ARGENTINA WINS

11 SPORTS

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BOMB HOAXES A RED HERRING?



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

was the 19th confirmed

instance of a bomb threat to

an Indian carrier's flight over

the past 48 hours. Worried

over a trend of surge in hoax

bomb threat messages, Delhi

Police has registered seven

FIRs at Indira Gandhi

International Airport, in

connection with bomb threats

to several domestic and

international flights in the last

two days and launched a probe into the matter

According to sources, top officials of Ministry of Home ultiple bomb threats Affairs (MHA), Ministry of continued to disrupt Aviation (MoCA), LV Lairline operations in Directorate General of Civil the country for the third Aviation (DGCA), National Investigation Agency (NIA), consecutive day. Eight flights, Intelligence Bureau (IB) and four of IndiGo, two of Bureau of Civil Aviation SpiceJet and one of Akasa Air, received bomb threats on (BCAS) Security Wednesday, leading to long Wednesday met to discuss the delays and diversions. All the bomb threats received by airlines. The authorities are threats turned out to be also planning putting the hoax callers on 'no-fly list' hoaxes. However, there was panic amongst air passengers. It is not clear what triggered and increasing the number of air marshals on flights. the sudden surge in hoax A unit of National Security bomb threats since Monday. The threat message to IndiGo

Guard (NSG) commandos is deployed as air marshals mainly on international routes and some sensitive domestic routes. Sky marshals are armed plain clothes security officers who travel on passenger planes.

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu Wednesday said closely government is monitoring the situation due to bomb threats to flights and asserted that all necessary

measures are taken against such activities.

Strongly condemning the recent bomb threats to Indian carriers, the minister said the Mumbai police have arrested a minor responsible for issuing bomb threats to three and that others flights responsible for disruptions will be identified and prosecuted. The enforcement agencies are pursuing all cases actively, he

flights received bomb threats and the total count has climbed to at least 19 in three days. The threats have turned out to be hoaxes. On Wednesday, bomb threats were received by four IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet flights and one flight of Akasa Air. On Tuesday late at night, one flight each of Vistara and Air India Express had received the threats. IndiGo received

bomb threats for three flights,

including the Riyadh-Mumbai flight 6E 74 that was

diverted to Muscat (Oman)

In less than 24 hours, nine

aircraft has been isolated, and all passengers been disembarked," an airline spokesperson said in a statement. Another flight 6E 1011 from Mumbai to Singapore received a securityrelated alert and the flight landed at Singapore. Also, IndiGo's flight 6E 515,

operating from Chennai to Lucknow, received a securityrelated alert. After landing at Lucknow, the aircraft was positioned at an isolated bay and all passengers have been disembarked. safely Meanwhile, late on Tuesday, a

Mumbai-bound IndiGo flight from the national capital was diverted to Ahmedabad after a bomb threat. An Akasa Air flight enroute to Bengaluru Delhi on returned to Wednesday afternoon following a bomb threat.

Earlier, three international flights, one of Air India and two of IndiGo, had received bomb threats on Monday while another nine flights spanning across all major carriers had received threats on Tuesday. All the threats came via social media platforms, and eventually turned out to be fake.

This prompted Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)to seek a report from Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) on bomb threats that have recently, been received disrupting services.

SC slams Punjab, Haryana for inaction on stubble burning



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Coming down heavily on Punjab and Haryana Governments over nonprosecution of stubble burning, the Supreme Court on Wednesday summoned the Chief Secretaries on October 23 for explanation of no action against the violators. A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine

George Maish pointed out "complete insensitivity" on the part of both States, directing the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to take penal action against both the Government officials for the failure to take action against the violators. The Supreme Court called CAQM a toothless tiger that only passed directions without any implementation.

"This is not a political

matter. If the Chief Secretary is acting at somebody's behest, we will issue summons against them as well. Next Wednesday (October 23) we are going to physically call for the chief secretary and explain everything. Nothing has been done, same is with the Punjab government. The attitude is of complete defiance," the Bench remarked, pointing out that both States have not taken any steps to implement the directions issued by the CAOM, in the national capital region (NCR) in June 2021, to stop stubble

burning. the Punjab Slamming Government, the SC said not even a single prosecution has been carried out in the past three years and it was only tolerating breaches.



Anand Vihar!

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

 $T_{\text{Capital has turned}}^{\text{he air of the national}}$ extremely hazardous for the public as data by the AQICN revealed that the Anand Vihar recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 999 at 8 pm on Wednesday. Across the city, alarming AQI levels were reported, Sector 8, Dwarka recorded an index of 876, Mundka was 465, R.K. Puram was 334, Rohini was 322 and Narela was at 305. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the National Capital recorded an average AQI of 230.

Omar Abdullah back in the hot seat

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with Lok Sabha LoP Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, and party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the swearing-in ceremony of the Union Territory's new government, in Srinagar



Gold, silver soar to a new high

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Diwali, Gold prices on Wednesday touched a new all-time high of ₹78,900 per 10 grams in the national Capital, ie to sustained huving jewellers. The precious metal had closed at ₹78,650 per 10 grams in the previous session on Tuesday.

Silver also followed the suit and surged ₹1,000 to ₹93,500 per kg due to fresh buying from industrial units and coin makers. On Tuesday, it had finished at ₹92,500 per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹250 to hit a fresh record high of ₹78,500 per 10 grams against the previous close of ₹78,250 per 10 grams.

The All India Sarafa Association attributed the rise in gold prices due to strong demand by local jewellers. Besides, the decline in equity markets also aided the rally in the yellow metal as investors moved towards the safe haven assets like gold. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery climbed ₹268 or 0.35 per cent to ₹76,628 per 10 grams. Silver contracts for December delivery zoomed by ₹580 or 0.63 per cent to

₹92,203 per kg on the exchange. In the international markets, Comex gold futures rose 0.51 per cent to USD 2,692.50 per ounce. The yellow metal remains strongly supported by elevated geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding the United States' Presidential elections. PNS

Jharkhand list leak stuns BJP



DEEPAK KUMAR JHA **NEW DELHI**

Tn a major goof up that has not gone down well with the Bharatiya Janata Party's top leadership, a list of 35 probable candidates for the 81 member Jharkhand Assembly circulated on social media, and several news platforms, prompting the party to defer its "official' announcement for declaration of the contestants.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders were present in the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting for Jharkhand held late on Wednesday evening. Sources said the meeting continued till late night but the PM left midway.

Sources also said the PM told the members to reconsider some of the Assembly pockets since the party is banking high on the winnability of the

candidates to wrest power from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress led government in the mineral rich state.

Soon after the announcement of Assembly and By-Poll elections schedule, BJP's CEC convened a two-day marathon meeting on Tuesday and Headquarters party's national Capital to deliberate on the names of candidates for the upcoming Jharkhand and Maharashtra Assembly polls, as well as candidates for Assembly and Lok Sabha By-Polls.

The meeting for Maharashtra on Wednesday was attended by several high-profile BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP National President JP Nadda, Union Home Ministers Amit Shah, Piyush Goel Bhupender Yadav, Vaishnaw Ashwini Maharashtra deputy chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and respective state and CEC The meeting members. continued till the time of going

A day earlier CEC held a crucial meeting and discussed the names of candidates for the Jharkhand Assembly Elections. Sources said the PM left the meeting earlier and asked the CEC members to rethink on certain seats.

Must talk about lack of trust: EAM



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other leaders during the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Wednesday

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Delivering a thinly veiled message to Pakistan from its soil, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said activities across borders characterised by the "three evils" of terrorism, extremism and separatism are unlikely to encourage trade, energy flows and connec-

In his address at a conclave of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Jaishankar asserted that trade and connectivity initiatives must recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty and it is essential to have an "honest conversation" on the lack of trust.

Jaishankar spoke immediately after Sharif's inaugural address at the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the Member States of the SCO attended among others by Chinese Premier Li Qiang. His remarks came amid the lin-

gering military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh and concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indian Ocean and other strategic waters. "If activities across borders are characterised by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel," the external affairs minister said without

naming Pakistan Jaishankar arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday, becoming the first Indian foreign minister to visit

Pakistan in nearly a decade. He led the Indian delegation at the SCO-CHG summit in the Pakistani capital city. Ahead of the deliberations, PM

Sharif shook hands with Jaishankar and warmly received him and other leaders of the SCO member nations at the Jinnah Convention Centre, the venue of the summit.

In his remarks, the external offairs minister sai must be based on mutual respect and sovereign equality and that the SCO member nations can benefit immensely if the group-ing moves ahead collectively with mutual trust.

He, especially stressed on adhering to SCO charter, highlighting its underlying essence of strengthening mutual trust, friendship and good neighbourliness

"It should recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty. It must be built on genuine partnerships, not unilateral agendas.

It cannot progress if we cherrypick global practices, especially of trade and transit," he said, in remarks seen as an indirect reference to China's assertive behaviour on several critical issues such as trade and connectivity.

"But most of all, our endeavours will progress only when our commitment to the Charter remains firm. It is axiomatic that development and growth requires peace and stability.

Cabinet increases MSP of six Rabi **crops for 2025-26**

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI



Tn a significant boost for **L**farmers ahead of Diwali, the Union Cabinet chaired Prime increase in Minimum Support Price

(MSP) of six mandated Rabi crops for 2025-26 marketing season in the range of ₹130-300 per quintal. The hike in MSP is significant ahead of

elections in states like Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi. Rabi marketing season begins from April 2025. The decision was announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

The MSP for wheat has been raised by ₹150 per quintal, moving from ₹2,275 to ₹2,425 for the 2025-26 Rabi marketing season. The ₹150 per quintal hike in wheat support price is significant ahead of elections in states like Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi. Rabi marketing season begins from April 2025. Mustard saw a hike of ₹300, bringing its MSP to ₹5,950 per quintal, while the MSP for Gram/Chana was increased by ₹210 bringing the new rate to ₹5,650 per quintal.

The higher MSP for mustard and chana is expected to provide farmers with better returns and encourage more cultivation of this oilseed, which is crucial for India's pulses and edible oil supply. Mustard is widely grown in states like Rajasthan, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh while chana is widely consumed by a larger part of the population.



Traffic jams on the Ring Road go round and round...

Severe congestions on routes along, Ashram, Sarai Kale Khan, Majnu Ka Tila, Hanuman Setu, Rajghat

BY SANJAY RAI $T^{
m he}$ traffic on Ring Road is anything but a smooth circle, if anything it resembles a 'jalebi' with two wheelers, autos and even rickshaws crossing lanes in a bid to get ahead in the bumper-tobumper traffic on the circular road. From Majnu Ka Tila to Hanuman Temple these jams are making the drivers sweat in their vehicles. There is a severe traffic jam on both sides of this route from Majnu Ka Tila to Hanuman Setu. This adds to the problems of the drivers coming to Majnu Ka Tila from Rajghat side, and those coming to Hanuman Setu from Majnu Ka Tila side.

On Tuesdays, there is a severe traffic jam on both sides in front of Hanuman temple. All efforts to reduce this jam have failed. Recently, traffic signals have been installed at the end of Hanuman Mandir Setu by Delhi Traffic Police. But this has not resulted in much improvement right now.

After the inauguration of Ashram Flyover, and Ashram Flyover Extension, people were expecting some relief from the jam, but due to the bottleneck near Sarai Kale Khan on the Ring Road, the mess remains.

As soon as one descends from the Ashram flyover to the Ring Road, the traffic jams begin, due to which it takes more than halfan-hour for people to cover the



distance of about half a kilometre to Sarai Kale Khan. This is due to the ongoing construction work of the rapid rail at Sarai Kale Khan.

Meanwhile, traffic jams continue on six roads of outer Delhi. Even emergency vehicles, ambulances and fire engines also get stuck in this jam. At the same time, due to the bottle neck near Haiderpur Badli Mod on Outer Ring Road, the traffic of sixlanes gets reduced to four lanes. The jam here is due to the narrow railway bridge. Vehicles coming without stopping from elevated road Pitampura get stuck in traffic as soon as they reach here. Several meetings have also been

held between the Public Works Department (PWD) and Railways. According to PWD sources the width of this bridge can be increased soon if mutual consent is reached. Due to the construction work of

Outer Ring Road Metro, there are traffic jams from Prashant Vihar to Rohini Jail Mod. it takes about 30 to 40 minutes to cover three kilometres in, whereas earlier it used to take five to seven minutes. Vehicles coming from KN Katju

route are stuck in traffic jams as soon as they reach the outer ring road. E-rickshaws and other vehicles parked haphazardly below Rithala metro station, add to the mess.

RANCHI | THURSDAY | OCTOBER 17, 2024 East Singhbhum readies for elections: 1,913 polling stations set up

7 ith the upcoming Assembly Elections notification will be officially issued on October 18, allowing candidates to begin purchasing and filing nomination forms on the same day. Voting will take place across all six assembly constituencies in East Singhbhum district on November 13, and the counting of votes will be conducted on November 23. In a press conference

held at the Collectorate Auditorium in Jamshedpur, District Election Officer Ananya Mittal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal outlined the district's preparations for the elections. Mittal confirmed that the last date for filing nominations is October 25, with scrutiny scheduled for October 28. Candidates



will have until October 30 to withdraw their nominations. A total of 1,913 polling stations have been set up in 1,145 polling buildings across the district, ensuring East Singhbhum has a total population including male voters, 9,39,742 female voters, and 163 third-gender voters. The district also boasts 2,045

service voters. Breaking demographics further, there are 6,742 voters over the age of 85 and 15,945 voters with disabilities. The youngest age group of voters, between Political banners removed from public spaces Election Commission of India (ECI), following the imposition of the Model effect until the election

announced

Code of Conduct (MCC) on

October 15, 2024, when

Assembly Elections were

under the enforcement of

the MCC, and Sub-Divisional

Magistrates of Dhalbhum

and Ghatsila have imposed

prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Indian

The district is currently

District Additional Magistrate (ADM) for Law and Order, Aniket Sachan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Shatabdi Dhalbhum, Majumdar, conducted an investigation into the removal of political party posters and banners displayed on public and government properties in Jamshedpur's urban areas. The officials directed municipal authorities to take strict action in accordance with the guidelines set by the

18-19 years old, includes 83,750 individuals. The 20-29 age group has 395,106 voters, while the largest group of voters, aged 30-39, comprises 502,451 individuCivil Security Code (BNSS) to maintain peace and fairness in the electoral process. These orders will remain in

For the convenience of elderly and disabled voters, the Election Commission is once again providing home

voting facilities, with Block

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Collectorate

November 13.

PD ITDA

Garg, City SP

I n a proactive step towards ensuring smooth and fair

assembly elections, a com-

prehensive review meeting

was convened in the

under the leadership of

District Election Officer

Ananya Mittal. The meeting,

which gathered a significant

contingent of administrative

and police officers, aimed to

assess the readiness of the

district for the upcoming

elections, scheduled for

were Senior Superintendent

of Police Kishore Kaushal,

Chaudhary, ADM Law and

Order Aniket Sachan, SDM

Dhalbhum Mrs. Shatabdi

Majumdar, Rural SP Rishabh

Shivashish, as well as Block

Development Officers (BDOs),

Circle Officers (COs), Deputy

Superintendents of Police

(DSPs), and police station in-

charges from across the dis-

trict. The meeting delved into

critical aspects of election

preparedness, including the

identification of sensitive

polling booths, the assess-

ment of their distances from

population clusters, and the

scrutiny of expenditure-sen-

sitive pockets. Key discus-

sions also revolved around

regarding the availability of

essential facilities at polling

stations, such as water, elec-

tricity, access paths, furni-

ture, ramps for the disabled,

the investigation

Present at the meeting

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Auditorium

Dipankar

two voters aged over 110

all assembly constituencies under their jurisdiction. As per the guidelines, the

process concludes, covering

display of political material—such as slogans, posters, pamphlets, flags, banners, hoardings, and arches—on public or government property is strictly prohibited. Any violation will result in action under the Prevention of Defacement of Property Act. 1987, which outlines penalties for unauthorized public display of political content.

Level Officers (BLOs) currently conducting surveys to ensure eligible voters can access this service.

To maintain law and order and ensure smooth election proceedings, multi-

Jamshedpur Cooperative College named

main dispatch centre for 3 constituencies

including 18 Flying Squad Teams (FST), 21 Static Surveillance Teams (SST), 6 Video Viewing Teams (VVT), 14 Video Surveillance Teams (VST), and 6 Accounting Teams. Additionally, 233 sector officers and 9,182 polling personnel will be on duty during the elections. Senior Superintendent of

Police Kishore Kaushal emphasized the strict monitoring in place at inter-state and inter-district checkpoints to prevent any illegal activity or interference by anti-social elements. crackdown on criminal activities is already underway, and licensed firearms are being verified at police stations. Adequate paramilitary and police forces will also be deployed throughout the district to maintain peace and security on elec-

Garhwa SDO conducts undercover inspection of Sadar Hospital

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

Garhwa SDO conducted an undercover inspection at a Government Sadar Hospital, Garhwa, posing as a patient's attendant. The SDO, Sanjay Kumar, took this action after instructions of Garhwa Deputy Commissioner Shekhar Jamuar receiving complaints about patient inconveniences.

"Following DC's instructions, I conducted a surprise inspection of the hospital and found several defects. I sought an appointment and spoke with the doctor that my wife has a stomach ache. The doctor's behaviour was not appropriate, he stated. Regarding inspection he submitted a detail report to the DC. According to sources, the SDO mentioned in his report that drivers of the ambulances parked at the hospital were drunk and were gambling. He mentioned that a syndicate was active to run the ambulances with astronomical charges.

At the Jan Aushadhi medicine store inside the hospital it was found that generic medicines were not available. It was also found that none of the doctors present in the roster of attendance after 9:00 pm (which was written on the wall) was present. The blood bank was closed and Mamta Vahan was also not available. He also mentioned in his report that one good thing was also seen that the proper lighting system and cleanliness in the hospital was of excellent level.

The DC said that needful action would be taken against



DPS Ranchi students shine in IOQM 2024



PNS: RANCHI

In a remarkable achievement, 23 students from Delhi Public School Ranchi have qualified for the Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM) 2024, making them the maximum qualifiers from any single institution in the entire state of Jharkhand. Aditya Pratap emerged as topper from the school with the highest score.

The talented qualifiers in the group of Classes VIII to XI include, Aditya Akshat Jha, Pratap, Rudransh Ranjan, Syed

Razeef, Aayushi Singh, Kumar, Tejas Shandilya, Ayush Gorain, Shlok Modi, Vibhor Kumar Singh, Vaibhav Pankaj, Mohammad Ayaan, Shourya Pratap Singh, Yashmit Choudhary, Anahat Vatsal, Akshat Om, Payal, Adishree Suyash, Akshita

Furthermore, from the Class XII group the qualifiers are Naman Modi, Ved Vatsal, Akash Sahu and Ravi Narain.

Singh.

Their success will enable them to compete in the Mathematics Regional (RMO) 2024, Olympiad

where they will have the opportunity to further showcase their mathematical acumen.

Dr. R.K. Jha, Principal of DPS Ranchi, expressed his pride in the students' achievements, stating. Congratulations to our brilliant students for their outstanding performance in the IOOM. This achievement reflects their hard work, perseverance, and the commitment of our teachers. We believe that this is just the beginning, and we look forward to their continued success in the upcoming competitions.

> and toilets. The District Election Officer emphasized the importance of ensuring that all polling stations meet these

basic requirements to facilitate a smooth voting process. Information regarding the compliance of the Model Code of Conduct was reviewed, with specific attention paid to identifying shadow areas that could pose challenges during the elec-

Mittal highlighted the logistics of the election process, instructing the BDOs to create clusters where polling centers may be inaccessible or where security concerns exist. Clusters are intended to ensure the safety of polling parties and voters in challenging areas, and detailed instructions were issued to provide information regarding the types of vehicles required for the transportation of polling staff.

The meeting outlined the designated dispatch centers for polling parties: Cooperative College will serve as the dispatch center Jamshedpur East. Jamshedpur West, and Jugsalai assembly stituencies, while LBSM College Karandih will serve the Potka, Ghatsila, and Baharagora constituencies. Notably, Cooperative College will also function as the receiving center for all constituencies, where the counting of votes will take place post-election. In a crucial aspect of the

discussion, Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal urged all administrative and police officers to conduct thorough reviews of critical booths and determine the necessity of clusters in certain locations. He stressed the importance of identifying potential helipad sites, which will be tagged with respective clusters for emergency use. Additionally, it was recommended that all booths and clusters be associated with nearby Community Health Centers and Primary Health Centers to ensure prompt medical assistance if needed

Kaushal reiterated the district administration's commitment to conducting free and fair elections, emphasizing the need for vigilance against any attempts to influence voters through illegal means. He instructed officers to maintain a close watch on any activities related to the distribution of liquor, cash, gifts, or drugs aimed at luring voters. Special attention will also be given to inter-state and inter-district checkpoints to prevent illegal movements that could disrupt the election process.

BSL Triumphs at Director Personnel Ran Neeti Cup

R SHARMA: BOKARO

Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) emerged victorious in the grand finale of the prestigious Ran Neeti Director Personnel Cup Business Simulation Games, hosted by the All India Management Association (AIMA). New Delhi. The final, held at MTI Ranchi, saw BSL's team, featuring General Manager Sudhir, Assistant General Manager (Learning and Development) Amit Anand, and Senior Manager (Learning and Development) Preeti Kumari, clinch the top spot. Notably BS Popli (ED -HRD) from SAIL Corporate office handed over the trophy .BSL's second team also excelled, securing the runner-up position. This group included Deputy General Manager (HSM) Rahul Singh, Senior Manager (CTS)



Owais Ahmed, and Manager (HSM) Rahul Ranjan Panda.

The competition began at the plant level with over 142 teams, eventually narrowing down to 21 exceptional teams representing various SAIL units. After an intense semi-final round on October

2024, 11 advanced to the finale. The top management at BSL congratulated both teams for their outstanding achievements, showcasing their strategic acumen and teamwork in this high-level

VINOD PRASAD: LOHARDAGA

41 OCTT trainees join Bokaro Steel Plant

PNS: BOKARO

At Bokaro Steel Plant, 41 OCTT trainees began their journey on October 16 with the commencement of a six-week local induction training program. The event, held by the HR Learning and Development Department, was inaugurated with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony and a safety pledge. Executive Director (HR and Works) Rajan Prasad graced the event as the chief guest, alongside Executive Director (Mines) Jaydeep Dasgupta, Chief General Manager (MRD & SMS-New) Rajiv Dhawan, and Chief General

Manager (Learning and Development) Manish Jalota.

After completing the six-week training, the trainees will be assigned to various roles within the Bokaro Steel Plant.



Govt awards 3.6 Lakh scholarship to MGM Bokaro athletes

PNS: BOKARO

Athletes from MGM Higher Secondary School, Bokaro, have been awarded 3.60,000 in scholarships by the Jharkhand government under its 2022 sports policy. The scholarships were given in recognition of their performance at the SGFI National Championship in Chhattisgarh, where they won one silver and six bronze medals. Recipients include Sakshi Srivastava (?60,000), Zeba Naz, Priyanshu Raj Singh, Harshit Kumar, Vedant Bhardwaj,

Tripti Jha, and Angel Rani (?50,000 each).
Principal Father Dr. Joshi Varghese, Vice Principal Rekha Banerjee, Academic Director George Joseph, and Headmistress Sapna Joshi congratulated the athletes on their achievements and wished them a bright



future ahead. The athletes expressed gratitude to the government, while their coach, Rajeev Singh, shared optimism for their future

Manoj Swargiyari appointed new Bokaro SP

PNS: BOKARO

the Jharkhand govern-ment has appointed 2018batch IPS officer Manoi Swargiyari as the new Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bokaro. Swargiyari officially took charge on Tuesday. Notably the pre-



vious SP, Pujya Prakash, had been on extended leave due to health issues, leaving the position vacant for some time. Given the critical need for law enforcement leadership during the upcoming Assembly elections to ensure a peaceful and fair process, the state government has entrusted Manoj Swargiyari, previously serving as the Railway SP in Dhanbad, with the responsibility of heading Bokaro's police force. This move comes as an essential step in preparing for the smooth conduct of elections in the region

Important dates of Assembly Elections-2024 have been announced. Regarding this, a press conference was organized on Tuesday in the Collectorate Hall by District Election Officer-cum Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna and Police Captain Haris Bin Zaman. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that as soon as the dates of Assembly Elections-2024 were announced, the Model Code of Conduct has been implemented in the entire area. Flying squad and static surveillance team have also been formed to comply with the model code of conduct. Sector Officer and Sector Police Officer have also been appointed.

The first phase of training is being

given to the officials/personnel

related to polling deputed for the elections. Minimum basic facilities have been provided at the polling stations. Wherever complaints of deficiencies are coming, they are being rectified. As per the announced dates, election notification will be issued on 18 November 2024, in which nominations will be filled by the candidates till 25 November. Scrutiny of the nomination forms filled will be done on November 28. There will be time to withdraw nominations till 30th November. There are a total of 428 polling stations as on 13 November 2024, including 324 in 72-Lohardaga area and 104 in 69-Bishnupur (part). Voting will take place at all centres. Counting of votes will take place on 23 November 2024. DEO cum Deputy Commissioner said that there are a total of 3,74,241 (three lakh seven-

ty four thousand two hundred forty one) voters in the district, out of which the number of female voters is 1,89,774 and the number of male voters is 1,84,467. In which the total number of voters in 72-Lohardaga is 287145. In which the number of women is 145848 and the number of men is 141297. Similarly, in 69-Bishunpur (Part)

the total number of voters is 87096, out of which the number of women are 43926 and the number of men are 43170. On this occasion,

Superintendent of Police Haris Bin Jama, Returning Officer cum SDM Amit Kumar, ITDA Project Director Sushma Neelam Soreng, Additional Collector Jitendra Munda, District Panchayat Raj Officer Anjana Das,

Sub-Divisional Officer Amit Kumar, Deputy Election Officer Dheeraj Thakur, District Officer in the press conference. Public Relations Officer Shivanandan Badaik, Assistant Returning Officer cum CO Ashutosh, KISCO CO Ajay Kumar, Kudu CO Mrs. Madhushree Mishra and other officials were present.

In the press conference, SP

Haris Bin Zaman said that complete security arrangements will be made for the voters in Naxal affected areas also. Force will be deployed as per requirement. Necessary decisions will be taken after reviewing the booth as per requirement. The Lok Sabha elections were peaceful. This time also the district administration is fully prepared. The district administration appeals that voters should come to the polling centers fearlessly and vote.







Students return from school using umbrellas during rains in Ranchi on Wednesday. Many parts of the State are witnessing rainfall due to cyclonic circulation in the bay of Bengal, PNS

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2024——— AJSU likely to get 9-11 seats, JD(U) 2-3 seats in Jharkhand

■ he Jharkhand assembly election is shaping up as a direct between Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led INDIA bloc and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), although both the camps are yet to announce the seat sharing formula officially. However, sources said that NDA has in-principle agreed on seat sharing formula and it was indicated a few days back Assam Chief Minister and Jharkhand BJP election co-in-charge Hemanta Biswa Sarma

Sarma had said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will contest between 69 to 70 seats, while ally AJSU is expected to contest 9 to 11 seats. Janata Dal (United) may receive 2 to 3 seats.

The BJP is expected to release its first list of candidates today, with around 60 names already approved by the Central Election Committee. The elections are scheduled for two phases: voting on November 13 for 43 seats and November 20 for 38 seats, with the results to be declared

AJSU party will contest elections on 10 assembly seats in Jharkhand.



According to information received from sources, AJSU has got 10 seats in the NDA folder. AJSU's seats include Silli, Ramgarh, Gomia, Jugsalai, Manoharpur, Pakur, Dumri,

Mandu, Ichagarh and Lohardaga. Sources said that this time BJP does not want to leave its alliance partner unlike the previous election (2019). In 2019, the JMM, Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) formed a pre-poll alliance, then known as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), and wrested power from the BJP-led NDA government



headed by Raghubar Das. The alliance secured a majority of 47 seats in the 81-member Jharkhand

assembly.

The BJP had then parted ways with ally All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) but the two tied up in the aftermath, and fought the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, where they secured nine seats in the state, with BJP winning eight of them.

In the Lok Sabha polls, the INDIA alliance won five of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The NDA's umbrella is set to

Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) also keen to fight together in the state.

The seats which will go to the JDU kitty are Jamshedpur East and Tamar. From Jamshedpur East former minister Saryu Roy will try his luck while Tamar Raja Peter who joined JDU few months back will be in the fray. However, JDU is yet to announce the candidature from any

Jamshedpur East is a prestigious seat as in the last Assembly election expelled BJP leader and former minister Saryu Roy defeated then Chief Minister Raghubar Das.

Being hailed as a 'giant killer', Saryu Roy, who was the MLA from Jamshedpur West, but decided to contest against Das as an Independent candidate after BJP did not give him a ticket in the elections.

Like Jamshedpur East, Tamar too shares similar history as in 2009 by poll, Gopal Krishna Patar popularly known as Raja Peter defeated Jharkhand then Chief Minister Shibu Soren in the Tamar by-election by a margin of almost 9,000 votes at a time when Soren desperately needed this victory to save his chief minis-

BHAVYA Project Wins the **Innovation Award**

New Delhi: The

BHAVYA (Bihar Health Application Visionary Yojana for All) project, an initiative by the Health Department of the Government of Bihar, won the prestigious Innovation Award at the Global Digital Health Summit (GDHS) 2024. The BHAVYA Project is a significant step toward achieving universal health coverage and strengthening the healthcare systems in Bihar. It leverages digital technologies to enable real-time monitoring of health services, enhance decision-making through data analytics, and improve overall healthcare efficiency. These innovations are not only transformative for Bihar but also serve as a model for how digital health can drive evidencebased decisions, improve health outcomes, and ensure equitable access to

Large quantity of illegal foreign liquor. beer recovered

PNS: RANCHI

In view of the Assembly elections 2024, special patrolling and vehicle checking campaign was carried out at night as per the instructions of Superintendent of Police Palamu. Under this campaign, raids are being conducted against criminals and illegal activities.

During vehicle checking, a Bolero Mexi Truck, whose registration number is BR 01 GK-3228, was stopped near the middle school of Pandava, but the driver fled from the spot. On searching the vehicle, Royal Stag Whisky foreign liquor - 29 cartons, 12 bottles in each and 10 bottles in a carton a total of 358 bottles, whose total quantity was 268.500 liters. "for sale in Uttar Pradesh only" was found marked on all the

Officers Choice original whisky foreign liquor - 68 cartons, each containing 48 tetra packs (180 ML), total 3264 pieces, with a total quantity of 587.52 liters. "for sale in Uttar Pradesh Only " was also marked on the tetra

The total foreign liquor recovered is 856.02 liters, which includes 268.500 liters of Royal StAG Whisky and 587.52 liters of Officers Choice

original whisky. This huge consignment of illegal liquor was caught during this intensive vehicle checking and raid, which will help in conducting the upcoming assembly elections safely and fairly. This action is being taken by Palamu Police to maintain law and order during the assembly elections.

Meanwhile, in another development Hariharganj police station conducted intensive vehicle checking and raids. During the raid a large consignment of beer being illegally transported in a Bolero vehicle was recovered.

In this regard, a case has been registered under Hariharganj Police Station Case No. 141/2024 and due legal action is being

Keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, Palamu Police is continuously tak ing strict action against illegal activities to ensure security in the district. This campaign has been launched to prevent any kind of anti-social activity during the elections, so that the elections can be conducted in a fair and



SUVIDHA App to facilitate candidates in nomination process: CEO



Chief Electoral Office K Ravi Kumar holds a meeting with various party leaders in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jharkhand K Ravi Kumar has said that with the announcement of the assembly general elections, the model code of conduct has come into force in the State. He told the representatives of the recognized political parties that the SUVIDHA app has been created by the Election Commission, using which all the applications used by the candidates in the nomination process can be filled.

Kumar said that during this time, some necessary guidelines have been issued by the Election Commission of India for all political parties and candidates participating in the election. "By complying with this, clean, fair and peaceful voting will be ensured. With the aim of providing equal opportunity to all in the election process, a spending limit of Rs 40 lakh has been fixed by each candidate during the election," he added. The CEO said that to bring transparency in the expenditure of the candidates, a register of expenditure details

has to be submitted in the office of the District Election Officer. "This register is made public by the District Election Officer on the website of his office. He was holding a meeting with all the recognized political parties after the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct for the Assembly elections on Wednesday," he added. Kumar told the representatives of the recognized political parties that the an appointment can be taken in the RO office for the day of nomination. "Along with this, it will also help in filling your details and making affidavit. Through the C-Vigil app, one can also lodge a quick complaint on violation of the Model Code of Conduct," he added.

Kumar said that all the candidates are expected to understand all the instructions related to the election and also make their workers aware of it, so that no difficulty arises in calculating the election related expenses. He said that during the election, some rules have been made by the state for publicity by the candidates, election process, star campaigners, political parties and others, along with this, the Election Commission of India has also issued a directory of "what to do, what not to do". Any kind of doubt can be avoided by following these and the guidelines of the Election Commission of India during the election, he added. On this occasion, System Analyst SN Jameel gave point-wise information about the use of various online applications used in elections such as C-Vigil, Suvidha App, KYC and others used by the candidates.

On this occasion, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr Neha Arora, OSD Geeta Chaubey, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer Shri Dev Das Dutta along with representatives of various recognized political parties were present.

JMM to go among people by its last five years' development work

PNS: RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), on Wednesday, mentioned the achievements of the last five years of tenure and the challenges faced by the party. announced that it will go among people by its achievements and work done in the last five years of its tenure.

Addressing a press meet, JMM spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said that when the Government came to power in the 2019 elections, Corona intervened and 2 years were spent to fight against it. The party said after that conspiracy to topple the Government started but it proved successful in dealing with everything one by one. Now the election has been announced, we have to go to the electoral field again,

Bhattacharya said that Government Jharkhand has worked for the youth and students and now we will go to the public with these achievements in the elections. He said that earlier the elections of Haryana used to be held along with Maharashtra, but this time elections were held in Haryana alone and Jharkhand Maharashtra are being held together and this is enough to tell on whose the Commission is working.

The JMM Spokesperson said that there was a film Bunty Aur Babli in which the Taj Mahal was sold. "This is how the BJP and Election Commission have become, who are engaged in selling democracy. Why were elections announced for only 43 seats in the first phase? There could have been 47 as well. Mandu, Ramgarh and Khijri are not named in this,'

Bhattacharya said that Chief Election Commissioner said that people will say something, it is people's job to stop saying useless things. The JMM leader said, during this time the smile itself was telling that some scam is going to happen. He said Mandu comes in two districts, Ramgarh and Hazaribagh. "BJP leaders will influence Ranchi by standing in Ramgarh. It has been done as



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya during a press conference in Ranchi on Wednesday. Pix by Ratan Lal

a part of a conspiracy that one assembly seat is on the 13th and the other adjacent seat is kept in the second phase on the 30th," he added.

The party Spokesperson said that there has been manipulation in EVM in Haryana. "The results of elections are Haryana screaming that the elections were not fair. After all, the **BJP and Election Commission** are busy playing a complete game. The script of how to hijack the elections was first

written in the Assam government building. After this, it was approved in the office located at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Marg and then it was passed by the Election Commission," he added.

The party leader said, the Election Commission is an impartial system but the BJF has made it its slave. He said, earlier when ED action was taken, people used to get angry and asked why elections were held in different phases in the same district.

Marandi demands CBI probe in Pandra OP case

BJP state president Babulal Marandi has written a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner. In the letter, Marandi has requested the Chief Election Commissioner to get the FIR lodged in Pandra OP investigated by the CBI. The letter further states that the alleged lawyer Sujit Kumar has been accused of cheating officers in the name of messaging the ED.

The letter further states that the investigating officer and other police officers associated with the investigation are using this case to extort huge amounts of money from many government officials. At the same time, this case is being used as a tool to implicate opposition political parties on the



BJP State President-cum former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi alongwith party leaders arrives at Birsa Muunda International airport in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

instructions of government officials. People of the ruling party are working behind

Babulal has written in the that the amount earned by fraud in the name of ED is being used for elections. Many government officials are under investigation. they are being threatened to manage voting during elections and act as their agents during elections. In this case, the police have arrested Sanjeev Pandey and lawyer Sujit Kumar. They have been kept hidden in various police Babulal has requested the Chief Election Commissioner that this case should be transferred from Police ACB to CBI so that the election can be conducted in a fair and proper manner.

Meanwhile, in other development State BJP spokesperson Ajay Sah targeting JMM/Congress said that instead of reviewing the defeat in Haryana elections, they blamed the entire defeat on EVMs. Also, the derogatory words used against the Election Commission and Central Investigation Agencies clearly show the desperation and disappointment of JMM. These are the same people who had called Soren, Kalpana became MLA through EVM, a victory of democracy. Despite the huge defeat in the Lok Sabha, they were calling the few seats they won as a victory of democracy. He further said that the RJD in whose lap JMM is sitting today is the same party under whose rule booth capturing was a common occurrence in Bihar. It seems as if the DNA of Congress is entering inside JMM and that is why by following the path of Congress. they are defaming constitutional institutions. The Hemant government is the most frightened and scared government in the history of Jharkhand and this fear is due to the huge anger of the

One Day Capacity Building Programme organised at CCL

PNS: RANCHI

The Human Resource Development Department of CCL organised a one day capacity building programme on Cyber Security on October 16. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of CVO, CCL, Pankaj Kumar, General Manager (Vigilance), AK Singh and General Manager (Systems), Suresh Behera. Pankaj Kumar and Suresh Behera addressed the participants and wished them a productive and interactive session emphasizing the importance of cyber security.

The session discussed key topics such as digital literacy explaining how safe we are online, do's and don'ts while navigating various internet sites, pillars of cyber security (confidentiality, integrity and availability), and how to build a strong cyber security culture on the importance of fostering a strong cyber security culture.

The programme proved to be highly beneficial, providing valuable insights both professionally and personally as well as equipping the participants with the necessary knowledge to protect themselves and their organisations from cyber threats.

It is known that this capacity building program was organized under the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Campaign 2024 in CCL. Under this campaign, many programs are being organized by CCL in all areas including the headquarters.

Schools, SoEs get lessons of leadership

DIVYA MODI: RANCHI

Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) under the Department of School Education and Literacy in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi, started the fourth session for special training of headmasters and principals- incharge of 325 block level model schools of the State on October 15. The fiveday session will conclude on October 19.

The Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi has signed an MoU with JEPC to impart leadership training to the headmasters of all the CM Schools of Excellence and Adarsh Vidyalas operating in the State. In the special training session principals will be

trained on different topics by IIM experts at the campus in Hindi.

"The primary objective of this programme is to impart training on leadership and capacity building to all the principals of the 80 CM Schools of Excellence and 325 Model Schools in Jharkhand," said Programme Director Aditya Shankar Mishra.

The entire training programme has been divided in a total of three phases. In the on- going first phase, training is being imparted over a period of five days while the attendees have been divided in five batches with about 80 principals in each. Training for the first batch of this phase was conducted in early 2023 while for the second and third batches it was done in

April 2024. Training for the fifth and last batch of the first phase is scheduled to begin from October 21. The theme for the first

day of the session was based on strategic leadership. It also included topics like goal setting, transformation of the school, aligning the vision and mission with the objectives of the school and making the principals aware of new educational innovations and methods. Training was also given on how to attract, retain and develop high quality staff and how to provide continuous professional development to teachers and administra-

The second day of the training is based on the theme of learning and development. Principals are



informed on ways to enhance the students learning and overall development- cognitive, academic, physical and social- emotional development. This session also talks about soft skills, personality development of the teaching community and students

The third day of the programme is about digital literacy. It emphasizes on how digital tools can be utilised, examples being technical skills, awareness about computers, smartphones, tablets, software application, information literacy and ways to collaborate

with other online platforms. "The third session will

also talk about communication, collaboration, social media and other digital platforms and how to use and engage them to give the children an enjoyable learning experience. Media literacy will also be included in this session," added Mishra.

The fourth day is based on the theme of community engagement- how to build partnership with all the stakeholders including parents, staff and administrators. The attendees will also be trained on negotiation skills, the National Education Policy and planning the budget of the school.

The fifth day highlights working in groups- team dynamics, how to foster a

positive environment, interpersonal skills and team building. An impact assessment will also be conducted by the institute to evaluate the effectiveness of the entire programme.

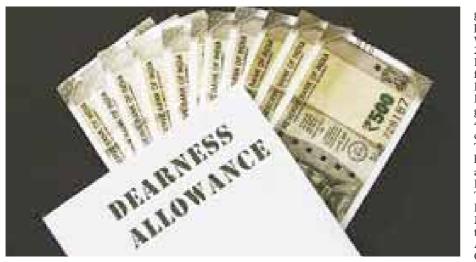
As many as 18- 20 faculty members from IIM Ranchi are involved in the training process. Mishra is the Assistant Professor, Marketing Area, IIM Ranchi while the other three programme directors are Sakshi Jha, Ankur Jha and Tata Sai Vijay.

"The Director of the institute Deepak Kumar Shrivastav also plays a vital role and it is under his guidance and leadership that the institute has got this initiative and is able to conduct a training session of this scale," added

Centre hikes DA by three percentage

The Centre on Wednesday I increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) by 3 percentage points effective from July 1 this year, benefitting more than 1 crore employees and pensioners ahead of the Diwali festival.

The Union Cabinet has approved to increase Dearness Allowance (DA) to central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by three percentage points of the basic pay/pension ahead of Diwali, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said after the Cabinet meeting. The minister also offered Diwali greetings to all central



government employees and pensioners. The DA/DR hike will be effected from July 1, 2024, the minister informed. He also informed that the financial implication of this DA/DR hike is Rs 9,448 crore. Earlier in March this year, the government hiked DA/DR by 4 percentage points to 50 per cent from January 1, 2024. The minister said that the DA

hike is based on the 12-month average of All India Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and

sioners from July 1, 2024, representing an increase of three per cent (3%) over the existing rate of 50 per cent of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate against price rise, an official statement said.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 9,448.35 crore per annum. This will benefit about 49.18 lakh central government employees and 64.89 lakh pen-



NCP (SP)'s 66-day yatra ends, party campaign for Assembly polls begins

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI:

The 66-day long 'Shiv Swarajya Yatra' of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP-a 7,365 km journey that took its leaders to 19 districts across the state culminated on Wednesday at Islampur in Sangli district of sugar-rich Maharashtra where party Sharad Pawar addressed a massive election

rally. State NCP (SP) chief Jayant Patil had set off on the "Shiv Swarajya Yatra" on from Shivneri Fort near Pune - the birthplace of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on August 9, a day that coincided with the 82nd anniversary of Quit India Movement.

The 'Shiv Swarajya Yatra' touched almost all the stronghold constituencies of the NCP (SP) where the party will field candidates in the State Assembly polls scheduled for November 20. Apart from Jayant Patil, the (SP)'s leading campaigner and actor-turned Shirur MP Amol Kolhe participated in the yatra.

The NCP (SP) leaders who participated in the Yatra tried to reach out to the voters in the 19 districts of the state, by harping on the alleged misdeeds of the grand alliance government . At their rallies during the yatra, the NCP (SP) leaders spoke about the "deteriorating" law-andorder situation in the state, growing atrocities against inflation, unemployment, flight of industries from Maharashtra and, the farmers' suicides

Eknsth Shinde Sena-BJP-NCP (Ajit Pawar) NCP

caused by agrarian distress. "During our Yatra, we managed to reach to at least one crore either directly or indirectly," senior NCP (SP) associated with the Yatra

At Wednesday's Islampur rally which marked the end of 'Shiv Swarajya Yatra', NCP (SP) chief — accompanied by Jayant Patil and other leaders - kick-started the party's campaign for the State Assembly polls.

The NCP (SP), which is a part of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) -- is contesting the Assembly polls in alliance with the Congress and Uddhay Thackeray-led Shiv Sena. The MVA constituents are expected to announce seat-sharing arrangement for the State Assembly polls either during the weekend or early next

Railway modernisation: Cabinet approves ₹ 2,642 crore for multi tracking project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

 $U_{\text{Wednesday approved the}}^{\text{nion Cabinet on}}$ Varanasi-Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) multitracking project with an estimated cost of Rs 2,642 crore. The proposed project includes a new rail-cum-road bridge across the Ganga river and the addition of third and fourth railway lines between Varanasi and DDU Junction route, among other infrastructural upgrades.

"The proposed multi-tracking project will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways. The project traverses through Varanasi and Chandauli districts in Uttar Pradesh," a government state-It added, "Varanasi Railway

Station, a crucial hub in Indian



and serves as a gateway for pilgrims, tourists and the local

According to the statement, the Varanasi-DDU Junction route, vital for both passenger and freight traffic, faces heavy congestion due to its role in transporting goods like coal, cement, and food grains, as well as serving growing tourism

"To address this issue, infrastructure upgrades are needed, including a new rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga River and the addition of 3rd and 4th railway lines. These enhancements aim to improve capacity, efficiency and support the region's socio-economic growth," the statement said. Apart from relief in congestion

in the stretch, 27.83 MTPA

(million tonnes per annum) freight is anticipated on the proposed stretch," it added.

Highlighting the enhancement of employment/self-employment opportunities, the official release stated that the project is result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity which has been possible through integrated planning and will pro-vide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services

According to the government, the project, covering two districts in Uttar Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 30 kilometres. "The Railways being an environmentally friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country and lower CO2 emissions (149 crore kg) which is equivalent to plantation of six crore trees," the state

Civic volunteers still on hospital duties

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

In a gross defiance of the Supreme Court order making government hospitals, schools and police stations out of bounds for the civic volunteers the alleged "half-cops" continued to man the premises of at least three major hospitals of Kolkata, sources said. Civic volunteers were on

Wednesday seen in their usual sky-blue uniform doing duty inside the state-of-art SSKM Hospital, Calcutta Medical College and CN Medical College sources said.

When asked as to whether they were aware of the Apex Court order the Bengal Government's "men in blue" either ran away or said they were not aware of any order. A SSKM an alleged civic volunteer was asked as to whether he was aware of the Supreme Court order he replied in the negative before slipping behind the doors of the hospital. At

CMC, the oldest medical college in Asia the civic volunteers said they had come to get their payment and find out details of their subsequent posting. Making a passing reference

that appointing civic volunteers was "a nice method of conferring political patronage on totally unverified persons," the Bench of Chief Justice Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra had on Tuesday directed the State Government to stop deployment of civic volunteers inside hospitals, schools and police stations.

The Court also asked the Government to file an affidavit in the next hearing saying "the affidavit shall also mention the steps taken to ensure that such volunteers do not operate in any event where sensitive establishments such as hospitals and schools may be particularly vulnerable. The affidavit must also state whether they are associated with police stations or investigation of crime."



torical documents preserved in DARPG earlier," it added. As of mid-October 2024, 800 public grievances have been through the promotion of eaddressed, contributing to the improvement of service delivery and enhancing public sat-The DARPG has adopted the use of AI-enabled tools for better grievance tracking and resolution in the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and

(CPGRAMS) and has seen a marked improvement in the speed and accuracy of grievance redressal during the campaign, it added.

Monitoring

DARPG has initiated weeding of files, marking the beginning of enhanced record management and reinforcing the commitment to a clutter-free and efficient office premise. So far, over 4,100 files have been reviewed, and 800 files identified for weeding/closure," the statement said.

outdated, irrelevant, or redundant as per the record retention schedule and were subsequently weeded out or closed. This activity aimed to de-clutter office spaces, it added. The special campaign 4.0 has emphasised sustainability

These files were identified as

waste disposal mechanisms. "Outdated files, redundant materials, and unused office of systematically. DARPG disposed of electron-

ic waste (e-scrap) as part of the campaign. A revenue of Rs 67,625 has also

been earned from e-scrap dis-

Additionally, approximately 110 square feet of space was cleared in the process, enhancing the efficiency and organisation of office facilities," the statement said.

With the special campaign 4.0 ongoing until October 31, 2024; the DARPG aims to further intensify its efforts in ensuring cleanliness, enhancing efficiency, and addressing the remaining pendency, it

PM Modi, enrolled as 'active member' of BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday became the first person to be enrolled as the 'active member' of the BJP as he launched the party's 'Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan' here. He 'took his 'Sakriya

ship) in the presence of BJP president J P Nadda and general secretary Vinod Tawde, who is convener of the nationwide membership

An 'active member' of the BJP has to enrol at least 50 persons as party members in a booth or in an assembly seats. Only active members take part in the party's organisational elections, which will begin after the membership drive ends.

Modi said in a social media post, "Adding momentum to our endeavour of making a Viksit Bharat! As BJP Karyakarta, proud to become the first Sakriya Sadasya and

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New drug rules and regulatory procedures intro-

duced in India have promoted

scientific and ethical research

at par with global expectation

and practices, the Government

Addressing the 19th International Conference of

Drug Regulatory Authorities

(ICDRA) here, Union Minister

of State for Health and Family

Welfare, Anupriya Singh Patel,

said the conference is crucial in

sharing knowledge, building

partnerships and working in

harmonisation to ensure safe

and effective medicines for

"Our efforts can lead to better

health outcomes for people all

over the world. The ICDRA is

not just a conference; it is a

chance for us to collaborate,

innovate, and support one

another in our shared mission

for better health for all", said

The conference is being host-

ed for the first time in India by

the Central Drugs Standard

said on Wednesday.

NEW DELHI

evervone.

the minister.



Abhiyan today. This is a movement which will further strengthen our Party at the grassroots and ensure effective contribution of our Party Karyakartas for national progress.

"Active members, Modi noted, will be eligible to contest elections for a 'Mandal Committee' and above. At the same time, they will get many opportunities to work for the party in the times to come, he added.

Every six years, the BIP launches a fresh membership drive. Every existing BJP member is also required to enrol himself afresh, while new members are also added.

Organisation (WHO).

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has asked all its departments to strive to redress pensioners' grievances within 21 days, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday. In the cases where redressal of grievances requires more time, an interim reply may be furnished, it

issued comprehensive guidelines after reviewing its pensioners' grievance redressal mechanism, i.E., Centralized Pension Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS), a portal. The guidelines envisage expeditious and efficient redressal

of the grievances, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. "Ministries/departments

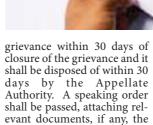
should strive to redress the pensioners' grievances within 21 days. In the cases, where redressal of the grievances requires longer time, an interim reply may be furnished on the portal," read one of the highlights of the comprehensive guidelines for handling central government pensioners' grievances.

The grievance shall be redressed under 'whole of the government approach', it said. In no case, grievance shall be closed summarily by stating, 'it does not pertain to this office, the statement said. The grievance shall not be

closed without its conclusive redressal and the Action Taken in with the supporting information and documents at the time of closure of grievance, it "Ministries/departments shall

undertake monthly review of pension related grievances, pending on the portal to ensure the qualitative redressal of grievances within the prescribed time limit," the statement said.

The nodal public grievance officers have been asked to "analyse the trend of grievances and conduct a root cause analysis to check the incidence of grievances", it added. According to the guidelines, an applicant can file an appeal against the redressal of his



statement said. The grievance applications, filed in the physical form with the ministry/department, shall be uploaded on the CPEN-GRAMS portal to ensure proper monitoring of these grievances" it added.

In another statement, the Personnel Ministry said that the Department of

Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under it is all set to achieve the mid-campaign 100 per cent progress of the ongoing special campaign 4.0.

This campaign is part of the government's commitment for institutionalising 'Swachhata' and minimising pendency in government offices.

Špecial Campaign 4.0 is implemented on digitisation, improving/enhancing office spaces, timely scrap disposal, weeding/preservation of office records, inclusivity measures and environment friendly

New drug rules in India: A leap towards global research excellence (CDSCO), in collaboration

> Organisation (WHO). tion, bringing all devices under regulation through registration and framing regulatory path-

and post approval regulatory procedures of all medical devices, diagnostics managing product lifecycle indicating

India has recently been recognised as an affiliate member of IMDRF.

"Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia by the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) is another milestone marking the harmonisation and recognition of regulatory standards", the minister informed.

Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, highlighted the efforts being taken on the healthcare sector by the present government such as the launch of the world's largest health assurance scheme and a massive effort being taken in digital health.

Dr Paul informed that India licensed eight vaccines for use during the pandemic through a proper regulatory process. Dr Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health Research and DG, ICMR, said that in the first three months of the pandemic, India developed indigenous tests at onefortieth of the cost. He said, "three diagnostic tests have also been developed for MPox which were approved by CDSCO."

Dr Yukiko Nakatini, Assistant Director-General, WHO noted that one urgent need highlighted by the pandemic was the need for a strong regulatory



International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), ISO, WHO and regional network like SEARN (South-East Asia Regulatory Network) to harmonise regulatory requirements in the area of medical tion and recognition of regulatory standards", the minister devices and diagnostics," Patel

India has recently been recognised as an affiliate member of

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on Wednesday. Addressing the 19th International Conference of

the need for a strong regulatory

New drug rules and regulato-

ry procedures introduced in

India have promoted scientif-

ic and ethical research at par

with global expectation and

practices, the Government said

Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) here, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Singh Patel, said the conference is crucial in sharing knowledge, building partnerships and working in harmonisation to ensure safe and effective medicines for

evervone. "Our efforts can lead to better health outcomes for people all over the world. The ICDRA is not just a conference; it is a chance for us to collaborate, innovate, and support one another in our shared mission for better health for all", said the minister.

The conference is being hosted for the first time in India by the Central Drugs Standard Organisation

According to the minister, the medical device rules in India include risk-based classifica-

with the World Health

"There is robust pre-approval

robust control. We are collaborating with international organisations such as the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), ISO, WHO and regional network like SEARN (South-East Asia Regulatory Network) to harmonise regulatory requirements in the area of medical devices and diagnostics," Patel

Omar Abdullah, first CM of Nayab Singh Saini to be sworn in as Haryana CM Union Territory J and K

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at a glittering oath ceremony in Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference (SKICC) Centre Wednesday. Omar wore a skull cap and a resplendent black sherwani on the occasion.

To balance the regional aspirations Omar Abdullah inducted an equal number of legislators from the Kashmir and Jammu regions.

Nowshera MLA Surinder Choudhary, who turned out to be a giant killer after defeating J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina, took oath as Deputy CM, while senior NC leader and MLA from DH Pora, Sakina Itoo, was also inducted into the Cabinet. Alongside them, NC's Mendhar MLA Javed Rana, MLA Rafiabad Javed Dar and Independent MLA Satish Sharma, son of a former Congress MP Madan Lal Sharma, also took the oath of office. Three more ministers are expected to be inducted into the Council of Ministers. Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Omar and five members of the council of ministers. Sinha posed for a group photograph and immediately left the venue of the oath ceremony while guests were still attending a high tea.

Ironically, none of the elected legislators from the Congress party- a pre-poll alliance partner of the National Conference took the oath of office. The Congress party chose to stay away in protest against the denial of 'statehood' to Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said that the Congress party is not joining any Ministry in the



"at the moment" as despite repeated promises made by the Prime Minister for statehood, it has not been restored. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajanth Singh congratulated Ómar Abdullah soon after the oath ceremony. "Congratulations to Shri Omar Abdullah Ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Wishing him the very best in his efforts to serve the people. The Centre will work closely with him and his team for J&K's progress," PM Modi wrote in a post on X.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by several INDIA bloc leaders, including Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Left leaders Prakash Karat and D Raja, DMK's Kanimozhi, and NCP's Supriya Sule. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti also attended the event. Former RAW Chief AS Daulat, AIP Supremo and Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid also attended the cere-

DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad, Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone, Jammu Kashmir APNI party Chief Altaf Bukhari, and J&K BJP

of my government will be to become the voice of the people and expressed optimism that Jammu and Kashmir will not remain a Union territory for a long time and regain full statehood soon

Before attending his oath ceremony Omar also offered prayers at the revered Hazratbal Shrine and Mazarat-e-Anwar of Shere-Kashmir.

Before the oath-taking ceremony, Omar said that he looked forward to working in cooperation with the Union govern-

"I have some strange distinc-

tions. I was the last chief minister to serve a full six-year term. Now I'll be the first chief minister of the Union territory of J-K. The last distinction, as in the one of serving six years, I'm quite happy about. Being a CM of a Union Territory is a different matter altogether. It has its challenges. I hope that the status of a union territory is a temporary one. We look forward to working in cooperation with the government of India to resolve the people's problems and the best way to do that would be to

best way to do that would be to start by restoring statehood to J-K," Omar Abdullah said. After attending the oath-taking ceremony of Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah, JKPDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "Today is a very auspicious day. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have got their government after several years. People have elected a stable government. The people of Jammu and Kashmir suffered a lot after 2019, and we hope that this new government will treat the wounds we have. We hope that the government will pass a resolution condemning the decision of August 5, 2019 (abrogation of Article 370). Apart from this, we also hope that the government will also find ways to resolve issues of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Nayab Singh Saini will be sworn-in as the chief minister of Haryana on Thursday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP's top leadership, among others attending

the oath-taking ceremony. Saini, 54, on Wednesday met Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and staked claim to form the next government after he was unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP legislature party in a meeting held at the party office in Panchkula. Massive security arrangements

have been made in the wake of the swearing-in ceremony which will take place in Panchkula. Besides Modi and Shah, several Union ministers including Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda, who is also the BJP president, chief ministers of many states, and senior party leaders will attend the oath-taking event. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya will administer the oath of office and secrecy.

Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli on Tuesday said while PM Modi, Union ministers, chief ministers of the BJPruled states and NDA partners will attend the oath-taking function, opposition leaders of various parties, "progressive farmers", 'Lakhpati Didis' and people from various social organisations have also been

Badoli had also said Valmiki Jayanti falls on October 17, the day when the new government would be sworn-in. In the October 5 Haryana polls, the BJP secured an unprecedented third term in the state, winning 48 seats in the 90-member assembly. The Congress won 37

With the BJP forming the government for a third time in a row in Haryana, Saini will be taking oath as the chief minister for the second time. Around 50,000 people were expected to attend the mega event, party leaders said. A total of 14 LED screens will

be installed at the event venue



function. Traffic advisory has also been issued ahead of the swearing-in event. In a departure from tradition, the BJP had declared that Saini would remain chief minister if the party returned to power in Haryana after the assembly

Saini had replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the chief minister of Haryana in March. Saini, an OBC face of the party, had won the Ladwa seat in Kurukshetra district.

Months before the assembly polls, the BJP replaced Khattar with low-profile Saini, a decision that surprised many, but the BJP's gamble paid off with Saini leading the party to victory in the state elections. Saini's elevation from the

Haryana BJP president to chief minister in March came at a time when the party was facing anti-incumbency following Khattar's tenure of nine-and-ahalf years and attacks from a buoyant opposition on farmers' unemployment, Agnipath scheme, inflation, and law and order.

Days after Saini was brought in by the BJP, the Model Code of Conduct came into effect with the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, and later ahead of the assembly elections, effectively giving him only two months to shift the public per-

MUDA chairman resigns amid site allotment controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) chairman K Marigowda quit on Wednesday, amid a row over irregularities in allotment of sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M. He submitted his resignation from the post to the Urban Development Department Secretary.

have resigned following directions from the CM. Also, as I had health issues, I have resigned...There was no pressure on me, as I had health issues I have resigned," Marigowda, who is considered close to Siddaramaiah, told

Responding to a question, he said, "Probe is on (in MUDA case allegedly involving CM) and it will continue. It will be known from the probe whether there were any irregularities." Siddaramaiah is facing the Lokayukta and Enforcement Directorate(ED)probes into alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA. Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi and others

are named as other accused in the case by Lokayukta. Stating that Siddaramaiah is his leader and he has been with him for 40 years, Marigowda said, "He made me taluk and zilla panchayat president, has never asked to do illegal things,

even on the MUDA issue." Asked whether he was resigning to "save" the CM, he said, 'No. I'm resigning on personal grounds. I had a stroke twice. I felt I cannot continue, so I have resigned." To a question whether there was pressure on him to quit from Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, Marigowda said, "it is resigned," Marigowda far from the truth." On reporters in Bengaluru.

September 27, Congress workers and CM's supporters, who had gathered in large numbers in a show of support to Siddaramaiah at the Mysuru airport on his arrival there, tried to gherao Marigowda alleging that he was responsible for the CM's "plight." Despite his attempts to explain. they did not listen to him and asked him to go back, following which he left the scene.

After the Mysuru Urban D e v e l o p m e n t Authority(MUDA) chairman stepped down from his post on Wednesday, the BJP demanded that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also resign immediately as he is "deeply embroiled" in the land

Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) chairman K Marigowda resigned from his post amid the row over alleged irregularities in allotment of sites to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M.

"MUDA chairman has tendered his resignation. I call upon Siddaramaiah that if you have the slightest morality left in you, you should step down immediately. You should not wait for today's sunset," BJP national spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra said at a press conference here. He said Marigowda's resignation and Siddaramaiah's wife "offering" to return the MUDA sites allocated to her make it clear that the chief minister is "deeply involved in the scam from head to toe".

There is no doubt about it," Patra said.

Earlier in the day, Marigowda submitted his resignation to the Development Department secretary. "I have resigned following directions from the CM. Also, as I had health issues, I have resigned... There was no pressure on me, as I had health issues I have resigned," Marigowda told

SC Collegium recommends judges for three High Courts



The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud has recommended to the Centre the names of three advocates for appointment as judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The three-member Collegium, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, held the meeting on Tuesday and also decided to recommend the names of four senior judicial officers as judges of the Kerala High Court.

The Collegium by way of a separate resolution, recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah, an additional judge of the Karnataka High Court, as a permanent Judge of the same high court. "The Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Maheswara Rao Kuncheam @ Kuncham, (ii) Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar, and (iii) Challa Gunaranjan, advocates, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Their inter se seniority be fixed as per the existing

olution said. They all are practising as lawyers in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. "The Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) K V Jayakumar, (ii) Muralee Krishna S, (iii) Jobin Sebastian, and (iv) P V Balakrishnan, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Kerala," it said. Referring to an earlier recommendation on appointment of judges in the Kerala High Court, the apex court on Tuesday said, By recommendation dated 10 October 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended names of five Judicial Officers, including the name of Shri P Krishna Kumar, for elevation as judges of the high court of Kerala.

Out of these, four judicial officers have been appointed, it added. "However, nothing has been intimated by the Government to the Collegium with regard to the status of Shri P Krishna Kumar. The Collegium, therefore, resolves the four Judicial Officers shall rank, in the appointment order, below Shri P Krishna Kumar and their inter seniority shall be fixed in that

order," it said.

territory's police to minimise public inconvenience" during VIP movements. In his first direction to the police, he said they should avoid "stick-waving" and "aggressive gestures"

conspicuous in their absence.

Before the swearing-in ceremony got underway, Dr Farooq

Abdullah was seen greeting

guests and welcoming them.

He hugged his old friends and

political leaders and warmly

In his first comments after

taking the oath, the Chief

Minister said, "We will not let

Jammu feel that they do not

have a voice or representation

in the current government. We have brought in a Deputy

CM to ensure this and this will

be our endeavour going forth

as well." Omar also visited the

Civil Secretariat complex and

occupied the 'hot seat' in his

office chamber. On his arrival,

he was given a customary guard

of honour. Omar also chaired a

meeting of the administrative

secretaries of all the depart-

Omar also directed the union

shook hands with them.

when he moves by road. Omar Abdullah also asked the Jammu and Kashmir police to refrain from creating a green corridor for his movement. Interacting briefly with the

unemployment, drug addiction, electricity and others". Violence, wolf attacks, murders: The many woes of Bahraich

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■

Bahraich, a city close to Indo-Nepal border, has been in the headlines for nearly three months, with various incidents keeping it in the The mob ransacked shops, wolves to connections with a high-profile murder case in Mumbai, Bahraich has been struggling with a series of crises. Most recently, the city was engulfed in violence following the murder of a youth during a religious procession, leading to widespread unrest. The situation escalated on Sunday, the day after Dussehra, when one Ramgopal Mishra was shot dead during a Durga idol immersion procession.

The incident sparked a wave of anger, leading to large-scale protests, vandalism, and arson across the city. Angry mobs took to the streets, clashing with authorities, and causing chaos in several areas.

aged properties across Shivpur, Raji Chowk, Khaira Bazar, and other areas.

By Monday morning, the unrest had intensified to such an extent that the situation was deemed out of control, prompting senior police officials from Lucknow to intervene. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath monitored the developments closely, ensuring a swift response to bring the situation under control.



the violence-hit areas of Bahraich has stabilized. Shops have reopened, and residents have begun to step out of their homes. The administration has provided relief to affected families, distributing essential supplies. However, as a precaution, internet services remain suspended in the area to prevent the spread of misinformation. The Bahraich police have

arrested 52 individuals accused

of inciting communal violence and sent them to jail. Two additional FIRs have been reging for surveillance. istered against those involved in the unrest. SP Bahraich, Vrinda Shukla, has assured that senior officials are patrolling sensitive areas, and more suspects based on video footage from the incidents.

Fear of Wolves

Before the recent violence, Bahraich had been terrorized by a different kind of menace: man-eating wolves. Over the past three months, these predators had killed ten people, including children, and left many others injured. The district administration and forest department launched a largeFive wolves were caught and

relocated to zoos in Gorakhpur and Lucknow, but one injured wolf remained elusive. The attacks left nearly 50 villages in indoors, and men standing guard during the night. Some families even sent their children away to relatives in other cities for safety. The terror began in March, and by July, attacks had escalated, with wolves often targeting children sleeping inside their homes.

Mumbai murder case: Bahraich's unexpected connection

The district found itself

Kumbh narrative shifts from uncertainty

to assured reunions: Government

embroiled in a high-profile murder case when the killing of NCP leader Baba Siddiqui in Mumbai was linked to Bahraich. On October 12, Baba Siddiqui, a former minister, was shot dead by three assailants.

Dharmraj Kashyap and Shivkumar—were residents of Bahraich's Kaiserganj area, while a third accomplice hailed from Haryana.

Mumbai police arrested Dharmraj Kashyap, but Shivkumar remains at large. In their search, the police detained two more youths from Bahraich, and an investigation is underway with the collaboration of the Mumbai police and Uttar Pradesh STF.

Milkipur By-election cleared after legal hurdle withdrawn

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

 $T^{\text{he path for the by-election}}_{\text{on the Milkipur seat in}}$ Ayodhya district has been cleared following a decision to withdraw a pending petition. This legal hurdle had delayed the announcement of the by-

However, the lawyer representing BJP leader Baba Gorakhnath confirmed that he will be withdrawing the petition filed in the Allahabad High Court, paving the way for the Election Commission to proceed. With this development, it is speculated that the election on this seat could be scheduled alongside other byelections in the state.

The Milkipur Assembly seat was vacated after Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Awadhesh Prasad won the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat. The SP has already named Awadhesh Prasad's son, Ajit Prasad, as its candidate for the by-election, aiming to retain its hold on the constituency.

Legal dispute delayed Milkipur

by-election The by-election for the Milkipur assembly seat was



the Allahabad High Court. The petition challenged the validity of documents submitted by SP candidate Awadhesh Prasad during the 2022 assembly elections, where he defeated BJP's Baba Gorakhnath by over 13,000 votes. The pending petition had prevented the Election Commission from announcing the by-election for this seat.

In a video statement, Baba Gorakhnath's lawyer, Advocate Rudra Vikram Singh, clarified that the legal case, which had blocked the by-election process, would be withdrawn. He emphasized that since Awadhesh Prasad is no longer an MLA from Milkipur, the petition no longer holds ground. "We will appeal to the

High Court to withdraw the petition within the next couple of days, allowing the by-election process to move forward," Singh said

By-Elections Announced for Nine Seats in Uttar Pradesh The Election Commission has announced by-elections for nine out of the 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. The Milkipur seat in Ayodhya was initially excluded from this announcement due to the pending legal petition. Voting for the by-elections on the nine seats is scheduled for November 13, with the counting of votes set for November

The by-elections will be held in Karhal (Mainpuri), Sisamau (Kanpur), Katehari (Ambedkarnagar), Kundarki (Moradabad), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur Ghaziabad, (Prayagraj), Majhwa (Mirzapur) and Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar)

The Sisamau seat became vacant following the conviction of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, while the remaining nine seats were vacated as the respective MLAs became members of the Lok

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is redefining the ageold cinematic trope of loved ones getting separated in the bustling crowds of the Kumbh Mela. Through meticulous planning and state-of-the-art technology, the government aims to put an end to the 'filmy' drama of people getting lost at the Maha Kumbh and reuniting years later.

Instead, the Maha Kumbh 2025 is set to be a safer, more organized event, where lost individuals are swiftly reunited with their families.

The UP government has introduced a cutting-edge lost-and-found system, focusing on the safety of every visitor, particularly children and the elderly. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the Prayagraj Mela Authority and the Police Department, aiming to prevent missing cases and ensure that anyone who gets separated is quickly found and reunited with their loved ones.

A key feature of this system is an innovative pilgrim registration setup designed to curb instances of missing persons. The high-tech lost-and-found centers will digitally register



anyone who goes missing, sharing their details across multiple centers and on social media platforms like Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). These centers will also make announcements for all lost individuals, transforming the fair's narrative from one of separation to one of quick, efficient reunions. Special attention is being paid to

the safety of children and women. Anyone attempting to claim a child or a woman must first verify their identity, with the police intervening in any doubtful situations. This precaution ensures that vulnerable individuals do not fall into the wrong hands, unlike the dramatic storylines often portrayed in movies.

Shift from 'Filmy' Drama to **Real-Life Safety**

The iconic scenes of family members getting separated in the vast crowds of the Kumbh Mela have long been a staple in Indian cinema, from the 1943 film Taqdeer to the 1970s clas-

sic Mela. These stories often hinged on chance encounters and long-lost reunions, leaving an emotional imprint on audiences. However, the Yogi government's initiative aims to replace these chance encounters with a systematic process that prioritizes safety and responsi-

In films, the search for lost loved ones often depended on fate and took years. Now, with the government's new system, if a lost individual remains unclaimed for 12 hours, the police will intervene, ensuring their safety until they are reunited with their families. This guarantees that no one will remain lost for long, and that reunions will be swift and secure. Government spokesman said:

"For the millions of pilgrims expected at the Maha Kumbh 2025, the government's initiative promises an event that is both safe and memorable. The new lost-and-found centers, equipped with digital registration and real-time announcements, will eliminate the fear of getting lost in the crowd. Ĭnstead, pilgrims can look forward to an experience where their safety is the priority, and where the narrative has shifted from uncertainty to assured www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Election time

The elections in the two states, along with by-elections, will provide a clear snapshot of the public sentiment

It is election time once again. The last round of elections in 2024 would be held in November. The Election Commission has announced that Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand will begin on November 13. Jharkhand will go to the polls in two phases, on November 13 and 20, while Maharashtra will hold a single-phase election on November 20. The votes for both states will be counted on November 23. Additionally, dates for several Lok Sabha by-elections, including in Wayanad, Kerala, where a bypoll is needed after Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat, have been announced. The Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand are critical for both the ruling and the Opposition parties, as they serve as key battlegrounds to gauge their standing. In Maharashtra, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faces a formidable challenge from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress.

The MVA aims to capitalise on public dissatisfaction over issues like economic distress and governance failures while projecting a united front despite internal tensions.

In Jharkhand, the contest is equally poised, with the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress alliance seeking to fend off the BJP's challenge. The ruling coalition is banking on Chief Minister Hemant Soren's popularity and social welfare schemes to retain power. However, the BJP is expected to emphasise issues like law and order and tribal rights to swing the vote in its favour. Apart from the Assembly polls, by-elections will be con-

ducted on November 13 for four Assembly seats in Punjab—Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal (SC), Gidderbaha, and Barnala. These bypolls are seen as indicators of the prevailing political sentiment in the regions, potentially setting the tone for broader electoral battles. In addition, the by-election for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala presents another crucial contest. Speculation is rife that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra may make her electoral debut from this constituency, adding a significant dimension to the Congress's campaign strategy. Elections in India are not only a period of heightened activity for political parties but also a monumental task for the Election Commission and government machinery. Conducting elections in the country is no small feat, as ensuring a peaceful, free and fair process presents significant challenge. The upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, along with the bypolls, will serve as critical indicators of India's evolving political dynamics. As the states prepare for high-stakes battles, various political scenarios could unfold, influenced by factors like coalition strategies, regional issues and leadership challenges. But ultimately it would be the unpredictable and elusive voters who would decide the fate of the political parties.



A vendor arranges earthen lamps (Diya) for sale, in Bikaner

Haryana setback exposes cracks in INDIA Bloc

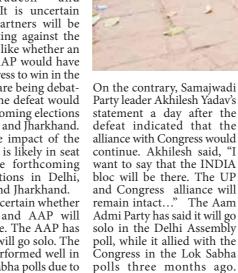


The Congress defeat has not only dampened the party's resurgence narrative but also underscored the need for a recalibrated approach to coalition politics

he Grand Old Congress Party faces criticism from its INDIA coalition partners for mishandling the recent Haryana Assembly polls, allowing the BJP to win for a third time despite ten years of anti-incumbency. Most exit polls had predicted a clear win for the Congress, but the BJP secured 48 out of 90 seats, a victory even the BJP itself was surprised by. A win in Haryana would have boosted the Congress resurgence story. However, Congress lost this fifth Assembly election recently due to internal conflicts, adding to its previous losses in Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. It is uncertain whether the partners will be united in fighting against the BJP. Questions like whether an alliance with AAP would have favoured Congress to win in the Haryana polls are being debated. Secondly, the defeat would impact the upcoming elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The immediate impact of the Haryana result is likely in seat sharing in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Delhi, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Thirdly, it is uncertain whether the Congress and AAP will have an alliance. The AAP has already said it will go solo. The INDIA bloc performed well in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls due to its adaptability and compro-mise. The main aim of the Coalition was to give a one-toone fight with the BJP and not split the anti-BJP votes. The Coalition put irritable issues on the back burner and managed to work well. They functioned with the sole aim of defeating the BJP and, to a certain extent, succeeded. The BJP majority was reduced, and the govern-

help of JD (U) and TDP. The Harvana defeat has altered the situation within the Coalition, with the INDIA bloc getting an edge over the Congress. The partners would probably deal with a slightly more restrained and sobered Congress. No one has said so far

ment had to be formed with the



The other allies criticise Congress for its overconfidence and rigid attitude toward seat sharing. The resurgent Congress, which had doubled its tally in the Lok Sabha polls, weakened after its Haryana shocker. Most exit polls suggested an astounding win for Congress in Haryana because the BJP faced a 10-year anti-incumbency and dealt with a section of disgruntled people. However, the BJP sprung a surprise and registered its most impressive victory in

Congress won no seat.

No party has ever won a third term in the rural state. Discussions occur between that the INDIA bloc is finished. the Congress, the Shiv Sena

Haryana.



THE MAIN AIM OF

THE COALITION WAS TO GIVE A ONE-TO-ONE FIGHT WITH THE BJP AND NOT SPLIT THE ANTI-BJP VOTES. THE COALITION PUT **IRRITABLE ISSUES ON** THE BACK BURNER AND MANAGED

TO WORK WELL

(Uddhav) and the Nationalist Congress Party Maharashtra. Congress needs to be more responsive to the seat-sharing formula and Sena's demand for Thackeray to be projected as the CM's face even before the polls. The AAP won no seat in the Haryana election but got roughly 1.78 per cent of the

It would have undoubtedly added to the INDIA bloc's kitty if Congress had allied with AAP. According to Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, the Congress ignored the smaller parties and their offers for collaboration. Leaders from the Trinamool Congress, AAP, Shiv Sena (Uddhav), National Conference, RJD, Nationalist Congress Party, and others were critical of the Congress for messing up the Haryana polls. Shiv Sena mouthpiece Saamna said, "No one thought the BJP government would be elected in Haryana again. It seems Congress's overconfidence and arrogance of local Congress leaders led to the party's defeat," the Marathi paper said in its editorial on Wednesday. Repeating the formula adopted during the

Lok Sabha polls for seat sharing is crucial, at least in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand polls. The subdued Congress will not have the upper hand in seat sharing with most of its allies. The present mood in the INDIA coalition must impact Congress's relations with its partners.

The Opposition may not be able to withstand any more shocks. Congress must focus on the 286 seats in a direct fight with the BJP. The 2024 polls proved the Congres' strike rate against the BJP rose to 29 per cent from 8 per cent in 2019. Significantly, the number of seats in which the Congress fought with the BJP was 286, down from 370 in 2014.Congress came to power in 2004 and 2009 because of its cordial relationships with the partners. The onus for keeping the alliance is broadly on the Congress. It must realise that every partner, small or big, is essential. Congress has had introspection sessions, and Panchmadi and Shimla are good examples. It is time for one more such session.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Indian women deserve support, not judgement



We must start questioning the unrealistic expectations placed on women and inculcate a culture that promotes shared responsibilities and duties

ndian women are increasingly taking on obliga-Lions that exceed 55 hours per week. They manage to pursue their professional careers while also managing a household—what one may refer to as the "second job." It reveals an unsettling fact about the intimidating pressure on women to perform above their capabilities. Although this problem between job and private life affects women all over the world, it is especially difficult for Indian women due to cultural expectations, societal standards and the long-held conviction that they "must do

The question arises: why is there so much pressure on Indian women to push themselves beyond their breaking point? The answer lies in deeply ingrained gender roles and societal expectations. While strides have been made in women's empowerment, the onus of managing the household and caring for children continues to largely fall on their shoulders, even as they excel in their careers.

As more women enter the workforce and pursue professional goals, the expectation to continue fulfilling traditional roles has not diminished. Instead, it has expanded, creating an unsustain-

able juggling act. Are women taken for granted? In many ways, yes. The concept that women are born to balance this act manifests itself in the belief that they can easily handle a high-demanding profession while also serving as primary carers, homemakers, and support for the rest of the extended family. However, such an assumption ignores the impact on their physical and mental wellbeing. Each woman's drive is influenced by the societally imposed "superwoman" image, which puts undue

they falter, they are unfairly

judged. But why should society judge women for trying to manage the impossible? The expectations placed on women often come with little recognition or appreciation for the sacrifices they make. Instead, when women struggle or choose to prioritise one aspect of their life over another, they are met with criticism rather than compassion.

This is especially true for those who lack a strong support system. If a woman does not have family members willing to share the load of child-rearing or household management, she is left to carry an even heavier burden. pressure on them. And when Should she be judged for

this? Absolutely not. Let us not forget that many Indian women are also teachers, a profession that requires nurturing, patience and a relentless dedication to the betterment of future genera-

These women are shaping young minds in the classroom while simultaneously caring for their own families at home. The least society can do is give them the space and freedom they deserve, without the weight of judgement. It's time we, as a society, recognise that women's worth is not measured by their ability to "do it all." We must start questioning the unrealistic expectations placed on them and, instead, advocate for a culture that promotes shared responsibilities. Supporting women in their endeavors whether in their careers or at home—by giving them the freedom to make choices without judgment is essential. Only then can we begin to alleviate the unnecessary pressures that have, for too long, weighed on the shoulders of

Indian women. (The author is a motivational speaker and a freelance writer; views are personal)

INDIA-CANADA DIPLOMATIC CRISIS Madam — Apropos to the article

'Souring relations,' on October 16. India is withdrawing its High Commissioner from Canada after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau again accused India of masterminding the June 18, 2023, killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia. Trudeau's accusation and mischaracterisation of India is based on the American intelligence's raw data supplied to Canada. But, Sikh militants in both Canada and California are deeply involved in organised crime and gang violence. Perhaps, Trudeau believed the volume and frequency of the accusation could trump the truth. He also may believe that doubling down on Sikh militants might win him votes in key districts. On both points, he is wrong. After Khalistani terrorists blew up Air India Flight 182, ignorance can be no excuse about the movement's lethality. Left unchecked, the Khalistani extremists Trudeau's government shelters can be as lethal as Al Qaeda. The movement would be impotent without funding, however. Here, Canadian banks are as complicit as the Arab and Somali hawala agents who ultimately helped move money around prior to Al Qaeda's 1998 East Africa embassy bombings and the September 11, 2001, terror attacks in New York and Washington. Hence, Canada is guilty of abetting terrorism.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

END COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Madam— It is indeed a matter of concern that communal clashes are again showing their ugly faces. No religion can recommend violent reactions for any reason. But every religion suggests being patient even under utter provocation. Therefore, clash in the name of God and religion is only an organised attempt to disturb peace and take undue advantage of it. But the history is clear with

Firecracker ban insufficient



his refers to the news, "Delhi government imposes ban on firecrackers to combat air pollution" (October 15). Besides the increasing population density, the air in Delhi remains polluted and it is being inhaled by the majority of the populace and people commuting there. Recently, the AQI level is showing

attract some people for sometime but not all for all the times. People have their basic livelihood issues and any group interested in relieving them of their plights should come out with constructive ideas and suggestions.

But sharpening the frictions and promoting clashes should be understood by the people as anti-social acts that aim at reaping advantages for the self or the group. If any group plans to promote its cause by promoting differences and violent reactions, it should remember that the results of such activities will be only negative in the long run and the gains, if any, will be purely ephemeral. However, it is for the people to identify such persons and groups and keep them at a distance without falling prey to their deceptive traps.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

LIMIT SCREEN TIME Madam — In our daily lives, mindless scrolling on social media has turned into an addiction fuelled by the constant its messages that such chauvinists can overflow of news and information.

Apparently the decision of the Delhi govern-

ment to ban the production, storage, sale and use of firecrackers till January 25 seems to help in reducing the worsening pollution condition, but it will irritate the majority of Hindus in view of the upcoming Chhath pooja and Diwali festivals The State BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has raised a valid question to the Delhi gov-

ernment that the main reasons for pollution are the burning of stubble in the neighbouring state of Punjab and dust is flying on many broken roads. Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President Devendra Yadav has argued the bitter truth that the arrangements made to control pollution have been inadequate. It would be better to discourage the use of firecrackers in social and religious events. Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

People often find themselves endlessly scrolling through content without any specific purpose. We must try to acknowledge that this scrolling addiction can lead to a decrease in cognitive ability leading to various psychological disorders, or sometimes it may also hamper the mental well-being of an individual, resulting in a reduction and a lack of focus and attention while doing any job or specific task. Scrolling might give us temporary pleasure, but at what

We are just making ourselves more vulnerable and slowly becoming a puppet of social media and mobile phones. Setting a limit on scrolling, planning a digital free period, and bringing offline leisure activities into our daily routine can help an individual to alleviate this dangerous addiction. So, don't lose yourself for some momentary pleasure because ultimately health is wealth.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN

REVIVING FAMILY BONDS

A family can transform a person into an achiever by right encouragement and support



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJI**

mall family, Happy family (Chhota Parivar-Sukhi Pariwar) & 'Hum Do Hamare', these two jingles coined by the administration had changed the family planning scenario in India over the years. But it's so ironic that despite becoming the first country to adopt a national policy for limiting a great Indian proclivity, India is expected to overtake China in 2034. At the time of independence, there were 345 million Indians. The world took 454 years to go from 345 million in 1310 AD to a billion, but India took just 52 years. Looking at the above facts and figures one wonders as to what would be the societal structure in a country that takes the burden of a population of a billion people. Sadly, the situation is guite grim, because today we see fewer families and more individuals living their lives on their terms with an 'I care a damn attitude' which is quite common in the metropolis

Our forefathers were brought up with strong family values, but with passing time and ever-changing scenarios, today those core values have been left behind to adopt new so-called modern values. It's so unfortunate that today very few of us know the importance of living or growing up in a family. One must understand the fact that a family is the first school where the literate and the illiterate have got their first lessons in the art of living and values, traditions, customs and conventions. Also in a family, everyone feels secure and protected. Everyone feels strong because of the strength of the family. Everyone feels that others welcome him or her. Everyone feels a kind of support, sustenance and encourage-



ment. It is, therefore, essential to help and facilitate the growth of good supportive families for foundation as a family tradition rather than promoting an individualistic lifestyle for the sake of the next Gen & future

There is some kind of magnetic force that holds the members of a family together. In other words, it is a feeling of closeness and belongingness in the mind of every person and the feeling of acceptance on the part of the whole group that gives it the nomenclature of a family. This feeling of acceptance is always based on the feeling of mutual love, loyalty and trust and also understanding and accommodation. Today we see that families are splitting up.

Certain values like mutual affection, love & genuine caring that make a family work are vanishing because everyone wants to live an independent life without any kind of family interference. However, if the younger ones continue to give regard to the elders and the elders continue to give love to the younger ones, then the family life will continue to be undisturbed and everyone will act responsibly. But, if each one gives up their responsibility and the feeling of concern for others, then cracks would appear and get deeper. Hence to preserve the family structure & tradition, one needs to have tolerance, sobriety & humility because family is very essential to civilised life, be it a spiritual family or the society as a family or of nations. Hence we should consider family as a place where we can work for physical, mental, moral and spiritual growth and can create an environment where others also can grow. A family can change a person into a great leader, disciplinarian, soldier, criminal or scholar by encouraging or discouraging, supporting or condemning certain positive or negative traits in him.

We must, therefore, pay attention to the transformation of families because families are the breeding grounds for good or bad human beings. So, let us awaken people to observe family values such as mutual love, trust, acceptance, accommodation, consideration and care for the wellbeing of others, the spirit of adjustment, tolerance, responsibility and cooperation because if these family values flourish, the nation and the whole humankind will flourish too.

(Writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views

Stubble burning crisis needs practical solutions



BANARJEE

Without swift and sustained efforts, northern India would face yet another year of deteriorating air quality, leaving millions to grapple with bad air quality



he Supreme Court has taken a strong stance against the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for its failure to control stubble burning, a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR. The court's rebuke, delivered during a hearing on October 3, emphasised the need for effective ground-level interventions and questioned why the Commission had not implemented any provisions of the relevant Act to curb pollution from crop residue burning. Stubble burning, especially in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, has been a major environmental challenge for years. Farmers often resort to burning crop residue after harvesting paddy and wheat due to the increasing mechanisation of farming, the use of combined harvesters, a shortage of labour, and rising labour costs. This practice, prevalent in October and November following the paddy harvest, results in the release of lar amounts of particulate matter into the atmosphere, contributing to the hazardous air quality in Delhi-NCR. The Supreme Court's criticism of the

CAQM reflects a broader frustration over the Commission's inability to effectively tackle this issue. Despite being set up three years ago to address pollution in the National Capital Region and surrounding areas, the CAQM has been criticised for its slow pace and lack of tangible outcomes. The court particularly highlighted that the Commission meets only once every three months, a frequency deemed inadequate for addressing a recurring crisis like stubble burning.

Moreover, the Commission has issued only 82 directives since its inception, a number that the court described as insufficient to deal with the scale of the problem. A significant concern raised by the Supreme Court is the lack of adequate staffing within the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR and other affected states, including Uttar Pradesh. The



FARMERS OFTEN **RESORT TO BURNING CROP RESIDUE AFTER HARVESTING** PADDY AND WHEAT DUE TO THE INCREASING OF FARMING, THE USE OF

COMBINED HARVESTERS, A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR, AND RISING LABOUR COSTS

court ordered that these vacant posts be filled by April 30, 2025, to improve monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Effective staffing is critical for implementing measures on the ground, particularly when dealing with farmers who rely on burning crop residue as a quick and cost-effective way to clear their fields.

Despite repeated interventions from both the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court, stubble burning incidents continue to surge. Last year alone, more than 33,000 incidents of stubble burning were recorded in Punjab, even after explicit instructions to engage with farmers to explore alternatives. The lack of a coordinated effort between the state governments and the CAQM has only exacer-MECHANISATION bated the pollution crisis during the winter months.

Turning Stubble into a

Resource: While the focus remains on the failures of the CAQM and the continued challenges in states like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a notable example of how stubble can be managed more sustainably. The state has successfully implemented initiatives that transform stubble into an energy resource and natural fertiliser, benefiting both the environment and the agricultural community.

The key to this transformation has been the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants that convert crop residue into energy and high-quality compost. This approach has not only addressed environmental concerns but has also created an additional income stream for material for the CBG process. In this way, stubble has shifted from being a burden to becoming a valuable asset in Uttar Pradesh's rural economy. As of last year, Uttar Pradesh led the country in CBG production, with ten operational plants. Currently, 24 CBG units are active, and another 93 are under construction. The state aims to have more than 100 CBG plants operational soon, a goal endorsed by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. During a March 2024 announcement, he highlighted the state's plan to double its bio-coal and biodiesel production by 2025. The success of CBG production in Uttar Pradesh has been bolstered by the Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy 2022, which offers various incentives for establishing bio-CNG and CBG units using agri-

The policy aims to set up CBG plants in every district, providing local solutions for managing stubble while promoting energy self-sufficiency. A significant milestone in this journey was the inauguration of a CBG plant in Dhuriyapar, Gorakhpur, on March 8, 2023, by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The plant, built for Rs 165 crore, processes 200 metric tonnes of straw, 20 metric tonnes of press mud, and 10 metric tonnes of cattle dung daily. It produces 20 metric tonnes of biogas and 125 metric tonnes of organic manure, contributing to higher agricultural yields while reducing dependency on chemical fertilisers. This initiative allows farmers to diversi-

cultural waste.

a crucial role in the energy sector. By reducing the practice of stubble burning, the state is making strides in environmental protection. The Yogi Adityanath government has expressed confidence that the enhanced produc-tion of bio-coal and biodiesel will help reduce air pollution in the region over the next five years. The Supreme Court's critique of the CAQM underscores the urgency of finding a balanced approach to stubble burning that respects both environmental concerns and the practical chal-lenges faced by farmers. Uttar Pradesh's model of converting stubble into a resource could serve as a blueprint for other states grappling with similar issues. However, the broader challenge remains: implementing such solutions at scale requires consistent policy support, ade quate resources, and a willingness to engage with farmers directly. The court's directive for the CAQM to improve its approach and for state governments to fill vacant posts by 2025 is a step towards accountability.

Yet, the real test will lie in translating these directives into action before another winter brings the familiar, suffocating haze back to the skies of Delhi-NCR. The question remains whether the CAQM, in partnership with state governments, can adapt and adopt innovative solutions like those seen in UP. Without swift and sustained efforts, the region risks facing another year of deteriorating air quality, leaving millions to grapple with the health consequences of inaction.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed

Urbanisation and youth: Building a healthier future amid rapid growth

By 2050, with 70 per cent of the global population expected to live in cities, engaging youth in shaping sustainable urban future is more crucial than ever

rbanisation, an engine for economic prosperity and resources, sits at the centre of modernity and impacts health outcomes. With rapid urbanisation, the UN projects that by 2050, 7 of 10 people will live in cities, and the youth will likely be the most dominant population. The future will be forged by the ever-increasing global youth, who are integral to playing a dynamic and revolutionary role in creating and building strong, prosperous, sustainable, and vibrant societies. In recent years, international organisations have emphasised the meaningful involvement of youth as vital to accelerating progress towards the SDGs while development continues to grow globally.



with this year's message of World Habitat Day, which focuses on "engaging youth to create a better urban future." However, while we work towards engaging the new generation in planning their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership opportunities, ensuring their healthy livelihood is imperative. Urbanisation's positive attrib-

that exist within it. Not all city residents experience or can access these benefits equally. For instance, 40 per cent of India's population will reside in the urban setup by 2030, with 24 per cent being the youth (15-29), making it a relatively young country. Although rapid urbanisation will continue to improve India's average household socio-economic condition and child health status, it is expected to disproportionately affect the health of urban youth, who are likely to become more vulnerable to

health challenges. Urbanisation without accounting for the primary healthcare amenities results in significant health disparities. As gentrification grows with urbanisation, a large chunk of the The approach also coincides utes also mask the inequalities youth is likely to reside in increased rates of malnutrition

urban slums and low-income areas. These areas carry distinct health challenges that are influenced by broader socioeconomic determinants such as poverty, education and employment.

Youth from low-income families and areas are more likely to face barriers to accessing education, which in turn limits job opportunities and perpetuates a cycle of poor health outcomes. These informal settlements

may sit adjacent to an affluent neighbourhood. Still, the people living there lack access to safe water and sanitation infrastructure, becoming hotspots for waterborne and vectorborne diseases due to flooding, open sewers, and overcrowding. With such poor hygiene,



adults worsen the burden of

In addition to infectious diseases, urban youth in lowerincome areas are increasingly exposed to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which are often exacerbated by poor diet, stress, and lack of access to early diagnosis or regular

health checkups. These substantial regional disparities affecting urban youth's

living and health conditions are also caused by the inequitable distribution of clinics and healthcare centres, which limits care options. According to NFHS-3, only 39.9 per cent of urban poor children get full immunisation compared to 65.4 per cent of urban non-poor children. Lower vaccination rates and a lack of awareness of ongoing health issues negatively impact school attendance and cogni-

tive development. The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), launched in 2013, has been instrumental in meeting the regulatory, reformatory, and developmental public health priorities for

urban settings. Over the years, NUHM has improved access to healthcare, allowing the urban poor

to choose public over costly private services. Among the other initiatives to focus on urban youth health, the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2021 outlines a 10-year vision for youth development by 2030, aligning with the United Nations' SDGs.

The NYP prioritises youth health as essential for India's holistic growth and progress by addressing critical health com-ponents of urban youth and acknowledging mental health. Further, India's pioneering step towards building inclusive health that benefits all and focuses on the youth also found prominence in the recent G20 New Delhi Leaders'

Declaration in 2023. The report encompasses ways to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and advance with

more health collaborations, especially when facing challenging mental health. While policies like NUHM and NYP have made strides in addressing urban youth health, more needs to be done and implemented to improve primary

Many urban healthcare centres still struggle with under-staffing, lack of resources, and accessibility issues for slum-dwelling youth. To ensure that India's urban youth thrive, it is crucial to increase investments in health services, prioritise mental health care, and continue engaging youth in the decision-making process for urban development.

(The writer is the Founder and Managing Director of IPE Global; views expressed

Israel strikes southern suburbs of Beirut for the first time in nearly a week

sraeli jets struck the southern suburbs of Beirut early ■ Wednesday for the first time in six days, Lebanese state media reported. The casualty count was not yet clear.

The attack comes just one day after caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said the United States government gave him some assurances of Israel easing its strikes in the Lebanese

Israel says it is striking Hezbollah assets in the suburbs, where the militant group has a strong presence, but it is also a busy residential and commercial area. The Israeli military said the Wednesday strike hit a weapons warehouse under a residential building.

The Israeli military posted an evacuation warning on the X platform saying it is targeting a building in the Haret Hreik neighborhood. An Associated Press photographer who witnessed the strikes said there were three in the area. The first strike was documented less than an hour after the notice.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8 in solidarity with the Palestinian militant group Hamas, following their surprise attack on southern Israel. A year of low-level fighting escalated



Smoke rise from destroved buildings that were hit by Israeli airstrikes in Qana village, south Lebanon on Wednesday

into all-out war last month, and has displaced some 1.2 million people in Lebanon. Elsewhere, Israeli strikes late Tuesday in the southern town of Qana killed at least 15

people, according to Lebanon's Civil Defense. Nuhad Bustanji, a spokesperson for the first responders, said rescue efforts were still underway and the toll could rise. Videos

shared on social media showed the smoking ruins of a building targeted in the strike with surrounding structures damaged as well. Local media said there were sever-

al strikes in the southern town Tuesday night. Qana was the site of an Israeli artillery strike on a United Nations compound that killed dozens of civilians in 1996.

Zelenskyy's 'victory plan' includes big hurdle for West **'NATO** membership for Ukraine'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday his plan to win his country's fight against Russia's invasion could bring peace next year, but it contains a step that some crucial Western allies have so far refused to countenance: inviting Ukraine to join NATO before the war ends.

"If we start moving according to this victory plan now, it may be possible to end the war no later than next year," Zelenskyy told his country's parliament.

He has recently been trying to win approval for the plan from Western partners, who so far have stopped short of publicly voicing their support for it.
The first point in Zelenskyy's five-

point plan that was presented in a speech to the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, is perhaps the most ambitious and the most likely to make Western allies balk: letting Ukraine into NATO while the fighting continues.

Zelenskyy said granting Ukraine membership in the alliance would be a "testament of (allies') determination" to support Ukraine. It may, however, be too ambitious a step.

NATO's collective security guarantee — Article 5 of the military alliance's treaty — is the pillar on which its credibility is based. It is a political commitment by all member countries to come to the aid of any member whose sovereignty or territory might be under attack.

NATO makes its decisions by consensus, and many allies including the United States and Germany — refuse to allow Ukraine in while fighting continues because they fear being dragged into a wider war with Russia.

At their summit in Washington in July, NATO's 32 members declared Ukraine on an "irreversible" path to membership in the Western military alliance. Any decision on offering to start membership talks is probably not likely before the next summit in the Netherlands in June.

Ukraine's troops are having trouble holding back Russia's military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region where they are gradually being pushed backward. Though Russia's gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up and Ukraine keenly feels the need for more large-scale Western help.

But there are signs that Western support may be waning, diminished by a focus on the Middle East wars and domestic political concerns. The US elections next month could bring a major shift in Ukraine's fortunes, as Washington has been the biggest provider of military aid. Zelenskyy publicly acknowl-

edged for the first time that in private talks with Ukraine its Western partners are increasingly talking about "negotiations' with Russia and much less frequently use the word "justice" in conversations about the war.

He also dialled up the stakes in Ukraine, repeating his recent claims that North Korea is now sending military personnel to help Russia's war effort, as well as delivering ammunition, and that Iran and China are also aiding

Zelenskyy's "victory plan" contains confidential sections which he didn't mention in Parliament, officials said.

Other aspects of the plan include continued striking of targets on Russian soil, including the incursion into Russia's Kursk border region that began in August and more long-range drone strikes on Russian infrastructure.

Ukraine, he said, also needs more air defence systems and access to a broader range of intelligence from allies.

Zelenskyy noted that Ukraine is rich in natural resources, including critically important metals 'worth trillions of US dollars," such as uranium, titanium, lithium, graphite and others.

Those Ükrainian assets, as well as the country's agricultural production, are among Russia's key targets in the war, he said, but could be shared in postwar times with partners.

Also in a postwar period, battlehardened Ukrainian troops would be an asset for NATO efforts to keep Russia at bay.

At least 100 killed as gasoline tanker explodes in Nigeria

More than 100 people have been killed and 50 others injured after a gasoline tanker overturned in Nigeria and sparked an explosion as dozens of people rushed to the vehicle to scoop up the fuel, police said Wednesday. The explosion occurred past midnight in Jigawa state's Majiya town after the tanker driver lost control of the vehicle while

town after the tanker driver lost control of the vehicle while travelling on a highway close to a university, police spokesper son Lawan Adam said.

Deadly tanker accidents are common in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, where traffic regulations are not strictly enforced in many places and there is a lack of alternatives such as an efficient railway system to transport cargo.

It is also common for people to salvage fuel after such acci dents, especially with Nigeria's soaring fuel prices. Residents who heard about the latest accident rushed to the scene and were scooping up fuel, "sparking a massive infer-

no that killed 94 people on the spot," Adam said. Videos that appeared to be from the scene showed a massive fire stretching across the entire area, with what appeared to be bodies littered at the scene.



Jinping's rare visit to province facing Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI (TAIWAN)

China's President Xi Jinping made a rare visit to a province facing Taiwan following military exercises that mobilised China's navy, air force, missile force and land troops to simulate a blockade of the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own territory and

Xi did not comment on the mil itary exercises during his visit to Fujian province, according to the official Xinhua News Agency, but his visit came on the heels of China's dispatch of a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning air craft carrier and ships, in largescale military exercises surround ing Taiwan and its outlying

Xi has largely avoided public over the past year, but bringing Taiwan under Beijing's control remains a priority for his administration as head of the ruling Communist Party and its military, the People's Liberation Army. Taiwan's newly elected president Lai Ching-te has been vociferously criticized by Beijing for rejecting its position that Tawian is a part of China.

threatens to annex by force.

islands on Monday.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment"

Don't look at China's BRI through 'narrow political prism': Pak

 $P^{akistan\ Prime\ Minister\ Shehbaz}_{Sharif\ on\ Wednesday\ rooted\ for\ Beijing's\ Belt\ and\ Road\ Initiative\ at\ the}$ SCO summit here, saying such connectivity projects should not be viewed through a "narrow political prism" an apparent reference to India's reluctance to endorse it.

In his opening remarks at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, he said efforts like China's Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a part of the larger project, should be expanded. India has shown little enthusiasm for the China's "unilateral" initiative. And it has repeatedly criticised the China-Pakistan corridor for violating its territorial integrity as it involves building infrastructure in Pakistan-(Kashmir.

Indirectly challenging India's position, Sharif said, "Let us not look at such projects through the narrow political prism, and invest in our collective connectivity capacities which are crucial to advancing the shared vision of an economically integrated region.'

In his speech later, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said trade and connectivity initiatives must recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty and it is essential to have an "honest conversation" on lack of trust, a remark seen as an indirect reference to China. The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. Sixteen more countries are affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners".



We cannot ignore the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the international community bears the responsibility to ensure

an immediate and unconditional ceasefire leading to the establishment of state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds as its capital," he said. The Pakistan prime minister urged member states to strengthen the SCO framework to tackle regional challenges. "We are at a historic moment of transition where sweeping transformations are reshaping the global, social, political, economic, and security landscape," he said.

He affirmed Pakistan's "commitment to regional peace, stability and enhanced connectivity and sustainable socioeconomic development".

He said the SCO embodies the "collec-

leader condemned the Israeli attacks in of the global population anchored in the asking the Taliban government in that "Together, we have the potential to drive

socio-economic progress, enhance regional peace and stability, and to improve the quality of life for our citizens," he said. Sharif urged the leaders to use the SCO

meeting to "exchange ideas, share best practices and forge concrete action plans that will benefit our economies and societies". He expressed hope that wonderful outcomes that will emerge from our in-depth deliberations".

"Our collaboration, joint teamwork expands academic and tourism linkages, poverty alleviation, empowerment of women and youth across the SCO region are reflection and commitment of our determination to promote prosperity through unity," he said. Sharif said Afghanistan provides opporbours. He called for collective efforts to eradicate poverty. "Poverty is not just a social issue but a moral imperative," he said. He said it is time to tackle the threat of the climate change sweeping across the region. "Climate change is an existential crisis

used for terrorism against its neigh-

that transcends our borders and its impacts are felt universally," the Pakistani leader said.

He said Pakistan was on the frontline of disasters linked with climate change, as shown by 2022 floods that affected millions of people and caused losses worth USD30 billion.

There was no direct reference in his speech to bilateral issues with India. Pakistan became a full member of the SCO at its 2017 summit in Kazakhstan

Mexican president acknowledges killings of 3 civilians by military

AP MEXICO CITY

 $M_{\mbox{acknowledged Tuesday that}}^{\mbox{exico's new president}}$ three civilians including a child died in two shootouts involving the military last week in a violent border city.

President Claudia Sheinbaum said a soldier was killed in one of the shootouts, as well as two adults and an 8-year-old girl. She said the events on Friday and Saturday are under investigation. But Sheinbaum gave no sign of backing away from the outsized role that she and her predecessor have given to the armed forces. The events in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, started Friday when a nurse, her husband and son found themselves on a road where soldiers were pursuing suspects' vehicles. The husband,

crossfire. Sheinbaum said the soldier was apparently killed in an exchange

. Víctor Carrillo Martínez, told

local media there was a con-

frontation and his wife died in the

"It had to do with criminals who

opened fire on an army vehicle," she said. "It is very important to say that Nuevo Laredo is where criminal groups have carried out the most attacks on the army and the National Guard." The city has long been in the grip of the Northeast Cartel, an offshoot of the old Zetas gang. The second incident in Nuevo

Laredo happened Saturday, when the 8-year-old and her grandmother were driving to a store and were caught in the middle of a pursuit by soldiers or National Guard officers. The grandmother told reporters

that a military vehicle was pursuing an SUV and her car got stuck between them and the military opened fire. The Human Rights Commission

of Nuevo Laredo said a young man's tortured body was found nearby in a truck that the army and National Guard had been pursuing. Sheinbaum confirmed the two deaths, saying the shootings had involved the militarized National Guard.

"In case there has been any misbehavior by any member of the guard or the army, or any official,

it will be punished," she said. The Defense Department, which controls the National Guard, said it had no immediate com ment on the shootings.

Last week, the army was involved in another shooting that killed six migrants and wounded 10. In the incident near Tapachula, close to the border with Guatemala. soldiers claimed they heard "detonations" and opened fire on a truck carrying migrants from Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India, Pakistan and El Salvador.

The dead included an 11-yearold Egyptian girl. The area is often used by migrant smugglers, but warring drug cartels also operate in the region.

Former president Andrés Manuel López Ōbrador, who left office Sept. 30, gave the military an unprecedentedly wide role in public life and law enforcement. He created the militarized Guard and used the combined forces as the country's main law enforcement agencies, supplanting

But critics say the military is not trained to do civilian law enforce ment work.

Bodies of 5 Russian climbers who died on Nepal peak have been retrieved **AP** KATHMANDU

The bodies of five Russian mountaineers who died on the world's seventh-highest peak were retrieved from the mountain on Wednesday and flown to Kathmandu.

The bodies were picked up by rescue helicopters from base camp on Wednesday. They were then transported from the airport in Kathmandu to the morgue at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. The Russians were climbing the 8,167-metre (26,788-foot) high Mount Dhaulagiri during Nepal's autumn climbing sea-

The climbers were reported missing on Oct. 6 and a rescue helicopter spotted their bodies two days later. Bad weather and the location of the bodies made it difficult for rescuers to retrieve the bodies.

Two of the climbers reached the summit, the while other three had turned around without reaching the top before teammates at base camp lost radio contact with them.

Hong Kong cuts liquor tax in effort to reignite its nightlife industry

AP HONG KONG

 $H_{
m announced}^{
m ong}$ Kong's leader announced a cut to liquor tax Wednesday as the Asian financial hub hopes to revive its reputation as a travel destination with a vibrant nightlife and dining scene.

After fulfilling Beijing's longstanding imperative to enact a homegrown national security law, Chief Executive John Lee now faces challenges with economic competitiveness against regional rivals like Singapore, Japan, and mainland Chinese metropolises.

Changes in residents' lifestyles and a wave of middle-class emigration during the COVID-19 pandemic have dampened local demand. Many residents now prefer to spend their weekends in mainland China, attracted by its lower prices and a wider variety of entertainment options. Visitors from the mainland are also spending less in the city than before. Vacant shops are commonly

seen in the city's most popular

shopping districts, and rev-

down about 28% in the first half of 2024 from the same period in 2019, preliminary official data showed. In his annual policy address,

enue at the city's bars were

Lee said the duty rate for liquor with an import price of more than 200 Hong Kong dollars (about \$26) would be slashed from 100% to 10% for the portion above that price starting Wednesday. He hoped the policy would foster the logistics, storage, tourism and high-end dining industries.

The government previously told lawmakers that after wine duties were abolished in 2008. imports jumped 80% in a year and the city welcomed hundreds of new wine-related businesses.

Lee, a former security chief handpicked by Beijing to lead Hong Kong, pushed through the new security law in March. Critics fear the law will further curtail the civil liberties promised to the former British

Chinese rule in 1997. That law follows similar national legislation Beijing imposed

colony when it returned to

in 2020 to quell huge anti-government protests. Since that law took effect, many of the city's leading activists have been prosecuted, forced into self-exile or silenced. The Hong Kong government said the security laws are necessary for the city's stability. But in the wake of these dra-

matic political changes, many middle-class families and young professionals have emigrated to Britain, Canada, Taiwan and the United States.

To attract more wealthy migrants, Lee also revised a scheme that awards residency to applicants who invest a minimum of 30 million Hong Kong dollars (\$3.9 million) in certain types of assets. Starting Wednesday, purchases of homes valued at 50 million Hong Kong dollars (\$6.4 million) or more can be counted for up to a third of the require-

ment, he said.

Indian-origin candidates in race for Oxford University Chancellor

The University of Oxford on Wednesday announced the 38 finalists in the race to be elected the new Chancellor of the University of Oxford, which includes Indian-origin candidates but excludes former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan.

Ankur Shiv Bhandari, the first Indian-origin Mayor of Bracknell Forest in Berkshire; Nirpal Singh Paul Bhangal, a Professor of International Entrepreneurship; and Pratik Tarvadi, a medical professional, will go head-to-head with academics, politicians, philanthropists and entrepre-

Former Conservative Party leader Lord William Hague and former Labour politician Lord Peter Mandelson are among the senior politicians selected, with Khan deemed to have been disqualified following the selection process.

"Applications were considered by the Chancellor's Election Committee solely on the four exclusion criteria set out in the university's regulations. All applicants have been notified whether their submissions have been successful," a university statement reads. Under some of the declared university criteria, candidates for the unremunerated role had to demonstrate outstanding achievements in their field and the ability to command

respect beyond it. They also had to prove a deep appreciation for the university's research and academic mission, its global community, its ambition to remain a world-class research and teaching university; and the ability and willingness to enhance the reputation of the university locally, nationally and abroad.

While the university did not specify any reasons for individual disqualifications, some experts had indicated that Khan's criminal convictions in his country may disqualify the former Oxford alumni.

Members of the world-leading university's Convocation, consisting of staff and graduates of Oxford University, will now vote online to elect the successor of Lord Patten, a former governor of Hong Kong, who retires at the end of Trinity Term 2024 after 21 years as Chancellor.

During the first round of voting, in the week commencing October 28, voters will have the opportunity to rank as many candidates as they choose. The top five candidates, who will be announced in the week commencing November 4, will proceed to the second round of voting scheduled for the week beginning November 18. The University of Oxford's new Chancellor will be announced in the week of November 25. The incoming Chancellor will

be in post for a fixed term of no more than 10 years in accordance with amendments to university statutes enacted earlier this year.

The Chancellor is the titular head of Oxford University and presides over several key ceremonies and also chairs the Committee to Elect the Vice-Chancellor. In addition to these formal duties, the Chancellor undertakes advocacy, advisory and fundraising work, acting as an ambassador for the university at a range of national and international events. "University of Oxford has been a temple of learning, research, and a beacon of history over many centuries... It will be the honour of my life to be able to serve as the Chancellor of Oxford University, and I feel I am best suited for the role and to play a part in furthering the goals of this beloved institution, reads Bhandari's "Statement of Interest" for the role.

NAME CHANGE

is mentioned on my Aadhar Card (No.570197668301) and PAN Card (No.AMCPK0893P). The Actual Name is SHWETA GUPTA respectively, which

nay be amended accordingly.

Senior US official warns of N Korean nuclear threats

US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said on Wednesday that Washington and its allies are "alarmed" by North Korea's nuclear and missile threats as well as its increasing military support for Russia's war in Ukraine, but said he couldn't confirm Ukrainian claims that Pyongyang was also sending soldiers to fight for Moscow.

Campbell spoke with reporters following discussions with South Korean and Japanese counterparts on reinvigorating an international pressure campaign against North Korea, which faltered in recent years amid a deepening divide at the UN Security

Earlier on Wednesday, Washington, Seoul and Tokyo announced plans with eight Western governments to launch a new multinational team to monitor the enforcement of sanctions against North Korea. Russia in March vetoed a UN res-

South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun, center, poses for photos with United States Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell (right) and Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano during their trilateral meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul on Wednesday.

olution in a move that effectively abolished monitoring by UN experts of Security Council sanctions against North Korea, which prompted Western accusations that Moscow was acting to shield its arms purchases from Pyongyang to fuel its war in Ukraine.

North Korea was increasing its support of materials, including artillery and missiles, to support Russia's war on Ukraine, which he said was "creating further instability in Europe". "We are concerned by them and

Campbell said there are signs that

.. we agreed that we will contin-

पंजाब नेशनल बेंक punjab national bank

ue to monitor the situation closely," Campbell said about the claims.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has claimed that North Korea is sending military personnel to help Russia's war effort without providing details. Ukrainian media reported earlier this month that six North Koreans were among those killed after a Ukrainian missile strike on October 3.

North Korea has also been making increasingly provocative threats against rival South Korea, including accusing the South of infiltrating drones to drop anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang and threatening to attack the South if it happens again.

North Korea also on Tuesday blew up the northern sections of unused road and rail routes that once linked it with South Korea. in a choreographed demolition aimed at demonstrating its growing anger with South Korea's conservative government.

Jemima calls for Imran's release

PTI ISLAMABAD

Temima Goldsmith, ex-wife of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, on Wednesday called for his release, lifting a ban on his meetings with family and claimed that these were attempts "to silence them and all political opposition in Pakistan.

Her allegations and the appeal came as a long post on X at a time when Pakistan is hosting the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on

PUBLIC NOTICE

uit known to all that, my clients Shamshad Ahme
o Late Sh. Makbool Ahmed, Rio C-1189 /
Ingam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 and Sm sesena Begam, Wio Sh. Shamshad Ahmed, Rio No. 1189/9, Block-C, Sangam Vihar, New Delh No. 1189/9, Block-C, Sangam Vihar, New Delh No. 1189/9, Block-C, Sangam Vihar, New Delh Sh. Shamshad Ahmed, Rio C-1189, Sangan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that my clients Sh. Arun Kumar Rajput and his wife Smt. Shikha Rajput and his mother Smt Delhi-110007, have cut off their family relations and have disowned his/her son / grandson Sh. Konark Rajput and his wife Smt. Aniali Raiput from their movable immovable properties due to his disobedien and quarrelsome nature and his bad habits not be responsible for any act of Sh. Konark Rajput in any manner and my clients have no liability of Sh Konark Rajput in Past/Present/Future.

nupam Jindal (Advocate) Chamber No. -Y-23. Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all, TAJINDER PAL SINGH S, LATE SH, PRITAM SINGH R/o GH-4/34 PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110063 one the Mutatee/Owner of DDA SFS FLAT NO. 34 GROUND FLOOR, CAT-II, POCKET-GH-4(G-4) AREA), PASCHIM VIHARI, NEW DELHI-110063 (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.new/delhi/110063) (https://doi.org/10.10163) (https://doi.org/10.101

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alam had acquired Plot bearing No. 16/23, area mea suring 20 sq. yrds., out of Khasra No. 57, situated a Village Babarpur in the abadi of Kabir Nagar, Shahdara Delhi vide Read, GPA Dt. 01.06.2004 executed by Mi Saleem Ahmed, Now Mr. Mursheed Alam is the undis puted owner of the said property.

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at belomentioned address. After expiration of notice period the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated nul and void and also treated as waived and not bindin on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, B Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

THE PIONEER A

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sandeep Rana S/o Sh. Piar Chand Rana, R/o Tower SUN-7, Flat No. 1602, Floor-16th, Migsun Ultimo, Plot GH-03, Sector-Omicron-3, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, 201310, U.P. declare that in my school & college record my name is Sandeep Kumar. I changed my name from Sandeep Kumar to Sandeep Rana for all future purposes.

PD(859)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to Inform to the public at large that Mrs. Nirmala Rawat W/o Mr. Dan Singh Rawat who is the owner of the Property no. 2431, Gall no. 64-B, area measuring 45.98 Sq. Meters, out of Khasra no. 103, Situated at Unauthorized Colony Molar Bants Extr., Block-E2, Badarpur, Delhi owner vide Notarized GPA, ATS & WILL dated 01.11.2011 Executed by Mrs. Savita Devit further became owner through Conveyance Deed dated 16.03.2022 (Vide Doc No.1326) executed by POI through DDA and same to be financed by Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd., Noida. That, fran Yerson having any type of claim/right/title/inforest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienete: Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301Contact#9120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed that I, Mrs. Monika, W/o Mr. Mano Tyagi, R/o A-198, Indrapuri, Loni Deha Ghaziabad, U.P., do hereby declare that I am the sole and exclusive owner in respect of property i.e. Property No. 198A, measuring 36.41 sq. mts., at Indrapuri ABCD, Hadbast Gram Dharoti Khurd, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. I further declare that I have lost/misplaced the original General Power of Attorney in respect of my said property i.e. General Power of Attorney dated 13.10.1998 executed by Sh. Tulsi Das in favour of Sh. Mam Chand, which is tuly registered on 13/10/1998 in the office of duly registered on 13/10/1998, in the office of Sub-Registrar Ghaziabad-IV, U.P. If anyone finds the said document please contact the

MRS. MONIKA W/o Mr. Manoj Tyagi, R/o A-198, Indrapur Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, U.P., Mob.: 9560764011

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients (1) Shri Bhupinder Singh Thakur S/o Late Rajinder Singh Thakur S/o Late Rajinder Singh Thakar Janjhua resident of 29B, Pusa Road, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 & (2) Ms. Sherry Thakar D/o Late Rajinder Singh Thakar Janjhua resident of 29-B, Pusa Road, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 are filing application in L&DO for Substitution / Mutation of (1/3rd undivided share) Bungalow Plot No.29, situated at Pusa Road, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 in the names of (1) Sh. Bhupinder Singh Thakur & (2) Ms. Sherry Thakar on the grounds of Indemnity Bond, Affidavils, if there are any objections/ claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be eneral public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visitin-L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at l&do@nic.in within 30 days of th publication of this notice

Dublication of this nouce.
Client Names:
Bhupinder Singh Thakur & Sherry Thakar
Both R/O 29-B, Pusa Road,
Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060
Mobile No.: 9997401849
Bhupinder Kumar Arya (Advocate)
Regn. No. D/629/2012

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my clients
Smt. Bhudevi w/o Late Sh. Malakhan Singh & Mr.
Jagjeevan Singh S/o Late Sh. Malakhan Singh
Both R/o N-444, Mangol Puri, Block-N, Delhi-83
have debarred & disowned their son & brother
namely Sh. Yash Pal Singh S/o Late Sh. Malakhan.
Singh from all their ascepts movable & immovable Singh from all their assets, movable & immovable properties due to his disrespectful behavior & being out of control of my clients. My clients have also served all their relations with him. My clients shall not be responsible for his act & conduct & will not have any concern with him in future, if anybody deals with him in any manner he/she shall

do so at his/her own risk, costs & consequences. He shall be responsible himself for his act

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARROUD MODES DIVISION

HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.I e-Tender Call Notice e-TCN No.CE/HWDI/ACCTS-05/24/334, dtd.09.10.2024. Name of the Work: "Developmen of New Road along with drain in CD Plots for easy movement of cargo through IPT/Dumpers". Put to tender value: Rs.5,13,88,904.34 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 04.11.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Harbour Works Division No.I, Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/44/2024-2025 REPAIRS TO PROTECTION **WORKS OF TUNNEL**

dtd.15.10.2024

E-Tender Notice No.: 95/W-2/APDJ Dated: 14-10-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works; Tender No.: 24-AP-III- 2024 Name of Work: Repairs to protection work of Tunnel No. 1 at Km 31/1-4 between Sivok-Bagrakot under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/Malbazar. Tender Value: ₹7.76.47.054.92/-: Earnest Money: ₹5,38,200/-; Date & time of Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 04-11-2024. For details please visit in the website

DRM(W), Alipurduar Junction MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

http://www.ireps.gov.in.

E-AUCTION LEASING FOR PARCEL SPACE E-Auction contract for leasing of SLR's and VP. Description: Parcel Space

in SLR Coach (Single compartment), Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee.

	Auction Catalogue No. TSK-SLR-38				
Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips			
AA/1	15604-SLR-F2-LEDO-GHY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/2	15670-SLR-F2-DBRT-GHY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/3	20505-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209			
AA/4	15928-SLR-F2-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	418			
AA/5	15968-SLR-F1-LEDO-RNY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	313			
AA/6	15928-SLR-R1-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	418			
AA/7	15960-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	522			
AA/8	15930-SLR-F1-NTSK-TBM-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/9	15968-SLR-F2-LEDO-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	313			
AA/10	20503-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	522			
AA/11	15670-SLR-R1-DBRT-GHY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/12	15928-SLR-F1-NTSK-RNY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	418			
AA/13	15604-SLR-R1-LEDO-GHY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/14	15968-SLR-R1-LEDO-RNY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	314			
AA/15	12423-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/16	15642-SLR-R1-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
Auction	Auction Start Date & Time: 10.00 hrs. of 29-10-2024. Auction				

Close Date & Time: 13.00 hrs. of 29-10-2024

Auction Catalogue No. TSK-SLR-VPH-39

Seq No.	o. Lot No./Category			
AA/1	13281-13282-VP-1-DBRG-RJPB-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	105		
AA/2	20505-20506-VP-1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	209		
AA/3	15930-15929-VP-1-NTSK-TBM-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	105		
Auction Start Date & Time: 10.00 hrs. of 01-11-2024, Auction				

Close Date & Time: 10.50 hrs. of 01-11-2024

Auction Catalogue No. TSK-SLR-VP-40

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips			
AA/1	22502-SLR-F1-NTSK-SMVB-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/2	15962-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-24-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209			
AA/3	15642-SLR-F2-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/4	15604-SLR-F1-LEDO-GHY-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/5	15670-SLR-F1-DBRT-GHY-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/6	15933-SLR-F1-NTSK-ASR-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/7	15946-SLR-F1-DBRG-LTT-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209			
AA/8	15642-SLR-F1-NTSK-SCL-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/9	22504-SLR-F1-DBRG-CAPE-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	417			
AA/10	13281-SLR-F1-DBRG-RJPB-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	105			
AA/11	15909-SLR-F1-DBRG-LGH-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730			
AA/12	15903-SLR-F1-DBRG-CDG-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	209			
Auction	Auction Start Date & Time: 10.00 hrs. of 04-11-2024. Auction				

Close Date & Time: 12.20 hrs. of 04-11-2024. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Tinsukia **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

It is for general information that I, SHWETA GUPTA W/O VARUN GUPTA R/O HOUSE NO.B-7/112-B,SAFDARIUNG ENCLAVE EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110029.declare that my name was SHWETA KHANDELWAL prior to marriage and my name has been changed as SHWETA GUPTA after the marriage. The SHWETA KHANDELWAL and SHWETA GUPTA is the same and one person. That my name SHWETA GUPTA

ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. F.S. AREA MEASURING 59 SO, YDS. QUITO FK HASARA NO. 77, 80 & AMP. 81, 84, IN GALI NO. 29, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE ARAP PEEPAL THALA, COLONY KNOWN AS MAHINDRA PARK, DELHI, by virtue of Notarized GPA. ATS and Will dated 06.06.2011, executed by Mrs. Nazma and same property to be sold to Intending Borrower i.e. Mr. Arvind Kumar same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge-interestititle in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within

ice is hereby given to the General Public that of the wan Kumar Soni is the owner of ENTIRE SECOND MITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS "SAID FLOORS", BUILDING APEA MEASURING

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER'2024

E-auction additional programme for sale of Railway Scrap materials under jurisdiction of Tinsukia Division for the month of November' 2024

15 116	is fieldby fixed as under.				
SN	MONTH	DATE FIXED			
	NOV5************************************	08-11-2024, 12-11-2024 and 27-11-2024			
		for Tinsukia Division			
1	NOVEMBER' 2024	07-11-2024, 15-11-2024 and 28-11-2024			
		for GSD/Dibrugarh Town			

Interested bidders may participate in E-auction through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Materials Manager/Dibrugarh **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER II, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL II, DELI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET,

NEW DELHI-110001 ICICI BANK VS. LAEEQ AHMED

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993

CD 1. Mr. LAEEQ AHMED R/o. 934, 3rd Floor Sargodha Appartments Sector-7, Plot No. 13. Dwarko New Delhi-110075 Also at:- Flat No. VS/A-1203 12th Floor, Professional's HUB 1/2 Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201010 CD 2. Ms. Afsana R/o. 934, 3rd Floor Sargodha Appartments Sector-7, Plot No. 13, Dwarka New Delhi-110075 CD 3. HRC Engineers Estate Pvt Ltd. Corporate Office at:- 914, New Delhi House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, Also at:- Registered Office at:- 902, New Delhi House Brarkhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, Also at:- Registered Office at:- 902, New Delhi House Brarkhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, Also at:- Plot No. 2, Vaibhav Khand Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh.

Whereas as per Recovery Certificate No. 24/2016 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II mentioning a sum of Rs.97,26,687/(Rupees Ninety Seven Lacs Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only), CDs are jointly and/or severally liable to pay the amount of Rs.96,27,687/- (Rupees Ninety Six Lacs Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only) alongwith future interest @13% p.a. from the date of filling of the OA i.e. 01.04.2015 until recovery with cost.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website hwww.bankeauctions.com on 21.11.2024 between 03 p.m. to 04:00 PM with extensions of 5 minutes

4. The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) above-named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

5. The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped if, before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

been part to the undersigned.

6. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

7. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions:

the following further conditions:-

7.1. The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to The particular's specified in the aminesed schedule rive been student of the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation. 7.2. The reserve price below which the properties shall not be sold and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) are as under:-

Description of Property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)
Flat No. VS/A-1203, 12th Floor, Professional Hub, 1/2 Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad- 201010.	Rs. 57,20,000/-	Rs. 5,72,000/-

7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve 7.3 The interested bladers, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, latest by 19.11.2024 before 4.00 PM in the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 21.11.2024. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the clasing time will automatically acte extended for 5 minutes.

closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
7.4 The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lacs Only).

One Lacs Only).
7.5 The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
7.6 The Successful highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 24/2016 by next bank working day is be 0.40 OR DM with this Teibrand Failing with the EMD sale to the sale of the sale o

Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 24/2016 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

7.7 The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 24/2016, the balance 75% of the sole proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7.8 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after

be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, afte defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold 8. The property is being sold on "ASIS WHERE IS BASIS" and "ASIS WHAT IS BASIS"

9. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

and case and postpone are account at any time that datassigning any reason.						
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY						
Description of the property to be so	e Id	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.		
Flat No. VS/A-1203 Floor, Professional Vaibhav Khand, Ind Ghaziabad- 20101	Hub, 1/2 dirapuram,	Not known	Not known	Not known		
Given under my har	nd and seal o	n 18.09.2024		attatrey Bajpayee)		

It is known to all that the allottee of Residentia Flat No.43D, Block-B-9, UDAIGIRI-II, Sector-34 NOIDA, MYS PREM ELECTRICAL WORKS, D.374, SECTOR-10, NOIDA, U.P. Through its Prop. SHRI MURLI DHAR S/O SHRI JAWALA PRASAD has sold the above flat on GPA basis as under: 1. A G.P.A. was executed on dt.23.11.1993 in favour of SHRI NANDAN SINGH BIHST S/O SHRI D.S. BISHT R/O 243, TILAK KHAND, GIRI NAGAR KALKAJI, NEW DELHI which is regd. in the office of S.R. Delhi, and the Agreement to Sell was no executed in favour of any person. Because the Agreement to Sell was not executed/regd., so with the help of this notice, it is informed that the transfer of the above said Flat on the basis o GPA goes to transfer in favour of SMT. IND RAWAT W/O SHRI AR IIIN SINGH RAWAT R/O B

9/43D, UDAIGIRI-II, SECTOR-34, NOIDA, U.F which is to be regd. in the office of S.R. Noida. f anyone has any objection, he/she will subm his/her objection in the Residential (Housing Deptt. of Noida Authority within 15 days of the

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC Due to unavoidable circumstances, it was decided to shift existing lockers of BO: Lodhi Road (D. No. 012800) to BO: Hauz

New Delhi-110023

Khas (D. No.056210), New Delhi. Now, it has been decided to shift these lockers from BO: Hauz Khas (D. No. 056210) to BO: Lodhi Road (D. NO. 012800). All the respected locker holders of BO: Lodhi Road (D. No. 012800) are hereby informed that locker operation w.e.f. 05.11,2024 will be conducted from BO: Lodhi Road (D. No. Date: 17.10.2024

Naresh Chauhan

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Gourika Gadhok his the owner of First floor without roof/lerrace rights, built on plot no 250. (familiar as properly no. A-6/250), area measuring 70 sq. mfrs., in block no.4-6, situated at Paschim, Vihar. New Delhi-110063 through Sale Deed dated 24 05 2010 executed by Mrs. Suman Mailk in favour of Mr. Yogendra Kumar Lamba & Mrs. Manju Lamba in respect of said Floor. Later, Unfortunately Mrs. Simylu Lamba died on 26.12.2022 and Mr. Yogendra Kumar Lamba died on 14.03.2023. Mrs. Shweta Arora as legal heir of Mrs. Manju Lamba and Mr. Yogendra Kumar Lamba died on 14.03.2023. Mrs. Shweta Arora as legal heir of Mrs. Manju Lamba and Mr. Yogendra Kumar Lamba soid said property in favour of Mrs. Gourika Gadhok or No. 2024/6/1/4940.
Mrs. Gourika Gadhok is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a pend of 14 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 14 days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 14-days period by contacting Law Verias: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in BO: 1, Main Market, Lodhi Road,

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

OICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 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 Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the $under signed\ has\ taken\ symbolic\ possession\ of\ the\ property\ described\ below,\ by\ exercising\ powers\ conferred\ on\ the\ property\ described\ below,\ by\ exercising\ powers\ conferred\ on\ property\ described\ below\ property\ described\ below\ property\ described\ property\ property\$ him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The

borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property of the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property of the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property.with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited. Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession 1. Vijay Trading Co/ Parshant Yadav/ May 10, 2024 Delhi Residential House No. 154/A Mohalla Basudeo, Tehsil & District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh./ unita Yadav/ Parshant Yadav 1,01,46,557.00/ S/o Shanti Swaroop Yadav/

October 15, 2024

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(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.

Date: October 17, 2024 Place: Delhi

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE **Franch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

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

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
		Flat No- 1305, 13th Floor, Tower- B, Express Parkview Apartments, Plot No- Gh-10a, Sector- Chi- V, Greater Noida/ October 15, 2024	February 25,2023 Rs. 22,92,246/-	Delhi & NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(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. Date: October 17, 2024 Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Place: Delhi/ NCR

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED, Rourkela Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012, Email: rourkelascl@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

SL No	Name of the Projects	Estimated Cost of the Project Rs.
1	Design Construction of Market Complex at Udit Nagar on Percentage Rate Basis.	7.96 Cr.

The Tender Fees of Rs.11,800/- to be deposited with the bid which is Non-refundable. The complete BID documents can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (https://www.rmc.nic.in or e-procurement portal of Odisha https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 15.10.2024 to 08.11.2024 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Pre- Bid Meeting will be held on 24.10.2024 at 12.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. For queries, intending bidder may contact Ar.Sarthak Sourav Rath, Architect, RSCL Vide Phone No.8984353513, Email Id:rourkelascl@gmail.com.

Sd/-**Chief Executive Officer Rourkela Smart City Limited**

DATE: 14/10/2024

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Hranch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

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.

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Asha Devi/ LBDEL00005144770 Situated At Plot No. Gh-05A, Sector-Techzone-4, Gautam LBDEL00005144770 Budh Nagar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ October 15, 2024 2. Shalvi Verma/ Flat No. E-1902, 19th Floor, Block-E, Green Arch, Tower- June 29, 2024 Delh	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
Subodh Kumar Dewberry, Situated At Plot No. Gh-10A, Sector-Rs. Verma/ Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (West), Gautam Budh Nagar, 23,89,446/-		Ásha Devi/	Situated At Plot No. Gh-05A, Sector-Techzone-4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/	Rs.	Delhi/ NCR/ Siwan Bihar
		Subodh Kumar Verma/	Dewberry, Situated At Plot No. Gh-10A, Sector- Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (West), Gautam Budh Nagar,	Rs.	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(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.

Date: October 17, 2024 Sincerely Authorised Signatory Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Ltd.

C-

BID ID: - RSCL/1537/2024

OIPR-13080/11/0009/2425

Recovery Officer-I DRT-II, Delh

TRAI chief highlights balanced satcom spectrum consultation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As battlelines are being drawn over the Adrawn over the modalities of allocating satcom spectrum, TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti Wednesday consultation process currently on and that the telecom regulator consider all inputs put before taking a considered view.

The regulator's comments came as Starlink CEO Elon Musk and Indian tycoons are locked in a standoff over satellite spectrum.

Jio recently sought a revision of a consultation paper on recommending norms for "terms and conditions for the assignment of spectrum for certain satellite based commercial Communications

!!We have received reference Telecom Department and we have initiated consultation process in response to reference that has been received from DoT and it covers issue that have been referred to TRAI by the DoT... The consultation process is on, we will consider all inputs and views that are received during consultation process and we will come out

recommendations," Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti told reporters on the sidelines of IMC.

Asked about the demand by Reliance Jio that the TRAI consultation paper be revised to ensure a level playing field between terrestrial and satellite players, TRAI satellite players, TRAI chairman said, "different stakeholders raise different demands on the consultation process, and we consider all these viewpoints and inputs and take a considered view. World's richest man Elon

Musk has taken on Indian billionaires Mukesh Ambani and Sunil Bharti Mittal over the allocation of spectrum wireless communication using satellites, calling their demand for the auction of airwaves "unprecedented".

While Ambani's Reliance Jio has been vocal about the need to allocate such spectrum through an auction to give a level-playing field to legacy operators who buy airwaves and set up infrastructure like telecom towers, Mittal on Tuesday articulated the need satellite companies



ambitions to buy spectrum as telecom companies do. Starlink Musk-led demanding administrative allotment of licences in line fastest-growing

with the global trend, as it looks to tap into the world's mobile telephony and internet market. This has found some backing in Telecom Minister Ivotiraditya Scindia, who said on Tuesday that such airwaves will be given out through administrative allocation and

that regulatory authority has been empowered by the constitution to decide what that administrative pricing is going to be," he had said. The minister had said that he

is very confident that Trai will come up with the best pricing that should be adopted, provided that it is being given in an administrative manner. "Satellite spectrum across the world is allocated administratively. So, India is not doing anything different from the rest of the world. Conversely, if you do decide to auction it then you would be doing something, which is different from the rest of the world." the minister said. world," the minister said.

Pointing out that satellite spectrum is shared airwaves, Scindia said, "If the spectrum is shared then how can you price it individually".

Musk first termed the demand made by Jio last week for shunning sector regulator Trai's consultation paper on satellite broadband being allocated and not auctioned as "unprecedented", and then asked if it was "too much trouble" to allow Starlink to provide internet services in

India reiterates opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

India on Wednesday once again refused to endorse China's ambitious 'One Belt One Road' initiative, becoming the only country in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) not to support the controversial connectivity project. connectivity project.

joint A joint communique unveiled at the end of the SCO's Council of Heads of Government conclave hosted by Islamabad said Russia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their support for the Chinese connectivity initiative.

It said the countries noted ongoing work on the implementation of project, including efforts to link the Eurasian Economic Union with the One Road One Initiative (OBOR).

India has been refusing to endorse OBOR in previous SCO conclaves as well.

India has been severely critical of the OBOR, previously known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as the project includes the socalled China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistanoccupied Kashmir.

There has been growing global criticism against the OBOR as a number of countries are reeling under the burden of debt while implementing projects relating to the initiative.



In his address at the SCO conclave, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "debt is a serious concern" but did not elaborate further. "Collaborative connectivity can create new efficiencies,

The joint communique said the heads of delegations noted the proposal to create a Eurasian 'Greater Partnership' with the participation of the SCO, Eurasian Economic Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as other states interested multilateral associations.

he said.

"The heads of delegations, reaffirming their desire to ensure stable economic and social development in the SCO region, noted the importance of implementing SCO Economic Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the programme of multilateral trade and cooperation of the SCO member states," it said.

11 They stressed the need for coordinated efforts through the mechanisms of relevant cooperation in order to implement the respective action plans," it added.
The SCO conclave was

chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Besides Jaishankar, conclave was attended by Chi-n-ese Premier Li Qiang, Belarus Prime Minister Golovchenko, Roman Kaza-kh Olzhas Bektenov, Russian PM Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik PM Kohir Rasulzoda, Uzbek PM Abdulla Aripov, Kyrgyzstan's Cha-i-rman of Ministers Cabinet Zhaparov Akylbek and Iran's First

Pres-ident Mohammad Reza

Piyush Goyal urges industry to prioritise quality over subsidies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday asked the industry to focus on making high quality products to tap global markets as export competitiveness will not come from government subsidies or support. He also said that the

government is putting its effort to nudge industry to get into the manufacturing of high quality products as it is a "tough" task to get industry to accept that they should be making quality goods.

Initially, the government faced a huge amount of on quality control orders.

"Our export competitiveness is not going to come from subsidies or government support. It is not going to come from our closing the doors to the rest of the world. If we are looking at selfreliant India, it can only happen when India will be self-confident and that confidence will only come when we all decide that quality is not our job, it is our duty," the minister said.

He added that if the Indian industry is not competitive in any product, that can be imported the industry has to towards competitiveness where it has a comparative advantage with

other nations. The government is taking a series of steps such as rolling out Quality Control Orders



manufacturing in the

QCOs covering 106 products were issued, but in the last 10 years, the government has issued as many as 174 such better quality stand: These orders help curb the import of sub-standard products, prevent unfair trade practices and ensure the safety and well-being of consumers as well as the environment.

Under the order, an item cannot be produced, sold, traded, imported and stocked unless it bears the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark. Violation of the provision of the BIS Act can attract imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of at least Rs 2 lakh for the first offence. In of second and subsequent offences, the fine will increase to a minimum of Rs 5 lakh and extend up to 10 times of the value of goods or

articles. QCOs issued are accordance with the WTO Agreement on Technical

(QCOs) Barriers to Trade. boost also country.
Till 2014, he said, only 14 manufacturing high quality goods helps boost economic activities, generating jobs and

increasing exports.
"India will have to aspire to become a manufacturer of orders covering 732 products high quality goods and to ensure that more and more services and it should be people will become aligned recognised globally," Goyal

> Citing an example of the pharma industry, the minister also urged the big industry players to handhold and support MSME units in this area

We still have a lot of work to do in terms of getting industry aligned with these QCOs," he said adding India was not able to become a partner of a protocol in the pharma sector as "every single time when we try to join that protocol, which has certain strict conditionalities attached to it, there will be an opposition from those (industries) who would be looking at short cuts".

The minister urged the industry to participate in the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) committees their through skilled technical manpower.

Ministers' panel discusses merger of GST compensation cess into taxes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

not auctioned.

Scindia said the Telecom Act

of 2023 passed in December

has put the matter in 'Schedule 1', which means

that for satcom spectrum will

be allocated administratively.

11... Spectrum does not come

without a cost. What that

cost is and what the formula

of that cost is going to be, will

not be decided by you or me...

It will be decided by Trai...

And there is a paper that has already been circulated by

The group of ministers (GoM) on GST on compensation cess, under Minister of State for Finance Chaudhary, on Pankai Wednesday discussed merger of compensation cess into

States suggested that during the transition of cess, once it is decided to merge with taxes no new goods should be added to the list of luxury, sin and demerit goods.

States were of the view that since the compensation cess ends in March 2026, the only merge the levy with the taxes and bring about separate tax rates for the items on which cess is levied currently.

"GST compensation cess is coming to an end. A discussion needed to be done on what will be the future of the cess. Every state has given their views. This was the first meeting," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary

Should it continue as cess or be converted to tax and whether there would be changes in luxury, demerit and sin goods items, Chaudhary said, "Discussion is going on".

The next meeting of the GoM on compensation cess is in the second week of November. Sources said all states have suggested merger of taxes GST, because

compensation cess has

"But no new goods will be added. Compensation period has ended and if it has to be brought under GST then it has to be restructured and brought in as taxes," sources

The Group of Ministers (GoM), which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, will submit its report to the GST Council by December 31.

In the GST regime pensat rates is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods over and above the 28 per cent tax. The proceeds from the cess, which was originally planned for five years after GST roll-out or till June 2022, was used to compensate states for revenue loss incurred by them post the introduction of GST.

In 2022, the Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026 to repay the interest and the principle amount of the Rs 2.69 lakh crore worth loan taken in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years to make good states' revenue loss during Covid years.

With just one-and-a-half year remaining for the cess to end, the GST Council in its 54th meeting on September 9 decided to set up a GoM to decide the future course of the

RBI celebrates 90th anniversary with nationwide quiz



PNS NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is commemorating the 90th year of its operations this year. As part of the series of events being held throughout the year to mark this milestone, the Bank has launched the RBI90Quiz, a nationwide general knowledge-based quiz competition aimed at undergraduate students. The RBI90Quiz is a team-

based contest, being held in multiple stages. The online phase was conducted from September 19-21, 2024. Based on the performance in the online phase, college teams were selected for participation in State-level rounds. The State-level round of the RBI90Quiz for

New Delhi was conducted at Hyatt Regency, Bhikaji Cama Place, Delhi, where 136 students (68 teams) competed. The team from Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studiescomprising Ishaan Yewale& Harshita Jain emerged as the winner, followed by those from Maulana Azad Medical College and Venkateswara College in second and third places, respectively. Prizes for the top three teams are of ?2 lakh, ?1.5 lakh, and ?1 lakh,

respectively. The winning team will now compete in the Zonal round, which will take place between November 21, 2024, and December 4, 2024. The national final will be held at

Mumbai in December 2024.

STPI Launches LEAP AHEAD 2nd Edition for Startups PNS NEW DELHI

Building on the success of lits inaugural edition, the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) on Wednesday launched the LEAP AHEAD 2nd Edition at the Indian Mobile Congress 2024 in the national Capital.

The initiative was launched by K. K. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI; Dr. Rasappa Viswanathan, Director, ICAR Research; Pradeep Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, CyberMedia and Board Member, TiE Delhi-NCR; and Roshan Lal Tamak, Executive Director & CEO. DCM Shriram Ltd, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Senior Director, STPÍ; Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI.Following the impactful success of the LEAP AHEAD 1st Edition, which anchored young entrepreneurs and tech startups, the second edition promises revolutionize tech startups in scaling, product diversification, and regional expansion.

With up to Rs One Crore in funding support, the includes program comprehensive three-month mentorship program offering a mix of virtual and inperson sessions.

Promote Indian firms in infra consultancy: **Ex-PIB** chief

PNS NEW DELHI

Jormer Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Govt of India, Rajeev Kumar Jain on Wednesday said the government must take efforts to promote more and more Indian Companies the infrastructure consultancy space to fully realize the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, more so when we are already promoting the manufacturing of train coaches in India.

Jain further said that Indian

Railways and metro projects have embraced the "Make in India" philosophy promoting manufacturing of rolling stock, signaling systems, and other critical components. "This can be done so even for infrastructure consultancy sector," said Jain who had a stint Rail, Civil Aviation and Urban Affairs



career spanning over 30 years. He was addressing at the 4th Edition of Urban Infra Business Summit & Awards 2024, hosted by the Urban Infra Group. Anil Kumar Khandelwal, Former Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Prof. Manoj Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Ministry of Railways, I. Jeyakumar, IRTS, Member Secretary/Special Officer, CUMTA, Ajay Kumar Lal, Principal FA & CAO (Retd), Ministry of Railways and Rajesh Agrawal, Former Member Railway Board, were also present at the inaugural function.

Complimenting Government for promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat, Jain said that the High-Speed Railway is a classic example of awarding the consultancy contract to all the Indian companies. "The project being highly technical and complex in nature, and being built for the first time in India, the Govt. has relied on all the Indian companies (Tata Consulting Engineers, Consulting Engineers Group for the job of project management consultancy. This makes a compelling case for the Govt. to do so in the other infrastructure consultancy works, particularly in metro sector,"

Rubrik launches DSPM

PNS NEW DELHI

US-based cyber security firm Rubrik on Wednesday announced the launch of Rubrik Data Security Posture Management (DSPM) for Microsoft 365 Copilot to provide greater visibility and control of sensitive data, reduce the risk of exposure, and empower organizations to quickly and securely adopt Copilot, an AI-powered generates assistant that answers anchored in an business organization's content to deliver highly relevant and contextual responses.

"The announcement comes at a crucial time as many organizations are preparing to embrace AI tools and adopt Microsoft 365 Co-pilot in a big way. The biggest hurdle slowing down organizations is the lack of tools and platforms that can identify and control access to sensitive data" said Abhilash

Purushothaman, General President and Manager, Rubrik (Asia). "With the growing volume of

Microsoft 365 customers in India, managing and safeguarding sensitive information has become increasingly complex. Rubrik aims to mitigate these risks, strengthen resilience for organizations and enables accelerated adoption of transformational AI tools like M365 Copilot; without worrying about potential sensitive data exposure and associated regulatory fallouts that are a slowing down the AI adoption," Abhilash Purushothaman added.

"Organizations are facing significant pressure when it comes to improving security of their rapidly growing data, said Mike Tornicasa, Chief Business Officer at Rubrik. "Microsoft is committed to enabling enabling secure and intelligent productivity tools

for our customers," said Tony

Surma, CTO, Americas Partners at Microsoft.

Microsoft 365 Copilot is an AI-powered assistant that generates answers anchored in an organization's business content to deliver highly relevant and contextual responses.

To ensure Copilot surfaces only data which users have permissions to view, it follows the same data access controls already in place in Microsoft 365. Misconfigurations in these controls could lead to the exposure of sensitive data to unauthorized users.

To help mitigate this risk, Rubrik DSPM for Microsoft 365 Copilot is designed to provide the data visibility and control needed to ensure sensitive data is correctly labeled, and classified, segmented - and has the right access permissions. This organizations to enables leverage the power of Copilot while securing sensitive data from the risk of exposure.

INBRIEF

RECPDCL HANDS OVER RAJASTHAN-IV

RAJASTHAN: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, handed over a project specific SPV on 15th October 2024 at Gurugram.



IIFL FINANCE OFFERS GOLD LOAN AT 0.99% INTEREST RATE PER MONTH



DELHI: IIFL Finance, one of India's non-banking financial companies (NBFC), is offering Gold Loan at 0.99% interest rate per month with zero processing fees until October 19, 2024 under its ongoing Gold Loan

LOCOMOTIVES ACROSS INDIAN RAILWAYS TO BE EQUIPPED

MALIGAO: In a major milestone, Indian o Railways is all set to install Kavach 4.0 - an indigenous Automatic Train Protection System on 10.000 locomotives across its network. Recently, after successful trial,implementation of Kavach 4.0 was done at a stretch of 108 km in the West



I WAS ON EDGE OF MY SEAT WHEN MY NAME CAME UP IN HIL AUCTION: HARMANPREET

n the edge of his seat during Hockey India League (HIL) auctions, India's Olympic medal-winning skipper Harmanpreet Singh was silently praying that Sardar Sigh from Soorma Hockey Club makes a winning bid for him.

Eventually his wish came true with Harmanpreet becoming the costliest buy in the men's section as Soorma Hockey Club, representing Punjab and Haryana, secured his services for a whopping Rs 78 lakh on the first day of the three-day auction.

"I am elated that the Hockey India League is back and in marvellous fashion. I was on the edge of my seat when my name came up during the auction, mentally hoping and urging Sardar Singh to bid for me and I get to play for the Haryana-Punjab region," said Harmanpreet, who led India to the bronze medal at the Paris

"It was a great relief when Soorma Hockey Club finally landed me in the auction and I could not have been happier," he added.

The men's HIL will feature eight teams, while the inaugural women's event will have four teams. The ace drag-flicker was happy with

Thomas Tuchel was hired as England coach on

Wednesday and will take on

the challenge of ending the

national team's decades-long

The German, who previously

managed Paris Saint-Germain,

Chelsea and Bayern Munich,

will begin his tenure in January ahead of the 2026

World Cup in the United

Association said Tuchel had

been identified as the "preferred candidate" after

what it described as an

Football

English

AP ■ LONDON

wait for a trophy.

the combination of the squad, insisting that they managed to get the

the auction, the owners and coaching staff have hit the ball out of the park. We have the perfect balance of Harmanpreet said.

Thomas Tuchel hired as England head coach ahead of 2026 World Cup

The upcoming edition of the event holds greater significance as the Womens HIL will make its debut and will run co-currently with the men's league in two venues — Ranchi (men) and Rourkela (women).

India defender Udita Duhan, who was picked by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 32 lakh, can't hide her excitement for becoming the costliest buy in the women's auction.

buy in the women's auction.

"Hockey India is breaking barriers and setting new standards by holding a Women's Hockey India League at the same time as the men's league. This will be a good opportunity to showcase our skills and grow as athletes by playing with players from athletes by playing with players from different nationalities. All of us are eager to give our 100 per cent," she said. "I cannot wait to get on the pitch and aim to win the league."

Hyderabad Toofans, Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers, Tamil Nadu Dragons, UP Rudras, Kalinga Lancers and Team Gonasika are the eight men's teams.

In the women's event, Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers and Odisha Warriors will fight it out from December 28 till February 1, with the final of the women's event slated for January 26.

wanted



Chennaiyin FC aim to stretch unbeaten away run against NorthEast United

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

hennaiyin FC will look to Oprolong their unbeaten away run at the Indian Super League 2024-25 season when they lock horns with determined hosts NorthEast United FC here on Thursday. CFC have been on the road for two out of their first three matches this season.

Speaking to the media ahead of their third away match, Chennaiyin head coach Owen Coyle praised NorthEast United while highlighting the need for his team to be more clinical.

"What you have is two very good teams," Coyle told the media.

"Two very attack-minded teams, going all out to win a tough game. NorthEast (United) are always a very dangerous opponent — they were last year and they certainly are this year. I think Juan Pedro Benali has done a fantastic job."

"Equally, we know we have a good team, we know we have good players and can stand toe-to-toe with the best teams in this league when we are at our best. So that's our focus, being very respectful of our opponents but focusing on our qualities.

"In truth, we should probably be sitting with 7-9 points; in the last two games alone, we had just under 40 chances, so

we know we have to be more clinical," he added. Due to heavy rainfall in Chennai, the Marina Machans had to travel to Guwahati prematurely and resume training away from home.

Coyle expressed gratitude to the Highlanders for their sporting integrity in opening their gates early and also wished for the safety of those back home.

"We haven't been able to train for the last three days because of the severe weather in Chennai. But, importantly, we want to make sure everyone's safe and well, so that's the priority," Coyle

This was echoed by left-back Ankit Mukherjee, who joined Coyle for the presser.

said.

During the international break, CFC's Lalrinliana made Hnamte international debut for India, while Farukh Choudhary returned to the fold with a

Coyle emphasized their achievements and confirmed that they had returned to training ahead of the NorthEast United match. Chennaiyin's clash with NorthEast United will be the

23rd meeting between the teams in the ISL. NorthEast United have played four matches this season, one more than Chennaiyin, with one win, one loss, and two draws.



perfect balance. "We have a very good-looking team at

extensive search to replace

Gareth Southgate, who stepped down after the

European Championship in

Tuchel won major trophies in

Germany, France and England and is England's third foreign coach, after the late Sven-

Goran Eriksson and Fabio

Capello. He succeeds one of

England's most successful

coaches in Southgate, who led

the country to back-to-back European Championship

finals and a World Cup

Southgate stepped down after

eight years following defeat to

Spain in the final of Euro 2024.

semifinals.

the Soorma Hockey Club at the end of experienced, big-name players and young players with the potential to become big names themselves,"

The FA said it had interviewed several candidates before deciding on Tuchel. Tuchel won European club soccer's biggest prize when leading Chelsea to the Champions League title in 2021. He has won league titles with PSG in France and

Bayern in Germany. He takes on the England job after leaving Bayern at the end of last season.

The 51-year-old Tuchel fits the FA's remit of hiring a coach who has delivered at the highest level and also knows the English game following his time with Chelsea.

The FA said in July that it Premier League club.

"significant experience of English football, with a strong track record delivering results in the Premier League and/or international leading competitions.

someone with

It also said the new coach would develop the team to 'win a major tournament and be consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the world." As manager of Chelsea, Tuchel beat Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to win the Guardiola's Champions League within months of taking the job. He also won the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup with the

Mbappe's representatives dismiss



India can lift SAFF trophy: Ashalata

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The quality of football has improved immensely in the region but the Indian team is equipped to win the SAFF Women's Championship, senior defender Ashalata Devi said on Wednesday as the side gears up to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in its tournament-opener.

The clash against Pakistan on Thursday assumes significance since Ashalata will become India's first woman footballer to play 100 international matches when she takes field on Thursday at the iconic Dasarath Stadium. Ashalata said the first game always sets the tone, and a strong start will help them play freely in the following matches. The last time the two teams clashed, India had emerged a 3-0 winner.

"It's always exciting to face a team like Pakistan. We have a lot of respect for them. They have grown as a unit. Last time, we won against them, but we are not taking them lightly. They are motivated, prepared well and will surely put up a good fight," said Ashalata.

India head coach Santosh Kashyap is expecting a close contest. "I have watched Pakistan's recent matches, including the one against Singapore, where they put up a tough fight and narrowly lost 1-0. They have strong physicality and play good football.

"All the teams are very close in terms of quality, and they fight hard. Whether it's the men's or women's teams, we can't afford to think we are the favourites and will win easily. When asked about Ashalata

position.

Devi's milestone, coach Kashyap said, "It's a great achievement for her as well as for women's football. I always tell young players to look up to her and how she has maintained herself for such a long time."

Pakistan, who have players like Maria Khan and Nadia Khan in the ranks, will not be pushovers. Skipper Maria is an experienced midfielder, who plies her trade for Saudi Arabian pro side Eastern Flames. Two other Pakistan players, goalkeeper Rumaysa Khan and striker Isra Khan, play in Canada and the United States, respectively.

"I think it will be an interesting match, India have prepared well. They have a new coach as well, so they have new strategies, we don't know what to expect. It's a good rivalry," Pakistan head coach Adeel Rizki said.

Swedish reports of a rape claim **AP** STOCKHOLM

French soccer star Kylian Mbappé's representatives have rejected as "false and irresponsible" reports in h media subject of a rape investigation in the Nordic country.

Without citing sources, several Swedish media including tabloids Expressen and Aftonbladet and broadcasters SVT and TV4 reported that the Real Madrid striker was the subject of a rape claim following a visit to Stockholm last week.

In response to the reports, Swedish prosecutors issued a brief statement Tuesday saying a rape had been reported to police, but didn't name any suspect.

"According to the report the incident took place on October 10, 2024, at a hotel in central Stockholm," said the statement published by the Swedish Prosecution Authority. Prosecutor Marina Chirakova,

leading investigation, declined to give any further details. "From my side I cannot confirm whether there is a

suspect in the case," she told The Associated Press. Names of suspects are typically not made public by Swedish authorities until charges are

filed or a suspect is ordered held in pre-trial detention. Mbappé's communications team accused Swedish media spreading "slanderous" rumors.

"These accusations are totally false and irresponsible, and

their propagation is unacceptable," they said in a their statement sent to the AP and other media.

"Kylian Mbappé will under no circumstances tolerate his integrity, reputation and honour being sullied by honour unfounded insinuations. In a post late Monday on his

official X account Mbappé wrote "FAKE NEWS!!!!" and linked to a French article picking up the Swedish reports. He appeared to draw a link between the reports in Sweden and a hearing in Paris on Tuesday in a legal dispute with former club Paris Saint-

Germain over unpaid wages. "It's becoming so predictable, on the eve of the hearing, as if by chance," the post said in French.

Mbappé's lawyers didn't comment as they arrived for

and left the hearing in Paris on Tuesday.

Later on Tuesday, a lawyer for Mbappé, Marie-Alix Canu-Bernard, told French broadcaster TF1 that her client was "bewildered" by the reports.

"We are told that a complaint has been lodged, but at this stage we don't even know against whom. A complaint does not make the truth, a complaint does not prove anything. And once again, I don't even know if the complaint is against him," she

Swedish media already last week reported on Mbappe's brief stay in Stockholm, publishing pictures of him and

his entourage. The French star had been given permission to skip international duty because of a minor thigh injury as France beat Israel and Belgium in Nations League matches on October 10 and October 14,

respectively. Mbappé, who won the World Cup with France in 2018, joined Real Madrid this summer after seven years at

Messi scores hat-trick as Argentina wins in South American World Cup qualifying

AP BUENOS AIRES

hat trick and two assists: Lionel AMessi came back in style for Argentina in its 6-0 home win in a South American World Cup qualifying match.

Messi, who missed two rounds of the competition in October due to a right ankle injury, played from start to finish on Tuesday in front of raucous fans at the Monumental de Nuñez Stadium, who chanted his name after he opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

Its archrival Brazil, whose coach Dorival Júnior was under pressure earlier this month, got some relief with a convincing performance in a 4-0 home win against Peru.

Argentina remained as leaders of the round-robin competition with 22 points after 10 matches, three points clear of second-place Colombia, who earlier beat Chile 4-0. Uruguay, which earlier had a goalless draw with Ecuador, and Brazil come next with 16 points.

The Uruguayans are in third position on goal difference. Ecuador and Paraguay follow, with 13 points each, but the Ecuadorians

The top six teams in the region will secure automatic berths in the next World Cup. The seventh-place team, currently Bolivia, will play in an international playoff for a spot in the tournament in 2026.

have one more win to take the fifth

Two more rounds of South American World Cup qualifying will be played in November.

MESSI IN STRONG FORM ON RETURN: Messi's first goal came after a mistake by a Bolivian defender, who missed a pass and allowed the 37-year-old Messi to run freely and finish unchallenged in front of goalkeeper Billy Viscarra. Messi assisted on Lautaro Martínez's goal in the 42th minute and gave a decisive pass once again in added time on a goal by Julián

Alvarez. Argentina appeared to slow its pace



after the break, but scored again with Thiago Almada in the 69th minute. The striker scored from close range after a low cross by Nahuel Molina. Messi's show had

two great finishing touches from the edge of the box, the first in the 84th and the second in the 86th minute. "We enjoyed this, we are happy to

Messi, who once again refused to say whether he will play in the next World Cup in 2026. "This could be one of the last (matches in front of be here playing in Argentina," said the Argentinian crowd)."

Bolivia, which is seeking to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 30 years, remains in contention with 12 points.
BRAZIL REAPPEARS UNDER

JÚNIOR: This month's rounds of South American qualifying were important for coach Dorival Júnior. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals of the latest Copa Âmerica and was struggling against rivals it used to beat easily, such as

Paraguay and Venezuela. Júnior's chances of success seemed low in matches against Chile and Peru due to injuries affecting several of his starters; goalkeeper Alisson, defender Éder Militão and striker Vinicius Júnior were all out. But a last-minute win against the Chileans and a convincing display against the Peruvians will give the Brazil coach some relief.

Raphinha scored from the spot twice to put Brazil in front in Brasilia, the first in the 38th minute and the second in the 54th. Substitute Andreas Pereira made more than 60,000 fans at the National Stadium gasp when he scored with a volley in the 71st minute. Another substitute, Luiz Henrique, scored for the second consecutive match for the national team with a classy shot from the edge of the box.

"These were two matches that we controlled well," Raphinha said. 'We are far from perfection, but we are on the right track."

CHILE IN LAST PLACE: Chile's

loss to Colombia has placed the job of coach Ricardo Gareca at risk. Davinson Sánchez, Luis Díaz, Jhon Durán and Luis Sinistierra scored the goals for Colombia. Chile is in last place in the qualifying group with only five points.
Paraguay beat Venezuela 2-1 and

moved into a qualifying position in the standings. Jon Aramburo opened the scoring for the visitors in the 25th minute, but striker Antonio Sarabia came off the bench to win it for the hosts with goals in the 59th and 74th minutes.

AUSTRALIA START OVERWHELMING FAVOURITES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

A ustralia will start as o v e r w h e l m i n g favourites in their quest for an unprecedented eighth final appearance when they take on South Africa in the semi-final of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Thursday

Australia have now made it to the semi-finals of the global T20 tournament in all its nine editions held so far since 2009 in England.

The six-time champions take on the Proteas women in a lastfour clash in what seems to be a repeat of the summit showdown during the 2023 edition in South Africa, which the Southern Stars won by 19

Going by pure statistic, South Africa are no match for Australia who have won nine out of the 10 WT20I games, with the former's only win coming in January this year. The head-to-head record at



Women's T20 World Cup is even more intimidating as Australia have won all the

ne pioneer

seven encounters. The best part about the current Australian team is the core

which has remained intact for years now with only Meg Lanning retiring from international cricket

All the 10 others, who played in the 2023 final are here with the likes of Alyssa Healy, Beth the likes of Alyssa Healy, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Ashleigh Gardner being the pillars of the team. On a slow Dubai track, the depth in batting has been Australia's biggest strength, with Phoebe Litchfield and Annabel Sutherland capable of muscling the balls to the fence. For South Africa, one of their For South Africa, one of their biggest assets has been slow orthodox Nonkululeko Mlaba, who has

so far taken 10 wickets in four group league games. Skipper Laura Wolvaardt, her

opening partner Taznim Brits and the seasoned Marizanne Kapp are all match-winners in their own rights but they have always come up short against

Healy and company. Hopefully, the Proteas women would be eighth time lucky against familiar foes in their bid to win the maiden global T20 trophy. and NZ called off due to rain areas on either side of the pitch

Unrelenting rain wiped out play on day one of the opening Test between India and New Zealand here on Wednesday.

The play was called off at 2.34 PM as heavy rain lashed the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after relenting for about half an hour earlier

The match officials came out to inspect the pitch around 2 PM after outfield and first layer of covers were removed around 1.50 PM.

But there were large damp

as hessians were brought out in a last-ditch attempt to get some game time.

Day 1 of first Test between India

However, it was a futile effort as extensive damage was already done by rains of varying intensity from early morning.

Earlier, even the toss, which was scheduled at 9 AM, could not take place as rain came down relentlessly over the city from morning.

There was a smattering of spectators at the stadium despite the inclement weather. But the only moment of excitement for them was the sighting of star batter Virat Kohli and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who went for an indoor net session along with assistant coach Abhishek

They might have to wait further for action even on the second day as the current forecast is for more rain on Thursday at least till noon.

It may be recalled that even the training sessions of both teams were washed away by heavy downpour on Tuesday. Play on day two is scheduled at

9.15 am and toss at 8.45 am.



When Rohit Sharma explained "significance of Gabba" to young Pant

For some time, Rishabh Pant couldn't understand why fans had gone hysterical after his unbeaten 89 against Australia at the Gabba in 2021 until Rohit Sharma stepped in to tell him that his knock was not just another match-winning effort in an epic Test.

A second string India, without its then regular skipper Virat Kohli, senior player KL Rahul and three main bowlers, had beaten Australia by three wickets at a venue which was considered a fortress for the home team there since 1989.

It was a chase of 328, and Pant's counter-attacking knock was not just a match-defining one. It was to find a place among the greatest innings by an Indian in adverse overseas conditions.

"Sometimes, there are performances that you remember for a lifetime, and one of them for me is the Gabba Test," the 27year-old told Star Sports' 'Star Nahi Far' event.

Initially, it was just satisfaction of winning a tough Test for India but as time went by, Pant understood the magnitude of his achievement, something that Rohit had told him about.

"At the time, I didn't realise how significant it was. Rohit bhai was there, and he told me, 'You have no idea what you've done.' I was like, 'What have I done? My aim was just to win the match.' Rohit bhai said, 'Later, you'll understand what you've done," he recalled.

"Now, whenever I hear people

talking about that Gabba match,

than beating Australia Pant has commanded the cricketing world's awe and respect for coming back after recovering from a life-threatening car accident in 2022. This was after he made a name for himself Down Under for being a significant contributor to India's back-to-

I understand what he meant and

how important it was," the Delhi

player said. No greater feeling

His career-best 159 came in Sydney during the 2018-19

back Test series wins.

In the 2021 series, he scored 97 in Brisbane to earn respect and adulation from both the fans and the opposition team.

"When you go to Australia, you have to work more on handling the bounce and short balls because the wickets are different there, and the atmosphere is different," he explained.

'They don't want you to win, which makes it more fun. There's no greater feeling than going to Australia and beating them in their home."

What impresses Pant about Australia is their strategy to always hunt in a pack and the gutsý keeper-batter is a firm believer in counter-punching. "In general, Australia fights as a team. They don't give you anything easy, and they play aggressive cricket. I won't throw the first punch, but if someone throws the first punch at me, I won't hold back.

"That's the kind of mentality you need to have when playing against them," he said.

Neetu David becomes second Indian woman to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

 $F^{ormer\ India\ spinner\ Neetu\ David,\ who}_{still\ holds\ the\ record\ for\ the\ best\ figures}$ (8/53) by a woman in an individual Test innings, on Wednesday became only the second female cricketer from the country to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. David, the current chairman of selectors for Indian women's team, enters the ICC Hall of Fame a year after the induction of former captain Diana Edulji.

David made more than 100 appearances (10 Tests and 97 ODIs) for India as a prolific left-arm spinner and was inducted alongside South Africa and England legends AB de Villiers and Alastair Cook, joining a long list of great cricketers.

The 47-year-old David is the second-

highest wicket-taker for India in ODIs cricket with 141 scalps and was also the first female player from the country to claim 100 wickets in the 50-over game. Topping the wicket-taking list at the World Cup in 2005, to inspire her country to their first-ever final, is also among her

standout achievements. David said in an ICC release: "It is truly an honour to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, something that I consider to be the highest recognition available to anyone who puts on their national team jersey. "This comes after a lifetime of dedication

to this great sport, and it caps a very special journey for me to get to this point. "To be considered a Hall of Famer alongside the greatest players that ever σ and part of this exclusive club."

Following some impressive performances with the ball at domestic cricket for Uttar Pradesh, David won a first international appearance for India as a 17-year-old in a



Test against New Zealand in Nelson in

She impressed with four wickets in that contest and was again selected for the ODI leg of that tour as India claimed the New Zealand Women's Centenary Tournament. In late 1995, David truly rose to prominence as she recorded sensational figures of 8/53 — still the best individual bowling spell in a single innings of a women's Test — against England in Jamshedpur as India fell to a narrow two-

While David excelled at Test cricket with 41 wickets from 10 matches, it was in ODI cricket that she performed best with 141 scalps from 97 matches at a miserly bowling average of 16.34.

David retired from international cricket in 2006, only to reverse that decision two later for a brief return in ODI cricket at the Asia Cup and on India's tour of England.

She played her final domestic match in

Women's T20 League title. Cook represented England over 250 times

in international cricket, making his most significant impact in the longest format. He retired from international cricket in 2018 as England's highest Test run-scorer and century-maker, spearheading notable successes both home and away with the bat and as captain.

In his 14-year-long career, de Villiers hit over 20,000 international runs across all three formats.

De Villiers, fondly known as "Mr 360", excelled in Test and T20I cricke while setting South African records for the fastest fifty, century and 150 in ODI cricket to earn a reputation of being one of the most feared, destructive batters in the history of the game.

The ICC Hall of Fame was launched in 2009 as part of the glob governing body's centenary celebrations. The Class of 2024 will be celebrated in a special series of engagements in Dubai this 2013, calling time on an illustrious career by helping Railways to the 2012-13 Senior week, coinciding with the conclusion of the Women's T20 World Cup.

Handling pressure will play a big part in Jaiswal's success

in Australia: childhood coach

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Yashasvi Jaiswal was oblivious to the cheers of a handful of spectators as he walked across a soaked M Chinnaswamy Stadium turf on Wednesday, chatting intensely with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar.

There was no pressing demand for him to spend an hour at indoor nets as rain held up the first day's play of the opening Test between India and New Zealand.

After all, he is going through a roseate phase in Test cricket for

But that deep caring for his craft and a focused mind will come handy when Jaiswal crosses over to Australia next month for the biggest challenge yet in his fledgling career, feels his childhood coach Jwala Singh.
"At this level, it is more about how you handle procure Very

how you handle pressure. You can always work on technique, but if you don't have the right attitude and mindset then you will end up as a failure. But fortunately, Yashasvi has a mature head on his shoulder," Iwala told PTI when he was informed about skipper Rohit Sharma's high evaluation of his younger colleague.

"It is even more true when you go and play in Australia because they play some hard cricket there and put a lot of pressure on opposition," he added. As someone who saw Jaiswal

from a very young age, Jwala feels that the 21-year-old has grown as a batsman since making his debut in 2023 against the West Indies.
"I think being around players like Rohit and Virat has helped him a lot. After all there is

him a lot. After all, there is nothing like learning from such masters, he said.

Since his baptism international cricket, Jaiswal has made 1217 runs from 11 Tests at an average of 64.05 and has three daddy knocks - 171, 209 and 214.

So, what are the changes that he has observed in the lefthander in the last one year or

"He always has been aggressive as a batsman. Earlier, he had a tendency to attack almost every ball, especially fast bowlers, but now he uses aggression more judiciously. "Yashasvi now has more

better awareness about which ball to attack and which one to let go. Of course, he has also become a very good fielder now, especially in slip region,' Jwala noted.

The trait was visible in Jaiswal's batting while going through a breakout series against England earlier this year. breakout

The way he handled English legend James Anderson was impeccable. At Rajkot, Jaiswal respectfully patted a fuller length delivery from Anderson back to the bowler in the 85th

But once the pacer erred in Lancastrian's next three balls for sixes — a sweep over square leg, a loft over mid-wicket and straight mousse over the bowler's head.

Jaiswal was highly effective against Anderson throughout the series — extracting 98 runs from 150 balls that he faced off the quick and getting out twice. It was not entirely surprising then that he became only the second Indian batter after the legendary Sunil Gavaskar to score over 700 in a series.

But then it is always easy to play down that wonderful run citing home advantage, as Australia offers a vastly different challenge. What are the challenges a subcontinent batter will face

Down Under?

"First thing first, what India did in Australia during their last two visits here has been fantastic. Not many teams have managed that (winning backto-back series). So, the Aussies will go hard at Indians to overturn it.

"I am sure they are going to pepper them with some short stuff and I guess the pitches too could offer some more

In that sense, I think the batters coming here should be well-prepared to play a few more cuts and pulls," former England pacer Alan Mullaly, who is now settled in Perth, told PTI.

India skipper Rohit Sharma had little doubt about the skill level and adaptability of Iaiswal.

"He has got the game to play in all sorts of conditions. You can bet on him and expect him to do wonders for the team. We've found a great player. "Now, it is just about how he

manages himself in the next couple of years," said Rohit.

Cricket Australia says 2025-26 Ashes series will begin in Western Australia

collaboration,

Cricket Australia said on Wednesday that the five-Australia and England in 2025-26 will begin in Perth, Western Australia. Test Ashes series between

That first Test is scheduled for November 21-25, 2025 with the second a day-night Test at the Gabba in Brisbane from December 4-8. Adelaide Oval will host the



third Test from December 17

The Melbourne Cricket Ground will host its traditional Boxing Day Test beginning December 26, with the Sydney Cricket Ground also maintaining its usual time slot for the January 4-8 fifth and final Test.

Australia currently holds the Ashes, having retained them with a draw in the 2023 series in England.

WKL unveils plans for women's Kabaddi in upcoming season

RISHABH MALIK NEW DELHI

upcoming season. This event marked as a significant step toward establishing women's kabaddi as a national sport and creating a thriving ecosystem for female athletes across India. The league will feature several teams, including Bengaluru Hawks, Delhi Durgas, Gujarat Angels, Delhi Haryana Hustlers, Great Marathas, Rajasthan Raiders, Telugu Warriors, and UP Ganga Strikers. The selection trials for WKL

are set to be a major highlight of the upcoming season, as they will open doors for they will open doors for thousands of aspiring female players nationwide. The league aims to identify the most talented athletes who will then be selected for the auction process and logically segmented for the playing. The WKL's structure follows a round-robin & Home-away format during selection trials

format during selection trials, promoting an exciting and competitive atmosphere that is crucial for player development. This format allows teams to face each other multiple times, fostering not just competition but also camaraderie among



sporting community

WKL is not just focused on the present; it is actively laying the groundwork for future committed to creating a strong platform for women athletes, ensuring they receive the generations of female athletes. By emphasizing inclusivity and providing resources for training, mentorship, and exposure, the league is cultivating an environment where young women can thrive in sports. WKL's initiatives will include workshops, coaching clinics, and partnerships with schools to inspire and engage the next generation of kabaddi players. HARSHIT MANAV, COO, WKL expressed his excitement for the future of women's kabaddi, stating, "We are

a legacy-a national game for women that encourages participation at all levels." As WKL prepares for the upcoming season, the anticipation builds not only for the matches but also for the numerous initiatives aimed at supporting female athletes. With plans for international participation and more exciting announcements in the pipeline, the WKL is poised to elevate women's kabaddi to

new heights.

recognition and respect they

deserve. This is about building

awareness of his game. He has

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