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IN BAYERN'S 9-2
11 SPORTS

Centre approves 'One Nation, One Election'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has geared up to realise the dreams of having simultaneous polls as it went ahead in approving the high-level panel's recommendations on "one nation, one election" plan for holding for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and Local Bodies elections simultaneously in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise. The recommendations could be tabled in the Winter Session of Parliament and sources indicate that the Government would implement it in its current tenure. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it was an important step towards making our democracy more vibrant and participative, Opposition parties shared a mixed response. The high-level committee approached 62 political parties, of which 47 responded -- 32 voicing support to holding simultaneous polls and 15 opposing it. Fifteen political parties did not submit a response. "I compliment ex-President Ram Nath Kovind for spearheading effort," Modi expressed through social media after Cabinet nod for simultaneous polls recommendation. Among the national parties, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan



President Droupadi Murmu being presented a report on simultaneous elections in the country by former President Ram Nath Kovind who heads High-Level Committee (HLC) on 'One Nation, One Election', and Home Minister Amit Shah, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

Samaj Party (BSP) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) opposed the proposal, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National People's Party (NPP) supported it. The country had simultaneous elections between 1951 and 1967 but thereafter, polls started getting dispersed due to various reasons, including mid-term elections. Holding all polls simultaneously will require a lot of

manoeuvring, including advancing some elections and delaying some others. While the Lok Sabha polls were held in May-June this year, States like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh also went to polls along with the parliamentary election. The Assembly election process for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana is currently underway, while Maharashtra and Jharkhand are also scheduled to go to

polls later this year. Delhi and Bihar are among the States that are scheduled to go to polls in 2025. The terms of the current assemblies in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry will end in 2026, while the terms of the Goa, Gujarat, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand assemblies will end in 2027. The terms of the State assemblies in Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

Tripura and Telangana will end in 2028. The terms of the current Lok Sabha and the State assemblies that went to polls together this year will end in 2029. Asserting that several political parties are already on board, the Union Government said even those parties that are opposed to it may now feel pressure from within to change their stand due to the widespread support on the issue from the people of the country.

About 60 per cent voting in J and K

This is first Assembly election after removal of Article 370

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Close to 14 lakh electorate (around 60 per cent), belonging to different age groups and political beliefs, dressed in their traditional attire, demonstrated the superiority and priority of 'ballot over the bullet' on Wednesday as they queued up outside the polling stations. The voters exhibited the vibrant colors of Indian democracy, for the first time after the Abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, to elect their public representatives after a gap of 10 years in 24 Assembly constituencies spread across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir amid unprecedented security arrangements. Barring a few incidents, the polling passed off peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir. Briefing media persons, Chief Electoral Officer PK Pole said that approximately 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 6 pm. During the 2014 Assembly polls, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 65.91 per cent voter turnout. PK Pole said the overall polling percentage may witness marginal correction as several polling parties from remote areas were yet to report to their headquarters. Overall voter turnout of



Shopian: Voters wait in a queue at a polling station during the first phase of Assembly elections, in Shopian district of south Kashmir, Wednesday

S. No.	DISTRICTS	No. of ACs	Approximate Voter Turnout %
1	Anantnag	7	54.17
2	Doda	3	69.33
3	Kishtwar	3	77.23
4	Kulgam	3	61.57
5	Pulwama	4	46.03
6	Ramban	2	67.71
7	Shopian	2	53.64
Above 7 Districts 24			58.85 (Figure upto 6pm)

58.46 percent was recorded across five Parliamentary segments in Jammu and Kashmir in May 2024. CEO PK Pole said after the 2008 Assembly/ Lok Sabha polls, the voter turnout across 24 Assembly constituencies was the highest so far. Kashmiri migrants also participated in the voting across different polling booths in New Delhi and Jammu.

The fate of Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP Chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Shagun Parihar, daughter of BJP leader Ajeet Parihar killed by terrorists in Kishtwar, former JKPC Chief and Minister GA Mir from Dooru, Sunil Sharma, BJP general secretary contesting from Padder Nagseni is sealed in the EVMs.



NDRF and Fire personnel conduct rescue operation as a house collapsed at Bapa Nagar (Karol Bagh) in New Delhi, on Wednesday

Four die, 14 injured as building collapses in Bapa Nagar

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Four people died including two teenagers, two are in critical condition and 12 others suffered injuries following the collapse of a six-storey house in central Delhi's Bapa Nagar on Wednesday morning with the rescue operation lasting for more than eight hours. Delhi Chief Minister-designate Atishi announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the four people who died and visited the RML Hospital where the injured are undergoing treatment. During her visit, Atishi stated, "The families of the deceased will be provided a compensation of Rs 10 lakh by the Delhi Government," adding that the compensation will also be given to the injured based on the severity of their injuries. She said that strict action will be taken against those responsible for this tragedy. Meanwhile, New Delhi BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj also visited the victims. The rescue operations were initiated by local police and other agencies like Delhi Fire Services. However, later NDRF was also called to join the rescue operations which ended around 5:30 am. DCP M Harsh Vardhan said the building was old and located in narrow lanes of a residential locality in Bapa Nagar of Prasad Nagar. "We cannot take heavy machines or cranes inside for the operation but the teams of fire department, local police and NDRF are conducting the rescue work," he said.

Government announces Chandrayaan-4, Venus Orbiter missions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed over the success of earlier Space missions, the Centre on Wednesday approved a new moon mission "Chandrayaan-4" to develop and demonstrate technologies needed for landing of Indian astronauts on the moon and safely bring them back to Earth. The Government also approved the development of Venus Orbiter Mission for exploring and studying the planet. Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies for the landing of Indian astronauts on the moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth, a Government statement said. "Major technologies that are required for docking/undocking, landing, safe return to earth and lunar sample collection and analysis would also be demonstrated," it said.



FILE PHOTO

While the total fund requirement for the technology demonstration mission "Chandrayaan-4" is Rs 2,104.06 crore, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has allocated Rs 1,236 crore for the mission, of which Rs 824 crore will be spent on the

development of the spacecraft by the Indian Space Research Organisation. ISRO will be responsible for the development of spacecraft and launch. The mission is expected to be completed within 36 months of approval with the

participation of industry and academia. All the critical technologies are envisaged to be indigenously developed. The 'Venus Orbiter Mission' to be helmed by the Department of Space will involve placing a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of Venus for better understanding of its surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of the Sun on the Venusian atmosphere. Venus, the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently, a statement said. The study of the underlying causes of the transformation of Venus, which is believed to be once habitable and quite similar to Earth, would be an invaluable aid in understanding the evolution of the sister planets, both Venus and Earth, it said.

Doctors refuse to work, say two demands still not met

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of Bengal refused to end their cease work even two days after their talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee bringing "fruitful results" that included among other things removal of two senior IPS officers and health department directors who allegedly misled the investigation in RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case. The doctors' Wednesday morning demand of meeting with the State Government -- was readily granted by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant. Doctors said that the administration had not fulfilled all their demands including the removal of State Health Secretary NS Nitgum and ensuring an atmosphere free of fear inside the Government hospitals and medical colleges. A letter written to the Chief Secretary read, "We were assured in the meeting (held on Monday), that a special task force presided by you



A delegation of junior doctors leaves for Nabanna (State Secretariat) by bus to meet West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant for a discussion on certain 'key unresolved issues' like security in hospitals, from their 'dharna' site outside Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata, Wednesday

will be formed to address these issues and further discussions with us would take place regarding its formulation and function. We would like to sit in a meeting with you and other members of the task force today regarding the same."

India serves notice to Pakistan for review of Indus Water Treaty



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has served a formal notice to Pakistan seeking a review of the Indus Water Treaty inked in 1960, arguing that "fundamental and unforeseen" changes in the circumstances require a reassessment of the pact. The notice was issued to Pakistan on August 30 under Article XII (3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), Government sources said on Wednesday. India and Pakistan signed the IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory to the pact, which sets out a mechanism for cooperation

and information exchange between the two sides on the use of the waters of a number of cross-border rivers. India's notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of obligations under various articles of the treaty, the sources said. Among various concerns, the important ones include a change in population demographics, environmental issues and the need to accelerate the development of clean energy to meet India's emission targets, they said. India has also cited the impact of persistent cross-border terrorism as one of the reasons for demanding the review. "The notification was issued in the background of a separate prolonged controversy with respect to the Kishanganga and Ratle hydro projects," a source said. "In this regard, the World Bank has simultaneously activated both the neutral-expert mechanism and the Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues," the source added.

EAC report on relative economic performance of states reflects Vaastu



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Country's Vaastu seems to be reflected in a report titled "Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24" by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) which clearly shows that western and southern Indian States are more prosperous. The report says western and southern States -- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka "performed notably better" than the rest of the country in over six decades. Authored by EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal, the paper 'Relative

Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' said the development of eastern part of the country remains a concern. Ancient Indian tradition mentions that south corner, even of the cities flourish more when compared to other periphery. "Maharashtra and Gujarat have consistently demonstrated strong economic performance over the years. Goa's relative per capita income has doubled over the period of study. Additionally, the southern States have significantly outpaced others after economic liberalisation, with the five States collectively accounting for approximately 30 per cent of India's GDP."

"In the north, States like Delhi and Haryana also stand out. Delhi has one of the highest per capita incomes throughout the study period. The divergent performance of Haryana and Punjab warrants further investigation to understand the underlying policy implications. Punjab's relative per capita income has declined after 2000s, while Haryana, which was once behind, has surpassed Punjab on both economic indicators. The eastern part of the country remains a concern," paper noted. To the much disappointment, West Bengal has experienced a continuous decline in its relative economic performance over several decades. Although Bihar's relative position has stabilised in the last two decades, it remains significantly behind other States and requires much faster growth to catch up. Since the 2000s, Bihar's per capita income growth has slightly exceeded or matched the national average seven, leading to a relative per capita income that has remained relatively stable. Bihar will need to accelerate its economic growth considerably to make progress toward closing this gap, the paper noted.



Trump: PM Modi will meet him during US visit

FORMER PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet him next week during his upcoming three-day visit to the US. Speaking on Tuesday at his first public appearance following the recent apparent assassination attempt, Trump said Modi will meet him next week when he is in the US. PM Modi will be visiting the US from September 21 to 23.

Detailed report on Page 8

CM for encouraging Mallakhamb and gymnastics

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that sports academies will be established in Ujjain to promote traditional sports Mallakhamb and gymnastics. He said that adventurous sports should be incorporated into the main sports by linking them with tourism and forest. CM Dr. Yadav gave instructions to organize adventurous sports activities promoting participation of youth from different districts. He said that employment-oriented programmes should be conducted keeping in mind advancement of women, farmers, youth and the poor. CM Dr. Yadav said that stadiums should be constructed in every district in such a way that every stadium also has a

help. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was reviewing the activities of Sports and Youth Welfare Department at Mantralaya on Wednesday. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang, Additional Chief Secretary Rajesh Rajaura, Additional Chief Secretary Smita Bhardwaj Ghate, Principal Secretary Manish Kastogi and Director Ravi Kumar Gupta were present. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the performance of Kathiyawadi breed horses is good for the horse-riding. If we include Kathiyawadi horses in sports, then even better performance can be achieved. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Sarang said that Madhya Pradesh's performance in horse riding and shooting stand good. The

sports academy is one of the best academies. As many as 32 horses are available for training in the academy. Horse riding is also the only sport in which players of both male and female categories participate together. **Players can become gazetted officers** Chief Minister Yadav said that the proposal to appoint Olympic and Asian Games medal winning players to the post of gazetted officers should be presented in the Cabinet. On the proposal to give jobs to outstanding players through sports quota in Higher Education, School Education, Forest, Excise, Transport, Police and Scheduled Tribe departments on the basis of educational qualification, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directed to place

the proposal along with the rules. **Youth to join Khelo-Badho Abhiyan** Chief Minister Yadav said that sports activities should also be conducted on priority. He said that high school and higher secondary students should be linked to this scheme through these games. The purpose is to recognize and develop the sports spirit of the students. This will also enhance the interest and participation of students in sports. On the lines of Khelo India, Khelo MP Youth Games will be organised. Participants below 16 years of age from all development blocks will take part in it, in which 24 games have been included. **Sports ceremony should be dignified**

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that calendar of sports activities should be prepared. He said that brainstorming camp should be organized at the state and national levels. Prepare for brainstorming by making a comprehensive plan of sports and the facilities provided. Programmes should be organized on national festivals at district and block levels by coordinating with rural youth. **Director to become Director General of Sports** Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang put forward the proposal in the review meeting to upgrade the post of Director of Sports as Director General of Sports and to upgrade the post of Joint Director in departmental cadre to the post of Director of Sports.



Devotees with their idols of Lord Ganesha wait in a queue for immersion in the lower lake to mark an end of Ganesh festival in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

3-year-old girl raped at private school in Bhopal, accused arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A three-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in a private School of the state capital. The accused working in technical department of school has been arrested. The girl told her parents about the incident and when the parents checked the injury marks on the private part of the victim, both were shocked and they reached the police station with the girl and lodged a complaint. Sensing the seriousness of the matter, the police immediately registered an FIR. The accused was identified as Qasim Rehan who is an employee of the technical department in the school. Surprisingly, employees are not even allowed to enter the class room. Police have arrested the accused. The school principal Swati said that she was not informed about

this matter. She said that the parents did not tell her anything. We were not informed at all. However, the school administration will still fully cooperate with the police and the parents. The principal further said that we have removed the accused Qasim Rehan from service. Besides, the teacher of the class room where this incident happened has also been suspended. The accused looks after the IT work in the school. He is not a teacher. Now the police are investigating how a person who is not even a teacher did this to the girl. How did no one in the school come to know about the incident. The girl was after the FIR was registered, the victim was medically examined and after rape was confirmed, action was taken against the accused under 74 and 75 of the BNS and section of POCOSA Act has also been imposed. On this matter, School Education

Minister Rao Uday Pratap Singh said that such incidents will not be tolerated. Strict action will be taken against the accused. If the school management is guilty, action will be taken against them as well. According to the police, the girl's mother had complained on Monday that the teacher had misbehaved with her 3-year-old daughter. Two days ago, when the girl returned home from school, there were injury marks on her private parts. She reached the school to complain about this. She also told the name of the teacher, but the school management did not pay attention to the complaint, she told police. DCP Priyanka Shukla said that after the complaint in the police station, the police reached the school and gathered information about the accused teacher Qasim. The accused has been arrested. School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh said, the accused

has been arrested. The accused will be given severe punishment, action will also be taken against the school system. No particular person should feel that action is not being taken against them. These issues are being taken up with concern. Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari sought time from the President Draupadi Murmu to inform her about the crimes against women happening in Madhya Pradesh. Patwari said, today the President is on a visit to Madhya Pradesh, a 3-year-old innocent girl has been raped in the state capital. I had sent a letter to the President regarding the condition of the daughters of Madhya Pradesh so that I can meet her and inform about it. I was hoping that I would get time to meet her, but I want to request the President through the media that sisters and daughters are raped every day in the State.

Weather system now moves to eastern part of MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An active strong system has moved forward in the eastern part of Madhya Pradesh i.e. Jabalpur, Shahdol, Rewa and Sagar divisions and now till the new system becomes active, there will be light rain, bright sunshine and shade in the state. Due to heavy rain on Tuesday, 9 gates of Bargi Dam in Jabalpur have been opened. All the gates were opened up to 1.6 meters on Wednesday. Heavy rain occurred in Gwalior-Bhind this morning. Schools were closed. Collector Ruchika Chauhan had issued its order late Tuesday evening. Five gates of Tighra Dam have been opened here. Due to this, the Sank river is in spate. An alert has been issued in the villages

situated on the river bank. Drizzle was also witnessed in Tikamgarh. It has been raining in Gohad of Bhind since late night. Here the Vaisali reservoir has crossed the full tank level. Many villages have lost contact with Bhind headquarters. The Meteorological Department has predicted heavy rain in Morena, Sheopur and Shivpuri on Wednesday. So far, 41 inches of rainfall has been recorded which is about 10% more than the normal rainfall. Mandla, Seoni and Sheopur are such districts where 50 inches or more of rainfall has been recorded. Meteorologist VS Yadav said that it is raining in the state due to low pressure area and monsoon trough. Now this system has moved forward. This will reduce the rain

activity. According to the Meteorological Department, there may be heavy rain in Bhind, Morena, Sheopur and Shivpuri in the next 24 hours. Light rain and thundershowers may persist in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur and other districts. On the other hand, there are chances of bright sunshine in Neemuch, Mandasaur, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Seoni, Mandla and Anuppur. Due to rain, the dams and ponds of the state have overflowed again. On Tuesday, water was released by opening two gates of Bawanthadi dam in Balaghat. The water level has also increased in many dams including Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Madikheda, Kerwa, Kaliyasot, Kolar, Bhadbhada, Tawa, Bargi, Mohanpura, Halali,

Madikheda, Atal Sagar, Tighra, Bansujara, Johila. On Tuesday, it rained in more than 24 districts of the state. Rewa received the maximum rainfall of 4 inches in 9 hours between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. The Chief Minister's program was cancelled here. He joined virtually. It rained heavily in Bhopal in the evening. Three inches of rainfall was witnessed in Sidhi, 2 inches in Satna, 1.25 inches in Sagar, 1 inch in Mandla, and 45 inches in Gwalior and Narsinghpur. About half an inch of rainfall was witnessed in Jabalpur, Damoh and Jabalpur. Dhar, Guna, Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Khajuraho, Seoni, Tikamgarh, Umariya, Balaghat districts also witnessed rain. Rain continued in many districts at night.



BJP State In-charge Mahendra Singh with members of the third gender community during the party's membership drive under 'Sangathan Parv' in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

BJP welcomes 150 members of Kinnar community in the BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Welcoming over 150 members of the Kinnar community into the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday, state unit in-charge Mahendra Singh highlighted the virtues of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development agenda for the nation. Singh, accompanied by various party leaders, visited the residence of Suraiya Baji, a Kinnar community elder, in the Amangalwara area of the state capital. The community expressed satisfaction with the BJP government at the Center and in the state while joining the party. Bhopal District President Sumit Pachauri and former MLA Dhruvanarayan Singh were also present at the induction ceremony. Kinnar Community Pleased with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Development Work Dr. Singh informed the gathering of the ongoing nationwide service fortnight being observed by

the BJP to commemorate the birthday of Prime Minister Modi. He said that the fortnight, which commenced on Tuesday, would conclude on October 2. Party workers are reaching out to various communities and classes to encourage them to join the BJP, as part of this initiative, he said. Underlining the contribution of the Kinnar community to the development of the nation, Dr. Singh stated that the party would benefit from the joining of community members and hoped that they would play a pivotal role in the welfare of society. In her address, Baaji said that the community has earned significant respect under Prime Minister Modi and the BJP-led state government. She noted that India is progressing toward becoming a developed nation under the Prime Minister's skilled leadership. The entire Kinnar community stands with the Prime Minister, and they wish him a long and healthy life.

President to reach Ujjain today

Indore: President Draupadi Murmu will reach Ujjain from Indore early on Thursday. Here, she will interact with the hardworking Safai Mitras who contribute to the cleanliness of the country, at 10.10 am at Hotel Rudraksh located in Dhendia village and will visit the exhibition on Cleanliness Fortnight. Later, the President will participate as the chief guest in the Safai Mitra Sammelan and the Bhoomi Pujan program of the Ujjain-Indore six-lane road to be organized at Hotel Rudraksh Complex in Dhendia village. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will deliver the welcome address. President Murmu will also distribute certificates to the Safai Mitras. Murmu will perform the Bhoomi Pujan of the Ujjain-Indore six-lane road virtually. The President will be accorded a grand welcome at the Nandi gate of Shri Mahakaleswar Temple amidst Swasti Vachan and Shankh Vadan. Later the President will perform Jalabhishek after darshan and worship of Jyotirlinga Shri Mahakaleswar. Shri Mahakaleswar Temple Management Committee will welcome the President by presenting him with a shawl, shripthal, memento and prasad at Nandi Hall.

High school to be opened in Rampura gram panchayat

School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh said that now children in government schools will receive education sitting at the desk. He announced a grant of Rs 50 lakh for the high school building in Gram Panchayat Rampura. School Education Minister Singh was addressing the felicitation ceremony of meritorious students at the Government Secondary School campus Rampura in Narsinghpur district on Tuesday. Minister Singh said that the high school will be run in Rampura from the next academic session so that children from the villages do not have to travel far to study. He said that it is a misconception that a child studying in a village government school cannot progress. He said that there are many such examples when children from government schools have proved their mettle by reaching higher positions. He urged the teachers to teach the students with dedication. The School Education Minister said that the state government is continuously working for the qualitative improvement of

Youtube journalist shot dead in Sarangpur of Rajgarh district

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Panic prevailed at Hospital Road in Sarangpur of Rajgarh district after three bike riders shot a local journalist dead late in the evening on Tuesday. Nine-year-old son of the deceased was with him at the time of incident. The deceased, identified as Salman Khan (35), was sitting on a scooty near the hospital, when three people appeared at the spot and shot him near his temple. On hearing the gunshot, a huge crowd gathered at the spot. The police were immediately informed and a police team reached the spot. The injured was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead, the police were told that the bike riders shot Salman as soon as they spotted him. Salman was also attacked last year. The family said that the

funeral prayers will be held after Zohar prayers at 2 pm on Wednesday. After this, Salman will be buried in the cemetery. The police reached the spot and took the injured to the hospital where the doctor declared him dead. The CCTV cameras installed around the spot are being scanned. At the time of the shooting, SDOP Arvind Singh was in his car and was nearly 50 yards away from the spot but before he could reach, the bike riders had already escaped the spot. The police have investigated the CCTV footage of the surrounding area. Salman had been working for

referred to Indore in critical condition. Salman had said that he was having a dispute with Shahruckh living in the city, due to which Shahruckh had beaten Salman's brother. After this, Salman had lodged an FIR against Shahruckh in this case. Salman alleged that due to this dispute, Shahruckh had called youths from Bhopal for murder at that time. Salman was sitting and discussing with people in his newspaper office. At that time 4 to 5 people attacked him with knife and sword. Later the matter was settled. Congress state president Jitu Patwari has targeted Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav by posting on X in the matter. Patwari wrote, Unbridled crime and fearless criminals are now targeting journalists as well. As the most unsuccessful Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh, your criminal silence has now become fatal.

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Indore MP Shankar Lalwani participated in plantation programme organised by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) conducted a plantation programme in Indore on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

AIIMS Bhopal conducts outreach programme at Chiklod

Bhopal: A dedicated team from the Department of Pharmacology at AIIMS Bhopal conducted a significant outreach activity at PHC Chiklod, Block Obedulhaganj, District Raisen, on Tuesday, 17th September 2024. This event was organized as part of the 4th National Pharmacovigilance Week celebrations, running from 17th to 23rd September 2024. The primary goal of the event was to raise awareness about

Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) among the local community. AIIMS Bhopal, serving as a regional training centre for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and an Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centre under the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India, collaborates with both the Department of Pharmacology and the Department of Community and Family Medicine to achieve these objec-

tives. During the event, Deepa Choudhary and Faizan, Associate, provided guidance on reporting any adverse drug reactions via the toll-free number 1800-180-3024 or through the PVPI mobile app. Dr. Srijan G. Shetty and Dr. Shobhit, residents from the Department of Pharmacology, emphasized the critical need for reporting ADRs to ensure patient safety and improve drug management practices.

Opposition opposes 'One Nation, One Election' proposal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday opposed the "one nation, one election" proposal as a report of a panel on simultaneous elections, headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, was approved by the Union Cabinet.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said "one nation, one election" is not practical and alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes up with such things to divert attention from real issues when polls approach.

"It is not practical, it will not work. When elections come and they (BJP) do not get any issue to raise, they divert attention from real issues," Kharge told a press conference here.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien called it a "cheap stunt" of the BJP and questioned why the Maharashtra polls were not announced with those in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir if the government wants simultaneous elections.

"One nation, one election is just another cheap stunt by the anti-democratic BJP. Why were the Maharashtra elections not announced along with the elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir?" he asked.

"The Maharashtra



government announced the Ladki Bahin scheme in the Budget in June. The first tranche reached the bank accounts of women in August and the second tranche will reach the beneficiaries in October," he said.

"You cannot do three states in one go and you talk about one nation, one election," O'Brien said.

"He also sought to know how many Constitution amendments and curtailments of the terms of state Assemblies would be required for the implementation of the proposal.

"And also tell us, how many Constitution amendments, including curtailing or extending terms of state

Assemblies, will be done! Classic Modi-Shah jumla," the TMC leader said in a statement. He also took to social media to share a letter written by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in January, opposing the proposal. 'All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asadudine Owaisi said the proposed move will destroy federalism.

"I have consistently opposed One Nation One Election because it is a solution in search of a problem. It destroys federalism and compromises democracy, which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution," he said in a social media post.

Owaisi said multiple elections are not a problem for anyone

except Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as they want to campaign in every election.

"Multiple elections aren't a problem for anyone except Modi and Shah. Just because they have a compulsive need to campaign in every municipal and local body elections does not mean that we need simultaneous polls. Frequent and periodic elections improve democratic accountability," the member of Parliament from Hyderabad said.

'Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sandeep Pathak wondered how all elections would be held together when the Maharashtra polls could not be held with those in Haryana

and Jammu and Kashmir. "They were incapable of holding simultaneous polls in four states and managed to hold elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. My submission is that when they are unable to hold simultaneous polls in four states, how is one nation, one election even possible?" he asked.

"The BJP has been trying this since long. It wants only one party to rule the country. Recently, it broke the NCP and the Shiv Sena while the BJD had nearly been wiped out in Odisha. Similarly, it is trying to destroy the JMM in Jharkhand and it will try to destroy the regional parties using one nation, one election," she said.

'Congress leader Harish Rawat said the BJP has realised that it is going to taste defeat in the ongoing and upcoming state polls, including in Maharashtra, and thus, is scared.

"The BJP has realised that it will be defeated in the elections in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. After losing one state after another, the BJP is not in a position to sustain that pressure that

would result in the collapse of their coalition government (at the Centre). That is why the 'ghabrai hui' (worried) government has opted for the one nation, one election formula," the former Uttarakhand chief minister said.

'Senior Congress leader T S Singhdeo said, "It is only a strategy of political convenience, and what I can see is nothing beyond that. The same party which is governing the country as part of the NDA has been talking about this for the past few years."

"You see their intent. Had they really been proponent of this view that this will be a great benefit to the country and the society...What attempt did they make to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections take place at the same time," he said.

'The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal for "one nation, one election" as recommended by the Kovind panel, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.



Over 5.56 lakh FIRs filed under new criminal laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over 5.56 lakh First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered across the country under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) ever since its introduction on July one, a senior official said on Wednesday.

For smooth implementation of the new criminal laws, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also developed several mobile applications, including e-Sakshya for capturing, storing and retrieving evidence through videography and photography.

The app has been adopted by 22 states and Union Territories and tested by 24 states and UTs: The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act

replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

'Since July one till September three, a total of 5.56 lakh FIRs have been registered in the country under the BNS, the officer said, highlighting the achievements of the home ministry in the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government.

'Software patches have been designed and deployed in the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) pillar applications to incorporate the new criminal laws.

The key changes in the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) include e-Prisons, e-Forensics, e-Prosecution, use of audio-video electronic means and electronic communication among others as per the new criminal laws.



India faces second hottest summer since 1970, one third population at risk

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Between June and August, India endured its second-hottest summer since 1970, with extreme heat impacting over one-third of the population, disrupting not only daily life and claiming countless lives but also posing serious risks to public health across the nation, according to a report by Climate Central.

This analysis coincides with official data revealing 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths during one of the longest and most intense heat waves in the country's history.

Analysing temperature impact on more than one billion residents in 72 countries that recorded their hottest June-August since at least 1970, the report by the Climate Central found that in India alone, over 426 million people encountered extreme heat for at least a week. It said, temperatures exceeded 90% of usual highs from 1991 to 2020. Over 20.5 million experienced high temperatures for at least 60 days.

Scientists say that human-caused climate change and the El Niño natural weather phenomenon both have pushed temperatures to record highs in the year so far.

temperatures, with average readings exceeding 39 degrees Celsius, a scenario made four times more likely due to climate change, the report indicated.

Globally, more than 2 billion people worldwide faced at least 30 days of climate-change attributable temperatures above established health risk thresholds.

These temperatures were made at least three times more likely by climate change. "High temperatures that were clearly influenced by climate change jeopardised the health of billions around the world during the past three months," said Andrew Pershing, vice president for science at Climate Central.

Israel Ambassador condemns Khamenei remarks on Indian minorities as hypocritical

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, on Wednesday strongly condemned Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments on the treatment of minorities in India, calling the remarks "ridiculous" and hypocritical.

Azar pointed out that while Khamenei lectures other nations, Iran itself is accused of suppressing freedoms and violating human rights.

"It is really ridiculous that this radical leader is trying to lecture others while he is killing his own population oppressing freedoms like freedom of religion, freedom of speech, human rights that

is completely outrageous and we hope Iranian people are going to be free one day from such oppression and tyranny coming from Khamenei," Azar told PTI.

The Iranian leader, addressing a gathering of clerics in Tehran on Monday, talked about what he described as "suffering" of Muslims in Gaza, Myanmar and India.

"The enemies of Islam have always tried to make us indifferent with regard to our shared identity as an Islamic Ummah. We cannot consider ourselves to be Muslims if we are oblivious to the suffering that a Muslim is enduring in #Myanmar, #Gaza, #India, or



any other place," he posted on X as part of series of posts on the event.

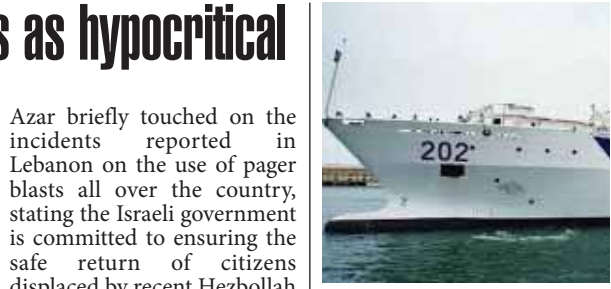
India on Monday strongly deplored the comments made by Iran's supreme leader on the condition of minorities in India, calling the remarks "misinformed and unacceptable".

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the countries commenting on minorities in India should look at their "own record" before making any observations about others.



Azar briefly touched on the incidents reported in Lebanon on the use of pager blasts all over the country, stating the Israeli government is committed to ensuring the safe return of citizens displaced by recent Hezbollah attacks. "We are securing a diplomatic solution with the help of the US and other partners," he said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the India Water Week where he noted that the collaboration between India and Israel has become increasingly critical, particularly as India continues to tackle water scarcity and boost agricultural productivity.



ICGS Sujay to strengthen ties with Indonesian Coast Guard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Sujay with integral helicopter made a port call at Bali, Indonesia on Wednesday as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to East Asia, officials said here.

Giving details, they said during the three-day visit, while undertaking the Operational Turn Around (OTR), the crew of ICGS Sujay will engage in professional interactions with BAKAMLA (Indonesia Coast Guard), focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Maritime Law Enforcement. "Activities include professional interactions with BAKAMLA, cross deck training, joint yoga sessions and friendly sports events. The visit aims not only to strengthen ties between the Indian Coast Guard and their Indonesian counterparts but also to showcase India's ship building capabilities, supporting the concept of 'Atamnirbhar Bharat'.



Centre sanctions ₹12,554 crore to States for disaster relief, fire services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has sanctioned Rs 12,554 crore to various states this year so far for providing relief and rehabilitation to people affected by different natural disasters, officials said on Wednesday.

Rs 890.69 crore has also been sanctioned to five states by the Union Home Ministry to help them in expansion and strengthening of their fire services under the Scheme for Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services.

"Approximately Rs 12,554 crore has been sanctioned so far from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund, National Disaster Response Fund, State Disaster Mitigation Fund and State Disaster Response Fund to various states for urban flood management, fire services, glacial lake outburst flood risk mitigation and other disaster mitigation, a senior official of the Union Home Ministry said listing the highlights of the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government.

'Besides, under the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Mitigation Programme for four states, Rs 150 crore has been given to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh to adopt various structural and non-structural mitigation measures to address the risks of GLOF

CDS General Anil Chauhan: India's position is of a Vishwa Mitra, Vishwa Bandhu in global world order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has stated that India's position is of a 'Vishwa Mitra' and a 'Vishwa Bandhu' in the global world order.

He made this assertion while addressing a conclave for Foreign Service Attaches (FSAs) hosted by the Defence Intelligence Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff here on Wednesday.

The CDS articulated the importance of Military Diplomacy, wherein the FSAs have a pivotal role to play. "In the most violent decade since World War II, there is a growing propensity amongst nations to use force to contain conflicts. The growing uncertainty and insecurity is leading nations to renew their National Security Strategy and increase expenditure on Defence", the CDS said while highlighting four distinct areas of India's Defence viz operational preparedness, modernisation and indigenisation.



"He emphasised the significance of Data Centric Warfare and the role of Artificial Intelligence in revolutionising warfare. The CDS gave an insight into India's Atmanirbharta for defence capability development and strategic autonomy.

'Director General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lt Genral D S Rana apprised the FSAs that India's Defence Diplomacy was expanding steadily in terms of the nature of activities as well as geographic coverage wherein security cooperation was a key component.

'He highlighted the vision of Atmanirbharta and indigenisation in Defence and implored upon FSAs to gain first-hand experience in modernisation programmes. A holistic overview of India's strategic perspective was given to the FSAs by Defence Subject Matter Experts.

Congress files complaint against NDA leaders targeting Rahul Gandhi



Maken said, "On September 11, Marwah in a BJP event openly issued an assassination threat against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, wherein he said that 'Rahul Gandhi baaz aaja, nahi toh aane wale time mein tera bhi wohi haal hoga jo teri dadi ka haal hua (you better behave, or you will meet the same fate as your grandmother)'".

'It also cited Sena MLA Gaikwad's announcement of a bounty of Rs 11 lakh for anyone who will cut the tongue of the Leader of Opposition. The complaint cited Minister of State for Railways Raveet Bittu's remarks, calling the Leader of Opposition the "number one terrorist of the country".

India to spend ₹31,000 crore to fence entire India-Myanmar border

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The entire 1,643 km porous India-Myanmar border, known for the smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics, will be fenced at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore, officials said on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said fencing work had been completed in 30 km of the border, which he termed the root cause of the ethnic violence in Manipur. The Cabinet Committee on Security has, in principle, approved the construction of border fencing and roads along the 1,643-km international border between India and Myanmar at an approximate cost of Rs 31,000 crore. About 10 km of fencing



Representative Photo

has already been completed near Moreh and work is underway to fence another 21 km of the border in other areas of Manipur. The India-Myanmar border

passes through Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The Central government has already scrapped the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. It was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy. Home Minister Shah has been regularly reviewing the security situation in Manipur and necessary actions are being ensured, said officials. Two battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have already been deployed in Manipur. In addition, around 200 companies (about 100 personnel in one company) of central police forces were deployed in the restive states. The Manipur Government has started using 25 mobile vans as shops to provide essential commodities at fair prices to the general public. These shops on wheels are operating in all districts of Manipur, sources said. As a new initiative, the Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandars (KPKB, police canteens) have been opened from Tuesday to provide essential commodities to the people of Manipur at fair prices, they said. In addition to the 21 existing such police canteens, 16 new stores are being opened. Of the 16 new police canteens, eight will be in the valley districts of Manipur, and the remaining eight in hilly areas.

Indian army inks MoU with TMR to boost rescue operations in mountains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army on Wednesday sealed a pact with a premier organisation as part of efforts to boost its rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked with Tiranga Mountain Rescue (TMR) at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) in the presence of Army Chief General Upendra Dwiwedi. "This understanding marks a pivotal step in advancing the Indian Army's rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains," an official readout said. "The MoU stipulates that TMR will collaborate with the Indian Army in conducting customised training programmes for Army instructors, aimed at improving their ability to mentor troops in avalanche rescue and survival skills," it said.

In his remarks, the Army Chief commended the efforts of TMR and appreciated its collaboration with his force. General Dwiwedi acknowledged the TMR's efforts by awarding Chief of Army Staff Commendation Cards to two team members of the organisation. This MoU builds on the initial agreement made with the Northern Command in 2016 that established dedicated avalanche and rescue support by the TMR. Subsequent agreements with Eastern and Central Commands in 2021 and 2024 further expanded this collaboration, the Army said in the readout. The latest MoU will further utilise the TMR's expertise to boost the Indian Army's capabilities in executing effective rescue operations under demanding conditions, it said. "This partnership highlights a commitment to further enhance the readiness of personnel operating in mountainous terrain besides

enhancing the standards of training and rescue operations in high-altitude environments," the Army said. Major General Manish Luthra, Additional Director General Military Operations, signed the MoU on behalf of the Army, while Hemant Sachdev, a dedicated mountaineer inked it for the TMR. Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy), lauded the collaboration as a mutually advantageous agreement for both organisations. He further said for the past nine years, the TMR has done yeoman service in saving numerous lives by providing unwavering support in training and rescue efforts. In his remarks, Sachdev highlighted that 15 teams of TMR are already deployed in various regions alongside the Indian Army. He also mentioned that the rescue teams of TMR have been able to save a large number of precious lives in avalanche-prone areas.

Centre created manmade flood in Bengal: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday slammed the Centre for creating a "man-made" flood in Bengal even as she complained how the Damodar Valley Corporation had released huge amount of water inundating several districts of South Bengal. Banerjee who travelled extensively the Hooghly district said how "the Centre is responsible for this man made flood I have repeatedly told them for dredging the river bed instead of doing that they release water when the barrages in Jharkhand brim over ... this time they have released 3.5 lakh cusecs of water which is unprecedented this is clearly a man made flood ... the lower regions of Hooghly, Howrah and Burdwan are going under



water due to this." Many areas of Howrah, Hooghly, East and West Midnapore districts had been flooded following the release of water by DVC. The worst-affected blocks are Amta and Udaynarayanpur in Howrah, Pursura in Hooghly, Ghatat in West Midnapore and Panskura in East Midnapore, sources said. Eastern parts of India including Bengal and Jharkhand had been

witnessing heavy rains for the past one week or so leading to the rivers and barrages in the higher regions in Jharkhand to brim over. As a result the DVC which controls a network of dams released 3.5 lakh cusec of water. Though the rains had stopped on Wednesday the waters continued to flood the Bengal districts. "I have requested the DVC to release water slowly when they 79 or 80 percent full ... but they wait till the waters rich the danger level and then release them at once without warning they save their own States but inundate Bengal," an angry Chief Minister said. Meanwhile, several thousand people had been shifted to the safer areas including schools and other government offices, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister Alapan Bandopadhyay said.

Yogi slams Congress, SP for dividing people on caste lines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday slammed the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, accusing them of dividing people on caste lines for narrow self-interests and harbouring intention to trigger conflict among classes. Addressing a programme here, he also hit out at the two parties for being only concerned about their "families" at the cost of the country and its people. "Be it Congress or Samajwadi Party, they are neither bothered about the country nor the society. They are not concerned about your faith, or the youth, they are just concerned about their families. These family-based parties have no responsibility and left towards the country, towards the society. They will divide the society, make people fight on the basis of caste just to secure their



narrow self-interests. They will create situation for class conflict and then allow rioters to loot, compromise safety of people," Adityanath alleged. Without naming Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi, he also criticised Congress and Samajwadi Party, saying "Do ladkon ki jodi" (two boys) is talking about development in Uttar Pradesh and they have forgotten the history of the last 10 years when 'gunda' and 'mafia raj' were prevailing in the state. "Now UP is turning into a new Uttar Pradesh in which the businessmen and women

are secured. Youths are getting employment. Now Ghaziabad has become a smart city having airport, metro, rapid rail and better atmosphere of security due to which mafias have left the district or hooliganism," he said. The chief minister also accused the Samajwadi Party of cowering down to mafia and criminals during their rule in the state and "for calling religious leaders" as "mafia", referring to SP president Akhilesh Yadav's recent statement where he said "there is not much difference

between mathadheesh (head of a mutt) and mafia". "Samajwadi Party members used to rub their noses in front of notorious mafias and criminals. As per their culture, they call religious leaders mafias... Look at their nature, Aurangzeb's spirit has literally entered inside them," the CM said, addressing an event here. "They exploited the youth, forced farmers to commit suicide and traders were forced to migrate and incidents like the Kairana (exodus) happened because of them. Hindu traders had to move out of Kairana because of them. The safety of women was in danger," he added. But today, he said, the daughters and the traders are safe while there is employment for youth and at the same time farmers are living with dignity. "Aur humne pehle bhi kaha hai ki agar koi yuvaon ke bhavishya ke saath khilwad karega to Sarkar uske bhavishya ke saath khilwad karegi (And we have said this in the past also, if anyone plays with the future of the youth, then the government will play with their future)" Adityanath said. He said his government has started works to establish new businesses in the state through initiatives like 'One District One Product'. "In the coming few years, the government will provide interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh to encourage young businessmen," Adityanath said. He participated here in a programme as part of his government's 'Mission Employment' initiative and to district job letters to over 10,000 youth and distribute tablets, smartphones to 6000 others besides disbursing loans worth Rs 327 crore to 632 young entrepreneurs. He also laid the foundation stone of 111 development projects worth Rs 757 crore, officials said.

Three BJP candidates in Gurgaon never attended college

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Three candidates fielded by the BJP from Gurgaon, Sohna and Pataudi assembly constituencies in Gurugram district have never attended college, according to the affidavits they submitted at the time of nomination. Also, two Congress party candidates from Sohna and Badshahpur have also not attended college, as per their affidavits. A total of 47 candidates are now in the fray for four assembly seats in the upcoming Assembly elections in gurugram as 15 nominations were withdrawn on Monday. BJP candidates Mukesh Sharma from Gurgaon seat has only 12th pass, Tejpal Tanwar from Sohna seat in his affidavit that his highest educational qualification is class 10 from a govt school in Badshahpur and Bimla Chaudhary from Pataudi assembly constituency is also Metric pass from an open school. The trio candidate have never



attended college. Likewise, Congress candidate Vardhan Yadav from Badshahpur seat has 12th pass from DPS School and Rohtash Khatna from Sohna seat has only passed Class 9, which he completed in 1973-74 at a govt school in Rithoj village. The main contest on the Gurgaon seat between BJP's Mukesh Sharma who is a dropped out after passing Class 12, Mohit Grover of Congress went overseas to

the International Management Institute of Brussels, Belgium. Grover's affidavit showed that he got the degree in 2014. Naveen Goyal who quits BJP over denial of ticket and contesting the elections as an Independent from Gurgaon seat is a graduate from the University of Rohtak. Among others candidates Ankit Alag of Jan Sewak Kranti Party holds an MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) and Independent candidate Akshat Gait is also an MBA postgraduate from Management Development Institute (MDI) in the city. Another Independent, Narender Kumar, is a retired post-graduate teacher (PGT). Sanjay Lal, an Independent who is fighting the election on behalf of a group of RWAs. Lal has a master's degree in history from the University of Mumbai. He is an entrepreneur and consultant. However, there is no law that the candidates have higher education qualification to contest and assembly

elections but people said parties should consider and check candidates past before selecting a candidate for an urban seat. Residents have expressed concern over the candidates' educational qualifications. "The Gurgaon city also known is cyber hub which also have offices of several IT companies, startup, corporate sectors and export houses. The city has also represented several international events here in the city. If a candidate who is not even a graduate how he can represent the city in future. Parties should check qualification before finalising candidates ticket," Nishant Verma, an IT professional said. "Education is important in life no doubt. BJP and Congress has fielded candidates which having never been to college and studied only upto school level which is quite shocking. Gurgaon district is much developed then other districts in Haryana here educated candidates should represent assembly constituencies," said Yug Vyas, a resident.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists have developed a sustainable pheromone dispenser with a controlled release rate which could act as an innovative solution to substantially reduce the costs of pest control and management. To ensure that the innovation benefit farmers directly on a large scale, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research JNCASR, Bengaluru and ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR) have entered into a Know-how license pact with Krishi Vikas Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (KVSSL), Haryana, recently. JNCASR is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology. Prof. M. Eswaramoorthy from JNCASR and Dr. Kesavan Subaharan from ICAR-NBAIR led the signing of the pact. Prof. Eswaramoorthy said, "This exercise will enable the



spread of technology across the country and at global level too. The benefit of the research moves from the lab to the field to benefit the farming community for pest management." "Currently, emphasis is laid on developing technologies that are clean and green. On this line, the technology developed on controlled release of semiochemicals (signalling substances such as pheromones) on transfer to firms will be able to scale up the production to cover a large area," Dr. Subaharan

added. Sustainable organic pheromone dispensers are not a new concept. In fact, polymer membrane or polypropylene tube dispensers that release pheromones already dominate the market. The released pheromones alter the behaviour of the target insect species and attract them to sticky traps. Their main drawback, however, is that the rate at which the pheromones are released into the air is not stable, said a statement here.

Thrissur's tiger dance: A visual feast for Onam

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The main thoroughfare in Thrissur, Kerala's cultural capital came alive on Wednesday evening as hundreds of artists masquerading as tigers danced to percussion instruments to mark the grand finale of Onam 2024. Pulikali (tiger dance) is the iconic art form of Thrissur and it matches the splendour of Thrissur Pooram, the biggest cultural extravaganza of the State held in the month

of May every year. If it is elephants that enthrall the Pooram, Pulikali, a visual treat makes Onam in Thrissur unique. There are many Pulikali Sanghams in Thrissur and suburbs. What made the Tiger Dance 2024 unique is the participation of women dressed up as tigresses, described as the first such incident in the 300 year old history of Pulikali. R Bindu, Kerala minister for higher education and spouse of A Vijayaraghavan, polit bureau member of the ruling

CPI(M) claims it was she who played a major role in elevating Pulikali to the global arena. Bindu herself is known as the CPI(M) tigress of Thrissur who is feared by the RSS activists. Though it was announced by the Kerala Government that there would not be any State sponsored tourism festival and celebrations this time on account of the Wayanad natura disaster, by the time Onam festivities began the government's decision vanished into thin air. The



tigers who started their make-up by 7 am showed no signs of exhaustion and tiredness when they hit the roads accompanied by percussionists. "Pulikali has nothing to do with Onam. It is an art form imported into Thrissur by Islamic soldiers of the British army. The region's residents assimilated the same as their own. Now you cannot visualize a Thrissur sans Pulikali," said Nandakishor, film artist, stand-up humorist and the local

historian. The artists paint their bodies like tigers with stripes of yellow, red and black and dance to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda. Raju Raphael, media person who is a movie maker says it is Pulikali which makes Thrissur distinct from other places in the State. By 8 pm, the tigers retreated to their dens, only to reappear for next year's Onam.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The next gen chief minister

By naming Atishi as Delhi's new CM, Kejriwal seeks to appeal to women voters and refresh the party's leadership

In a surprising but strategic political manoeuvre, Atishi, the dynamic and well-regarded education reformist, has taken over as the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi. This shift marks a significant moment not only in Delhi's political history but also in the larger context of Indian politics. Arvind Kejriwal's decision to pass the baton to Atishi is being viewed as a calculated move, one that signals both a generational shift and a fresh approach to governance. Kejriwal's choice of Atishi is rooted in multiple factors, each with its own political and administrative logic. Atishi has been one of the brightest stars in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) since its inception, known for her innovative ideas and hands-on approach to public administration, especially in the education sector. Her work as the education minister has drawn national attention, with Delhi's government schools undergoing a transformative makeover under her leadership. Kejriwal's decision to elevate her comes at a time when AAP is facing multiple challenges. From managing Delhi's growing urban infrastructure needs to balancing the delicate relationship with the central government, the city requires fresh energy and innovative solutions. Atishi, with her administrative experience and public image as a reformer, presents a candidate who is capable of steering Delhi through these complex issues. Moreover, Kejriwal's move signals his willingness to let the younger generation of AAP leaders take charge. By elevating Atishi, he is not just preparing for Delhi's immediate future, but also laying the groundwork for the party's long-term vision, positioning AAP as a progressive and youth-centric force in Indian politics.



Atishi's rise to the position of Chief Minister brings with it a new wave of expectations. Her track record suggests that education and public welfare will remain key priorities. Delhi's residents can expect an expansion of the initiatives that have already borne fruit, such as the Mohalla Clinics, water and electricity schemes and the focus on improving healthcare and education. One of the most significant aspects of Atishi's leadership could be her ability to bring a new perspective to governance—one that is less confrontational and more collaborative. Atishi's rise to the highest political office in Delhi is a momentous event. But make no mistake, the real power still remains with Arvind Kejriwal. He is the one who would be making all the key decisions. But Atishi's rise in the party is for real. It does not matter that she would be the chief minister for only a few months as Delhi elections are round the corner and her tenure would be a talking point with women voters. Besides, for Delhi, it signals a continuation of the reforms initiated over the past decade, with the added promise of new energy and ideas that could redefine the city's future. It would indeed be a test of Atishi's leadership quality as she will be under constant scrutiny, with both her supporters and detractors closely watching her every move. Her ability to navigate these pressures will be crucial in determining the success of this bold experiment by Kejriwal.

PICTALK



People perform 'pind daan' rituals at the bank of Falgu river on the first day of the Pitra Paksha, in Gaya

Ozone: The earth's protective shield but also a threat

Ozone is a paradoxical element — it shields life from harmful UV radiation in atmosphere but is also a big pollutant on the ground

People often think of two different things when they hear the word "ozone": on the one hand, an essential shield in the atmosphere that protects life on Earth from the Sun's dangerous ultraviolet radiation; on the other, a pollutant that causes health problems and damage to the environment. Ozone is indeed a double-edged sword because its effect on human life depends on where it is and how much of it there is.



The "good" ozone in the upper atmosphere is significant, but the "bad" ozone at ground level is very bad for people and the world. This dual nature needs immediate care, new ideas, and cooperation worldwide so that people can continue to live. Ozone creates the well-known ozone layer high in the stratosphere, between 10 and 30 miles (16-48 km) above the surface of the Earth. This protective layer absorbs the bulk of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation UV-C and UV-B. Ecosystems would almost certainly be unable to survive as they do now without this natural shield, which exposes life on Earth to haz-

ardous radiation levels. Although life depends on the ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground-level ozone, found in the troposphere, is a hazardous contaminant. This ozone, created by sunlight-induced chemical interactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), is mainly caused by human activity, including certain chemicals, industrial processes, and automobile emissions. This ozone will affect crop productivity and ecosystem dynamics. In the mid-20th century, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were causing the systematic depletion of the ozone layer. In response to the pressing need, a global accord, the Montreal Protocol, was

adopted in 1987 to gradually eliminate the manufacturing of chemicals that cause the depletion of the ozone layer. The main objective of this accord was to eliminate progressively chemicals that cause erosion of the ozone layer, notably chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are extensively used in refrigeration, aerosols, and other industrial uses. India is also a signatory to this accord. Indian industries, especially those in the refrigeration, air-conditioning, and foam production sectors, were compelled to transition to ozone-friendly alternatives. The phasing out of CFCs initially led to the adoption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), but attention soon shifted toward more environmentally friendly solutions, such as natural refrigerants, hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), with lower global warming potential. Since the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, global emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) have dramatically decreased. The ozone layer has shown signs of recovery, particularly over Antarctica, where the famous

"ozone hole" is gradually closing. This recovery is essential for shielding the planet from harmful UV radiation. In addition, the phase-out of CFCs and other ODS has had a measurable impact on global temperature regulation. This is significant when considering the urgency of limiting temperature rise to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. The Protocol has become a symbol of what international cooperation can achieve if people unite and work together to protect the environment. The illegal production of CFCs and incomplete phase-outs in some regions could slow progress. While ozone protects life and poses risks, its dual nature demands vigilant global action. Striking the right balance between preserving the protective ozone layer and mitigating harmful ground-level ozone is essential for humanity's and the planet's health. We can ensure a safe future only through international cooperation and innovative solutions.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

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(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)

Showdown over Rahul's remarks in the US

Rahul Gandhi's recent trip to the US has reignited the debate over whether Indian leaders should criticise their government while abroad



KALYANI SHANKAR



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent he United States has provoked a war of words between the ruling BJP and the main opposition Congress in India. Should the Indian leaders refrain from bad-mouthing the ruling BJP while abroad? Is there a red line, and has Rahul crossed it while he was in the US? The BJP claims yes, and the Congress says no. Rahul has taken potshots at the Indian government and PM Modi. Congress claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also bad-mouthed the Congress not once but continuously since he took over in 2014 and visited over 80 countries. The Congress cites many examples. Also, the BJP has misrepresented Rahul's statements. Rahul aims to engage the Diaspora through programs with the Diaspora, students, officials, and lawmakers in the US, demonstrating the strategic nature of his approach. Why does he want to woo the Diaspora? Modi also has never missed an opportunity to address the Diaspora in whichever country he visits. Rahul, too, wants to connect with the Indian American community. The influence of the Indian American community has increased. A decade ago, there was one Indian-American in the House of Representatives; now, there are five and one senator. The US has

an Indian-origin Presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, and a vice-presidential candidate, JD Vance, who has an Indian wife. Education, affluence and awareness of the influence in the past two decades are behind the rise of Indian Americans, whose population is one per cent, and their representation in US Congress is now one per cent. Rahul commented on the RSS, India's democracy, Modi's China policy, and religious freedom in India, among other things. On the RSS, Gandhi said that the BJP's parent organisation believes India is "one idea", but the Congress considers it a "diversity of ideas." This criticism of the RSS, a critical ideological force behind the BJP, upset the BJP. In India, the BJP slammed Rahul's adverse comments and meeting with anti-India US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. The BJP claims that it can be used for anti-India propaganda. Gandhi counters that she was part of the lawmaker's delegation, and how he could have declined to meet with the delegation. Rahul noted that Indian democracy has struggled for the past ten years but is improving. He also observed that 90% of India's population, including OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis, are



IN INDIA, THE BJP SLAMMED RAHUL'S ADVERSE COMMENTS AND MEETING WITH ANTI-INDIA US CONGRESS WOMAN ILHAN OMAR. THE BJP CLAIMS THAT IT CAN BE USED FOR ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA

not able to take an active part in the democratic process. This has upset the BJP. While Rahul agreed with Modi's policies on Pakistan and Bangladesh, he felt Modi's China policy was flawed. Rahul pointed out, "We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster." The BJP fielded top leaders to refute Rahul's allegations, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leading the response. He rubbished Rahul's claim on China policy. He observed it was "extremely shameful" that the LOP is hurting the dignity of India by saying "misleading, baseless and factless things." Another controversial subject was the caste census. Rahul Gandhi supported the caste census and claimed that BJP was trying to end the reservation. Union Minister Amit Shah quickly responded that they would not allow anyone to abolish reservations or undermine the nation's security. Countering his remarks about the status of Sikhs in India, Senior Minister Hardeep Puri said, "I am a proud Sikh. I have been wearing a turban for over six decades and a kada for even longer..." The BJP takes Rahul's statements seriously, given that he is the LOP. His increased stature after leading the Bharat

Jodo' yatra and the Leader of the Opposition cannot be wished away. In the 2024 elections, much to the dismay of the BJP, Congress doubled its number. Second, after the 2024 polls, the opposition coalition INDIA was strengthened. The BJP had to form the government with the help of allies. Third, Rahul visited the US before Modi's scheduled visit on September 22. His trip was well received, which did not please the BJP. But Modi would have a grand welcome at the official and the community levels. At the end of his visit, Rahul clarified, "The fight for democracy in India is an Indian fight. It has nothing to do with anybody else. It's our problem. And we'll take care of it. We will make sure that democracy is secure." This clarification prevented the idea that he was inviting a foreign power to resolve Indian problems. There is some merit in the BJP saying dirty linen should not be wasted abroad. On an earlier occasion, foreign minister S. Jaishankar said, "I don't think taking national politics out of the country is in the national interest." But this is good for both sides, and both should follow it. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MYANMAR: CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

Madam — Apropos of the well analysed article 'Myanmar Junta on the Blackfoot' (18th Sept), India faces multiple challenges in the existential crisis of the military junta in Myanmar for more than a decade. The worst crisis of refugee influx, the consequential fallout, unrest and instability in North Eastern states particularly Manipur and security threats from China along its North-eastern borders need top priority from security angle as diplomatic channels with the National League for Democracy or the Junta have not served our country's strategic interests. UNO does not appear and is no more an International Organisation capable of dealing with the crises in the countries having multiple stake holders. All its permanent members in Security Council have substantial stakes in all the wars and coups presently. The refugees crisis emanated from Myanmar is the most disturbing and destabilising factor for India. India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. India has chosen not to sign the refugee conventions and protocol, and has historically cited national security interests and challenges to its sovereignty as key concerns. India, along with the governments of other South Asian countries, asserts that migration is a matter of bilateral and not multilateral relations, which should not be governed by international agreements. Sometimes it appears that refugee influx in India is a deliberate outcome of military coup in neighbouring countries. Peace and political stability in Myanmar appears a distant possibility and multiple stake holders namely China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar itself know the vulnerability of Indian borders and some strategic areas sandwiched between some of these countries. Therefore, for the time being till political normalcy is restored in Myanmar, military options should be prioritised over diplomatic adventures.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

Atishi is the new Delhi CM



The selection of Atishi Marlena Singh as Delhi's new chief minister does not come as a surprise. Infact, any name as chief minister would not have turned heads because it is amply evident that the man holding all the aces, is still Arvind Kejriwal. Make no mistake, Kejriwal may have just returned from prison, but the clever former bureaucrat intends to turn the politically tricky situation into a massive support of strength. Since the Delhi assembly elections

are only a few months away, Kejriwal aims to divert the excise policy corruption issue by pitch-forking a party leader, with no real mass base, as the executive head of the state. However, Atishi's comparatively clean image, administrative experience and fighting spirit should come in handy for the AAP supremo who is sure to go the whole hog to retain power for the party in Delhi. That way, Kejriwal can intensify focus on the election campaign with little to answer on a "corrupt chief minister" holding on to his chair. Of course, the opposition will vociferously target the former chief minister who is perhaps the principal vote-getter for his party besides a handful of leaders like Manish Sisodia. The chief minister's seat will beckon Kejriwal if the party wins, and Atishi shall be relegated to the list of those chief ministers who held the post of chief minister for a few months.

Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF MODI GOVT

Madam — For a government in power for the past 10 years now talking about its feats in 100 days is incorrect. It gives room for posing questions like why such actions were not done in the last 10 years and how just allocation of funds can be claimed as a feat and so on. If any assessment be made on the performance of the present government it should be for the period in power since 2014. Because nothing could be achieved in a short period of time like 100 days. In the case of the present government the claim on employment is not correct. Because it is only a matter of allocation of funds and announcement of a project. The working and success of the project needs to be assessed only after its completion. It is also to be noted that it is only a project to improve the skill and not a project to provide employment. Farmers' basic woes are not addressed and they continue to feel let down and the consumers also feel the same with the growing food inflation. Healthcare continues to be a commodity.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

TRAGEDIES AT GANESH VISARJAN

Madam — Ganesh immersion in the country turns tragic in several parts of India. Similar incidents have occurred throughout the country. While immersing an idol of Lord Ganesha, devotees got swept away by the river's powerful currents. Divers recovered his body afterwards but it was a sad end to a religious celebration. In another incident in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, eight people drowned while taking a dip in the Meshwo River. It is time for the people to exercise caution during religious events like Ganesh Visarjan. This tragic series of events serves as a reminder of the importance of safety precautions during religious ceremonies. It is crucial to take necessary measures to avoid such incidents in the future. Let us not take undue risks in the name of God and pay heavy price for that. Besides, there must be adequate security arrangements by the government to avoid such accidents

Nikhil CK Maniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

EMBRACING DIVINE SHELTER

God can help us succeed in life but we must seek his shelter by adhering to dharma



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What a wonderful prospect! Yes, it is possible, if we take shelter of God and remain in it. Because God is everything. (Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Geeta 7.19) For that, we have to be engaged in activities according to the instructions of God. And we will benefit in many ways. How else can one remain motivated to pursue the spiritual path? In this process, God is pleased but does not benefit personally in any way, because God is 'purna' (complete in all respects).

I will cite three examples and a few reasons to substantiate this. But I will begin with some of the benefits of taking shelter from God and remaining there. God's instructions promote 'dharma' (highest moral and religious principles). Because dharma is the bedrock upon which the Creation is based. God even incarnates when there is a decline in dharma. (4.7) Those, who follow dharma in their behavior are rewarded by God's Divine Authority.

This is done according to the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is: "What we sow we reap." If one pleases God by spiritual practices additionally, God gets personally involved in the life of His devotee. His very first act is to begin guiding. I am experiencing it. It is simple. I face a challenge /problem. I pray for guidance and help. God gives me intuitions. As the connection with God becomes stronger, God begins helping too. This is a quantum jump because God is omnipotent. Problems get solved and life can go on smoothly. (18.58) Sometimes, we face non-cooperation from others; God even changes the hearts of people. Further progress on the spiri-



tual path helps us to qualify for becoming 'nimitta' (instruments) of God, as Arjuna did in the Mahabharata. (11.33) God, as Karta, begins to micromanage the lives of His dear devotees. Reformations begin; because we must help ourselves. And credit for success must also come to us; God does not need it.

Only rarely did God intervene directly, as Lord Krishna did to protect Draupadi from getting humiliated; no one had come forward. Similarly, Lord Krishna had to protect His devotee and friend (4.3) Arjuna after he was about to enter the fire for not being able to kill Jayadratha before sunset, as vowed him.

Lord Krishna brought the sun back and Arjuna was able to kill Jayadratha before the sunset. In these two instances, though the Lord got credit, He did not gain anything, Draupadi and Arjuna gained. God has a plan for whoever takes His shelter. How did the Lord help Goswami Tulsiadas? His wife opened his eyes when she told him, "You will attain success in life if you become devoted to Shri Rama instead of to me." Because Tulsiadasji was at the threshold of becoming great by writing epics like Ramacharitmanasa. The conclusion is: get linked with God urgently.

There is so much to gain from God, who has plenty to give. Isn't God the owner of everything? God is self-sufficient. He creates without any help from anyone. God never gets attached to anyone. If He did, God would become dependent on others to do what He must to keep the Creation going.

I am gaining everything desirable. I could not have imagined what God can and does for me. The quality of my life is steadily improving. Please get started on the spiritual journey; you will never look back.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views expressed are personal)

Reclaim water bodies to ward off water crisis



SRIRAJ KOTA

India's lakes and wetlands, once lifeline for its cities, are vanishing at an alarming rate, driven by rampant corruption and unchecked construction



Urban lakes and wetlands are an integral part of our ecosystem. They perform critical environmental, social, and economic functions as they are a source of drinking water, recharge groundwater and support biodiversity besides providing livelihoods. But the life of these indispensable water bodies is ebbing under the relentless onslaught of population, corrupt administrations, and construction mafia. A study by Wetlands International has shown that two out of every five wetlands in India have been lost in the last 30 years, and of the remaining water bodies 40% are unable to support aquatic life due to loss of water quality. But this plunder of water bodies of India did not happen overnight but over some time.

Take the case of Bengaluru for instance. In the late 18th century, a British expedition tasked by Governor General Cornwallis to find an alternative route between Madras and Srirangapatna stumbled upon Bengaluru which was full of lakes and water bodies. The captain heading the expedition thereafter referred to it as the Land of Thousand Lakes in his reports. However, today Bengaluru is a pale version of its once illustrious past. In 1960 Bengaluru had 262 lakes but today only 10 of them hold water.

The city saw a shocking decline in its water bodies as exploitation and population grew in equal measure. Lakes and water bodies are disappearing at an alarming pace at the city level and state level as well. According to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry report, Karnataka lost an astounding 13,000 water bodies in just one year between 2021 and 2022.

This is the case with every city in India. Ahmedabad for instance had 137 lakes in 2001 but as per recent reports, construction has been seen on 65 of them now. The national capital Delhi too is being robbed of its water bodies. According to a Delhi government report, nearly half



TODAY BENGALURU IS A PALE VERSION OF ITS ONCE ILLUSTRIOUS PAST. IN 1960 BENGALURU HAD 262 LAKES BUT TODAY ONLY 10 OF THEM HOLD WATER

(49.1%) of Delhi's official water bodies do not exist anymore – they have either gone "missing" or have been encroached upon. The entire nation more or less presents the same depressing scenario. But recently a state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government's Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) initiative to reclaim encroached land of water bodies in Hyderabad and surrounding areas has made national headlines. The HYDRAA team created in July this year and headed by an IPS officer was given a clear-cut mandate by the state chief minister Revanth Reddy to free the city water bodies of illegal encroachments and construction.

The Full Tank Level (FTL) was kept as the parameter by HYDRAA and any construction or encroachment within 30 meters of FTL was made subject to demolition. The agency has been given a free hand and made immune to political pressures with zero tolerance being practiced even if the encroachment belongs to prominent politicians or businesspeople of the city. Notably, even the chief minister's brother was served notice for demolition.

This drive conducted diligently and without bowing to any pressure was able to remove 262 unauthorised encroachments built-in water bodies, government lands, urban canals and parks in 23 locations in the city have been removed and 111.72 acres of land have been reclaimed to date. The state government has issued further instructions making it compulsory to take

HYDRAA NOC before commencing any construction near lakes. The actions of HYDRAA have instilled a sense of confidence among the environmentalists not only in Telangana but also across India and are being seen as a case study in governance especially about safeguarding environmental assets such as water bodies. But as is expected with any groundbreaking initiative, the step taken by the Telangana government too has off late been soundly criticised for being inhuman due to the demolishing of houses of the poor and those who were paying loans for the same. Given this adverse feedback, the state government has issued clarifications to the effect that occupied houses will not be demolished.

The HYDRAA initiative is an example and a clarion call for the rest of the nation to wake up rescue and reclaim its water bodies. This is crucial in light of reports released by the United Nations and Niti Ayog which state that water demand will reach twice the available supply, and 40 per cent of India's population will not have access to clean drinking water by 2030. To prevent a grim and parched future, the central government in collaboration with state government and local environmental groups must establish a Wetland Task Force for every state.

The state-specific task force must have a clear mandate to reclaim every water body in its jurisdiction by clearing out encroachments, demolishing illegal construction and preventing changes in land use. Apart from enforcement duty, the task force must also have an enabling role that is

focused on replenishing and rejuvenating the wetlands and water bodies in its jurisdiction. For instance, the task force can encourage urban households and businesses to implement rainwater harvesting practices on their premises. The water harvested can be channelled towards improving the groundwater table and recharging the aquifers. Additionally, the government can, through the task force regulate the borewells in the urban areas. Indiscriminate and unregulated drilling for water in metropolitan areas has caused the drying up of the groundwater table. The task force team can save the city's water resources by ensuring that prior permissions are taken to drill borewells.

Furthermore, the task force team can install water meters to ensure that water extraction is done in a measured and quantified manner. Currently, there have been many instances where local leaders, with political affiliations "adopt" lakes and water bodies in the name of preserving them and slowly encroach the property. After that, in connivance with builder mafia construction is done on the property which is then sold to unsuspecting citizens. The wetland task force can prevent this and play a pivotal role in ensuring that no individual or commercial company is entrusted with safeguarding the lakes and water bodies as this can result in manipulation.

Water bodies are India's lifelines. Reclaiming the lost ones and preserving the remaining can alone ensure a water secure future for our nation.

(The writer is a policy analyst, views expressed are personal)

India's untapped ocean energy: A blueprint for powering the future

India's 8,000 km coastline holds the potential to generate a staggering 9.2 lakh TWh of clean energy annually

The 8000 km long Indian coastline has the potential to generate 9.2 lakh Trillion Watts hour per annum (TWh/annum) electricity, which is a manifold of what is generated as of date. This is at a time when India is struggling to meet its requirement of 4.5 Lakh MW power utilizing all sources of energy production.

According to Ocean Energy Atlas prepared by Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), a premier research and development organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are the nation's



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Akshayapatra of energy. "The Exclusive Economic Zone lying within the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal has oceanic energy potential of 9.2 lakh TWh/annum. This is the first time in the history of India the oceanic energy potential has been assessed and an atlas of this kind has been prepared," Dr T M Balakrishnan Nair, Group Director and lead sci-

entist, INCOIS, told The Pioneer. A bouquet of offshore renewable, offshore solar, offshore wind, wave, tidal, ocean thermal energy conversion, and salinity gradient represent the hitherto untapped potential of renewables. India's Ocean Energy Atlas has been released following the International Renewable Energy Agency's finding that the G-20 countries collectively account for 81 per cent of total renewable energy and about 100 per cent of ocean energy.

India's offshore wind energy remains untapped even as countries like Denmark, Britain and China have made giant strides in this sector. Dr Nair says there is wide scope to set up renewable energy power stations to tap salini-

ty gradients. Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, director, of INCOIS, said that the atlas would serve as a key resource for guiding policy and investment decisions in the energy sector.

An important element in this form of energy generation is that there would not be any kind of apprehension in the minds of the people about land acquisition, pollution and discharge of effluents. "This is the cleanest form of energy and many public and private sector enterprises have shown their interest in setting up renewable energy units," said M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of earth sciences, Govt of India.

INCOIS is playing a major role in the country's blue



economy sector by providing information to fishers about potential fishing zones and sharp weather forecasts. Dr Srinivasa Kumar and his team have developed a state-of-the-art tsunami warning system with which they alert countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean. Since its inception in 1999, INCOIS has been contributing to India's blue economy through its flagship pro-

grams like Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ), Ocean State Forecasts (OSF) and Tsunami Early Warning Services (TEW). INCOIS has also been the national and regional warehouse for oceanographic data spanning in-situ platforms, satellite sensors, and model-simulated products.

Taking advantage of the availability of such long-term scientific datasets, INCOIS has taken up the challenge of estimating the ocean energy potential from the Indian EEZ and prepared an Atlas for the first time in the country. The satellite data collected through hi-tech sensors about the regions where there are good catches are disseminated to fishers and this has made the job of fishermen

quite easy. All they have to do is rush to the areas identified as fishing zones by the INCOIS scientists. The Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas prepared by Team INCOIS is the first of its kind in the world.

Ocean energy assumes significance as scientific reports are galore about the fluctuations in solar power generation capabilities because of climate change. G M Pillai, director general, of the World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, says that as of this date, solar power output is not encouraging because of changes in rain patterns. "The Rajasthan deserts could have been the powerhouse of states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat but the solar power

potential has come down and the deserts are becoming evergreen garden," said Pillai. The thorium-based nuclear reactor is yet to take off and the picture from nuclear power reactors is dismal. There was a time when former directors of the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam had claimed that India was the world leader in Fast Breeder Reactor technology, it all ended up as chest beating. The only hope is integrated ocean energy. India has a vast coastline of nearly 8000 km and this could offer a permanent solution to our energy needs.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

'Exploding pagers were manufactured in Hungary'

AP ■ TAIPEI

A company based in Hungary was responsible for manufacturing the pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria in an apparent Israeli operation targeting Hezbollah's communications network, another firm whose brand was used on the devices said Wednesday. Pagers used by the militant group Hezbollah exploded near-simultaneously a day earlier in Lebanon and Syria, killing at least 12 people, including two children, and wounding nearly 3,000. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government blamed Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated remote attack. An American official said Israel briefed the United States on Tuesday after the attack, in which small amounts of explosive hidden in the pagers were detonated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the information publicly. Hezbollah and Israeli forces have exchanged fire nearly daily since Oct 8, the day after a deadly Hamas-led attack in southern Israel triggered a massive Israeli counteroffensive and the ongoing war in Gaza. Since then, hundreds have been killed in the strikes in Lebanon

and dozens in Israel, while tens of thousands on each side of the border have been displaced. Tuesday's attack — and the fact that Hezbollah blamed Israel — renewed fears that the two foes could lead to all-out war. Despite periodic cycles of escalation, the two have carefully avoided that so far, but Israeli leaders have issued a series of warnings in recent weeks that they might escalate operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon. The AR-924 pagers used the attack were manufactured by BAC Consulting KFT, based in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, according to a statement released by Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm that authorised the use of its brand on the pagers. BAC appeared to be a shell company. "According to the cooperation agreement, we authorise BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in designated regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are solely the responsibility of BAC," Gold Apollo said in a statement. The company's chair, Hsu Ching-kuang, told journalists Wednesday that the firm has had a licensing agreement with BAC for the past three years. BAC Consulting

Kft, a limited liability company, was registered in May 2022, according to company records. It has 7,840 euros in standing capital, the records showed, and had revenue of \$725,768 in 2022 and \$593,972 in 2023. At the headquarters in a building in a residential neighbourhood of Budapest, Associated Press journalists saw the names of multiple companies, including BAC Consulting, posted on pieces of paper on a window. A woman who emerged from the building and declined to give her name, said the site provides headquarter addresses to various companies. BAC is registered to Cristiana Rosaria Bársony-Arcidiacono, who on her LinkedIn page describes herself as a strategic advisor and business developer. Among other positions, Bársony-Arcidiacono says on the page that she has served on the board of directors of the Earth Child Institute, a sustainability group. The group does not list Bársony-Arcidiacono as among its board members on its website. The AP has attempted to reach Bársony-Arcidiacono via her LinkedIn page and has been unable to establish a connection between her or BAC and the exploding pagers. The attack in Lebanon started Tuesday afternoon,

when pagers in their owners' hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding — leaving blood-spattered scenes and panicking bystanders. It appeared that most of those hit were members or linked to members of Hezbollah — whether fighters or civilians — but it was not immediately clear if people with no ties to Hezbollah were also hit. Hezbollah said in a statement Wednesday morning that it would continue its normal strikes against Israel as part of what it describes as a support front for its ally, Hamas, and Palestinians in Gaza. "This path is continuous and separate from the difficult reckoning that the criminal enemy must await for its massacre on Tuesday," it said. "This is another reckoning that will come, God willing." At hospitals in Beirut on Wednesday, the chaos of the night before had largely subsided, but relatives of the wounded continued to wait. Lebanon Health Minister Firas Abiad told journalists during a tour on hospitals Wednesday morning that many of the wounded had severe injuries to the eyes, and others had limbs amputated. Journalists were not allowed to enter hospital rooms or film patients.

China sanctions US firms selling arms to Taiwan

Beijing (AP): China on Wednesday announced sanctions on American companies selling arms to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force. Chinese state media made the announcement, citing the Foreign Ministry, but gave no details on the companies involved. Taiwan is awaiting deliveries of F-16 fighter jets, Abrams tanks and a range of missiles from the US. China has been upping its threats to attack Taiwan, whose 2.3 million citizens overwhelmingly favour their current status of de-facto independence. Despite their lack of formal diplomatic ties, the US has long been a key provider of armaments and is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself. Along with buying weapons from the US, Taiwan has also been reviving its domestic arms industry. A fleet of submarines is underway, while mandatory military service for men has been extended to one year. China has previously demanded US companies end cooperation with Taiwan's armed forces, with no apparent effect.

Portugal declares calamity as wildfires spread

AP ■ LISBON

More than 100 wildfires stretched thousands of firefighters to the limit in northern Portugal on Wednesday, with seven deaths since the worst spate of fires in recent years spread out of control over the weekend. Portuguese Prime Minister Luís Montenegro declared a state of calamity for the hardest-hit areas late on Tuesday, invoking powers to mobilise more firefighters and civil servants. He also called on police investigators to redouble their efforts to find those who started the fires and pledged help for those who have lost their homes or have been evacuated. "We are well aware that these difficult hours are not over yet," Montenegro told the nation in a televised address. "We have to continue to give everything we have and ask for help from our partners and friends so that we can reinforce the protection of our people and property." The hot, dry conditions behind the outbreaks in Portugal coincided this week with flooding in central Europe. The European Union said Wednesday that the juxtaposed extreme weather phenomena are proof of a "climate breakdown." Fellow European Union members Spain, France, Italy and Greece have committed two water-dropping aircraft each to



help Portuguese firefighters. Spain's military is also sending 240 soldiers and vehicles from its emergency response battalions specialised in combating fires across the border to its neighbour. Montenegro made a special call for security forces to pursue both arsonists and any individuals who started a fire out of negligence. Portuguese national police said that they have arrested seven men suspected of having started wildfires in recent days. Authorities have prohibited the use of heavy farming equipment to reduce the risk of inadvertently starting a blaze. Among the hardest hit areas is the district of Aveiro, south of the northern city of Porto, but several major blazes were also raging out of control in other wooded areas. Authorities have yet to release figures for property damage or the number of

evacuees, but Portuguese state broadcaster RTP has shown charred houses in rural villages and local residents trying to battle flames with buckets of water, hoses, and even large tree branches. Other televised images showed visibility reduced to a few metres as orange smoke enveloped the terrain. Three firefighters died in their vehicle on Tuesday, while another had succumbed to what authorities called a "sudden illness" while on duty over the weekend. Three civilians have also perished, according to civil protection authorities. Portugal was devastated by massive fires in 2017 that killed over 120 people. Experts link the fires to both climate change and the abandonment of traditional farming and forestry professions that helped keep rural areas clear of underbrush that is now fuel for fires.



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris is greeted as she during an unscheduled stop to make remarks at Community College of Philadelphia, Tuesday in Philadelphia. AP/PTI

Donald Trump calls Modi 'fantastic'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/ NEW YORK

Former president Donald Trump has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet him next week during his upcoming three-day visit to the US. While the Republican presidential candidate slammed India as an "abuser" on the issue of import tariffs, he described Modi as a "fantastic man". PM Modi will be visiting the US from September 21 to 23. Speaking on Tuesday at his first public appearance following the recent apparent assassination attempt, Trump said Modi will meet him next week when he is in the US. "So when India, which is a very big abuser. He (Modi) happens to be coming to meet me next week, and Modi, he's fantastic. I mean, fantastic man. A lot of these leaders are fantastic," Trump said, reiterating that India imposes heavy tariffs on imports.

The former president revealed the information as he spoke about trade and tariffs while responding to a question at a town hall meeting in Flint, Michigan. He went on to say, "These people are the sharpest people. They're not a little bit backwards... You know the expression, they're at the top of their game, and they use it against us. But India is very tough. Brazil is very tough... China is the toughest of all, but we were taking care of China with the tariffs." "So we're going to do a reciprocal trade. If anybody charges us 10 cents, if they charge us USD 2, if they charge us a hundred per cent, 250, we charge them the same thing. And what's going to happen? Everything's going to disappear, and we're going to end up having free trade again. And if it doesn't disappear, we're going to take in a lot of money," he said. In New Delhi, when asked about Trump's comment, the Ministry of External Affairs did not respond. Modi will begin his trip with the Quad Leaders' Summit being hosted by President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware.

Secret Service again faces scrutiny after another gunman targets Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

For the second time in more than two months, the Secret Service that protects the highest echelon of American leaders is under scrutiny - this time after a gunman hid in the shrubs along the fence of former President Donald Trump's golf course for 12 hours. The man didn't get a shot off, but critics question how he could be just several hundred yards away from Trump - especially after the Republican presidential candidate's security was beefed up after his near-death experience in July. Biden administration officials praised the agency's response, and former Secret Service agents say there are key differences between what unfolded Sunday and the security lapses at an outdoor rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, in which a gunman climbed onto an unsecured roof nearby and opened fire, clipping Trump's ear and leaving a spectator dead. Authorities say Ryan Wesley Routh camped with food and a rifle just outside the 27-hole Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida, where the former president was playing Sunday. A Secret Service agent ahead of Trump spotted the rifle's muzzle poking through the fence and opened fire. Routh fled and was later apprehended. It's long been known to law enforcement that places along the edge of the property leave Trump visible to those behind the fence, and some have questioned why it was not protected. But a sprawling golf course poses specific challenges, especially for a last-minute round, even with Trump's bolstered security, former Secret Service agents say. "A 400-acre golf course with miles of fence line is breachable. And the systems put in place to mitigate those threats worked. That's not to say they couldn't do more. But there are limits to what

Ex-US Pres holds first event post-assassination attempt; Harris gives rare interview

Flint (AP): Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday made his first public appearance since Sunday's second apparent assassination attempt against him with an overflow crowd chanting "God bless Trump!" and "Fight, Fight, Fight" as US Secret Service agents surrounded the stage to protect the Republican presidential nominee. "It's been a great experience," Trump said in an evening town hall in Flint, Michigan, about holding events with thousands of supporters. But he also went on to call running for president "a dangerous business" akin to car racing or bull riding. "Only consequential presidents get shot at," he said. Earlier in the day, Vice President Kamala Harris struck a measured tone, even steering clear of mentioning Trump by name in an interview with Black journalists that starkly contrasted with the former president's own highly contentious appearance before the same group. The two candidates briefly put their differences aside in a phone call Trump described as "very, very nice" even as crowds booed when he mentioned Harris by her first name. "It was very, very nice, and we appreciate that," Trump told his supporters. Harris said earlier in the day that she told Trump "there's no place for political violence in our country." Both sides are ramping up campaigning with no changes to Trump's calendar despite the apparent assassination attempt at one of his Florida golf courses, which has renewed accusations by Republicans that Democrats' criticism against Trump is inspiring violent attacks. Democrats have accused Trump in the past for his long history of inflammatory campaign rhetoric and advocacy for jailing or prosecuting his political enemies.

is possible," said Paul Eckloff, a retired Secret Service agent who served on details protecting three presidents during his 23-year career. The Secret Service is trying to protect a growing number of high-profile people, from presidents to visiting dignitaries, in a vitriolic political environment. President Joe Biden and some Republicans are pressing for more resources for the agency still facing several investigations and whose director resigned after the first attempt on Trump's life. Acting Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe Jr. said Sunday's golf game was not on a formal

schedule or advertised ahead of time. That means agents may find out about it the day before or even minutes before it happens. Rowe emphasized that the gunman never had a line of sight on the former president and that security worked as it should. He said the edge of the property wasn't monitored ahead of time because Trump "wasn't supposed to have gone there in the first place." Rowe described how agents spread out in front of and behind Trump, looking for threats. Trump and his campaign have routinely praised the agents pro-

tecting him while expressing concerns about the agency more broadly, including that his detail isn't large enough given the threat level. But some have raised questions. During an interview Monday on Sean Hannity's Fox News show, Trump's son Eric questioned how the gunman was able to stay in that location for so long without being detected. "Those agents on the ground, they are remarkable," he said. "But there is a breakdown." Rowe a day earlier said, "The agent's hypervigilance and the details swift action was textbook." It's not possible for the Secret Service to shut down all traffic around the golf course, said Eckloff, who protected Trump while he was president, including at two of his golf courses in Florida. This course is in the middle of the city and taking such a step would have huge effects on residents. Trump loves to golf and owns three courses in Florida. Trump International is closest to his Mar-a-Lago home and is a place he likes to go with friends. While Trump was president, news photographers were often able to capture images of him on the green by finding gaps in the shrubbery. Security around Trump was dramatically beefed up after the July shooting. Trump now speaks from behind a bulletproof glass enclosure at outdoor rallies, and long guns are often spotted near locations where he's staying. The agency doesn't release specific information about his protection but Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Trump's detail now includes countersurveillance, a counter-sniper and counterassault resources. Before the Pennsylvania shooting, some of those assets were used depending on the event but now they're permanently part of his detail, Guglielmi said.

Trudeau: More work to do, after by-election loss

AP ■ VANCOUVER

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he's focused on the work ahead after the ruling Liberals lost in another by-election, raising more questions about his ability to lead the party into the next federal election. For the second time in recent months the Liberals lost in a former stronghold when the Bloc Quebecois won the vote in the electoral district of LaSalle-Emard-Verdun Monday in Montreal in a tight three-way race with the New Democratic Party. "Obviously it would have been nicer to be able to win... but there's more work to do," Trudeau said in Ottawa.

"The big thing is to make sure that Canadians understand the choice they get to make in the next election," Trudeau said. "That's the work we're going to continue to do." Election Canada results show the Bloc candidate Louis-Philippe Sauve finished with 28% of the vote. Liberals' candidate Laura Palestini collected 27.2% and finished just 248 votes behind the winner. The NDP collected 26.1% and was about 600 votes behind the winner. It's the second time in three months that Trudeau's party has lost a by-election in a riding they held for years. In June, the Conservatives narrowly defeated the Liberals in Toronto-St. Paul's.

The Liberals won every seat in Toronto and almost every seat on the Island of Montreal in the last election. Monday's loss "is a major blow for the Liberals," said Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal. "This is a riding we would expect them to win under normal circumstances," Beland said in an email. "Not only did this not happen, they lost by nearly 16 percentage points in popular votes compared to their score in the riding back in 2021, when they had easily won there." Andrew Perez, a longtime Liberal supporter and strategist, posted on social media that the loss is "yet another nail

in Justin Trudeau's coffin." "If Trudeau's Liberals can't hold this safe seat, it will spell even bigger trouble for the party's prospects in Quebec and across Canada in a critical election year," Perez said in a statement before the final vote. Beland doesn't believe Trudeau will step down as party leader before the next election, which is scheduled for next fall. "Some Liberals might try to convince him to step down but it's not sure at all he would," said Beland. Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne was asked Tuesday if Trudeau should remain as prime minister. Champagne said there is "concern, there's anxiety" among Canadian voters. "They're

ready for a positive vision of the country," he said. "I think if there's someone who can really inspire Canadians, it's Justin Trudeau. Most polls show the federal Conservatives well ahead of the Liberals. Trudeau is also very unpopular with many Canadians. The NDP recently ended its supply and confidence agreement with the Liberals that helped keep the minority government in power. That led to speculation there could be an early federal election. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has said his party would put forward a non-confidence motion "at the earliest possible opportunity" in hopes of bringing down the Liberal government.

Dutch govt, led by hard right, seeks to opt out from EU migration rules

Brussels (AP): The new Dutch government dominated by the far-right party of Geert Wilders officially asked the European Commission for an exemption from its migration obligations on Wednesday, seeking to fulfil a campaign promise to drastically reduce the number of immigrants in the nation. Dutch Migration Minister Marjolein Faber of Wilders' party wrote to the European Commission that the Netherlands wants out of regulations for accepting refugees. "I have just informed the EU Commission that I want a migration opt-out within Europe for the Netherlands. We need to be in charge of our own

asylum policy again!" Faber wrote in a letter Ylva Johansson, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, posted on social media. On Tuesday, the government, which came to power in July, announced its policy blueprint for the coming year, including stricter policies to hold back or kick out migrants who don't qualify for asylum. The announcement came just a day after party leaders were publicly bickering over their plans, underscoring divisions within the four-party governing coalition. Even before the plan was made public, the European Commission warned the Dutch government that its

approach wouldn't work. "We have adopted legislation. It's adopted. You don't opt out of adopted legislation in the EU," spokesman Eric Mamer said last Friday. Earlier this week, the Dutch refugee settlement agency COA announced it was expecting a shortage of beds at the overcrowded asylum centre in the tiny village of Ter Apel in the northeastern Netherlands. The government is planning to declare an "asylum crisis" to pave the way for tougher measures, including reining in visas for family members of people granted asylum and making it easier and quicker to deport migrants.

Imran's crime enough to keep him jailed: Khawaja Asif

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan's crimes alone are enough to keep him behind bars, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said...

Geo News quoted Asif as saying. Khan should reflect on what chaos he created in the last four years, he said...

what may. Defending the coalition government's move to make judiciary-centric constitutional amendments, Asif said...

court from delivering its verdict in a case of alleged corruption against former prime minister Imran Khan...

in this matter and this is clear in the new amendments that the National Accountability Bureau cannot investigate the decisions made in the federal cabinet.

Bangladesh's interim govt gives Army magisterial powers

AP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government has granted magisterial powers to the Army for two months to improve law and order in the violence-hit country...

(Ansar) officers and 25th batch sepoy recruits at the Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Academy in Safipur, Chowdhury said...

acts and disrupted stability in several places, especially in the industrial areas across the country. Given the situation, Army personnel have been given magistracy power...

Chinese aircraft carrier comes closer than ever to Japan

Tokyo (AP): A Chinese aircraft carrier entered Japan's contiguous waters for the first time on Wednesday, leading Tokyo to convey its "serious concerns" to Beijing...

coast of the disputed Japanese-controlled islets it calls the Senkakus, the ministry said. China claims the same islets, calling them the Diaoyus.

Russia's Dy PM Overchuk in Pakistan on two-day visit

Islamabad (PTI): Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk on Wednesday arrived in Islamabad on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Pakistan's top leadership...

Maldives' ruling party team embarks on China visit

Male (PTI): A delegation of the Maldives' ruling party on Wednesday embarked on an eight-day visit to China to seek the strategies utilised by the communist state to achieve its current economic development...

port of call. "PNC revealed that the primary objective of the trip is to seek the strategies utilised by China, to achieve its current economic development, all while enhancing the bilateral ties between the two countries," the PSM News said.



A supermoon rises behind a horse statue atop of Triumphal Arc during a partial lunar eclipse in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, AP/PTI

SL's bankruptcy officially to end today, says President Wickremesinghe

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said that the island nation's bankruptcy is officially to end on Thursday, remarks aimed at boosting his re-election chances on the last day of the presidential election campaign.

election would end tonight and no election propaganda work would be permitted from midnight in terms of election laws. The Election Commission has said that this would mark the beginning of a silent period that will last until the election day on September 21.

Premadasa, the presidential candidate of Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB). He assured the bishops' conference, led by Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, that his government would impose the maximum punishment on those responsible. Premadasa criticized the spread of misinformation for political gain, particularly during the election period.

मध्य प्रदेश पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम. कार्यालय परियोजना घंटी, संभाग क्र. 1, भदभदा रोड, भोपाल. दिनांक : 14.09.2024

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Karnataka Bank Ltd. UP GRADATION OF EXISTING POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM. Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/PS/MLG/HQ/22R/24-25, Dated: 16-09-2024...

CANCELLATION OF TENDER. Corrigendum for Tender Notice against E-Tendering of works contract vide Notice No.: 12-AMC-ETP-NJP-24, Dated: 04-09-2024...

NORTHERN RAILWAY. Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India...

NORTHERN RAILWAY. E-Auction Notice. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS...



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निरंतर बढ़ते प्रगति के कदम



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स्वभाव स्वच्छता, संस्कार स्वच्छता

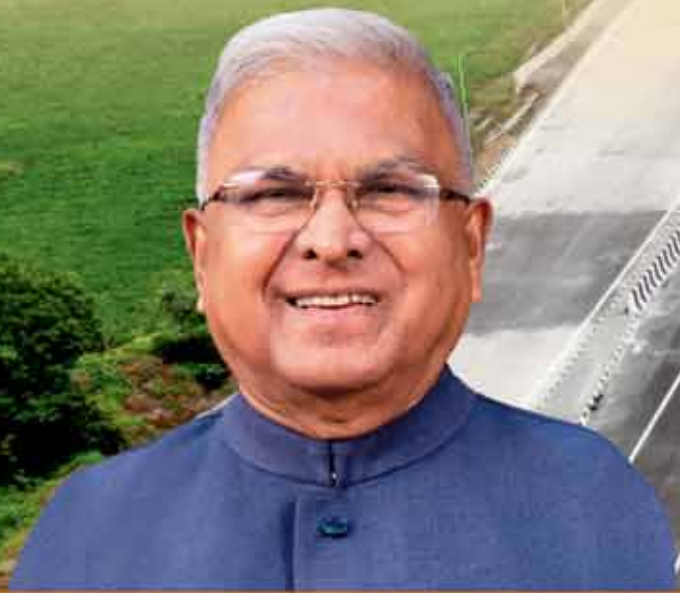


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डॉ. मोहन यादव

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