



**OPINION 6**  
SEXISM IN POLITICS:  
THE UNFINISHED BATTLE

**WORLD 8**  
ISRAELI FORCES APPEAR TO  
WITHDRAW FROM JENIN

**MONEY 10**  
RUPEE RISES TWO PAISE TO SETTLE  
AT 83.95 AGAINST US DOLLAR

BHOPAL, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1864

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 21 Issue 247  
\*Air Surchage Extra if Applicable



NEERAJ CHOPRA  
QUALIFIES FOR  
DIAMOND LEAGUE  
12 SPORTS

## WHEN GOLDEN HOUR IS LOST IN A STUCK AMBULANCE

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

My father was in the ambulance, as he had just suffered a severe asthma attack. We were rushing to a hospital in South Delhi, hoping every second that we would make it in time. But as we got onto the main road, we realised we were trapped. The heavy rains in the morning had caused massive water-logging, and the traffic was completely stuck. The ambulance couldn't move an inch.

"Though, we eventually reached the hospital, the delay could have been fatal," said Ramesh Verma, echoing the helplessness of a family member stuck in a dire situation due to water-logging induced traffic snarls in the national capital.

This case is just one among many in the similar situation, highlighting systemic issues with emergency response and infrastructure, particularly during the monsoon season when water-logging is the common feature at various stretches. Despite the ongoing problems plaguing the city for years as climate change induced erratic weather plays truant, authorities continue to shift responsibility, leaving the situation unresolved year after year.

There have been cases of people dying in rain-related incidents as the capital has been witnessing heavy rainfall every other day, bringing it to a standstill with streets flooded, traffic in chaos and some commuters stranded on roads. Even upscale areas of Lutyens' Delhi, arterial lanes and key tunnels like the one at Pragati Maidan were closed due to flooding.

Clearly, this reflects a broader issue where emergency services are frequently hindered by inadequate infrastructure. Incidentally, while writing this, Sawati

Das Gupta, a commuter, called up in distress. "I am stuck up at a severe traffic snarl at Bharat Mandapam near Supreme Court due to water-logging, which is also blocking two ambulances.

"The vehicles with sirens blaring are honking consistently, but there's no space to move. I just can't imagine the distress of patients and their families inside the vehicle, trapped in gridlocked traffic. It's heart-wrenching. The pressure and fear of not knowing if they'll make it in time only add to their agony. The situation is further compounded by the fact that outside the vehicle, people seem unaware of the urgency," she said. Das Gupta asserted that such a situation is unacceptable and no one should have to endure this kind of helplessness.

"We need better emergency management and infrastructure to prevent such incidents," she strongly emphasised.

Drivers from Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), the State Government's medical emergency services too expressed their frustration, noting that their best strategy is to avoid known water-logged areas and stay updated via contacts and newspapers. Much also depends on the driving skill of the occupant behind the steering wheel, they agreed.

Jeetu (name changed), a CATS driver, emphasised the importance of the 'Golden Hour'—the critical first hour following an accident for improving survival chances.

The 'Golden Hour' principle, supported by WHO, stresses the importance of timely medical intervention to increase survival rates. Currently, traffic congestion often delays ambulances, with journeys that should take 15-20 minutes extending over an hour.

The CATS vehicles are categorised into



patient transport ambulances, basic life-support ambulances, and advanced life-support ambulances.

He also shared that CATS is in the process of updating its fleet, with plans to add over 400 new vehicles equipped with advanced facilities. The Government has also taken the services of a private firm which is playing the vehicles as 'Rakshak' Suraj (name changed), another driver with the CAT, lamented that while the population has increased, infrastructure improvements have lagged, putting critical patients at greater risk.

Requesting anonymity, a senior official from the CATS department maintained that the old fleets are on the way out. A tender has been passed in this regard and we are looking forward to adding the new vehicles equipped with improved and sophisticated facilities including at least three Oxygen cylinders. Soon there would be more than 400 vehicles.

The official admitted that roads are constructed without properly assessing actual needs, and issues like inadequate sewage management and insufficient desilting contribute to the chaos. Ultimately, it is the people and patients who suffer as a result.

Jeetu chipped in saying that most critical are especially those injured in road accidents, while on the way to hospitals. "I have been lucky that no patient has died in my ambulance due to heavy traffic on the road resulting in the ambulances getting stuck in traffic jams." Apart from patients of road mishaps, heart patients also needed to be rushed to hospitals in time.

However, on the brighter side, he said that people have been sensitised enough to give way to Ambulances.

According to the CAT drivers, if an ambulance gets a free lane it can cover the distance of 25 km within 15 to 20

minutes but due to traffic it generally takes more than an hour. If the water-logging issue is sorted, delay time in a patient reaching a hospital can be cut.

Delhi has several areas prone to waterlogging, including perennial hotspots like Minto Bridge, Pul Prahladpur Underpass, Jahangirpuri Metro Station Road, under Zakhira Flyover, Loni Road Roundabout, Karala Kanjhawala, and parts of the Ring Road, such as the area opposite WHO.

Other locations that frequently experience waterlogging include ITO, RK Puram, Janpath, Parliament Street, Karol Bagh, Nauroji Nagar, Pant Marg, and various spots in South Delhi, such as Mayur Vihar, Vasant Kunj, Greater Kailash, New Friends Colony, Saket, and Malviya Nagar.

Dr Jagdish Kaur from WILGA, an NGO working for the empowerment of women expressed displeasure at the situation, saying, "I can't recall a day when I haven't seen an ambulance struggling through our chaotic traffic, which is often anything but efficient."

"We often forget that the person in the ambulance could be someone we know or even ourselves. Imagine being in that emergency vehicle while someone in a car ignores the siren's urgent wail. That siren is actually a critical signal—a 'song of life or death.'"

Each of us plays a role in ensuring that this siren leads to life, not death. Just as the ambulance driver, doctors, and nurses are responsible for responding to emergencies, we must also take responsibility for our actions on the road.

Also, the authorities instead of playing blame-games must do their part. They should responsibly ensure that the roads are free of water-logging and traffic jams," Dr Kaur summed up.

## Sensex nosedives, vapourises investors' INR five lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth plummeted by ₹5.49 lakh crore on Friday as markets faced a massive correction tracking a weak trend in global peers and fresh foreign fund outflows.

Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at ₹81,183.93. During the day, it plunged 1,219.23 points or 1.48 per cent to ₹80,981.93. The BSE benchmark had hit its all-time high of ₹82,725.28 on Monday.

Following the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped by ₹5,49,925.16 crore to ₹4,60,18,976.09 crore (USD 5.48 trillion). "Markets witnessed intense profit-booking after the recent upsurge and key benchmark indices crumbled on fears a subdued US

economic data could push Fed chairman to postpone rate cut decision.

"Investors trimmed their bullish bets ahead of the US jobs report, as any uptick in the numbers could prompt the Fed to maintain the status quo on interest rates," Prashanth

Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India tanked over 4 per cent. ICICI Bank, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, ITC, Axis Bank and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading in the red. The US markets ended mostly in the negative territory on Thursday.

## BJP J and K manifesto: 370 is a thing of past says HM

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Exuding confidence that the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) will form the next government on its own, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday unveiled the party's Sankalp Patra (manifesto) asserting its resolve to build a peaceful, secure, developed, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Ahead of releasing the party's "Sankalp Patra", Shah said, "Article 370 is part of history and will never come back.



Home Minister Amit Shah releases the party's election manifesto ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir elections. PTI

The people of the country and the state respect the abrogation of Article 370."

Referring to the list of 25 promises made by the party in its manifesto, Shah said 'wiping out terrorism and separatism in the state' figure high on our agenda, followed by prioritising and enhancing women's financial security and self-reliance.

The Home Minister also promised to bring a white paper to fix the responsibility of those involved in the emergence of terrorism in the region.

## INDIA CLAIMS SIXTH GOLD



Praveen Kumar shattered the Asian record jump of 2.08 m to win the T64 final at Paris Paralympics 2024.

## Phogat, Punia join Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined the Congress on Friday ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. Phogat on Friday resigned from the Indian Railways, citing personal reasons. Both of them met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his 10, Rajaji Marg, residence.

## ATTENTION LIC POLICYHOLDERS

Your Policy Money could be waiting for you

Receive your Policy Money in 2 steps\*:

1. Update your Bank details
2. Submit your KYC

Our WhatsApp No. Say 'Hi'  
**8976862090**

Call Centre Services  
**(022) 6827 6827**

Visit: [licindia.in](http://licindia.in)

**LIC**  
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

\*Can also be done online, Conditions apply  
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474  
Follow us : [f](#) [y](#) [x](#) [i](#) LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Registration for paddy procurement from Sept 19 to Oct 4

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The farmer registration process has been fixed for procurement of paddy, jowar and millet at support price in Kharif marketing year 2024-25. Farmers can register from September 19 to October 4.

mobile, other arrangements have also been ensured. Free registration facility has been provided at the facility centres established in Gram Panchayat and Janpad Panchayat offices, at the facility centres established in Tehsil offices, at the registration centers run by co-operative societies and co-operative marketing institutions and also on MP Kisan App.

Aadhar card and other photo identity cards and keep their record. The facility of registration of Sikmi/Bataidaar/Kotwar and Forest Leaseholder farmer will be available only at the registration centres run by the Co-operative Society and Co-operative Marketing, Cooperative Institution. Cent percent of the farmers of this category will be verified by the Revenue Department.

information about the bank account number and IFSC code. Inactive bank accounts, joint bank accounts and Fino, Airtel, Paytm, bank accounts will not be acceptable in registration. To get better service in the registration system, it will be necessary that the farmer keeps his bank account and mobile number updated by linking it with his Aadhar number.

farmer's Aadhaar linked bank account, a transaction of Re 1 will be done by Madhya Pradesh State Supply Corporation through e-procurement / JIT portal during registration itself. It will be mandatory to get the Aadhaar number verified for registration and selling the crop. Verification can be done with the OTP received on the mobile number linked to the Aadhaar number or with a biometric device.



A young woman selects idols of Lord Ganesha ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

MP in top achiever category for citizen services

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh has been honored by the Central Government in the 'Top Achiever Category in Citizen Services' for the successful implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan-2022.

Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, which makes assessments of the reforms done in business and civic amenities by Indian States and Union Territories (UTs). The goals of BRAP include the single window system, online building permit system, inspection reforms, labor and environment reforms.

Under the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2022, the Central Government has categorized the states scoring more than 95 percent in 25 reform areas (15 business and 10 citizen-centric) in the 'Top Achievers' category. Madhya Pradesh has been honored for its excellent work in 'Empowering citizens through streamlined employment services'.

Police arrest female naxalite carrying Rs 18 lakh reward

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Hawkforce has succeeded in arresting a wanted female Naxalite Sajanti carrying a reward of Rs 18 lakh in the forest of Parsatola Chicharangpur in Balaghat district on Thursday.

Etapalli, Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. On September 5, Hawk Force received information about the presence of Naxalites of KB Division in Parsatola Chicharangpur forest area under Thana Baihar area of Balaghat. Based on the information, a search operation was conducted in this area by Hawk Force Special Operation Group.

their fellow member. In self-defense, the soldiers of Hawk Force fired back. During the cross fire, the Naxalites took advantage of the darkness and fled. Intensive search operations are being conducted on a large scale in this area by CRPF Cobra and Hawk Force teams to apprehend the escaped Naxalites.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, on 14 December 2023, a hard core Naxalite Madkam Hidma alias Chaitu (about 32-33 years), resident of village Pomra, police station Mirtur, district Bijapur (Chhattisgarh), carrying a reward of Rs 14 lakh, was killed. Out of turn promotion was given to 24 policemen involved in the operation.

On July 8, 2024, Hawkforce was successful in killing Naxalite Sohan alias Ukas alias Ayatu, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 14 lakh. In September 5, Hawkforce was successful in arresting female hardcore Naxalite Sajanti Pati Ganesh, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 14 lakh. MP Police has achieved unprecedented success in the anti-Naxal campaign in the last two years. The number of Naxalites killed since 2022 till now is more than the total number of Naxalites killed in the last 20 years.



National Students Union of India (NSUI) activists stage a protest under 'Campus Chalo Abhiyan' to raise various demands of the students at Barkatullah University in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Congress plans protest seeking MSP hike

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Congress will hold a protest on September 20 across Madhya Pradesh seeking hike in minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce, the party's state unit chief Jitu Patwari said on Friday.



the MP assembly polls last year, promised MSP of Rs 2700 for wheat and Rs 3100 for paddy but these have been forgotten by the party after it retained power, he said.

farmer was laden with an average debt of Rs 74,000," Patwari pointed out. "The cost of production in a hectare of land in the last 10 years has shot up by Rs 25000 due to the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on tractors, agriculture implements, manure, pesticides, diesel which ranges from 5 to 18 per cent," he added.

Onam celebration tomorrow

Bhopal: In collaboration with United Malayali Association and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, the ritual activities of Onam festival will be performed at the coastal village exhibition of the museum. Onam is the most popular festival of Kerala which marks the homecoming of the great King Mahabali. According to a common belief, the king goes from his kingdom to the earth and blesses his people. This program will be organized on 08/09/2024 from 03 PM. On this occasion, ritualistic worship will be done in Sarpa Kavu. The rituals performed here are of different types depending on the particular community and the patron deity of Kavu.

Youth nabbed for sexually assaulting, abetting suicide of minor girl

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Nishatpura police have arrested a youth who was booked for sexual assault, abetment to commit suicide of a minor girl, victim was harassed by the accused and sexually assaulted several times by threatening her. In the case of a school girl committing suicide by hanging in Nishatpura area, the police have registered a case of rape, POCSO and forcing her to commit suicide against her classmate, the accused has been arrested.

The police have registered a case of rape, POCSO and forcing the girl to commit suicide against her classmate their relationship, the girl's family sent the girl to another city for studies. Meanwhile, the boy's family also sent him to Rajasthan. Even after this, the boy did not stop following the girl. He kept trying to make contact with her. He even started going to the city where the girl was sent to meet her. Frustrated, the girl told the whole thing to her family. After this, the family called her back to Bhopal.

BHEL ED plants saplings at Jamboori ground

Bhopal: As a part of the massive tree plantation drive organised on Friday, SM Ramanathan, Executive Director BHEL, Bhopal planted saplings in Jamboori ground, Piplani. On this occasion B K Singh, General Manager (HR); all general managers, DROs, Town Administration officials, TAC members and employees in large number were present. Around 250 saplings have been planted in second phase. In the first phase around 8000 saplings have been planted under "Miyawaki" method in the preceding year under the assistance of Pankaj Bharti of Lalitamba Welfare Society. In the present financial year around 1 Lakh sapling plantation shall be carried out by BHEL, out of which 56,000 saplings have been planted today in various sectors of the industrial township.

BoB pays out accidental insurance of Rs 75 lakh for deceased cop

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In accordance with the conditions mentioned in the revised wage settlement memorandum of the year 2024 between Madhya Pradesh Police and Bank of Baroda, Bhopal Zone, in a program organized in the conference hall of Police Control Room of SP Office, Satna on Tuesday, in the presence of General Manager (Zone Head) of Bank of Baroda, Sanjeev Menon, Ashutosh Gupta, SP, Satna, a cheque of Rs 75.00 lakhs was given to Jyoti Mishra (nominee of insurance policy) as accident insurance claim amount, wife of late Kranti Kumar Mishra, policeman of Madhya Pradesh Police. Apart from this, life insurance claim amount of Rs 75 lakh was given to you after the above-mentioned accident.

General Manager (Zone Head) of Bank of Baroda, Sanjeev Menon, Ashutosh Gupta, SP, Satna, a cheque of Rs 75 lakhs was given to Jyoti Mishra

were present. SP Ashutosh Gupta praised the police salary package and thanked Bank of Baroda for quick claim settlement. Gupta consoled the family members of late Kranti Kumar Mishra and assured them that the bank and police department are always with them. Zonal Head Sanjeev Menon assured the police department that in future the police department and Bank of Baroda will work together in the field of social welfare.



On the instructions of Indore police commissioner Rakesh Gupta meetings of local people of all the police stations of Indore police commissioner jurisdiction was organized in their respective police stations regarding the beginning of Ganesh festival. SHO Rau Rajpal Singh Rathore addressing people of Rau police station area. Pioneer photo

KISNA launches Its 1st exclusive showroom in Bhopal

Bhopal: KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery launched its third exclusive showroom in Bhopal and 34th showroom in India. The inauguration was graced by Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & MD, Hari Krishna Group, and Parag Shah, Director, KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery. To celebrate this grand opening, KISNA is offering up to 100% off on diamond jew-

ellery making charges and up to 20% off on gold jewellery making charges for its esteemed consumers. Additionally, KISNA is also running a lucky draw contest for the month of September with a prize of # 1 crore. Abki Baar Aapke Liye # Win a Car. The consumers have to participate by making a Diamond/Platinum/ Solitaire jewellery

purchase of ₹20,000 or more, or a gold jewellery purchase of ₹50,000. Lucky ones will be chosen and gifted a car by KISNA. In line with KISNA's commitment to giving back to the community, KISNA organized a tree plantation drive as part of the launch event. Additionally, KISNA also hosted a food distribution drive for the underprivileged.





# Punjab farmers end protest after CM Mann's assurance on agriculture policy

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH



Farmers protesting against the alleged delay in implementation of Punjab's new agriculture policy ended their strike on Friday, a day after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann assured them that a draft of the policy would be shared with them by September 30. Mann also assured them that their suggestions would be incorporated before the policy's implementation. Mann on Thursday held an over two-hour meeting with leaders of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union, which led the protesting farmers, to discuss their demands. Farmers under the banner of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and the Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union began a five-day protest on Sunday to press for their demands, including the agriculture policy's implementation. Speaking to reporters at the protest site, Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) president

Joginder Singh Ugrahan said they had urged the state government to make the agriculture policy public. "They (the government) said it was being finalised... They said by September 30, they would finalise it and hand over a copy," he said. "We will wait till September 30. After we get a copy of the policy, we will go through it and hold a big meeting and decide the next course of action," he added. In the interim, "we have

decided to end the protest in Chandigarh at 2 pm", Ugrahan said. On Thursday, when asked about the farmers' future course of action following the meeting with Mann, the farmer leader said they would take a call after a meeting. Mann assured the farmers that the state government was committed to safeguarding their interests and that the new agriculture policy would be a step forward in this direction.

The draft of the policy is ready but it will be finalised only after due deliberations with the farmers, the chief minister had said. The draft will be shared with the farmers by September 30 and their suggestions sought, he had added. The farmers' suggestions will be incorporated in the policy as the state government does not want to impose anything on the growers, Mann had said and added that his dispensation was committed to consulting them for making agriculture a profitable venture. Ugrahan said after the meeting that they were informed a 1,600-page draft of the policy would be shared with them by September 30. The farmers' other demands included the promotion of chemical-free crops, compensation to the families of farmers who committed suicide, and curbing the drugs problem in the state, Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union general secretary Lachman Singh Sewewala had earlier said.

# SC dismisses Bombay HC order for drinking water at Mumbai cricket grounds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea challenging the Bombay High Court's order which had disposed of a petition seeking directions to provide drinking water and other facilities to cricket players during practice or unofficial matches on public grounds in Mumbai. "What kind of a PIL (public interest litigation) is this? Cricketers will take care if they are not provided toilets. Why an advocate should be bothered about it," a bench of Justices A S Oka and A G Masih observed. The bench was hearing a petition filed by a lawyer, who had challenged the high court's June last year order disposing of his petition. In his PIL filed before the high court, he had sought directions to the Mumbai Cricket Association and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to provide drinking water and other facilities to players during practice or unofficial matches on public grounds. "Look at the photographs which you have annexed.

Playing in these conditions, these grounds in Mumbai have given greatest cricketers," the apex court observed. The bench also asked the petitioner whether he was predominantly a cricketer or a lawyer. "I am a practising advocate," the petitioner, who was appearing in person, said. The bench observed, "What kind of prayers are made in a public interest litigation. You want toilets to be provided to the cricketers in various grounds in Mumbai? The top court said the high court was right in not entertaining the PIL at the instance of the petitioner. "We concur with the view taken by the high court in paragraphs 3 and 5 of the impugned order," the bench said, while dismissing the plea. In its order, the high

court had said there was no reason given by the petitioner why the players cannot seek redressal of their grievance on their own. "In these circumstances, the appropriate course of action would be to call upon respondent nos. 1 and 2 (Mumbai Cricket Association and BCCI) to consider the PIL as suggestions made and if it is feasible for them to do so, proceed to implement the same. We make it clear that our order is not to be construed as direction to respondent nos. 1 and 2 to grant relief as sought for by the petitioner but only as suggestions," it had said. The high court had also clarified that if and when this cause would be raised by any aggrieved player, the same would be considered on its own merits.

# Army being roped in to plug Budameru breaches in Vijayawada, says Andhra CM

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said that Army teams are being roped in to plug the Budameru rivulet breaches to control the flood situation in Vijayawada. Addressing a press conference at the NTR district collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday, Naidu, who was accompanied by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, said Chouhan had been apprised about the catastrophe. Chouhan earlier in the day conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas in Vijayawada. "The Army is also coming to close the breach... We are putting in all efforts we need to do," said Naidu. According to the CM, a technical team has arrived to analyse the situation, following unprecedented rains and floods in the centrally located commercial city. Naidu noted that the deluge had ravaged all the houses in its path, destroying vehicles, household appliances and many other things. He also said that there is a need to raise the capacity of Prakasam Barrage to discharge up to 15 lakh cusecs of floodwaters, noting that it can withstand only up to 11.9 lakh cusecs. Union Minister Chouhan said that the situation is bad in the flood-hit areas, adding that he has never seen such a situation before. He said 400 mm rainfall at one time is a major catastrophe, but appreciated the efforts being put in by the chief minister and the government machinery. He appreciated that drones are being used to deliver food in the affected areas, and said that the Army is expected to come soon to close Budameru breaches. Chouhan alleged that illegal mining had occurred near Budameru during the previous YSRCP government and claimed that it also contributed to the disaster.



# Nadda inaugurates Regional Institute of Ophthalmology at Patna

PTI ■ PATNA

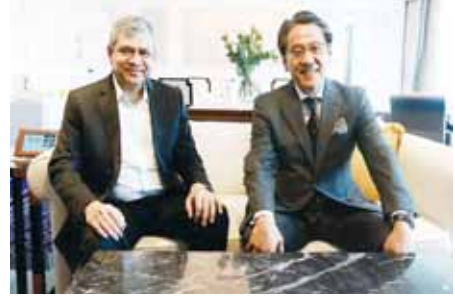
Union Health minister Jitendra Singh Nadda inaugurated the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology on the campus of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) and also the institute's extended building here on Friday. Nadda arrived on a two-day visit to Bihar on Friday. During his two-day visit to Bihar, the Union Health Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several health facilities in Patna, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur. Accompanied by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, Bihar ministers Mangal Pandey and Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Nadda inaugurated the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology which has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 188 crore. According to health department officials, this institute is the biggest eye hospital in Eastern India with a trauma centre facility. Nadda also laid the

foundation stone of several health projects, including health sub-centre (HSC), additional primary health centre (APHC), health and wellness centre (HWC), community health centre, worth Rs 850 crore at the IGIMS. Later in the day, the Union Health Minister will also inaugurate a government-operated super-specialty block at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Bhagalpur and another at Anurag Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital in Gaya. Nadda was earlier in the day welcomed by BJP workers at Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport in Patna. Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, both DyCMs and other BJP ministers in the state government received Nadda at the airport. Shortly after his arrival at the airport, Nadda left for 1 Anne Marg, the official residence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. It was a courtesy meeting between Kumar, JD(U) supremo and the BJP national president, said a senior state BJP leader.

# India, Japan discuss cooperation in railways, IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw discussed further enhancing cooperation with Japan in the field of railways, innovation in the digital landscape and focusing on futuristic technological advancements during his visit to Tokyo. Vaishnaw, who holds the portfolios of railways, information and broadcasting, and information technology and electronics, held productive discussions with Tetsuo Saito, Japan's minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism on enhancing India-Japan cooperation. Vaishnaw said he discussed enhancing railway cooperation, promoting economic growth and deepening cultural ties with Saito. The meeting with Saito took place on Thursday. "Met with Mr. Tadashi Maeda, MD & Chairman of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, to discuss progress under the India-Japan strategic partnership. Exchanged views on key areas of cooperation and future opportunities," he posted on X on Friday.



Vaishnaw also met Taro Kono, the minister for digital transformation of Japan, to discuss strengthening India-Japan digital ties. "Explored avenues for collaboration and innovation in the digital landscape, focusing on futuristic technological advancements," he said. Vaishnaw said he also met Masafumi Mori, special adviser to Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, for a comprehensive discussion on the current state and future trajectory of the India-Japan strategic partnership.

# Two CRPF personnel killed in lightning strike at training centre in Chhattisgarh

PTI ■ DANTEWADA

Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in a lightning strike at an anti-Naxalite training centre of the paramilitary force in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Friday, police said. The incident occurred around 3 pm when a training session was underway at the facility in the Barsoor police station area of the district, an official said. Constables Mahendra Kumar and S Sahuat Alam, belonging to the CRPF's 111th battalion, were struck by lightning and severely injured, he said.

The duo were shifted to Dantewada hospital in an ambulance, and after examination, doctors declared them dead, the official said. Kumar hailed from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, while Alam was from Sahibganj in Jharkhand, he said, adding that their families were informed about the tragedy. A CRPF jawan died in a similar incident of lightning strike in neighbouring Bijapur district during an anti-Naxal operation on Thursday, police said. The CRPF is extensively deployed in south Bastar, comprising Dantewada, Sukma and Bijapur districts for anti-Naxal operations.

# Moon's seismic activity might be due to past meteorite impacts or heat effects: ISRO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seismic activity in the Moon's soil could be due to impact from meteorites in the past or local heat-related effects, according to ISRO's preliminary analysis of data received from Chandrayaan-3's quake-detecting instrument. However, detailed studies are needed to get more insights from the data, they said. Their research paper, published in the journal Icarus, is a summary of observations made on 190 hours of data recorded by the Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA). ILSA is one of the five major global scientific instruments, all of them carried by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram



lander and Pragyaan rover together. Chandrayaan-3 made a soft-landing on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023. The quake-detecting ILSA was operated continuously until September 2, 2023, after which it was switched off and was packed back up, before the lander was relocated to a new point roughly 50 centimetres away from the initial one, the researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) explained.

# Great teaching echoes Gita's wisdom, empowers students to think, question: UGC chairman

PTI ■ KURUKSHETRA

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar on Friday said like Lord Krishna's guidance to Arjuna in the Gita, great teaching involves giving students the freedom to think, question, and make their own decisions. Kumar was the chief guest at the 17th Goyal Award ceremony organised by Kurukshetra University in the Senate Hall here. "Goyal Awards were instituted by late Ram S Goyal, an NRI settled in the US, in 1990, to honour scientists for their exceptional work. "Addressing the gathering at the event, Kumar highlighted that the teachings from the land of the Gita embody the

essence of great teaching. "At the start of Mahabharata, Lord Krishna says to Arjuna, I have told you everything you needed to know about but now you decide what you want to do," Kumar said, citing the holy scripture. "This is what a great teacher does to the students. They give the students the freedom to think and the freedom to question and know themselves and the world around them," he added. "He also said that 'students should never become conformists, but keep questioning, challenging what you feel an accepted fact'. "The UGC chairman said India has huge talent, and young people are our asset. "More than 10 per cent of CEOs of multi-national companies are headed by people coming from the

Indian education system. It is one of the biggest education systems. But, we have still to improve and reform the system so that over 50 per cent of the companies are headed by Indians, he noted. "On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of Kurukshetra University and chairman of the Goyal Award Organizing Committee Som Nath Sachdeva, during his address, said scientists make people's lives better in a meaningful and measurable way with their brilliant scientific research. "Sachdeva also announced that the Goyal Peace Prize will be awarded shortly to ISRO Chairman S Somnath. "Sachdeva proposed to the scientists of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru that Kurukshetra University is ready to allocate 100 acres of

land if the institute plans to set up a science research centre in Haryana. "Professor S P Singh, co-chairman of the Goyal Award Organizing Committee, said the Goyal Awards have been recognising substantial research by scientists since 1992. "Bhim Singh, Professor Emeritus, IIT Delhi, professor Santanu Bhattacharya of IISc, Bengaluru, professor V. Nagaraja of Department of Microbiological and Cell Biology, IISc, Bengaluru, and professor S K Satheesh of Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, IISc, Bengaluru were awarded the Goyal Awards for the year 2021-22 by Kurukshetra University. Each of them received a medal, a citation and a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

# Houses in Bageshwar villages develop cracks, residents blame soapstone mining

PTI ■ PITHORAGARH (UKHAND)

Cracks similar to those in Joshimath have appeared on the walls and ceilings of houses in more than two dozen villages of Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, sending residents in a state of alarm. Locals attributed land subsidence, which had aggravated with time, to large-scale soapstone mining in the area and excavated ditches being left untreated by contractors, who often violated mining norms by blasting and using heavy machinery for digging. "Despite mining being stopped in the area two years ago, we found at least seven to eight houses in Kanda village with cracks still appearing on the walls and ceilings," said District Mining Officer Jigyasa Bisht, who visited the

village on September 3 along with a geologist and revenue officials. Around 1,000 people had to leave their homes in Joshimath, recently renamed Jyotirmath, in early 2023 when large cracks appeared on the walls and floors due to land subsidence. The administration's attention was drawn to the latest threat when locals raised the issue during a janata darbar at the collectorate in Bageshwar. However, the National Green Tribunal has not taken cognisance of any such incident in the district, Bisht said. Cracks have also appeared in houses in more than 25 villages adjacent to the areas where mining is still going on in the district, the officer said. These are mostly villages whose residents had given a no-objection certificate for



conducting mining rehabilitation as landslides were endangering their habitation. "More surveys of such villages are on the anvil," she said. Officials of the departments concerned visited the Kalika temple in Kapkot block after receiving complaints but found no violation of mining rules. "The mines in the Kalika

temple region of Kapkot were closed two years ago but the cracks are still occurring in houses," Bisht, the mining officer, said. Former Kapkot MLA and senior BJP leader Balwant Bhauriyal, who owns a soapstone mine in the Saneti region of Bageshwar, said soapstone mining in the region was done in fields given by villagers for mining. "So the question of mining being done against their wishes does not arise. At one time, the district had 121 soapstone mines, out of which only 50 are running at present," he said. "Regions of Kapkot and Kanda blocks have the maximum number of mines and, due to mining activities nearby, the villagers suffer from sliding and cracks in houses almost every monsoon," said Chandra Shekhar Dwivedi, who is

studying the effects of soapstone mining in Bageshwar's villages. "When mining norms are violated by contractors by using blasts and JCB machines (excavators), the villagers are compensated by them in various ways to placate them and prevent protests. This is also responsible for the aggravating problem of subsidence," Dwivedi said. Most of the villagers get jobs in these mines as compensation that stops them from reporting the damages caused to their fields by reckless mining, he said. Most of the houses are empty in Kandekanyal village. Only five families are living there, said Bisht, the district mining officer. "The National Green Tribunal is yet to take note of the matter and issue directions to us," she said.

# Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja has joined BJP, says MLA wife Rivaba

PTI ■ JAMNAGAR

Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during its ongoing membership drive, his wife and party MLA Rivaba Jadeja has said. In a post on X on Thursday, Rivaba shared photos of Jadeja's membership card along with hers, with a hashtag, "Sadasyata Abhiyan 2024". Talking to reporters, Rivaba said the cricketer became a party member during the nationwide membership drive kickstarted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who renewed his membership in New Delhi on September 2. The seasoned India all-rounder announced his retirement from T20 Internationals after India's T20 World Cup victory against South Africa in June



this year. "The BJP has become a large banyan tree over the years and eventually became the world's largest party through its membership drive. Before asking others to join the party, it's better to start with our family. This will convince others to follow suit. Hence, I first enrolled my husband as the BJP's primary member to kickstart the membership drive in Jamnagar," Rivaba said. Rivaba joined the BJP in 2019 and won the 2022 state elections from the Jamnagar North assembly seat after defeating the AAP candidate by over 50,000 votes.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

## India the peacemaker

With Putin now suggesting that India could mediate in peace talks, India's role on the global stage continues to grow

The Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, with no clear end in sight. What began as a territorial conflict over Ukraine's desire to align itself more closely with Western institutions like NATO and the European Union has turned into a prolonged military engagement with Russia, leading to mass displacement, thousands of casualties, and significant global economic disruptions. In recent months, efforts to find a peaceful resolution have gained renewed attention. One potential pathway for peace emerged when Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that countries like India, China, and Brazil could act as mediators in peace talks. This proposal points to a potential role for these major Global South nations in shaping the future of negotiations. Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent remarks on peace efforts are significant, especially in light of earlier failed negotiations. In the initial weeks of the war, a preliminary agreement was reached between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators during talks in Istanbul.



Now, Putin suggests that this could serve as a basis for future discussions, with mediation from nations like India, China, and Brazil, which have historically maintained neutral or balanced positions in the conflict. These nations, particularly India, could bring fresh perspectives to the table. India's long-standing policy of non-alignment and its diplomatic clout as a leader among Global South countries make it a credible mediator in a highly polarised international arena. India has consistently advocated for peace in the ongoing conflict, calling for both Russia and Ukraine to engage in dialogue.

Prime Minister Modi's diplomatic stance has been underscored by his visit to Ukraine last month. During this historic visit, PM Modi met with Zelenskyy, who proposed that India could host the second Ukraine peace summit. This proposal, Zelenskyy said, was due to India's position as a major democracy and its efforts to remain neutral in the conflict. India's position as a potential mediator offers several advantages. First, India's diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine have been strong over the years. Second, India's neutrality in the conflict positions it as an acceptable mediator to both sides, which have faced varying degrees of global isolation and support. For Russia, India remains a crucial partner, and for Ukraine, India's growing global influence makes it a key player in any future peace talks. Third, India's active participation in global multilateral forums, including the G20 and BRICS, gives it a platform to influence discussions on peace efforts at a broader level. While the potential for peace talks with India, China, and Brazil as mediators is promising, challenges remain. The conflict has seen entrenched positions from both sides, with Ukraine's territorial integrity at the center of any resolution. The success of such mediation will ultimately depend on the willingness of both Russia and Ukraine to make compromises and find common ground for peace.

### PICTALK



Giant panda cub Katyusha, the first panda bear born in Russia plays with her mother at a zoo in Moscow. AP/PTI

## The death of window shopping: How e-commerce stole the joy

Spontaneity has given way to algorithms, and the sensory delights of browsing have been replaced by sterile scrolling

Once upon a time, I was a passionate window-shopper. I could spend hours gawking in a mall or a market, viewing and trying out things I didn't need, but often ended up purchasing. Not any longer. During my latest visit to a mall this week after several months, I realised how my appetite for browsing and buying had nearly died. Our family now happily gets everything delivered to our doorstep: from Apple to Android phones. Shopping had long been a cherished ritual, offering an experience that transcended mere transactions. It tapped into emotions and senses, creating memories, fostering relationships, and offering solace in unexpected ways. Yet, the rise of e-commerce has drastically altered this landscape, leading to the erosion of the joys of traditional shopping. The sensory overload of colours, smells, and sounds has been replaced by the sterile, one-dimensional world of online shopping. We now scroll through product images on a screen, devoid of any real human interaction. Shopping was



once an opportunity to step out of our daily routines, to wander through aisles with no particular destination in mind, and to let our imaginations run wild as we browsed items we didn't know we needed until we saw them. This spontaneity is all but lost in the algorithm-driven world of e-commerce, where every click is tracked and every recommendation is based on past behaviour, leaving little room for surprise or serendipity. Moreover, shopping in physical stores offered a tactile connection to the products we bought. We could feel the fabric of a garment, test the weight of a book in our hands, or smell the aroma of freshly baked bread before making a decision. These sensory experiences are deeply rooted in our memo-

ries and play a significant role in our attachment to the items we purchase. Online shopping, in contrast, offers a purely visual experience, reducing our interaction with products to mere images on a screen. The absence of this tangible connection often leads to a lack of emotional attachment to the items we buy, turning shopping into a mechanical process rather than an enjoyable pastime. In the past, shopping was as much about the experience as it was about the purchase. The thrill of discovery, the joy of window shopping, and the satisfaction of finding that perfect item after hours of searching were all part of the journey. However, it would be unfair to dismiss the advantages of e-commerce entirely. The convenience of shopping from the comfort of our homes and the ability to compare prices across multiple retailers are undeniable benefits. For those with busy schedules or physical limitations, online shopping has been a game-changer, providing opportunities that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago. Yet, as we embrace these con-

veniences, we must also consider what we are losing in the process. The act of shopping is not just a means to an end but a valuable experience in itself. It is a chance to connect with our communities, indulge our senses, and find joy in the unexpected. As we move towards a digital future, it is worth considering how we can preserve these intangible aspects of shopping that bring richness and depth to our lives. In the end, the choice is not about rejecting technology or clinging to the past, but about finding a balance that allows us to enjoy the best of both worlds. We can find ways to reintroduce the joy of discovery, the pleasure of the tactile, and the warmth of human connection into our shopping experiences, even as we click our way through the digital aisles. In my case, I attribute my loss of interest to a feeling of satiety, a recognition that I have more than I need and it's time for me to stop indulging in senseless accumulation of material things. Period. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

# Sexism in politics: The unfinished battle

The recent disparaging remarks by Donald Trump against Kamala Harris have once again spotlighted the rampant sexism entrenched in politics



ARCHANA DATTA

The Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's recent disparaging comments against her Democratic rival, Vice President Harris about her 'appearance', re-established the fact that 'sexism is very much alive in American politics'. His party, however, had denied that 'it had anything to do with race or gender'. Harris, on the other hand, urged Trump to commit to debating her, 'if he got something to say'. Such sexist vilification, many believe, is on the expected lines in a country that had no women, and only one person of colour as president, which is now, for the first time, having a woman of colour running for the presidency on a major party ticket. Harris' entry into the presidential battle has unleashed a wave of misogyny, and personal attacks on her marriage and stepchildren. She is also accused of leaning into 'being Black for political expediency'. Republican vice-presidential nominee Cyrus Vance's remarks that the Democratic Party is dominated by 'childless cat ladies', with no 'direct stake' in America's future, is also a dig at Harris' life choices.

While, early this year, Nikki Haley, the first woman governor of South Carolina, when encountered the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, she was dismissed as a 'token' candidate, and her achievements hardly got any attention. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had to undergo similar ordeals with apprehensions about her health and integrity, and even for her political ambitions. In 2008, Sarah Palin wasn't spared, she was constantly jeered at for her looks, personal life and intelligence, while her policy positions and records were overlooked. While only a relatively small share of the US adults (18%) consider that it is important that a woman be elected as president in their lifetime, most (64%) say this is not too or not at all important or that the president's gender doesn't matter. Overall, 62% of Americans believe that the media focuses too much on the physical appearance of women contesting for high elected offices, and there is not enough attentiveness to their views on key policy matters (Pew



Research Centre). Along the party lines, 25 per cent of Republicans are of the view that 'men generally make better leaders than women, only 4 percent said that women are better suited to lead'. While, Democrats, were found to be 'more likely to say women were better leaders than men' (August, 22, PerryUdem survey). Many of the politicians may be progressive in their policy beliefs, but, when it comes to equity, their socialisation around gender stereotypes and expectations is quite stubborn', commented Kelly Dittmar, professor of political science, at Rutgers University. In the USA, women hold only 27.9 per cent of seats in Congress, while, there is currently no Black woman in the Senate. A 2016 IPU study on the experiences of fifty-five women members of national parliaments from 39 countries across the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Arab countries, confirmed that 'sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians are very real and rampant'. While, psychological violence, the most widely spread, and, now, more on social media, affected 81.8 per cent of the respondents surveyed. A majority (61.5 per cent) believed that



HARRIS' ENTRY INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL BATTLE HAS UNLEASHED A WAVE OF MISOGYNY, AND PERSONAL ATTACKS ON HER MARRIAGE AND STEPCHILDREN. SHE IS ALSO ACCUSED OF LEANING INTO 'BEING BLACK FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY'

such behaviour and/or violence was intended primarily to dissuade them from continuing in politics. While 'young and feminist women parliamentarians are particularly targeted', said an Asian parliamentarian. A parliamentarian from sub-Saharan Africa underscored that 'men need to be educated about the benefits of women's presence in parliament'. While, many opined that an increase in the number of women in parliament and solidarity among them, can help change such a political culture. While, in India, women parliamentarians, a minuscule minority, just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower House, much less than the 33% that the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, proposes to put into effect, face sexist comments from all corners, their colleagues, rivals or voters, and their achievements reduced to their gender only, rued a women's rights activist. An erstwhile woman Union minister lamented that 'when a woman is attacked, she gets attacked for her character, but never for her policymaking'. Women politicians, cutting across party lines, seem to agree on the issue of character assassination, and consider that it 'reflects the larger psyche of the society'. Many also complain that 'women politi-

cians aren't taken seriously... and male members have been often preferred for speaking on serious issues, while, women are only expected to raise soft issues'. Outright misogynist remarks are quite the norm in political discourse. Recently, a senior woman Rajya Sabha MP expressed discomfort with her identity being tied to her husband's name by the Chair. Globally, only 26.9 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses are now women (IPU). Many countries have resorted to women's quotas and reserved shares. But, that's not enough. What is needed is a nuanced approach to addressing the issues of sexism and double standards existing within the political parties and parliament. Political parties must have an internal assessment mechanism to look into the gaps in all areas of internal practices and operations. A parliament must also ensure inclusivity in its work processes and outputs, with the help of a strong regulatory framework. Gender parity and pluralism are essential in electoral politics for the greater good. (The author is former Director General, Doordarshan, All India Radio; views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### FALL FROM GRACE

Madam — Malayalam film Industry has been in a crisis since the release of Hema Committee report which has recorded sexual exploitation by senior artistes/technicians over the women artistes/technicians. The women artiste/technicians in their enthusiasm/eagerness/greed approach the other side for a favor, over looking the others who score over them on merits in the industry and offer /submit to them with what would please them for grabbing the chance. If the person who is the so called perpetrator of the crime which is sexual exploitation in this case is wrong the lady who has approached him for favor of a chance and offering/accepting to entertain him is considered an abettor of the crime. It is a quid pro quo though apart from crime also unethical on the part of the grantor of the chance. Such quid pro quos exist not only in film industry and every other industry and in fact it is a universal phenomenon in today's world. While this affects the only individuals concerned and to a limited extent the industry or the corporate concerned, the political leaders /parties accepting bribes in any form say organized /un organized methods including through the electoral bonds route is also a quid pro even as per SC ruling and more harmful as it harms the nation as a whole.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

#### TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Madam — The interruption of the Covid had been epochal and served to direct our focus on education, across the globe. It would be a great pity should we fail to subsequently comprehend the vital role of teachers, pe se. A greater tragedy if we still look to stitch up patchwork approach in education that is rendered more complex as the stakeholder base is vast. So are its key elements of content, quality and efficiency of transmission. In each of these there

#### Eco-friendly Ganesha



With environmental concerns gaining too much ground, many of the well-wishers of Lord Ganesha in the city have

started to conduct environmentally friendly Ganesh Utsav celebrations this year. So it is our earnest desire to avoid pollution. Paint from Ganesh Idols could form a deadly cocktail with oil spill on the sea may cause environmental problems after Ganpati immersion on Anant Chaturdashi day. The oil paint contains carcinogenic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and chromium which have an adverse effect on marine life as well. Despite caution, people prefer POP idols instead of clay. It is time to have a broader outlook on this subject. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us. The civic body should have proper planning and the pick and choose method to make sure the festivity achieves a religious objective rather than making it a politicised one with maximum pollution level.

Jayanthy Ramaswamy | Mumbai

#### FOR THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Madam — Rarely do our politicians talk sense. It was heartwarming therefore, to hear the CM of UP, Yogi Adityanath, announce that a number of football stadia as well as a large number of football grounds will be prepared to give a boost to the "beautiful game". This is far better than sponsoring temples that cater only to a particular religious constituency. To quote Nelson Mandela, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." Yogi's done well, in bending it like Beckham.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai



## FIRST COLUMN

### FINDING PEACE AMIDST THE CHAOS

Embrace divine shelter to overcome life's struggles



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

It may sound very insulting, but this is what most of us, if not almost all of us routinely do. Because it is so natural to do. We have a deep desire for something considered most dear. Or, we may not want to lose something considered crucial for our existence. So what do we do? We keep on thinking about it. Yes, we also do whatever we can to ensure it or should. What happens in most cases? We fall short because we are small, and helpless in the ultimate sense. God keeps control of Himself regarding the fruits of our actions. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 2.47) We have only been given the right to desire and do. (2.47) But we either don't give up trying by ourselves or with the help of others, if we choose to do that. Now worry sets in because we have set our hearts on it. And we hurt ourselves both in terms of mental health and physical health because they are so intertwined. Are we doomed? No, we are not, if we choose to do what we are expected to do, which is to approach God. That is why our scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Geeta, persuade us to do that. I will cite some verses in this connection. The verse #18.62 goes like this, "In all respects take shelter of God only. By His mercy, you will achieve supreme peace." What does this mean? We will not suffer from mental problems, by which a quarter and more in the world are suffering. (9.22) Isn't what we want? You get started on this path and start becoming deserving. God will respond suitably. But our natures won't allow us to do what God wants us to do to qualify for His 'kripa' (grace). Even if we somehow curb our natures, our egos come in the way. For



us human beings, our egos are everything; we cannot imagine taking unconditional shelter from anyone including God of course. So we remain in the shelter of worry. Exalted personalities have surrendered to God and reaped all kinds of benefits from Him. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame illuminates, "Where there is the yogeshwar Shri Krishna and where there is a devotee of God (as Arjuna was), there will be opulence (saubhagya), victory (success), wealth and definite principles (dharma)." (18.78) God is unlimited and He can give what we cannot even imagine. Swami Vivekananda went to America in 1843. Not only did Swami give an iconic speech on Hinduism at the World's Religious in Chicago on September 11, 1843, but introduced Hinduism and Indian spirituality to the Western world.

We just have to get started and achieve what these exalted personalities achieved after several lives. It is not so difficult, but requires determination. What is so difficult to pray? All we have to ensure that whatever we pray for is according to dharma. God will respond in a way He decides about what we deserve. Then, doing 'naman' (namaskar) to a Deity of God in a temple shouldn't be so difficult. God, being what He is, cannot be a debtor ever. He will give something, again what He feels is good for us. What is wrong with chanting God's names? This activity appears so innocuous but people of all religions for ages have been chanting Ohm and God's names. It must be useful, otherwise it would have been discontinued a long time back. What is so difficult to thank God if something good happens? We know how thanking helps us to make friends even with strangers. Then, how it must benefit if we thank God. 'Dhyan' (meditation) is catching attention worldwide. Why? Because it is extremely useful. Remembering God is another spiritual activity, for which God rewards handsomely. I can go on. Believe that these spiritual acts are highly beneficial, and can be done by one and all. Spiritual acts help in this regard and change us for the better. Then, why take shelter from worry, anxiety, depression, sadness, etc.? Take shelter from the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, controller and owner of the Creation and say goodbye to negative emotions.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)

# Bangladesh: Terrorism redivivus?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Some developments since the installation of the interim Government provides cause for concern



Several developments in Bangladesh since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina raise the question: Is that country set to become a fundamentalist Islamist state and a cradle and exporter of Islamist terrorism? As of now, none of what the students who led the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM) have said indicates that they support fundamentalist Islam or terrorism. It is, however, not clear what they stand for. A report in the *Dhaka Tribune* (datelined August 16, 2024) quoted Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the ADSM and an advisor in the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return." The same reported quoted him as saying that structural reforms were needed to achieve this aim, and that would require time. One does not know what structural reforms they have in mind and the policies they intend to pursue. *The Tribune* report in question quotes Tahmid Chowdhury, another student leader, as saying that they were still working out their programme, which would be rooted in secularism and free speech. Reuters reported on August 16, 2024, that the students were contemplating forming their own party to carry their movement forward and bring a closure on the history of the last three decades when Bangladesh was governed either by the Awami League or the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Not much has been heard about the matter since then. The question is whether the overwhelming majority of them share their leader's views. One needs to ask this as fundamentalist Islamist and terrorist organisations have been increasingly spreading their tentacles inside Bangladesh's colleges and universities. Consider the case of North South University (NSU), one of that country's best-known private universities. Professor Gias Uddin Ahsan, Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences, and acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, was arrested on July 16, 2016, along with two of his associates, for renting out his flat, and not informing the police about the fact of its being rented out and details of the tenants—which he was required to do. The flat was subsequently used by the



THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THEM SHARE THEIR LEADER'S VIEWS. ONE NEEDS TO ASK THIS AS FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIST AND TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY SPREADING THEIR TENTACLES INSIDE BANGLADESH'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

perpetrators of the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka on July 1, 2016. The University has suspended Professor Ahsan after his arrest. Earlier, it had dismissed four teachers for their links with the terrorist outfit, Hizbut Tahrir. Nibras Islam, one of the six identified as those attacking the Holey Artisan Bakery and killed by the police in the encounter that followed, was one of its students. Abir Rahman, one of those who attacked a police post guarding Bangladesh's largest eid prayer congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj on July 7, 2016, and was killed, was a student of NSU. The attack, which was repelled, led to three deaths. Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, who, in 2012, was convicted on the charge of attempting to blow up the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and of coming to the United States for waging jihad, had also been a student of NSU. Besides, all the young men—Sadman Yasir Mamun, Faisal Bin Nayeem Dwip, Ehsan Reza Rumman, Maksudul Hasan Anik, Nayeem Irad and Nafiz Imtiaz—arrested for killing the blogger and Ganajagan Mancha activist, Ahmed Rajib Haider, in 2013, were its students. There has been large-scale irregular inundation of educational institutions by fundamentalist elements. A report by Ekramul Huq Bulbul and Masud Milad in the Bengali daily *Pratham Alo* of August 12, 2004, states, "The allegation has been levelled of the jama'atification of the Chittagong University by violating all rules. Most applicants were not appointed as teachers despite getting four first classes in their educational life. Yet there has been the unprecedented occurrence of appointment of the supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the present four-party coalition government headed by Begum Khaleda

Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) despite their being without a single first class." The report further stated that investigations by Pratham Alo revealed that of the 122 teachers appointed during this period, 57 had been appointed by ignoring the recommendations of the Departmental Planning Committee and the number of posts advertised. Whether all this has caused a significant section of students to be influenced by militant fundamentalist Islam need to be seen, given the continued operations of terrorist organisations. A number of Bangladeshis had fought the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. The Soviet Union's defeat at the hands of the Mujahideen and withdrawal from the country in February, 1989, had boosted their morale as also that of militant Islamists the world over. Osama bin-Laden, who had been involved in the jihad and who harboured the vision of establishing sharia rule worldwide, helped the establishment of the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB) in 1992. The formation of Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), followed. Pressure from the United States and other Western countries following the large-scale violence unleashed by these organisations, compelled the Khaleda Zia government to act against them. More resolute action followed the ascent to power of the second Awami League-led government, with Sheikh Hasina as prime minister, in 2009. Nine Islamist terrorist groups were banned during her prime minister-ship. These included the JMB, Shahadat-e-al-Hikma, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, HuJI-B, Ansarullah Bangla Team and the last-named's subsequent reincarnation, Ansar al-Islam. The list also included Jamaat

Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya formed in 2018. Another seven Islamic extremist groups were blacklisted during her regime. These were Ulama Anjuman E Al Bayyinat, Neo-JMB, Dawlatul Islam Bangladesh, Hezbut Tawheed, At-Tamkin, Tamiruddin-Bangladesh and Towhidi Trust. Particularly active among these was the Ansar al-Islam, which played a major role in the murder of the bloggers, which began with the killing of Ahmed Rajib Haider in Dhaka on February 15, 2013 and continued until 2015. The Neo-JMB, however, is believed to have been behind the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery which killed 23 persons, including three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian. The tough measures that followed, had kept Islamist terrorism more and less under control. Following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (Hijb-ut) has been staging processions in different parts of Bangladesh and putting up posters articulating its ideology. On August 9, 2024, it held a rally in Dhaka demanding the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Bangladesh. Also, the statues of two police officers who died fighting the terrorists at the Holey Artisan Bakery, have been destroyed and a Hizb-ut Tahrir poster has been found at the site. On its part, the interim government has released Jashimuddin Rahmani, the chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, now Ansar al-Islam. Neither all this nor the very cordial meeting with Muhammad Yunus has had with leaders of the Jama'at and Hefazat-e-Islam, of course, indicates that the interim government supports Islamist militancy. Nevertheless, skating on thin ice is better avoided.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views are personal)

# The United Nations' struggle for relevance in a changing global order

The United Nations faces unprecedented challenges that threaten its relevance in the modern world writes NAND KISHOR and AMAL CHANDRA

The United Nations (UN), a symbol of global cooperation since its founding in 1945, now finds itself at a pivotal moment. Established to promote international peace, security, and development, the organization faces growing pressure to reform in response to the ever-changing global landscape. However, despite widespread recognition of the need for restructuring, numerous obstacles hinder the reform process. Political, institutional, financial, legal, and socio-cultural barriers make consensus among member states difficult to achieve, thus stalling efforts to enhance the UN's relevance and effectiveness. Three critical areas demand attention—representation, effectiveness, and operational efficiency. Without

addressing these, meaningful reform remains elusive. One of the most significant barriers to UN reform is the veto power held by the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This power enables any of these nations to block resolutions, including those aimed at restructuring the UN. The P5's vested interest in maintaining their influential status has led to repeated failures to expand the Security Council to include new permanent members, such as India, which is the world's largest democracy. India's exclusion from permanent membership, despite its growing global influence, highlights a major flaw in the

UN's current structure. Similarly, other responsible powers, such as Japan and Germany, have long called for permanent seats on the Council. The reluctance of the P5 to share their privileged status stifles efforts to make the UN more representative of today's geopolitical realities. Another complicating factor is the principle of state sovereignty enshrined in the UN Charter. Many member states, particularly smaller or less powerful nations, are wary of reforms that they perceive as infringing on their sovereignty. These states fear that in a restructured UN, their voices might be drowned out by larger, more powerful countries. This divergence in priorities complicates efforts to build the broad consensus

necessary for substantial reform. While some states advocate for a more democratic and inclusive Security Council, others focus on regional issues or specific conflicts, making agreement difficult. The UN's effectiveness in addressing global challenges has been called into question, further complicating the reform debate. Public opinion and trust in the organization are crucial to its ability to implement meaningful changes. However, repeated failures to effectively address major crises, such as those in Afghanistan and Palestine, have eroded public confidence in the UN's capacity to respond to contemporary challenges. UN peacekeeping missions, a cornerstone of the organiza-



tion's efforts to maintain global peace, have also come under fire. Critics argue that these missions have often failed to prevent conflicts or protect civilians adequately. To enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, reforms must focus on improving the mandates, training, and resources available to peacekeepers. Additionally, addressing allegations of misconduct, including sexual

abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, is essential to restoring the organization's credibility and ensuring accountability. These limitations highlight the urgent need for innovation and reform within the UN. Building and maintaining public trust is essential to securing the political and financial support necessary for any restructuring efforts. Efforts to improve the UN's operational efficiency, such as those initiated by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, have demonstrated the institutional challenges of reform. While some administrative changes have been implemented, resistance from within the organization and differing priorities among member states have limited the

scope of these reforms. The UN's extensive bureaucracy presents a major obstacle to meaningful change. Established procedures and norms are deeply ingrained, making it difficult to implement significant reforms. Bureaucratic inertia often leads to resistance from within the organization, as staff and officials may be reluctant to change familiar processes and structures. Moreover, the UN's broad mandate, which covers peace and security, development, and human rights, adds complexity to any reform effort. This wide scope can lead to overlapping functions and responsibilities among different UN bodies, resulting in inefficiencies. Reforming the UN also involves navigating a com-

plex web of international law. Any proposed changes must comply with existing legal frameworks and secure broad international support. This legal complexity adds another layer of difficulty, as reforms must be not only politically acceptable but also legally sound. While the need for reform is widely acknowledged, the path to achieving it remains fraught with challenges. Political dynamics, institutional inertia, financial limitations, and legal hurdles all contribute to the slow pace of change.

(Dr Kishor is the HoD of Politics and International Studies, at Pondicherry University and Chandra is an author, political analyst and columnist. Views expressed are personal)

Israeli forces appear to withdraw from Jenin

AP ■ JENIN REFUGEE CAMP
Israeli forces appeared to have withdrawn from three refugee camps in the occupied West Bank by Friday morning...

milantants in Jenin, Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camps in an attempt to curb recent attacks against Israeli civilians...

Hamas war began, evacuating the wounded have been slowed on their way to nearby hospitals, as Israeli soldiers search for militants...

During the operation, Israeli forces sent military bulldozers into the camp, ripping up roads in search of buried explosives...

mage through the rubble of destroyed buildings and take stock of the damage. Twisted rebar protruded from the concrete of collapsed buildings...

in the morning outside a United Nations health centre in Khan Younis to receive the vaccine, which was being administered by local health care crews...

Telegram CEO addresses French charges

Paris (AP): Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov promised to step up efforts to fight criminality on the messaging app...

post said. "Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools..."

ICICI Bank Public Notice
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohatkar Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Gurmeet Kaur is the owner of Ground Floor and First Floor without roof rights area measuring 27.12 sq. yds. built on Property No. NA/19 out of Ghansu No. 21/25...

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Rohit Mathur who is purchasing the Plot No.4, 50 Sq. Yds out of area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. in Kharsa no. 31/192.19, Waka Mauza Gochi (Sanjay Colony), Tehsil Ballabhgarh, Dist. Faridabad from Pawan Kumar who is the owner of the above said property...

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Irshad Ahmed is the owner of Entire First Floor Northern Portion without roof rights, a Part of Property No. J-3159-A, measuring 35 sq. yds. (L-Shape), out of Rect No. 12, Kila No. 54, Situated at Abadi of J-Extension, Laxmi Nagar, Village Khurji Khas, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi-110092, vide Gift Deed dated 29.08.2024 Registered as Doc. no. 2024/51/7218 and intended to Mortgage the abovementioned property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice...

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007
Summons for Filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 453/2024 Date: 23-08-2024

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED
REGD. OFF: 10-A, UNDERHILL LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890; Website : www.mymoneysecurities.com
E-mail id : mymoneysecurities@outlook.com; Tel No. : 011-47087300, 011-23930655

Table with columns: Sr. No., CUSTOMER NAME, LOAN A/C NO., AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.), DATE OF RECEIPT NOTICE, GROSS WEIGHT, NET WEIGHT. Lists various borrowers and their loan details.

CORRIGENDUM
CORRIGENDUM TO PUBLICATION OF APPENDIX IV-A DATED 23.08.2024 ISSUED UNDER RULE 8(6) AND RULE 9(1) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (The Act).

NOTICE
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book Form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 11/09/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

PHYSICAL HOLDING
Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.
Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd floor, Okhla industrial area Phase-II, New Delhi 110020 along with letter mentioning folio no. (If not registered at ready), PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 22/09/2024.

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025
Website: www.modirubberlimited.com; Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

AYUSHMAN INFRATECH LTD
CIN: L45100DL1973PLC008795
Regd. Office: DSC-319, DLF SOUTH COURT, SAKET NEW DELHI 110017
Corporate Office: DSC-326, DLF SOUTH COURT, SAKET NEW DELHI 110017
Email id: cs@greatvalueindia.com; Website: www.ayushman.net.in
(Phone No: 011-41349612-14)

NOTICE OF 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AYUSHMAN INFRATECH LTD
This is hereby given that an 51st Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of AYUSHMAN INFRATECH Ltd will be held on Monday, 30th day of September, 2024 at 12:00 PM at registered office of the Company situated at DSC-319, DLF South Court, Saket, New Delhi-110017, to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM.
The AGM Notice, proxy form and Attendance Slip have been sent through permitted mode to the members. These documents are also available on the website of the Company i.e. www.ayushman.net.in and on the website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited i.e. www.mse.in.









# THE STORY BEHIND KABINI ON MY MIND AN AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Discover the inspirations, experiences and insights behind VIKRAM NANJAPPA'S compelling wildlife narratives in *Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist*

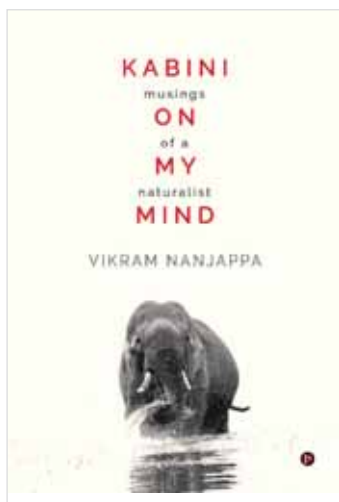
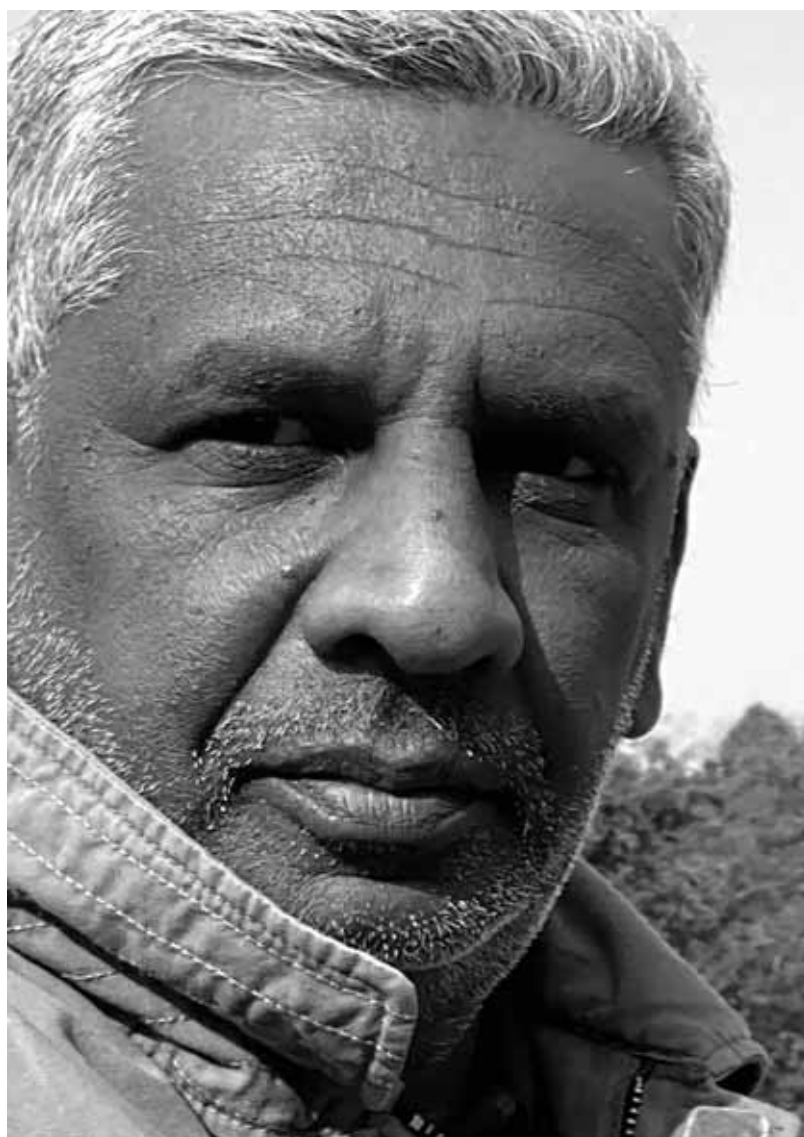
BY SHARMILA CHAND

Vikram Nanjappa likes to be described as an interested and well-informed amateur. He draws inspiration from the band of men called the Orientalists, most of whom were amateurs. Like them, his field of inquiry is 'Man and Nature; (with an emphasis on Nature) whatever is performed by the one or produced by the other'. Vikram's first exposure to wildlife came through the shikar tales he had heard from his friends while studying at Mayo College in Ajmer in Rajasthan, one of the country's oldest and celebrated institutions of learning. Vikram cites the writings of Billy Arjan Singh and Jim Corbett as having played a pivotal role in inclining him passionately and committedly towards wildlife. After completing his Bachelor's in History and Political Science from St. Stephen's College in New Delhi, Vikram joined the tea plantations. It was during the thirteen years he spent in Kerala and the Duars of West Bengal that he found the opportunity to hone his twin hobbies of wildlife and photography. In 2002 he moved to Kabini and took up organizing wildlife tours full time. He is one of those rare gems who managed to turn his passion into a rewarding and fulfilling vocation. After leaving Kabini, in a manner of natural progression, Vikram ventured into the field of wildlife conservation (Non-profit Organization Management) with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation for a few

years. He also explored the world of fashion as a freelance writer and as a photographer. His current avatar is that of a marketing professional. Vikram avers that traditional knowledge and field skills coupled with good science and common sense is the best way to understand, expose and preserve our wildlife, which is alarmingly on the decline. He strongly disapproves of what he calls the 'tabloid portrayal' of wildlife, where aberrant animal behaviour is highlighted to reinforce false myths and stereotypes. This has to be eclipsed by an attitude of respect and reverence for the animal kingdom if we are to continue enjoying sightings of our wild brethren in their natural habitats.

**In an informal chat, he talks about his book and more .....**

**Firstly, let's hear about your book....**  
In the winter of 2002-03 I found myself in Kabini managing a farmhouse that was taking its first baby steps towards becoming a wildlife resort and if you had asked me a year earlier if that was where I saw myself a year hence, I would have laughed in your face. As the 1900s turned to the 2000s I was happily living on the Bhutan border, managing a tea estate and indulging in my love of photography and wildlife. I did not know then that the previously dreaded but now forgotten Y2K problem would culminate in me reaching Kabini in the middle of the night to discover that my quarters had an outdoor toilet without a door. Not wishing to make a fuss, I decided to tackle the problem in the morning



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Book :** 'Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist' by VIKRAM NANJAPPA  
**Publisher :** Notionpress

by catching the first available transport out. As day broke and I got my first look ... the rest, as they say, is history. I was shortly joined by my wife Gowri, my daughter Tara and our dog (a St Bernard mix) Bernie. We later added another member to our family - Bruno, a dachshund. In Kabini I eagerly embarked on the next phase of my wildlife journey, exploring the forests and honing my skills as a Naturalist. Up until then I had been happily engrossed in tackling the human-elephant conflict prevailing in the Duars and keeping track of the resident leopards on the estate. I enjoyed my wild life in the Duars, observing elephants and, to a lesser degree, leopards. We stayed in Kabini for nearly ten years, finally leaving in 2011 when I had become the Chief Naturalist at Evolve Back, and Kabini had become one of the premier wildlife destinations in India. This book is a compilation of various musings, natural history notes, opinions and incidents that occurred in Kabini during my stint there. While they are arranged in no particular order, they were written as

they occurred and accurately reflect my mood, opinions and emotions as the incidents played out. A lot of water has flowed by since but I have resisted the temptation to 'update' them as I feel hindsight is not always a good thing - it can be unfair to those who actually lived through the moment.

**How did you get the idea or let's say inspiration behind the book?**

During my childhood my interest in wildlife was fueled by wildlife books written by various authors. Most of these books were written by western authors and were mostly about Africa. As I grew up, I realized that a lot of researchers from the west were writing and publishing 'popular' books about their research experiences while at the same time imparting knowledge on wildlife in a very easy to absorb manner. This unfortunately was missing in India and information on Indian wildlife was difficult to get. Sometime ago I realized that instead of complaining maybe I should write a book on my experiences as a naturalist in Kabini.

**What is the target audience for the book?**

The book is a compilation of various incidents that occurred during my stint and written in a very easy to read manner - the aim was to cater to both young adults and adults. It is also targeted at those who are not into wildlife as well as those who are. It's not really targeted at hardcore wild livers - but I am sure they will enjoy the stories.

**Any specific aim of writing on this subject?**

The idea is to get young people interested in wildlife by presenting facts in an easy to read format. The chapters are independent of each other and easy to digest, the book can be read at leisure - it's not a heavy and laborious read. With today's declining attention span this was a deliberate move on my part.

**Your favorite chapters?**

I love elephants and I think that comes out very strongly in the book. My favorite parts are the ones about elephants - the following chapters in particular:

- Spirit of Kabini
- A Trunk Full of Tales
- A Tale of Two Giants
- The Amphitheatre of Life and Death

**You had mentioned the book is not tiger centric?**

I have purposely not focused too much on the tiger - I feel that too our tourism industry is too tiger centric to the detriment of other species. There is much more to Indian wildlife and therefore I have given more

attention to other lesser known and charismatic species.

**Any personal opinions / beliefs you have shared in the book?**

Yes, I have also touched upon my personal beliefs which are not quite conventional but at the same time tried not to sensationalize aberrant animal behavior reinforce false myths and stereotypes.

**Are you a Critique of current trends in wildlife guiding?**

It ends with a mild critique (Last Chapter: The Mystic Naturalist) of the current trends in wildlife guiding which I feel is getting too 'professional' with scripted storytelling and more. I hope that this critique will be taken in the spirit it is intended and lead to a more mindful approach to guiding.

**Is this your first book? Were you always into writing? You wanted to be an author?**

Yes, it's my first book. I have always enjoyed writing and maintaining an online blog for a long time. I also briefly freelanced as a writer, writing articles on wildlife and men's style. Also dreamt of writing a book so one dream was fulfilled.

**Why Kabini?**

I spent nearly ten years of my life in kabini. I know it very well and it's my home jungle. It's my karma Bhoomi as far as wildlife goes

**How and when did you become a naturalist?**

I became a naturalist in 2003 when I decided to quit my job as a tea planter and work in the wildlife field. As I was not 'qualified' to do research it was the only viable option for me.

**How has your journey been as a Naturalist? Pls share a couple of milestones or anecdotes to share.**

It was great. The biggest learning was when my boss Krishan Prasad or KP for short who is a great wildlifer himself advised me to ditch my camera for a pair of binoculars. Best advice I ever received- the learning that followed was stupendous. Also getting the opportunity to interact with Dr Ullas Karanth and other such greats. My outlook and philosophy towards wildlife was formed and greatly influenced by these individuals.

**What did you enjoy the most about the book?**

Writing it. I love to write.

**What next? Which book? What subject?**

Nothing definitive but I would like to write something from a foresters perspective about the day to day challenges of managing a national park in India.

## NEW ARRIVALS

September Releases by Aleph Book Company



**The Third Eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta**  
By HARSHA V. DEHEJIA (INR-499, PP-240)

*The Third Eye of Indian Art* delves into how Indian art offers more than just visual pleasure by inviting deeper, contemplative experiences. Harsha V. Dehejia introduces the 'third eye,' a concept for perceiving art not only objectively but through a serene, inner perspective. This book guides readers in appreciating art's spiritual and subjective dimensions, encouraging a profound understanding of beauty and truth. Dehejia, a physician and Indic studies professor with dual doctorates, offers insights drawn from his extensive expertise in Indian aesthetics.

**A Wonderland of Words: Around the Word in 101 Essays**  
By Shashi Tharoor (INR-999, PP-472)

Words possess extraordinary power. They can move, entertain and reveal the world in profound ways. In this captivating book, renowned wordsmith Shashi Tharoor invites readers into the fascinating realm of the English language. He unravels punctuation, spelling and grammar, while exploring the richness of acronyms, oxymorons, metaphors, idioms and more. Tharoor's engaging prose offers insights into English's history, regional variations and literary brilliance, making *A Wonderland of Words* a delightful read for language enthusiasts.

**Unlocking Wealth: Secrets to Getting Rich at Any Age**  
By ROHIT SARIN (INR-599, PP-224)

*Unlocking Wealth* reveals how individuals and families can grip India's economic growth to build substantial wealth. Rohit Sarin, a seasoned banker and entrepreneur, offers practical strategies for smart saving, sound investments, and risk-taking, emphasising that it's never too early or late to start. The book is both a guide for personal wealth creation and a broader vision for societal advancement, showing how increased wealth can benefit all Indians. With nearly three decades of wealth management experience, Sarin provides clear, actionable advice for creating and growing wealth at any age.

# Journey of Self-Discovery and Courage

Niharika Nigam's debut novel, *Joy of Missing Out*, explores the transformative journey of Nanki Mehta, a young woman searching for meaning and fulfillment beyond societal expectations. Through an unexpected adventure, Nanki learns to embrace uncertainty, redefine purpose and take a leap of faith towards a more authentic life, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

*Joy of Missing Out* by Niharika Nigam is a deeply engaging novel that explores the themes of self-discovery, existentialism and the quest for a meaningful life. Nigam, an entrepreneur with years of experience in the adventure sports industry, brings a unique perspective to her storytelling, blending personal insights with a broader commentary on modern life. The novel centers around Nanki Mehta, a thirty-two-year-old brand strategist from Delhi, whose seemingly perfect life feels increasingly unfulfilling. Nanki's struggle is relatable, she grapples with societal expectations and a sense of stagnation in her career, marriage and personal life. Nigam paints a vivid portrait of a woman in crisis, yearning for something more than the mundane routines that have come to define her existence. Her portrayal of Nanki's internal conflict is rich and nuanced, making her journey of self-discovery both engaging and thought-provoking.

A turning point in the novel comes when Nanki stumbles upon a Bungy Jumping ad for Rishikesh, a place tied to her childhood memories. This ad becomes the catalyst for Nanki's journey towards transformation. Her interactions with River, a Bungy Jump Master, add a fresh dimension to her life. River's outsider perspective challenges Nanki to reconsider her own beliefs, offering new ways of thinking about purpose and fulfillment. This friendship serves as a mirror for Nanki's own soul-searching, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives. One of the novel's most effective elements is its use of Bungy



Jumping as a metaphor for Nanki's leap of faith. What begins as a simple adventure turns into a powerful symbol of courage, trust and the willingness to embrace the unknown. This metaphor is woven throughout the narrative, providing a poignant backdrop to Nanki's internal transformation and reinforcing the novel's central themes of risk, renewal, and self-discovery. Nigam's own experience in the adventure sports sector gives the book an authentic feel, especially in the scenes set in Rishikesh. Her understanding of courage, risk and the human desire for freedom adds depth and realism to Nanki's journey. The novel also delves into the challenges of social



entrepreneurship, showing how Nanki uses her business acumen to support a local NGO, blending purpose with practicality. The emotional core of the story is further enriched by Nanki's relationship with her grandfather, Nanu, whose illness and eventual death force her to confront her fears and redefine her understanding of loss and resilience. This subplot adds emotional weight to the narrative, making Nanki's journey even more

compelling. *Joy of Missing Out* is a novel that challenges readers to reflect on their own paths and the choices they make. It captures the tension between societal expectations and personal fulfillment, urging readers to take their own leaps of faith. Nigam's writing is insightful and empathetic, making this a book that resonates with anyone who has ever felt the need to step away from the familiar in search of a deeper sense of purpose.

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Title:** Joy of Missing Out  
**Author:** Niharika Nigam | **Publisher:** Nu Voice  
**Price:** INR 299 | **Pages:** 288



### Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League season finale in Brussels

India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world.

Chopra, who won gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and added a silver to his kitty in the Paris edition last month, has been struggling with his fitness this season. The Haryana-lad has talked about a groin injury troubling him since before the Olympic Games that has come in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlech in the winner-takes-all finale in Eugene, USA, last year. Each Diamond League season final champion is awarded a prestigious "Diamond Trophy", USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships.

## India's fast bowling makes them difficult to beat in Australia: Marnus Labuschagne

Star batter Marnus Labuschagne reckons fast bowlers make India a "difficult" side to beat in Australian conditions as the hosts look to end their barren run in Border-Gavaskar Trophy which has lasted nearly a decade.

termed the rivalry as 'tough' irrespective of where they are playing. "There is always high anticipation. To these two teams, it doesn't matter where we're playing, if it's in England, Australia, or India, it's always a tough contest," he said.



number of series. I have got nothing but respect for him. He is an absolute master in the craft of off-spin bowling and it's been an absolute privilege to play against him and learn off him," said Lyon.

between India and Australia starting on November 22 at Perth could be a "preview" for the final of the World Test Championship next year.

with 62.50 percentage points and 90 points. The WTC final will be played at Lord's from June 11-15 next year and could feature both the current top two teams once again.



### Gagan Narang lauds performance of Indian athletes at Paris Paralympics

London Games bronze medalist shooter and India's Chef de Mission at the Paris Olympics, Gagan Narang on Friday heaped praise on the country's para athletes for their performance in the ongoing Paralympics.

Paralympics we are performing well, we are on the 16th position today. "A fantastic effort by our Paralympians. They surpassed the Tokyo Paralympics medal tally, looking forward for more medals," Narang told PTI Videos on the sidelines of the Media Photojournalist Trust's photo exhibition event at the Press Club of India.

## Kerala seeks football collaboration with Argentina

Football-crazy Kerala is seeking collaboration with the Argentine Football Association (AFA), with a high-level delegation headed by State Sports Minister V Abdurahiman holding a meeting with its office-bearers in Madrid, Spain.



was discussed. As part of this, the association representatives expressed interest in visiting Kerala soon. AFA also expressed interest in setting up football academies in Kerala in collaboration with the state government," he said.

welcomed. Commenting on their meeting, the AFA said: "Together with the delegation from the Government of Kerala, headed by V Abdurahiman, Minister of Sports, we had the opportunity to share initiatives and projects that will surely materialize in the short term."

the most important and popular sports brands in this strategic market through its global expansion strategy, it said in a statement.

## Australia stunned by Bahrain in World Cup qualifying as Palestinians draw with South Korea

Australia fell to a shock 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home in the opening game of the third round of Asian World Cup qualifying. Meanwhile, South Korea was held to 0-0 by the Palestinians in Seoul.

"It's not the way that we want to start our campaign, a loss at home, but we have to go away and improve." Australian winger Craig Goodwin said.

## Indian Hockey can aim for gold in next Olympics: Sreejesh

Riding high on the success of winning a bronze medal in Paris - ending a four-decade-long dry spell - the Indian hockey team now aims to build on this momentum with hopes of clinching gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, ace goalkeeper P R Sreejesh said on Friday.

complex in Rajgir, which now features an astro turf and will host the women's Asian Cup Trophy tournament later this year," Sreejesh remarked.

the most important and popular sports brands in this strategic market through its global expansion strategy, it said in a statement.

## Errani and Vavassori win US Open mixed doubles title in Young's final match before retiring

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori won the U.S. Open mixed doubles title with a 7-6 (0), 7-5 victory Thursday over Taylor Townsend and Donald Young, who fell just short of a Grand Slam title in his final match before retiring.



the switch to pickleball. "Obviously wasn't the result we wanted," Young said, "but I can't think of a better spot, place to go out in, having watched that as a kid, and playing with someone I've known our whole life. It's pretty cool for me."

Errani hadn't played a mixed doubles event for eight years before partnering with Vavassori at Wimbledon. They were knocked out in the first round, then reached the quarterfinals at the Olympics before coming to New York.

But Errani and Vavassori, the No. 3 seeds, dominated the tiebreaker and then won the match by breaking Townsend's serve.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. E-Auction - Sale Notice. Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-