example of Samsung is to explain this. The management is facing a prolonged strike by the workers on basic demands like a hike in wage and the right to form a union of their choice. The government is neither able to convince the management nor compel them to respect the law of the land. All under the fear of losing future investments. Therefore, Make in India is a slogan but not a solution, as even after some decades the country will have no scope under the present system to transform to Make in India.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

OBAMA BACKS KAMALA HARRIS

Madam — That former President of the United States (US), Barack Obama, is all set to undertake a 27-day campaign for Democratic Party presidential candidate Kamala Harris should be music to the latter's ears. Obama came to power in 2009 with high expectations, riding on the catchy "yes, we can" slogan, and

Antarctica turning green



Images of some regions of Antarctica's ice landscape turning green definitely ring an alarm bell to the whole globe and give a grim message alerting mankind to watch where we are heading to. This dramatic transformation, with its icy landscape increasingly turning green, reveals that the rate of this change has accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent

years. Scientists and environmentalists say that this "greening" of the Antarctic Peninsula, highlights the urgent consequences of a warming period and the ten-fold rise underscores the significant impact of climate change. A study made between 1986 and 2021 by researchers has revealed that an increase in the vegetation cover across the Antarctic Peninsula has soared from less than one square kilometre to nearly 12 square kilometres within a period of 35 years, which according to the global clock is a short period. Global players, heads and the whole global community must come together and chalk out urgent measures to check this because if this is kept unchecked and ignored it will only end up in disaster resulting in an apocalypse. **M Pradyu | Kannur**

STAMPEDE AT AIR SHOW

Madam — Stampede is an expected incident in mass gatherings. The Air show at Marina Beach was a much-awaited event for the nation to inspire youth to be a part of the armed forces. Events like this must be planned meticulously by the state government to create an enthusiasm amongst the youth to be a part of the armed forces. Unfortunately, the stampede and deaths of five civilians during the show have left a void in the magnificent showcase of Indian Air Force power. Hopefully the venue, climatic condition and safety of the viewers are kept in mind while the state government plans such brilliant airshows. The magnitude of the event was such that the roaring Chennai shore saw the best of the showcase by the air warriors and the applause by the audience was one of immense enthusiasm. **Mythili Vinod | Secunderabad**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The rich heritage of Indian astrology and its global influences

Indian astrology, deeply rooted in the Vedic traditions, has a history that intertwines spirituality, mathematics and cosmic wisdom

Indian astrology has a long and rich history. It all starts with the Vedas. The Yaga rituals prescribed in the Rigveda demanded accuracy in all respects. The Yagasalai — the tent where the rituals are performed — had to be built with precise measurements. The means and methods to compute these measurements later evolved into Vastu or Indian architecture. The Yaga rituals were to begin at an auspicious time, when planetary positions aligned in a certain order.

The methods to compute such auspicious times — Muhurta, in Sanskrit — paved the way to the development of astronomy and astrology in India. Indian astronomy has a long and strong association with scholars from the other ancient civilisations. Suryasiddhanta, one of the ancient Indian treatises on astronomy, begins with the author's prayer to the Sun God asking Him to reveal the secrets of the universe. The Sun God then appears and advises the seeker to go and meet Turamaya in the Romaka country to learn more about cosmological systems and their calculations.



Experts in the field, including Dr Ebenezer Burgess who translated the text to English, opine that Turamaya mentioned in the text is the great astronomer Ptolemy, and Romaka stands for Roman Egypt. Indian predictive astrology too has a strong bond with Greece. One of the very first texts on predictive astrology, which is still widely used by Indian astrologers, is the Yavana-Jataka, or the Greek Horoscopy, authored by Spujiddhvaja Yavaneswara. The word Yavana derives from Ionian, and broadly means Greece. Another text of the same lineage is the Vriddha-Yavana-Jataka, or the Great Greek Horoscopy. The ancient astrological texts often mention the Greek astrologers and astronomers with reverence and respect. Indian astrology made its mark through Varahamihira, who is considered as the fore-

most authority of ancient times. His text, the Horasastra is the most widely used astrological text. Varahamihira was a Maga-Brahmin, Priestly class of Hindus who worshipped Sun. It should be noted that his book on the lives of philosophers, Diogenes Laertius writes that the great Democritus learned from Magi-Priests. This could be the class of Varahamihira. It should be noted that Varahamihira was also a great mathematician and an astronomer who authored detailed treatises on these subjects. Indian kings and the elite class had their own team of astrologers, who advised them on the military strategies. Astrology was one of the chief components of Indian knowledge system and was metaphorically mentioned as the eye of the Veda. Under this branch, many subjects were developed including astronomy and mathematics. Later, when the Mughal invaders tried to attack this knowledge system in the northern part of India, the center of Indian intellectual debates and studies shifted to the south of India. Astrology to Mathematics thrived in south

India. At the south they developed their own system of horary astrology, a detailed method of predicting the future, and named it Ashtamangala Prashna. In the field of Mathematics, the great Madhava of Sangamagrama independently discovered Infinite Series for the Trigonometric Functions, which is known today as the "Madhava-Gregory-Leibniz Series." India and Indian Astrology contributed heavily towards the development of science — specifically in the fields of astronomy, astrology, and mathematics. We always appreciated and respected scholars from civilisations and cultures foreign to us. In the Veda, there is a line "Yatra Viswam Bhavatyeka Needam" which means, here the world becomes a single nest. In the arena of knowledge systems, we lived up to it. The world was a single and simple nest to us. Many birds, scholars and intellectuals, from many trees, many countries, resided in that nest harmoniously. *(The writer is a vedic scholar based in Kerala; views are personal)*



PARAPPANANGADI U PANIKAR



FIRST COLUMN NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF EXTREMES

Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The world we live in today is full of extremists who seek to exert control over humanity. Unfortunately, a large part of the population is now influenced by factions that adopt agitative approaches to fulfil their social, economic, political, or religious demands. They are termed extremists because they abandon moderation, resorting to over-activism, and in many cases, extreme violence. These groups are willing to go to any lengths to ensure their voices are heard and their demands met by the authorities. They disrupt public peace, and their activities reflect over-assertiveness, rigid attitudes, and a lack of appreciation for the views and interests of other communities or groups. In the process, what often gets sacrificed is any possibility of dialogue or mutual understanding, leading to a cycle of retaliation and resentment.

A closer look at society today reveals that, to some extent, we are all extremists in one way or another. Science and technology are racing toward their extremes. Trade, commerce, and consumerism have adopted a global, expansive form, becoming multinational and mega-scale. The world's largest corporations have achieved levels of influence and control that were once unimaginable. Corporate expansion and monopolistic behaviour continue to push the boundaries of ethics, often leaving smaller businesses struggling to survive.

Environmental pollution has reached disastrous proportions due to unchecked industrial expansion and the selfishness of a few. Entire ecosystems are being pushed to the brink, and climate change is now a pressing global crisis. A small number of individuals and corporations continue to profit at the expense of the planet's future. The increasing use of the internet is contributing to an overwhelming flood of information.



The rapid expansion of cities and transportation networks, have also brought their share of chaos. While these extremes might be seen as signs of development, they come with significant trade-offs, including the erosion of quality of life, mental well-being, and social cohesion. However, amidst all these extremes, the most concerning trend is the rise of anger, jealousy, hatred, violence, greed, and lust. These emotions are spinning out of control, leading to a breakdown in family structures and social harmony. Consumerism, commercialism, and materialism are shaping the very fabric of society, convincing people that their worth is tied to what they own rather than who they are. This pursuit of material success has left many spiritually impoverished, disconnected from their inner selves, and chasing superficial goals that do little to provide lasting fulfillment.

The current trends give us cause for concern, as we witness increasing divisions, social unrest, and the degradation of our environment. The question now becomes: how long can we continue down this path before we reach a breaking point? In such times, when self-control and moderation have all but vanished, and extremism has become the norm, we must learn how to restore our inner calm and balance. Yoga meditation, combined with values, is our best hope for navigating these turbulent times. Meditation can help us return to a state of self-control, calmness, and equilibrium. It purifies the mind and quenches our deep thirst for peace. Through meditation and the cultivation of moral and spiritual values, individuals can learn to be fully engaged in life yet detached from material cravings. They can contribute to the world without succumbing to greed and excess, achieving a balance between material success and spiritual well-being. So, let us make yoga and meditation a daily practice, not just for physical health but to combat the extremism we face within ourselves and in the world around us. Only through this inner journey can we reclaim the purity and peace that seem so elusive in today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Ten years of Swachh Bharat: The road ahead



B K SINGH

From improved groundwater quality to managing solid and liquid waste, the mission's impact has been substantial, but the journey towards a cleaner India must continue



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched by PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in 2014. The mission has completed ten years and during this period 120 million families have been provided access to safe sanitation at their homes. The rural household latrines have transformed the lives of the masses, especially about human health and well-being. It has cut open defecation and UNICEF's report in 2018 indicates that there is a saving of 5.2 per cent of GDP in a year on this count. The other observed benefits are preventing pollution of groundwater, less infant mortality and better attendance for girl children in schools. Though nearly 4000 cities are certified to have maintained hygiene and cleanliness, the challenge for users and managers is to keep it all functional and used continuously.

The golden decade of Indian sanitation is being celebrated this year starting from 17th September 2024 (PM's birthday) to 2nd October 2024, Gandhi Jayanti. Let me examine in this piece as to what are the hits and misses of the mission and also indicate the possible roadmap for the future. Civic agencies and local bodies have done their bit for the success of the mission. The annual ranking of city corporations on this front has made them highly competitive. Cities like Indore, Mysuru and Lucknow and several others have secured high ranks, which has induced other city corporations to do more work for better ranks. The segregation of solid wastes into wet and dry has taken a big leap. The processing of urban wastes which used to be 18 per cent in 2014 has gone up to 80 per cent today. The management of solid waste disposal sites has remained a challenge. The generation of electricity and biofuel from dry wastes has not picked up as yet. However, use of the wet wastes to generate compost and biogas is relatively better performing. More innovation, use of technolo-



THE INTRODUCTION OF BIO-LATRINES IN TRAINS HAS BEEN QUITE A REVOLUTION. BEFORE 2014 TRAIN TRACKS EVEN ABETTING THE PLATFORMS USED TO BE FILLED WITH HUMAN EXCRETA, A REPULSIVE SITE THAT NO ONE LIKES TO LOOK AT. THIS HAS BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH WONDERFUL INNOVATION

gy and investment can be a game changer. The bigger problem is the management of nearly 220 million tonnes of waste in the landfills around many cities. Mountains of garbage at Ghazipur, Okhala, Bhalswa and Bandhwari in and around the national capital have been engaging the attention of governments, experts and Courts for quite some time, but no workable solution has been found. Liquid wastes are a more serious problem. The civic agencies allowing sewage to flow through open drains have to ensure that all such drains are concealed, lest the sewage mixes with the flood water and can find its way into urban water bodies. Further, the sewer lines carrying household sewage and the soak pits are to be periodically checked and repaired so that no leakage takes place and underground aquifers are not contaminated. A sewage treatment plant (STP) provided at the inlet point of a water body should be functional and no untreated sewage should be allowed to ingress into the water body without treatment. Local bodies and municipalities must ensure that individual houses do not connect their sewer line to stormwater drains, which often happens in thickly populated slums. The water flowing in stormwater drains ends up in the water body directly without going through any treatment. The mixing of sewage in the stormwater drains can be quite harmful and must be prevented at all costs. Bengaluru's city corporation used to generate 1400 Million litres per day (MLD) of sewage in 2005-06 and 2006-07, however, less than 400 MLD used to go through STP. Going through STP does not mean that

the said quantity was treated; often the managers of STP switched off power mischievously to save on cost. At present 1700 MLD sewage is generated, and nearly three-quarters of it goes through STP. The story in other metropolitan cities is similar. STP capacity has to be increased across the country to prevent the contamination of groundwater, which is otherwise the source of many water-borne diseases. Further, there should be stricter vigilance on the management so that these do not malfunction. Plastics and polythene have become the parts of our lives. It has its share of impacting our health and also that of wild animals and livestock. Especially single-use plastics are thrown haphazardly and find their way either into the mountain of garbage or into the water bodies. It is also directly consumed by livestock, wild animals as well as aquatic life, some of which suffocate and die. Imagine fishes feeding on it and our non-vegetarian friends relishing fishes. Microplastics are in all our blood and are a very big health hazard. The introduction of bio-latrines in trains has been quite a revolution. Before 2014 train tracks even abetting the platforms used to be filled with human excreta, a repulsive site that no one likes to look at. This has been overcome through wonderful innovation. However, as the trains pass through the outskirts of big cities, the dumps containing plastics and polythene are seen on either side. It is often very painful to watch. We need to make changes in our behaviour and ensure that the uses are brought to a minimum. We must honour the ban on single-use plastics imposed by the

central government. Education and awareness campaigns must be run this fortnight when we are celebrating the golden decade of Indian sanitation. Burning of debris is often found to be an easy method in the dry season to get rid of weeds and garbage. Punjab and Haryana farmers after harvesting the paddy are in the habit of burning the stubble to prepare the field for growing wheat. Unfortunately, the season of stubble burning coincides with a weather system that has practically no vertical circulation of air and oxides of nitrogen and carbon emitted during burning do not escape into the upper atmosphere resulting in smog all around big cities. This causes difficulties in breathing and is a serious health hazard for the citizens. Most aware citizens have been preventing any burning of weeds and garbage in their neighbourhood. This fortnight provides an opportunity to conduct many education and awareness campaigns. When plastics and polythene are burnt along with garbage and weeds, more obnoxious gases are emitted and it may be very difficult to stay around. All such emissions are greenhouse gases and find a place in the upper atmosphere when the weather pattern is favourable. Among these gases, carbon dioxide is a nonreactive compound and it stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. It accelerates the temperature rise. We are already facing adverse consequences in the warming world. We must bring changes in our behaviour. (The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

How shared decision-making and digital solutions are transforming healthcare

Digital innovations like the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission offer hope for improving communication and fostering patient autonomy in healthcare decisions

In the evolving landscape of healthcare, patient satisfaction and engagement as equal partners in their care journey have become pivotal. The quality of the patient experience—how well they feel cared for—greatly influences their perception of healthcare services. Many countries, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, have recognised this and introduced standards that emphasize active patient involvement to improve care outcomes. Shared decision-making (SDM) has gained significant global traction as a means to promote patient autonomy and foster truly patient-centered care.



SHUCHIN BAJAJ

process where patients and healthcare professionals work together to make informed decisions about treatment plans. This collaboration spans various aspects, from immediate treatment needs to long-term care plans, such as advance care planning. Healthcare providers play a crucial role in facilitating this process by offering clear information and supporting patient

deliberation, empowering individuals to make decisions based on their preferences, values, and informed consent. Engaging patients in the decision-making process is essential to improving healthcare outcomes and experiences. When patients are confident and well-informed, they are more likely to choose treatments that align with their personal beliefs and preferences. This also increases health literacy, leading to better long-term decisions and greater satisfaction. Active patient participation can result in faster recovery times, reduced anxiety, and improved adherence to treatment plans. Patients who are actively involved in their care tend to have better outcomes, including improved overall well-being and quick-

er recovery from illness or surgery. Moreover, patients who feel respected and valued in the decision-making process tend to develop stronger relationships with their healthcare providers. This trust benefits both the patient and the provider, often leading to better treatment outcomes and reducing the risk of medical litigation. In today's healthcare environment, where patient-centered care is increasingly prioritized, the active participation of patients is key to achieving meaningful and lasting improvements. From a business perspective, higher patient satisfaction can lead to more returning patients, better reviews, and an increase in foot traffic for healthcare providers.

Challenges of Patient Engagement in India: In India, the desire for more patient involvement in healthcare decisions is growing, but significant barriers remain. Many patients report feeling inadequately informed about treatment plans even after consenting to surgery, often seeking external sources of information. A study conducted at a tertiary hospital revealed that although all patients were aware of their diagnosis, less than one-third knew about the risks of their treatment or alternative options. Consequently, many sought answers outside their treating doctor, demonstrating a gap in communication between patients and providers. Patient involvement in treat-

ment decisions is largely limited to high-end healthcare institutions such as tertiary care centers, academic hospitals, or high-cost therapies. Overworked clinical staff in India often lack the time to engage patients meaningfully in the decision-making process. **Leveraging Digital Solutions for Better Patient Care:** Digital technologies offer significant hope for improving patient engagement. These innovations enhance patient deliberation, promote self-responsibility, and strengthen patient-provider interactions. For resource-limited, overburdened healthcare systems like India's, digital solutions can save clinicians' time while boosting patient engagement, making them especially suit-

able for low-resource environments. India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an interoperable ecosystem that engages all healthcare stakeholders, providing tools to promote patient autonomy and facilitate patient-centered care. The convergence of global discourse, national policies, rising patient demand for participation, and available digital solutions presents an excellent opportunity to mainstream this approach across India. One of the significant ways digital solutions enhance patient engagement is by providing patients with access to comprehensive health records. When patients have control over their health information,

they can make better-informed decisions, improving their involvement in the care process. For clinicians, access to long-term records enables more personalized treatment options. Through the ABDM, patient records are linked by a unique 14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), ensuring that all health data—from diagnostics to treatment histories—are stored in one place. This enables providers to help patients make informed decisions based on accurate, comprehensive histories, while patients can participate actively by accessing their records at any time. (The writer is Founder & Director - Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services; views are personal)

Bangladesh-India ties should be 'very close' despite regime change: Yunus

PTI ■ DHAKA
Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that Dhaka-Delhi relations should be "very close" despite the recent regime change in the country...

idents in Bangladesh might have "disheartened" India and "they were not pleased with the changes." He did not mention the incidents.

same time, strengthening SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). Yunus said Delhi must forge good relations with Bangladesh not because "we are forcing them" but because this was "necessary in their own interest" as well.

Six injured at Little India shophouses following blast

PTI ■ SINGAPORE
Six people were injured on Tuesday following a partial collapse of two shophouses at Little India, a popular shopping arcade for Indian tourists...

minor injuries, declined to go to the hospital. This is the first blast incident damaging property in the usually crowded area of the Little India precincts.

away from the affected site, evacuated around 60 of its guests, and they were allowed to return to their rooms only at 5 am.

French govt faces no-trust vote

AP ■ PARIS
France's minority government is expected to survive a no-confidence vote on Tuesday in a test for new conservative Prime Minister Michel Barnier, forced to rely on the far right's goodwill to be able to stay in power.

the choice of Barnier as prime minister as they were not given a chance to form a minority government, despite securing the most seats at the National Assembly.

Lankan minister defends govt of arrival of Chinese military ship

PTI ■ COLOMBO
Sri Lanka's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath on Tuesday defended the government's move to allow a Chinese military training ship to arrive in Colombo...

exchanges with other countries," said a statement. Herath, also the Cabinet Spokesman, said Sri Lanka maintains balanced diplomatic relations with all countries.

Lanka. Herath's predecessor Ali Sabry in July said that Sri Lanka was to review the moratorium to decide if to continue with it or lift it.

between the two navies, crew members of the ship are set to participate in a series of programmes organized by the Sri Lanka Navy, according to an official statement.

China attaches 'importance' to President Murmu's greetings

PTI ■ BEIJING
China on Tuesday said it attaches "importance" to President Droupadi Murmu's letter to her Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), asserting that Beijing stands ready to jointly promote the sound and steady development of bilateral ties.

eral ties. In the letter dated September 27 to Xi on the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the PRC, Murmu said, "It is important that we work towards peaceful and stable relations between our two countries."

on the China-India relations. "We express our appreciation" for President Murmu's letter, Mao told a media briefing replying to a question.

India border is currently stable on the whole, she said, adding that "at the recent 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs (WMCC), the two sides further narrowed down differences, expanded common understandings and agreed to find early resolution to the situation on the border."

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHIEF ENGINEER DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2022-23. Tender Sale Date: 09-10-2024 10:00 AM to Date 04-11-2024 upto 15:00 PM. Pre Bid Meeting-22/10/2024, 15:00PM. Bid Submission Start & End Date:- 09-10-2024 10:00 AM to Date 04-11-2024 upto 15:00 PM Technical Envelope Opening Date:- 05-11-2024 15:00 PM.

UPGRADATION OF GOODS YARD FACILITIES AT KATHIAR DIVISION. E-Tender Notice No. KIR/GSU/17 of 2024 Dated: 04-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1. Brief Description of work: Adina: Upgradation of goods yard facilities like CCTV, lighting arrangement, circulating area development and drainage along with other ancillary works.

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL. 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh). SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION. O.A.No.882 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993).

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL. 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh). SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION. O.A.No.1167 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993).

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL. 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh). SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION. O.A.No.1167 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993).

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL. 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh). SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION. O.A.No.1167 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993).

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL. 600/1, University Road near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh). SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION. O.A.No.1167 OF 2023 DATE:-05.04.2024 (Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993).

TRACK PROTECTION WORKS. Tender Notice No. GMW-082024-MLG. Date: 04-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: GMW-082024-MLG. Name of Work: Providing and Erecting Metal W-beam crash barrier safety fencing along the track in connection to stop cattle crossing.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

DEMAND NOTICE. Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created therefor along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") to an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (JM) (herein referred as Assignee).

S&T WORK. E-Tender No. SNT-31-LMG-2024-25; Dated: 05-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work & Place: Associate S&T work for provision of IP-based Integrated passenger Information system (IPIS) as per RDSO/SPN/TC/108/2019 with digital announcement system in connection with the renovation and re-development work in Agartala station (Phase-1).

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

DEMAND NOTICE. Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd have assigned a pool of loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created therefor along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") to an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (JM) (herein referred as Assignee).

Tamil Nadu Government urges Samsung workers to resume work

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the agitating workers of the Samsung India Electronics factory near here to return to work immediately, considering the welfare of other employees and their families.

Minister for Industries TRB Rajaa, who held talks with the management and workers, separately over the last two days to resolve the issues, wondered if it was fair on the part of the employees to continue their protest just because they were unable to get Centre of Indian Trade Unions-backed Union registered by the labour department.

"We all know that the issue of union recognition is subjudice. We cannot discuss it now. The government is with you, Chief Minister M K Stalin is with you and considering all these factors, they should return to work immediately," Rajaa said while addressing reporters at the Secretariat.

Pressing for various demands including wage revision, better working conditions and recognition of the Union backed by CITU, about 1,100 employees of the total 1,750 workforce of Samsung India went on strike since



September 9 at Sriperumbudur near here.

Rajaa said that the employees have listed nearly 14 demands, which include better amenities at the factory. In response to this, the management promised to address it.

Noting that Chief Minister Stalin has always made well being of workers his top priority, Rajaa recalled that whenever companies were invited to set up shop in the state, he was keen to know about the number of jobs that would be created in the state.

"... When we have Chief Minister M K Stalin why

should they worry. They (employees) should return to work immediately," he said.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, Rajaa said he met Samsung India Electronics Ltd officials along with this cabinet colleague T M Anbarasan (MSME) and C V Ganesan (Labour) and held talks with the agitating workers, CITU officials and even those who are currently working at the Sriperumbudur plant.

"When we met the employees working at the factory, they expressed apprehension of losing their jobs because of the ongoing strike," he said.

With the extension of the strike, Rajaa said workers may tend to lose their salaries by continuing the agitation and keeping the forthcoming festive season and their families in mind, they should call off the strike and return to work immediately. "Most of the workers are newly married and some have just started their career. Some of them are already paid salaries ranging between Rs 30,000 to Rs 60,000," he said.

Meanwhile, Samsung India Electronics said the company on Monday signed an agreement with the workers committee of the factory in Chennai.

"Both parties agreed on collaborative efforts to make the Chennai factory a great place to work. We will engage with workmen directly to address the difficulties faced by them. We will also work with them for the development of the community in Chennai as a responsible company," a company spokesperson said in an update.

On the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to end the stir, Samsung said they are thankful to the authorities for their constant support. "We reiterate that we comply with all laws and regulations of the country," the spokesperson added.

SpiceJet to add ten new aircrafts by next month



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it will enhance its fleet by another 10 aircraft by next month with the first plane set to be inducted on October 10. Seven of these aircraft will be acquired on lease, while three previously grounded ones are being reintroduced, SpiceJet said in a release.

The Gurugram-headquartered airline has only 19 aircraft in operations while as many as 36 planes were on grounded as of October 8 according to the live aircraft fleet tracking website, Planespotters.net. The announcement comes on the back of SpiceJet securing Rs 3,000 crore fresh capital infusion through QIP late last month.

The airline will receive an additional Rs 736 crore from

a previous funding round, further bolstering its financial stability and growth trajectory.

SpiceJet said it has already signed agreements for the leased aircraft, with the full induction of all seven planes expected by November 15.

Two of these leased aircraft have already arrived in India and are scheduled for immediate induction, the airline said, adding that it will also operationalise its grounded planes in phases, with the first three set to re-enter service before the end of November.

"This addition (of 10 aircraft) is crucial as we continue to meet the growing demand for air travel while strengthening our operational capabilities," SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said.



Tea exports rise despite price decline

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea exports between January and July this year have touched 144.50 million kilograms, up by 23.79 per cent from the year-ago period, Tea Board said. The country had shipped out 116.73 million kilograms in the corresponding period of the 2023 calendar year.

Unit price realisation, however, has declined to Rs 256.37 per kilogram during the first seven months of 2024 as against Rs 264.96 per kilogram in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has approved a scheme for development and

promotion of the tea industry, involving an outlay of Rs 664.09 crore, a Tea Board official said.

The amount would be spent during the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission cycle from the 2023-24 financial year to 2025-26 under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme.

The approval covers major components such as plantation development and quality up gradation, promotion and market support, technological intervention, research and development and welfare and capacity-building measures.

BYD launches new electric MPV

eMAX 7 starts at ₹ 26.9 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese electric carmaker launched their latest product, the eMAX 7 in the Indian market. This Multi-Person Vehicle (MPV) that will replace the e6 in India. One of the vehicle's notable changes over the outgoing model is the integration of the 8-in-1 electric powertrain from BYD's highly acclaimed e-platform 3.0 and two seating options of 6 or 7 seats.



The largest Chinese New Energy Vehicle (NEV) carmaker, BYD recently sold its 9 millionth vehicle worldwide and is on the cusp of reaching the 10 million mark. Rajeev Chauhan, Head of Electric Passenger Vehicles, BYD India, said, "The launch of the BYD eMAX 7 is testament to our unwavering commitment to innovation and sustainability. This electric MPV is not just a

vehicle; it's a revolution in how progressive families experience travel."

Currently, BYD sells only a limited range of products in India, the Atto 3, e6 and Seal alongside this new vehicle and has 27 showrooms across 23 cities in India. Plans by the Chinese carmaker to expand operations in India along with their partner Megha Engineering were halted by the government last year.

Top eight housing markets see annual sales dip in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales declined 5 per cent in the July-September quarter across the top eight cities due to a fall in new supply and sharp appreciation in prices, according to PropTiger.

Real estate brokerage platform PropTiger.Com, which is part of Australia's REA group that owns Housing.Com, on Tuesday, released its report 'Real Insight' on India's residential market.

A total of 96,544 units were sold in July-September, down 5 per cent from 1,01,221 units sold during the same period in 2023.

The number of new residential units launched in the top 8 markets fell 25 per cent to 91,863 units from 1,23,080 units. PropTiger pointed out that a sharp increase in home prices, averaging a nearly 20 per cent increase across the top eight cities, impacted affordability. As per the data, housing sales rose only in Delhi-NCR and declined in the other seven



major cities. Delhi-NCR saw a 29 per cent growth in sales to 10,098 units during July-September from 7,800 units in the year-ago period. However, the sales declined 9 per cent in Ahmedabad to 9,352 units from 10,305 units. Bengaluru witnessed an 11 per cent fall in sales to 11,160 units from 12,588 units. Housing sales in Chennai dropped 8 per cent to 3,560 units from 3,874 units. Hyderabad registered a 19 per

cent decline in sales to 11,564 units from 14,191 units, while Kolkata saw a 22 per cent dip to 2,796 units from 3,607 units. Sales of residential properties in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region dipped 1 per cent to 30,010 units from 30,299 units. In Pune, the housing sales decreased 3 per cent to 18,004 units during July-September this year from 18,557 units in the year-ago period.

Airtel identifies 51 million spam calls through AI

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Bharti Airtel through its AI-powered spam detection solution identified 51 million potential spam calls and 1.6 million spam SMSes in Rajasthan in the last 10 days since its launch, a company official said on Tuesday.

The solution alerts customers to malicious links received via SMS. "For this, Airtel has built a centralised database of blacklisted URLs, and every SMS is scanned in real-time by a state-of-the-art AI algorithm to caution users from accidentally clicking on suspicious links," Marut Dilawari, Chief Executive Officer, Rajasthan, Bharti Airtel, said. Further, he added that the system is a first-of-its-kind solution by a telecom service provider. The solution has been auto-activated at no cost for all Airtel customers.

Sunsilk campaigns on Kolkata's trams for Durga Puja



PNS ■ KOLKATA

Sunsilk launched a unique campaign in Kolkata, using the city's beloved trams not just as a mode of transportation, but as a celebration of beauty and tradition. From September 27th to October 2nd, the trams have been transformed into vibrant SunsilK showcases as part of the milestone #SunsilkShineTram activation, celebrating SunsilK's Super Shine Hair

Serum during Durga Puja. Kolkata's trams, an intrinsic part of the city's culture might not run for much longer, SunsilK, in a very unique way paid tribute to these historic symbols while highlighting the beauty and strength of women during Durga Puja. Much like the trams that have carried generations, SunsilK carries forward a tradition of care and beauty, blending modern needs with the city's deep-rooted culture.

Airtel-Nokia 'Green 5G' initiative to cut carbon emissions



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telco major Bharti Airtel and Finnish telecom and IT company Nokia on Tuesday said their collaboration to launch the 'Green 5G' initiative is aimed at improving energy efficiency on Airtel's mobile network and reduce its carbon emissions by 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually. The project will focus on enhancing energy efficiency across Airtel's extensive 4G/5G Radio Access Network (RAN) by leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning, as well as a suite of advanced software features and innovative solutions, a joint statement said. "The comprehensive solution is expected to enhance energy efficiency during peak and off-peak

hours and is projected to reduce Airtel's carbon emissions by an estimated 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually," it said. The partnership will focus on 'zero-traffic, zero-watt operation', reducing the radio network's power consumption during periods of no traffic, thereby conserving power and optimising energy management.

"Nokia has committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2040. Our innovative technologies will not only enhance the overall performance of communications networks but also significantly help reduce their energy consumption, contributing to the energy efficiency targets of our customers," Tarun Chhabra, Head of Mobile Networks at Nokia,

India, said. Airtel and Nokia have also trialled advanced digital design tools to optimise cell configurations for lower transmitted power. This positively impacts the CO2 footprint and energy bills without compromising the network performance or user experience, the statement said. Bharti Airtel CTO Randeep Sekhon said the partnership will enable a significant reduction in carbon footprint and further Airtel's environmental objectives. As part of its sustainability effort, Airtel has so far deployed solar-powered systems in around 25,000 sites up to now and substantially increased the renewable energy usage at its data centres, sourced 220,541 MWh through green power wheeling agreements.

India's potential to produce 8-10 million tonnes of sustainable aviation fuel by 2040: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has the potential to produce 8-10 million tonnes of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) by 2040, and investments worth USD 70-85 billion will be required to achieve the projected production, according to a report.

In the report released on Tuesday, leading consultancy Deloitte India said the 8-10 million tonnes production of SAF would surpass the country's estimated domestic demand of 4.5 million tonnes for a 15 per cent blending mandate in 2040 across all flights.

The expected scenario could also position India as a leading SAF exporter serving global markets. "Investments worth Rs 6-7 lakh crore (USD 70-85 billion) would be required to realise the projected SAF production capacity. It will give impetus to the aviation sector's decarbonisation efforts, reducing carbon emissions to 20-25 million tonnes annually," the report said. India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, and efforts are going on to decarbonise the sector. According to the report, the projected capital investment of



Rs 6-7 lakh crore will also help create 1.1-1.4 million jobs across the value chain and reduce crude oil import bills by USD 5-7 billion annually. "Further, SAF production can boost farmers' income by 10-15 per cent by using agricultural residue as feedstock, providing a sustainable alternative to the current practice of burning crop waste," it added. The country's estimated surplus of 230 million tonnes of agricultural residue will be a crucial resource for producing SAF. It will serve as a vital feedstock for ethanol (2G) production, a key component in the Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) technology pathway for SAF manufacturing. Ethanol (2G or second generation) is produced from other non-food feedstock apart from molasses. At the same time, the report said, the ATJ route with ethanol (1G) produced from sugar and grain can provide an initial boost until the

technology fully matures. "Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Used Cooking Oil (UCO) will contribute to the overall potential. Alternate feedstock such as sweet sorghum, seaweed and industrial waste can give further impetus to SAF potential with technological maturity," it noted. Prashanth Nutula, Partner at Deloitte India, said the drive to produce SAF is quickly becoming a reality globally and in India. With a 2-3 per cent share in the global ATF market, India is favourably positioned in the global aviation fuel market, including SAF. Moreover, India also emerges as a competitive geography due to its proximity to airline hubs in the Middle East and Europe and favourable cost structures. As a result, India is poised to play a pivotal role as global demand for SAF surges, Prashanth Nutula, Partner at Deloitte India, said.

HIL can transform Indian hockey's landscape, feels Salima Tete

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's team captain Salima Tete can't wait for the upcoming Hockey India League as she feels that the event will help shape the careers of young players and build a strong bench strength for the national team. The HIL is all set to return after seven years in December this year. The revamped league will feature the first standalone women's hockey league in the country that will run concurrently with the men's competition to be held from December 28 to February 1 at two venues Ranchi (women) and Rourkela (men). The men's event will feature eight teams, while the women's competition will comprise six sides. "I am very excited for HIL, it is restarting after seven years and with a women's league this time. The whole team has been discussing what a great opportunity this is for



us the last few days. We will get to mingle with players from different nationalities, play with them, play against them and improve as players," Salima said. "It will give youngsters who aren't a part of the senior

team a chance to see the daily routines of Indian players and foreign players up close. And being in a high-performance, professional environment early in their career will do wonders for their development. "I expect the HIL will be

beneficial for players who have been out of the team as well, giving them an opportunity to compete at the highest level and keep themselves sharp," she added. The women's League will conclude on January 26 next year in Ranchi, while the

men's final is slated for February 1 in Rourkela. The players' auction for the league will be held from October 13 to 15. Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars. Players will be divided into three slabs with base prices of Rs two lakh, Rs five lakh, and Rs 10 lakh each. "The auction is coming up soon and there is a buzz around the camp. Since it is the first edition, I would have liked nothing more than to play for the Ranchi team. Hopefully, one of the two remaining women's team is based out of there," said Salima. "It is going to be a great experience to play a full-fledged league nevertheless. It will be our first time playing for a completely new team, new coach, new teammates and I cannot wait for the Hockey India League to begin," she signed off.

Title holders India to open women's ACT campaign against Malaysia



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time champions India will open their title defence against Malaysia in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament beginning in Bihar on November 11. The tournament will feature six teams -- hosts and defending champions India, China, three-time winners Korea, two-time champions Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. According to the official schedule announced by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) on Tuesday, the tournament, to be played in

Rajgir, will conclude on November 20. India won the tournament in 2016 in Singapore before reclaiming the title in Ranchi last year. After Malaysia, the Indian women will take on Korea on November 12, followed by matches against Thailand (November 14), China (November 16) and Japan (November 17). The top four teams after the round robin format will qualify for the semifinals to be held on November 19, followed by the summit clash on November 20. "The Rajgir Hockey Stadium

stands as a symbol of the region's commitment to fostering world-class sports, and we are confident that it will provide an exceptional experience for players and fans," AHF president Dato Fumio Ogura said in a statement. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said it will be a historic occasion for the state of Bihar. "The newly constructed Rajgir Hockey Stadium will serve as the perfect stage for this prestigious tournament, and we are excited to see India defend their title against some of the best teams in Asia," he said.

Tsitsipas sets up Medvedev clash in Shanghai Masters

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Stefanos Tsitsipas' rivalry with Daniil Medvedev will add another chapter after the Greek player beat Alexandre Muller 6-3 7-5 at the Shanghai Masters here on Tuesday. The 12th-ranked Tsitsipas and the Russian former US Open champion will meet for a 14th time, and first in nearly a year. The fifth-ranked Medvedev has a commanding 9-4 lead in the head-to-head series, which has spilled over into a war of words off the court in the past. "I consider him someone that I respect on the tour, much more than I did before," Tsitsipas said. "We've had some heated things on the court in the past, but I think those things have resolved themselves over time, and we also had the time to speak about those things and have a common understanding of why these things happen. "What is missing is trying to get a good win under my belt, and that will redeem my efforts for so far of trying to get better. My whole goal is to get out there, play the best tennis that I can." Tsitsipas had to wait out a two-day rain delay to play his third-round match against Muller, but looked in complete control until losing his serve at 5-3 in the second set. Unperturbed, the Greek broke back to love to clinch the match and renew his six-year rivalry with Medvedev. No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton



put away Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3 6-4, firing eight aces and 24 winners to line up top seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round. Seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz also advanced with ease, beating Japan's Yosuke Watanuki 6-3 6-4, while Grigor Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, beat Alexei Popyrin 7-6(5) 6-3. Gael Monfils upset 15th-ranked Ugo Humbert 7-6(7) 2-6 6-1 in an all-French match-up. The 38-year-old Monfils, ranked 46th, is the second oldest player to reach the Shanghai fourth round in Shanghai, behind only Roger Federer (also 38) in 2019. "It's never easy to play Ugo, he's really aggressive, playing

fast off both wings and takes a lot of time from you," said Monfils, who plays second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz next. "Carlos is in a confident mood (having) just won a tournament (China Open), so that's going to be a tough one for sure." Also, Tomas Machac, who made the semifinals in Tokyo, eased past Australian Alexander Vukic 6-4 6-2 and next faces No. 13-ranked Tommy Paul in the third round. Later on Tuesday, four-time champion Novak Djokovic plays his third-round match against Flavio Cobolli, bidding to capture his 100th tour-level title. Third-ranked Alexander Zverev faces Tallon Griekspoor of the

Netherlands in a night match. Wuhan Open Katerina Siniakova had a comfortable 6-3 6-1 victory over Alexandra Eala of the Philippines to set up a second-round match against defending champion Aryna Sabalenka. Second-ranked Sabalenka, who won the title the last time it was played in 2019, needs only to make the quarterfinals at Wuhan to regain top spot in the rankings from Iga Swiatek, who withdrew from the women's Asian swing citing fatigue and personal reasons. Swiatek recently split with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski. Magda Linette of Poland routed No. 23-ranked Liudmila Samsonova 6-2 6-2, and Ekaterina Alexandrova beat former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin of the US 6-1 4-6 6-4. Other winners included Britain's Katie Boulter, American Amanda Anisimova, Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova and Romania's Jaqueline Cristian, who has Paris Olympics gold medalist Zheng Qinwen next. After snapping a 24-match losing streak at the China Open last week, Zhang Shuai's change of fortune turned in Wuhan as she lost to Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-4 6-4 in the first round. The top eight seeds, including Sabalenka and China Open champion Coco Gauff, received a first-round bye.

Young Indian sailors bag seven medals at Mussanah Race Week in Oman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian sailors dished out an impressive show, returning with a rich haul of seven medals, including one gold, four silver and two bronze at the Mussanah Race Week in Oman, an international regatta for youth sailors. India ruled the Optimist Girls U-15 category, with Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan and Kommaravelly Lahari securing the top-two spots. Shreya clinched the gold medal with a net score of 28 points. She put up strong performances, finishing second and third in her first and fifth races respectively. Across six races, her other finishes were ninth, sixth, eighth, and 24th in her final race, which was discarded as her worst result following the scoring system where the worst finish is dropped. Her overall score was 52 points, but after the discard her net score stood at 28, securing her the gold medal. Kommaravelly followed with a silver, finishing with 50 net points, while Singapore's Tong Xuan Ya claimed bronze. In the ILCA-4 U-16 category, India's Shashank Batham and Akshat Kumar Dohare claimed silver and bronze respectively. Shashank finished just two points behind Oman's Abdulatif Ziyad Al Qasim, who topped three of the seven races (second, third, and fourth) and won with 12 net points.



Shashank won two races (first and sixth) but finished ninth in the second race, which hurt his chances for gold. His worst race was discarded, leaving him with a total of 14 net points. Akshat secured bronze with a score of 29 net points after seven races. In the ILCA-4 girls U-16 category, India's Soumya Singh Patel and Shagun Jha took second and third places respectively. Soumya accumulated 39 net points, while Shagun finished with 49 points.

UAE's Marwa Al Hammadi claimed gold with 31.5 net points. In the ILCA-6 girls U-19 category, Maanya Reddy narrowly missed out on gold, finishing second with 74 net points, just behind the UAE's Camelia Al Qubaisi, who secured gold with 77 points. A total of 106 sailors from Oman, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Thailand, Singapore and India competed in the three-day annual age-group sailing event from October 4-7, which featured races in the Optimist boys and girls ILCA

4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and RS Venture classes. The Optimist Class is a one-design dinghy class for young sailors, typically aged 8-15, with a scoring system that drops the worst finish from a sailor's total points to calculate the net score. The ILCA (Laser) Class is a single-handed dinghy class featuring different rig sizes (ILCA-4, ILCA-6, ILCA-7) for different age groups, using a similar net point scoring format. It's popular for its competitiveness and Olympic status.

Reinforced Barcelona targets third straight Women's Champions League title

AP ■ MADRID

Barcelona will go for its third straight Women's Champions League title with a squad boosted by Poland star striker Ewa Pajor and with Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas on new contracts. The group stage begins on Tuesday and the Catalan side is trying to become only the second team after Lyon to win three straight titles or reach five straight finals. Barcelona beat Lyon in last season's final, when Ballon d'Or winners Bonmati and Putellas each scored. Both had their club contracts extended. Pajor, who joined from Wolfsburg, was the competition's top scorer in 2022-23 as the German club reached a final that it lost to Barcelona despite a goal by her. In her nine seasons with Wolfsburg, Pajor won 14 titles and scored 136 times despite a series of injuries. She was not able to win a Champions League even though she played in three finals and was part of a run to another.

Barcelona has also added Kika Nazareth from Portuguese club Benfica. Their first game is on Wednesday against Group D rival Manchester City in a rematch of the 2020-21 quarterfinals, where Barcelona triumphed after a 4-2 first-leg win and a 2-1 second-leg defeat in what was its only loss that campaign. Barcelona's squad also includes former City players Keira Walsh and Ellie Roebuck. "It's the first time I've been back to Manchester since I left," Walsh said on Monday. "I know I have a professional job to do and it won't be an easy game, but it will be nice to have all my friends and family in the stands." Lyon's firepower takes on Galatasaray. It could prove a busy night on Tuesday for Galatasaray's defense and goalkeeper Gamze Yaman. Group A opponent Lyon boasts the all-time top scorer in the Women's Champions League, Ada Hegerberg, who has two seasons of 50-plus goals during her 10-year spell



at the club. The Norway striker, who won the first women's Ballon d'Or, has 64 competition goals, while teammate Eugénie Le

Sommer, third on the all-time list, needs two to reach 50. They form the spine of the team with captain Wendie Renard, the Women's

Champions League record-holder for appearances with 116. Lyon has been in good scoring touch so far, netting

16 goals in its first three French league games, with American midfielder Lindsey Horan getting five and France striker Kadidiatou Diani scoring two. French hopes rest on Lyon after Paris Saint-Germain - a semifinalist last season - was eliminated by Juventus in qualifying. Lyon is the competition's record eight-time winner but last won the trophy in 2022. It was runner-up last season to Barcelona. The club hired a new coach in June, with Australian Joseph Montemurro replacing Frenchwoman Sonia Bompastor, who joined Chelsea. The contrast in experience between the sides is noticeable. Galatasaray's team was founded in 2011 and the senior team started only in 2021. Galatasaray will be making its competition debut after a qualifying run that included triumphs over former quarterfinalist Slavia Praha. It is the first Turkish team to get to the group stage. It won its first national title last season in only its third

campaign. Wolfsburg starts against Roma. Two-time champion Wolfsburg begins its Group A campaign on Tuesday at Italian champion Roma, which drew with the German club on its last visit two years ago. Both teams will want to make a good start with Lyon and Galatasaray the other group teams. Wolfsburg warmed up by routing Leipzig 5-0 in the Bundesliga on Friday, when Alexandra Popp set up three goals. Popp announced her international retirement last week, meaning her focus is fully on leading Wolfsburg to more honors. She is just two games away from becoming the second player to reach 100 Champions League appearances, after Wendie Renard. Wolfsburg is unbeaten in five away meetings against Italian sides, but Roma is unbeaten in 14 home games in all competitions. Chelsea without Hayes Life after Emma Hayes has started well for Chelsea.

Hayes left to take over the United States women's team in the offseason and carried on her winning ways by taking gold at the Paris Olympics. After 14 major titles, she left big shoes for her replacement Bompastor to fill, but it has been an impressive start for the former Lyon coach. Chelsea opened its Super League campaign by beating Aston Villa 1-0 followed by routing Crystal Palace 7-0. First up for the Blues in Group B is a home game on Tuesday with Real Madrid, which has made a perfect start in the Spanish league, winning five out of five to trail leader Barcelona on goal difference. Bayern's momentum One-time champion Arsenal faces a tough opening Group C match on Wednesday at two-time defending German champion Bayern, which has made a seven-game winning start to the season, including a 1-0 victory over Wolfsburg in the German Supercup. A 1-0 win over Cologne on Saturday stretched Bayern's unbeaten run in the Bundesliga to 44 games.

