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SHOWDOWN OVER RAHUL'S REMARKS IN THE US

WORLD 10

IMRAN'S CRIME ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM JAILED: KHAWAJA ASIF

NATION 4

OPPOSITION OPPOSES 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' PROPOSAL

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Custodial torture of Army Major, fiancée
5 cops including Bharatpur PS IIC suspended

- Ex-Servicemen demand judicial probe
- Crime Branch begins probe

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha Police has suspended five police personnel, including the Inspector Bharatpur police station Inspector-in-Charge (IIC), on the charge of custodial torture of an Indian Army Major and his fiancée at the police station in the city.
According to a notification issued by the Odisha Police, the five suspended police officials are IIC Dinakrushna Mishra, Sub-Inspector Baisalini Panda, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Salilamayee Sahoo, ASI Sagarika Rath and Constable Balam Handa.
"During the period the order remains in force, they will remain under the disciplinary control of the Twin City Commissioner of Police and draw SA and DA admissible under Rule 90 of Odisha Service Code," the notification read.
Earlier on the day, a Crime Branch team led by a DSP reached the Bharatpur police sta-

tion and began a probe.
On the other hand, former officials of the Armed forces staged a demonstration before the Police Seva Bhawan demanding stringent action against the guilty police officials. They then held a discussion with the Commissioner of Police. "The action taken against the officials of Bharatpur police station is not enough. A judicial inquiry should be conducted against the erring police personnel," said an ex-Army man. "Assaulting is a criminal activity and such personnel should be dealt with as per law. The girl is traumatised. One of her teeth is broken and one of the jaws is dislocated," said a former Army officer.
The National Commission for Women has also taken suo motu cognisance of the allegations made by the Army officer and his female friend regarding their 'custodial abuse'.
Earlier on Tuesday, the Bharatpur police station IIC




and two other cops were transferred by the Commissionerate police to facilitate a fair investigation into the allegation of 'assault and arrest' of the officer of the Sikh Regiment Major Gurvansh Singh and his fiancée at the police station.
According to a notification issued by the Commissionerate police, Bharatpur police station IIC Dinakrushna Mishra was transferred and posted to the office of DCP, Bhubaneswar. Similarly, ASI Salilamayee Sahoo was transferred and posted to the office of DCP, Bhubaneswar while Constable Balam Hansda was transferred and posted to RO, Bhubaneswar.
The move from the Commissionerate police came after Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania ordered a Crime Branch probe into the allegations.
It has been alleged that Major Singh and his girlfriend were brutally assaulted by on-duty cops at the Bharatpur police station who they approached to register a complaint of road rage.

DSPL-113

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For You, With You, Always

ASI starts inspection of Ratna Bhandar 'secret tunnel' Cong slams PM visit. State Govt's failures

PNS ■ PURI
With mystery and a lot of apprehensions surrounding the presence of a 'secret tunnel' in the Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar (treasure trove), a high-level team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Wednesday started a preliminary inspection work for the purpose.

A team of 26 experts from CSIR-NGRI under the supervision of Additional DG of ASI are involved in the inspection work. The inspection will be undertaken using high-



tech gadgets and other equipments to conduct a detail assessment and inspection inside the inner chamber of Ratna Bhandar.

earth or any void on walls inside the Ratna Bhandar as several stories surrounding presence of a secret tunnel has been widely discussed among public.

Earlier, all the valuables including gold ornaments of Lord Jagannath were shifted to a temporary strong room inside the temple complex.

The inspection by the experts' team assumes significance as subsequently, measures would be taken for the repair of the Ratna Bhandar owing to damage to its structure.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha Pradesh Congress on Wednesday lashed out at the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the State and the 100-day-old Mohan Charan Majhi government.

PCC steering committee member Biswaranjan Mohanty said crores of rupees were spent from the State exchequer for the Prime Minister's visit. The people would not tolerate the injustice of 50 per cent of the women folk of the State from being deprived of the Subhadra



Yojana. The scheme is only meant for diverting the people's attention from the government's failure to fulfil the assurances it had given before the elections. Though

the State has a requirement for 34 lakh PM Awaas Yojana houses, so far only 16.75 lakh beneficiaries have got houses and the rest 50% have been deprived of getting the benefit. After the double-engine government came to power, the prices of potato, onion and other essential commodities have gone up. More than 10 lakh educated registered youths are still unemployed in the State. Besides, the Prime Minister has not announced any special package for Odisha like he did for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, said Dr Mohanty.

B'swar flood situation grim: CM after aerial survey



SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR
The flood situation in Baleswar district remains grim and all possible measures are being undertaken to speed up the relief and rescue operations, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after conducting an aerial survey of the affected areas on Wednesday.

"Today, I reviewed the situ-

ation. Six blocks and 8,000 hectares of land have been inundated. Apart from this, 35 gram panchayats in three blocks have been affected due to the floods," said he.

The CM further informed that the district administration has evacuated 2,000 people from low-lying areas and cooked food is being provided to them. As many as eight teams of Fire Service, three

ASI team reviews Sun Temple sand evacuation

PNS ■ KONARK
A six-member team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) visited the Sun Temple in Konark on Wednesday to review the status of sand evacuation from the Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) of the 13th-century temple.

The team headed by ASI ADG Janhwi Sharma visited the temple and took stock of the preservation work being undertaken at the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"It was a regular inspection. It's a world heritage monument and we conduct inspections from time to time," Sharma said.

Notably, the process of removal of sand from the Jagamohan (assembly hall) of the temple had started in January 2023. The construction company engaged by the ASI then erected a platform for the



lift and fitted scaffolds using cranes. However, the work was later stopped due to some reasons. Six months later, the process resumed in August 2023.

While the mechanical working platform on the northwest side and southwest side, iron structure and iron ladder works for safe movement to the first 'pidha' has been completed, the work for sand evacuation has been halted completely, sources said.

The process of sand removal is targeted to be completed within three years.

As per information, a tunnel measuring four feet by five feet will be made on the second 'Pidha' of the temple's western gate to reach out to the sand. And through this hole, sand and debris will be taken out. The entire work is being monitored and executed by the ASI.

Notably, the British had filled the Jagamohan with sand and sealed it in 1903 to protect it from collapsing.

Jagannath Mahotsav from Nov 8 to 13



Preparatory meet held
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The International Jagannath Mahotsav 2024 will be held in Bhubaneswar from November 8 to 13.

A preparatory meeting for the event was held here on Monday. The festival will be held at Kasturba (Ravana Podi) grounds in Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar. The event will feature 24 besha (forms) of Lord Jagannath, daily yajna, bhajans, mahari dance, sankirtan, and a devotees' conference.

Additionally, there will be stalls showcasing Lord Jagannath's 56 bhoga (offerings), books, paintings, handicrafts, and an Anandabazar.

Eminent speaker Baba Amritananda Das Maharaj

will deliver lectures on topics related to Lord Jagannath's Skanda Purana. A managing committee was formed to oversee the event's organisation, with Jagannath Pradhan as the chairman and former MLA Dr Dilip Srichandan as the working chairman. The meeting was attended by several notable personalities, including former MLA Jayanta Sarangi, Daitapati Bhabani Prasad Das Mahapatra, Rotarian Engineer Sudhanshu Sekhar Harichandan, intellectual Dr Narayan Mohapatra, Aditya Padhi, Prakash Srichandan, Pabitra Routaray, corporator Amaresh Jena and Nagen Kumar Sahu.

The meeting was presided over by Dilip Srichandan, and Pradeep Kumar Routaray extended the vote of thanks.

Girl harassed by goons at Khandagiri

Tags video to Deputy CM for action
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In yet another incident of the increasing hooliganism on the outskirts of the capital city, a girl has alleged harassment by a group of youths at the Khandagiri caves.

The victim has also sought intervention of Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on social media by tagging her with a video of the incident.

In her X handle, the victim said that when she had recently visited the Khandagiri caves with one of her cousins, they were subjected to verbal abuse and the anti-socials kept on pestering for their mobile

'Chit fund investors to get back money soon'

Necessary process has started: Samal
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
BJP State president Manmohan Samal on Wednesday said that the party is working to fulfill its promises made to the people of the state ahead of the 2024 polls.

The newly-formed BJP government will be completing 100 days in office in Odisha on Thursday (September 19). The saffron camp is upbeat and is all set to organise a special programme in Puri to make the day more special.

Samal told a press confer-



ence that already several promises like opening of the Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar and all four gates and Subhadra Yojana have been fulfilled.

The party had promised to

take necessary steps to return money to the victims of chit fund scam in the State and the duped investors would get back their money soon, he said.

"Already the Odisha Government has started the process of returning the money. A committee has been formed by the government in this regard. The committee is examining the legal side and necessary steps will be taken at the earliest," said Samal.

It is pertinent to mention here that the BJP had made the chit-fund scam a major election agenda against the previous BJD government.

74 lakh registered for Subhadra by now

Registers Deputy CM Pravati Parida
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Nearly 74 lakh women have already registered for the Subhadra Yojana, a flagship scheme of the Odisha Government for welfare of women, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida informed during the launch event graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Janata Maidan here on Tuesday.

The programme will benefit a total of more than 1 crore women of the State, she added.

The eligible beneficiaries of Subhadra Yojana, who have

registered their names by September 15, will get their first instalment of Rs 5,000 following the launch of the scheme by the PM.

However, there is no closing date for applying for the scheme.

The State Government will annually deposit Rs 10,000 in two instalments of Rs 5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day (March 8), in the accounts of the beneficiaries through DBT, totalling to Rs 50,000 in five years.

This financial assistance scheme for the women was one of the major poll promise of the BJP, which came to power in the State.

Khurania to remain DGP till Aug 2026

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The State Government has extended the service period of Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania till August 16, 2026.

A notification in this connection was issued by the Home Department on Wednesday.

The government extended the service period of Khurania till August 16, 2026 so that he



would complete the minimum tenure of two years as the DGP, the notification stated.

Khurania, a 1990-batch IPS officer, was appointed as the DGP in August this year. Prior to his appointment to the top post, he had served as the Special Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF) before being repatriated to his parent cadre Odisha on August 2.

This extension allows Khurania to continue leading the Odisha Police for a period of two years.

Vacant doctor posts to be filled soon: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Doctors are known for their sincerity and dedication. Their touch gives patients hope and courage. They should not lose the faith of common people, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at a function held in Baleswar on Wednesday to celebrate the

annual day of the Odisha Medical Service Association (OMSA).

Majhi said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, there has been a significant development in digital healthcare. Co-Win app, e-Sanjivani, Arogya Setu and e-hospital process has strengthened the healthcare system in the country.

He further said the State Government has to take many steps to improve healthcare in the State. The previous government neglected the basic facilities' development in the healthcare sector. All vacant posts of doctors and other medical staffs would be filled up soon.

In Kendrapada Youth dies due to 'loud DJ music'

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA
A 26-year-old youth died of heart attack and four others fell sick allegedly due to the loud disc jockeys (DJ) music during the immersion procession of Ganesh idol in Kendrapada district on Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Ramesh Das of Jajanga village in Kapaleswar GP under the Sadar police station. Ramesh and the other four persons failed to bear the high-decibel DJ sound and fell sick. They were rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, but Ramesh was declared dead by the doctors. Locals have blamed the administration for the incident and said preventive measures were not taken despite the guidelines of the Supreme Court and the Orissa High Court against the playing of loud DJ music.

Odisha to be med-tech manufacturing hub

First-ever roundtable joined by officials from various sectors
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a significant move to position the State as a medical technology (med-tech) manufacturing hub, Odisha-based think-tank FIDR released its national White Paper, "The Medical Device Industry in India's New Era," during the first-ever roundtable discussion held here.

The event signifies a major leap towards realising the State's industrial ambitions under the broader 'Make in India/Odisha' framework and aligns comprehensively with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Purvodaya Strategy and "Act East Policy" and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's vision of



Viksit Odisha by 2047.

FIDR, the Odisha headquartered global think tank, is advocating for Odisha's strategic role in the national MedTech revolution and also reinforcing the State's industrial self-reliance, fostering innovation, and supporting domestic manufacturing.

Director Siddhant Vernekar and Program Head Kananbala Patnaik anchored the RoundTable discussions with inputs from all the participants.

The RoundTable witnessed participation of officials from Health and Industries departments, med-tech majors including Transasia Bio Medicals Limited, Economists, AIIMS, civil society organisations, academia, startups and the media.

The discussion centered around building an ecosystem that reduces India's reliance on imported medical devices, stimulates domestic innovation, and positions Odisha as a key hub for MedTech manufacturing.

The report of the RoundTable with recommendations will be submitted to CM Majhi, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling and Secretaries to help prepare a blueprint and expedite development of med-tech in the State.

Utkal Varsity Prof axed for molesting student

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Utkal University authorities on Wednesday suspended an Associate Professor on the charge of molesting a girl student.

The development came after the internal committee submitted its report to the university Vice-Chancellor.

The concerned Economics Department Associate

Professor has been asked not to leave the headquarters. The girl student had earlier alleged that the incident occurred on August 16.

The girl had reportedly gone to the chamber of the Associate Professor to bring some books when the latter allegedly made sexual advances and warned her against telling anyone

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2nd AIIMS of State to come up at Sambalpur

News brings immense joy to W Odisha people
NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced establishment of a second All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Sambalpur on the occasion of Nuankhai while launching the CM Kisan Yojana.

The news has brought immense joy to the people of Sambalpur and western Odisha as it addresses their longstanding demand for improved healthcare facilities.

For years, the residents of western Odisha have been seeking better access to quality medical care, as the only AIIMS in the State, located in Bhubaneswar, is 300 km away.

Many patients have had to travel to Raipur, Cuttack, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, etc. for critical treatments. They often feel discouraged by the cost and distance involved.

Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling confirmed the second AIIMS, stating, "Preparations are already underway for the establishment of the second AIIMS in Sambalpur. We are identifying a suitable plot, and within the next five years, Odisha will become a leading hub in the healthcare sector."

Sources revealed that around 10,000 patients from western Odisha travel to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack for treatments at major hospitals like AIIMS Bhubaneswar, SCB MCH, Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Centre and Research Institute, Acharya Harihar PG

Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack and several private hospitals every day. They seek treatment from these hospitals for major diseases including cancer, kidney ailments, diabetes and trauma care.

Pakala Sika, an oral cancer patient from Sambalpur, shared her struggles, saying, "We face difficulties in travelling for chemotherapy over long periods. Staying in Waltair is expensive and unsustainable. An AIIMS in Sambalpur will be a blessing for patients like us; it would be quicker and more affordable medical treatment for people like us who belong to lower middle-class families."

The existing VSS Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR) in Sambalpur has often been criticised for its shortcomings.

Many have questioned why political leaders are airlifted to Bhubaneswar for treatment, highlighting the lack of sufficient facilities in VIMSAR.

A doctor at VIMSAR requesting anonymity stated that in Government-run hospitals like VIMSAR, senior medical staff are often involved in private practice, unlike AIIMS, where private practice is banned. This ensures doctors at AIIMS devote more time to patient care and research.

Moreover, the tertiary cancer unit in VIMSAR is not functional. There is no research on new disease and anaemia emerging in western Odisha, and there is a lack of a cardiothoracic department for which heart surgery is not taking place in VIMSAR. An AIIMS will be a blessing for people of western Odisha, he added.

Minor girl raped, murdered in Nabarangpur

3 persons detained
PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Tension prevailed after a minor girl was found raped and murdered under the Tentulikhunti police station in Nabarangpur district on Tuesday.

The matter came to the fore after the mutilated body of the victim was found near a bush behind a school.

The girl had gone missing in the afternoon. After a frantic search, her body with deep injuries on it was spotted.

While a towel was found stuffed inside the mouth of the deceased, her dress was discovered some meters away from the body.

Following the recovery of the body, the girl's family members brought rape and murder allegations and staged a road blockade demanding stringent action against the

miscreants. Police and a forensic team reached the spot and started an investigation into the matter.

"We recovered the body of a minor girl aged around 11 to 12 years. As per the complaints of the deceased's father, we have registered a case and investigation into the matter is ongoing said," said Nabarangpur SDPO Krushna Chandra Bhadra.

Nabarangpur MLA Gouri Shankar Majhi met the family members of the deceased and assured them of justice.

"The family members of the deceased and villagers are suspecting it as a case of rape and murder. I will urge the police to conduct a thorough probe and take appropriate action against the culprit," said Majhi.

Meanwhile, police have detained three persons in connection with the alleged rape and murder case.

IN BRIEF

RI, private person held taking Rs 30K bribe in Dhenkanal

Cuttack: The Vigilance police on Tuesday caught Barun Kumar Jena, Revenue Inspector (RI), Sadar Circle, Dhenkanal, along with one Balam Sahu, (a private person) while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000. Jena had demanded the bribe from a person for submission of a favourable inquiry report in a mutation case for conversion of agricultural land to homestead land and issuance of land Patta (RoR). Sahu was collecting bribes posing as a Peon of the RI office. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out on the residential house of Jena at Hata Road, Dhenkanal, and the residential house of Sahu at Bhaganpur, Dhenkanal. Both Jena and Sahu were later arrested and forwarded to court.

Man held for raping 6-yr-old girl in Gajapati

Paralakhemundi: The Paralakhemundi Model police arrested a person for allegedly assaulting a six-year-old girl during the Ganesh idol immersion ceremony on Sunday. The arrested was identified as B Sekhar (52) of Palasa in Andhra Pradesh. During the time of the ceremony, the minor girl suddenly went missing. After a frantic search, her family members found her in a Tata Magic van in a critical condition. Based on the victim's family's complaint, police began a probe and man-

Drive launched for solar rooftop in W Odisha

By TPWODL
PNS ■ BURLA

TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) has launched a mass awareness campaign to promote the adoption of solar rooftop solutions across western Odisha, tapping into the region's abundant solar resources. The campaign is a key initiative to advance solar energy adoption and support the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMGMBY), in alignment with the State's Renewable Energy (RE) Policy.

The campaign was inaugurated by CEO, TPWODL Parveen Verma and National Head Sales, Channel Business, Tata Power, Karthikeyan V, which aims to educate residents, as well as commercial and industrial entities, about



the advantages of solar power, the available subsidies, and the steps to take for installation.

As part of the campaign, early adopters of solar energy were recognised as "Green Champions" for their contributions to sustainability and eco-friendly practices. With western Odisha benefiting from 280 to 300 sunny days per year and its diverse landscape, the region is poised to become a leader in solar energy generation. The State's vast land resources, including industrial wastelands and reservoirs, also add to its significant potential for solar infrastructure development.

CUO hosts 'Gender and Globalisation' talk



PNS ■ KORAPUT

As part of its Distinguished Lecture Series, the Department of Sociology at the Central University of Odisha (CUO) in collaboration with the Research Committee 14 'Globalisation and Gender' of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS), hosted a lecture on "Gender and Globalisation" here on September 13. CUO Vice-Chancellor, Prof Chakradhar Tripathi extended his best wishes for the success of the programme.

The event featured an inaugural address by Prof Maitrayee Chaudhuri, president of the Indian Sociological Society and former Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Prof

Chaudhuri underscored the importance of understanding the nuanced and complex intersections between gender and globalisation.

The distinguished lecture was delivered by Professor of Eminence at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore, former ISS president, and former Professor of Sociology at the University of Mysore Prof Indira Ramarao. Prof Ramarao explored the intricate relationships between gender, globalisation and social inequalities.

A notable highlight of the event was a stimulating discussion led by renowned sociologist Prof R India, who emphasized the vital role of sociologists in contemporary society.

Youth's body with wounds seized in B'pur

1 detained; past rivalry suspected behind murder
RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAMPUR

A body of a youth was seized from a pond near Dengapada on the outskirts of Brahmampur under Sadar police station limits on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Sibashish Chaudhury (24), son of Ramakrishna Chaudhury from Lanjia village. The police detained one suspect. Police were conducting searches in multiple loca-

tions. Initial findings suggest that the murder may have stemmed from a past rivalry.

The incident follows a similar case on April 28, when Deepak Kumar Sahu alias Mandu, from Degpur village, was killed with a sword. That murder was linked to a political party State-level social media coordinator Bhabani Sahu, with whom Sibashish was associated in various activities.

Sibashish's connection to Bhabani is believed to have led to the rivalry and his murder. Bhabani, arrested after Deepak Sahu's murder, was

recently granted bail but had not returned home. Sibashish continued to associate with Bhabani despite warnings from rival groups to stay away.

On the night of the murder, a group led by Mandu Sahu, Muna Gaud, Shiva Naik, Ajit Sethi, and Satash Gaud from Degpur village reportedly visited Bhabani's house, threatening his family and vandalizing his property, including security cameras. Meanwhile, other members of the group invited Sibashish to a party, which he initially declined.

Under pressure, he was taken to an open field, where he was

assaulted.

Sibashish was given alcohol before being attacked with a sword, leaving deep wounds on his head, neck, chest, and hands. After the murder, the suspects placed his body on a bike and disposed of it in the Dengapada pond, SDPO Sudhansu Sekhar Parida informed.

Police recovered the sword from the scene. The body has been sent for post-mortem. Notably, one of the suspects is already linked to a case involving fake liquor production in Degpur village and is currently in jail.

Meeting for new students' orientation at FMU



PNS ■ BALESWAR

The new academic year is going to be started for the new joiners to various streams of Post Graduation courses at the FM University here.

In this context, a preparatory meeting was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor

Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy along with Chairman PG Council Prof Bhaskar Behera and all departmental heads, coordinators, officers, directors, controllers and teachers for detailed discussions.

A six-day orientation programme has been planned to provide all necessary information for the students about

the university. According to information, September 19, 20 and 21 will have a common orientation programme for all while the remaining three days will be meant for individual departmental orientation. The orientation programme will include details of curricular systems, facilities, research and development, in-

novation and innovations, overall campus life availabilities, NEP updates, infrastructure services, internal disciplinary rules, placement and career counselling, outreach initiatives and participation, value-added courses, student grievance policies and anti-ragging cell systems and other valuable information of the university.

4th Memorial Lecture Life, works of master painter Rao discussed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 4th Chandrasekhar Rao Memorial Lecture was organised by Ketaki Foundation Trust on September 16 here in the presence of many dignitaries, artists, art lovers, litterateurs and media personnel. Live broadcasting of the event was witnessed by netizens on Facebook.

Professor, Department of History of Art, Banaras Hindu University, Dr Pradosh Mishra presided over the function, sharing his insights into the enduring legacy of Chandrasekhar Rao. Bibhu Patnaik, eminent painter based in New Delhi delivered the 4th Chandrasekhar Rao

Memorial Lecture. His discourse 'Odia Parampara Dwara Anupranita Samakalina Chitrabhasha: Eka Bibechana' delved into the life and works of the master painter of yore Chandra Sekhar Rao. He emphasized the importance of contemporary art and the promotion of Odia art and culture. Dr Bhagyalipi Malla, museologist, writer-columnist, Superintendent of OSM, Odia Language Literature and Culture Department, Odisha graced the occasion as the chief guest. She expressed her admiration for the works of Rao and highlighted the importance of recognizing and nurturing Odia talents in the fields of art and culture.

In Kendrapada Palestine flag in Tajia rally stokes row

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

On Monday some Muslim members waived flags that look like the Palestinian flags while participating in the Tajia procession, which was held to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's Birth Day.

Intellectual masses and some Hindu organisations decried the act as it was done while the SP of Kendrapada, ASP and other senior officials were present on the spot. They neither seized the flag nor took any action against those who committed it, they lamented.

There are several instances in the country where action has been taken against the youths, who waved Palestinian flags during Muharram and Eid Miladun Nabi celebration. Persons involved in the



waving of foreign country's national flag during a religious procession should be taken into task, demanded the intellectual masses, apart from seeking a proper inquiry into the matter.

When contacted, Kendrapada SP Siddharth Kataria stated that the matter had not come to his notice. He directed the IIC of Kendrapada Town police station to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter.

In Keonjhar 40-yr-old tusker found sick by forest officials

NARESH PATTANAYAK ■ KEONJHAR

A sick 40-year-old tusker was found by forest officials moving in the Bardhana Reserve Forest under the Champua Range of Keonjhar Forest Division for the last few months.

It is suspected that the elephant's leg has been injured; hence, it is slowly walking. The cause of injury is not confirmed, but it is suspected that it might have fallen in a ditch or hit some hard object.

On Monday, the tusker was located in Barpada and Jhaliabeda areas under the Bardhana Reserve Forest. Although there is no problem with food and drink for elephants in the area, Forest



Department officials are monitoring the movement of elephants.

Keonjhar DFO Dhanrah HD said, "The tusker has been walking slowly due to old age since the last three months. We are monitoring its movement. It is limping mildly in the front right leg. No wound has been noticed. There is no issue as of now. If required, we will intervene at the appropriate time."

After the recent death of an elephant calf, the sickness of the tusker in the district has become a big headache for the forest officials.

'Artist Rath's show 'Rabi Kiran' unveiled

Event features paintings, sculptures, art installations, music, dance, poetry recitations
SNIGDHA NANDA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Governor Raghubar Das inaugurated "Rabi Kiran", a retrospective exhibition of artist and sculptor Rabi Narayan Rath at the Lalit Kala Kendra Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar on Monday.

The inauguration commenced with the screening of a short film on the decades-long life works of artist Rath. Admiring the works of the veteran artist and sculptor, the Governor said, "Art represents an artist's perspective of contemporary society. It is a cre-



ative way towards social awareness. Sculptor Rath's works are excellent examples of this."

Present on the occasion were Orissa High Court Judge Justice Sashikanta Mishra, eminent actor, director and politician Prashanta Nanda and renowned artist Jagadish Chandra Kanungo. They appreciated sculptor Rath's works.

Expressing his thoughts on the exhibition, eminent cine persona and politician Nanda said, "I am an admirer of Rabi Narayan Rath's works.

In Bhadrak Mob attacks cops for arresting 'innocent' man



PNS ■ BHADRAK

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police was beaten up by an irate mob at Chudakuti Bazaar in Dhamnagar of Bhadrak district for arresting an 'innocent' person on Wednesday.

As per reports, the ASI and another policeman had gone to arrest an accused. However, they picked up an innocent man instead.

Furious over the incident, locals allegedly attacked the ASI. When the cop accompanying the ASI tried to come to his rescue, he was also

thrashed.

"I was having a conversation with someone when the police came from nowhere and forced me to go with them. They even thrashed me. I don't know who the police officer is. They came in plainclothes and were drunk," said a local, Bijay Gahana, who was picked up by the police.

Getting information, the Dhamnagar SDPO rushed to the spot and rescued the cop duo. They were rushed to the Dhamnagar hospital. The police have detained one person in connection with the incident.

Whether it be watercolour, acrylic, oil painting or sculpting, irrespective of medium, his works speak volumes of his innovative artistic perspective. This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to experience the journey of his creative excellence."

Citing nature as the inspiration behind his art, Puri-born Visva Bharati alumnus noted artist and sculptor Rath said, "The painting and the sculpture that is once created is not limited to just the observer but open to be interpreted by multiple perceptions and dimensions. This exhibition is a visual display of my five decades journey with art."

From September 16 to 22, the exhibition will showcase prominent works of Rath, including paintings in different mediums, sculptures and art installations.

Alongside fine arts, the seven-day-long exhibition features instrumental and vocal music, classical dance and poetry performances by eminent artists.

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.

"Trimamool 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.



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.

'Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MP Mahua Maji alleged that the BJP is pushing for simultaneous polls as it wants to be the only party to rule in India.

"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 has 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 'ghabrayi 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.

"The high-level committee has recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies as the first step, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.



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.

Climate Central's latest analysis sheds light on the local impacts of rising temperatures, detailing how states and cities are confronting an alarming increase in dangerous heat days.

For instance, in India, several cities witnessed many days where temperatures were heavily influenced by climate change. Cities such as Thiruvananthapuram, Vasai-Virar, Kavaratti, Thane, Mumbai, and Port Blair were among the hardest hit, each enduring over 70 days of temperatures significantly intensified by climate change. Mumbai alone recorded 54 days of extreme heat linked to these changes.

Additionally, Kanpur and Delhi faced prolonged spells of dangerously high

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.

Vaibhav Pratap Singh, Executive Director, Climate and Sustainability Initiative (CSI), warned that the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident for people and businesses across the country. "Each year, we are experiencing more severe climate-related events such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, which are causing significant harm to lives and livelihoods.

"It is crucial to conduct assessments of how different levels of global warming are affecting our environment and combine this with an understanding of how it impacts people, jobs, and industries, including agriculture. This will help us identify the specific adaptation needs for different regions," he said.

According to a few reports, the extreme heat has jeopardized the health of billions, with India recording 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths this summer.

As the world grapples with increasing weather extremes, the combined effects of human-caused climate change and phenomena like the El Niño are expected to elevate temperatures globally, as per the report.

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 Sujoy to strengthen ties with Indonesian Coast Guard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Sujoy 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 Sujoy 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

(Glacial Lake Outburst Flood).

An amount of Rs 2,514.36 crore has been sanctioned under the integrated urban flood management project and urban flood risk management programme to help the states in preparing the integrated solutions for urban flood management in cities and urban areas, the official said.

'The Central government has also approved 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme' as an extension of existing programme of 'Upscaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme' with an outlay of Rs 470.50 crore.

'As part of an ambitious plan, 2.31 lakh volunteers exclusively from the National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) and 1,300 trainers will be given training in disaster response under 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme', another official said.

'Major outcomes under the ongoing schemes are: approximately 1,00,000 community volunteers will be trained and equipped in 350 multi-hazards disaster prone districts covering all the states and UTs under 'Aapda Mitra Scheme'.

'The Central government has also provided geographical based, instant alert on impending emergency and disaster through mobile phones.

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 appraised 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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday filed a police complaint over the recent statements of leaders belonging to the ruling NDA targeting Rahul Gandhi, alleging that they were aimed at jeopardising his security and disturbing peace in view of the polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and Haryana.

In the complaint submitted to the SHO of the Tughlaq Road police station here by AICC treasurer and general secretary Ajay Maken, the Congress cited the recent remarks by BJP leaders Tarvinder Singh Marwah, Ravneet Singh Bittu and Raghuraj Singh, as well as that of Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad.

Maken sought registration of

FIRs against the leaders. "Speaking with the media after filing the complaint, Maken said, "We all know that late Indira Gandhi ji and late Rajiv ji have sacrificed their lives for the country. Even after that, they are giving such threats."

"Politics in India cannot stoop to a lower level than this, he said. Not just one BJP leader, but many leaders have said such things, but BJP did not take any action, he said.

"Rahul Gandhi talks about SC, ST, OBC, tribal and minority people. That is why BJP people do not like his words. This is the reason why they are threatening him," he said. "But let me tell you -- this is the Congress party and we are not going to be scared or cowed down," Maken said.

'In the police complaint,



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 Ravneet Bittu's remarks, calling the Leader of Opposition the "number one terrorist of the country".

"Bittu deliberately made the statement to provoke public hatred and outrage against Mr Gandhi, with the aim to incite violence and breach of peace. The said statement was widely publicised on TV channels and social media," the complaint said.

'It cited Uttar Pradesh government minister Raghuraj Singh's remarks that Gandhi was the "number one terrorist of India".

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 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

study MBA. While analysis of Gurgaon seat candidate affidavits found that six of them have master's degrees, five are graduates, and the remaining did not pursue higher education. Mukesh Sharma a native of Dundahera village here in Gurgaon is the co-convenor of Haryana BJP's sports cell. Sharma's key rival and Congress candidate Mohit Grover (31) has a postgraduate degree in business management from

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 enthral 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.



DADLS-32



VIKSIT ODISHA @2036

New Initiatives, New Horizons

“Ours is a People’s Government committed to realisation of the aspirations of 4.5 crore people of Odisha and the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for “Viksit Bharat” @ 2047. We aspire to be a 1.5 trillion USD economy by 2047. The state will scale new heights of development by 2036 when we celebrate 100 years of State formation. Odisha’s all-round development will contribute immensely to achieve the goal of ‘Poorvodaya’ envisioned by our Prime Minister.”

Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi

THE JOURNEY OF 100 DAYS



Finance and Economy

- Budgetary outlay of **Rs 2.65 Lakh Crore** in FY 2024-25 to accelerate economic growth, ensure social justice and empower 'Narishakti' and 'Annadata'
- Viksit Odisha@2036 for Viksit Bharat@2047:** Odisha teams up with NITI Aayog to formulate vision document
- Aspire to be a **1.5 trillion US Dollar economy**



Odia Asmita

- Corpus of **Rs 200 Crore** for promotion of Odia art, literature, culture and heritage
- '**Heritage Development Scheme**' to re-develop century old schools



Janajati Vikas

- Financial incentive of **Rs 5,000** per student under '**Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana**' to reduce dropout among ST students at high school and higher secondary level
- Habitat Rights** granted to six **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**. Juanga in Jajpur and Kendujhar Districts, Chuktia Bhunjia in Nuapada, Saora in Gajapati, and Mankidia and Hill Kharia PVTGs in Mayurbhanj.
- 15 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) & 10 new Higher Secondary Schools made functional from current academic year
- For the PVTGs, **43 Van Dhan Vikash Kendras (VDVK)** and **61 Multi-Purpose Centres** coming up under PM-JANMAN
- PM JANMAN:** All-weather connectivity for **73 unconnected** PVTG habitations
- Tribal Research & Development Centre (TRDC) to be established at Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj



Subhadra Flagship scheme for empowerment of 'NariShakti'

- Rs 55,000 Crore committed** over 5 years
- More than **1 Crore Women to be benefited**
- Rs 1255.57 Crore** already transferred into the accounts of **25.11 Lakh women beneficiaries**



Public Grievances

- Chief Minister's Grievance Cell (CMGC)** fully functional from July 1, 2024 after a gap of 16 years
- Chief Minister's grievance hearing to be conducted at Sambalpur and Berhampur in future



Shree Jagannatha Temple, Puri

- Promise Fulfilled:** All four '**Dwaras**' of **Shree Jagannatha Temple, Puri** opened for devotees.
- Inner Ratna Bhandar of Jagannatha Temple, Puri opened
- Corpus of **Rs 500 Crore** for Promotion and Propagation of **Jagannatha culture**



Health

- Odisha to join '**Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**' (AB PMJAY) too. 'AB PMJAY' & 'Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana' to provide cashless treatment to about 1 Crore families in **27,000+ hospitals** across the country
- New Nursing Colleges** to be co-located with Medical Colleges at Jajpur, Balasore, Bolangir, Puri, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, and Talcher
- Corpus fund of **Rs 200 Crore** for Medical College and Hospitals to procure medical supplies



Social Security

- Social Security pension for persons above 80 years and more than 80% disability **enhanced from Rs 1,200 to Rs 3,500**
- Ex-gratia to construction workers: Increased from **Rs 4 Lakh to Rs 6 Lakh** for accidental death, and from **Rs 2 Lakh to Rs 3 Lakh** in case of natural death



Environment & Climate Action

About **4.15 Crore seedlings** planted under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, **highest in the country**



School Education

- Under Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) **500 primary schools** across the state to be transformed as **Centres of Excellence**
- '**Nipun Odisha**' a specially designed Government initiative to promote foundational literacy and numeracy
- '**Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya**' scheme for ensuring **quality education** in elementary schools



Higher Education

- MoU signed with the Ministry of Education, Government of India to implement Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (**PM-USHA**)
- In line with NEP 2020, syllabus for 40 undergraduate courses revised**
- To improve access to higher education, **18 new government colleges** made operational in uncovered blocks
- In principle decision taken to repeal the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020



Skill Development & Technical Education

- Kaushal Bhawan setup** at Bhubaneswar, a specialised hub to offer courses in Hospitality sector.
- Digital Skilling initiative** launched in **30 Skill Development Hubs**, offering **6,000+ courses to 30,000+ students** in Higher Education Institutions in line with NEP 2020



Water Resources

- Rejuvenation of **Hirakud Canal system** after 46 years, at a cost of **Rs 855 Crore** for efficient water management in Hirakud Command Area
- Forest Clearance obtained for **Brutanga Irrigation Project** with proposed Ayacut of 23,300 ha in the 5 drought prone blocks of Nayagarh district
- '**Mahanadi River Front Development**' project to be undertaken at Sambalpur and other places for promoting tourism



Housing & Urban Development

- '**AMRUT MITRA**' initiative under '**AMRUT 2.0**': **60 Projects of water body rejuvenation** through WSHGs
- PM e-Bus Seva: **400 e-Buses to be operational** soon in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampur
- Promoting Ease of Living:** Five important Municipal services related to building plan and trade licence notified under Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012
- Celebration of State Level Local Self Government Day has been initiated and Foundation stone laid for **136 Infrastructure development project** at an investment of **Rs 791.61 Crore. 22 Lakh people to be benefitted** across all cities
- Completion of **335 urban development projects** at an investment of **Rs 359 Crore** were expedited and dedicated to the people of Odisha by Hon'ble Chief Minister on August 31, 2024. **17 Lakh people benefitted** across all cities



Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- Rs 800 per quintal** to be paid for paddy over and above the MSP under '**Samrudha Krushak Yojana**', around **20 Lakh farmers to be benefited**
- Special saturation drive undertaken in the state, to include all eligible left out farmers under **PM-KISAN, around 5 Lakh farmers to be benefited**
- Rs 1,084 Crore** for revival of **defunct lift irrigation points**
- '**Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana**' launched for doubling the daily milk production in the state, more than **15 Lakh farmers to be benefited**
- MoU signed with NDDB for strengthening milk cooperatives and boosting milk production in the state, **1.5 Lakh dairy farmers to be benefited**
- Construction of the State-of-the-Art Hygienic Wholesale Fish Market at Basta, Balasore



Youth and Sports

- Allocation of **Rs 952 Crore** for the development of Grassroots Sports, Mini Stadiums, District level Sports Academies, state-of-the-art academies in four zones of the state.
- State of the art **multi-sports complex** planned in Sambalpur.
- '**Yuva Shakti Scheme**' for nurturing youth leadership and volunteerism, fostering culture of sports & sportsmanship. **Rs 100 Crore allocated**



Push For Renewable Energy

- Push for Renewable Energy for achieving national **Net Zero target**
- '**Odisha Akshaya Shakti Bikas Yojana**' launched with an outlay of **Rs 613 Crore**
- '**PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijili Yojana**' to be implemented in the state. Additional viability gap funding through '**Soura Shakti Protsahana Yojana**'



Boost to Trade And Industry

- 19,000+ jobs** to be created from **26 projects worth about Rs 5,992 Crore** approved by State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA)
- FDI Park in State Capital Region** for industries like automobile, EV, semiconductor, and IT sectors
- Two **Garment Manufacturing Parks** at Kalibati and Bhuinpur in Khordha District to create huge employment opportunities
- Mega food parks** to be set up to promote ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products
- Establishment of **11 new MSME parks** and enhancement of existing MSME parks
- Multi Modal Logistics Parks** for facilitating trade and logistics across **8 key locations** planned under '**Connect Odisha**' Scheme
- India's first Integrated Silicon Carbide Manufacturing Facility** launched at Info Valley EMC Bhubaneswar
- Setting up of **200 Acre dedicated Semiconductor Park** at Aranga near Bhubaneswar
- 10 million sq ft** of plug and play space for tech industries. **50,000 new jobs** to be created in IT/ITeS/Electronics manufacturing sector in next 5 years
- Industrial corridor** connecting Rourkela, Sambalpur, Paradip and Dhamra by June 2027
- Construction of **Workers' Hostels** under Deen Dayal Karmachari Niwas in Industrial Townships of Kalinganagar, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Bhubaneswar, Jagatpur, Keonjhar and Damanjodi
- Gopalpur Port being developed to **handle 50 MMT cargo**



Boost to Employment and Livelihood

- Massive Recruitment Drive: **1.5 Lakh Government jobs** in 5 years. **65,000 posts** to be filled up in the first two years and **20,000** by December 2024
- 10% horizontal reservation to ex-Agniveers** along with 3 year age relaxation and exemption from physical ability test for recruitment in all Group 'C' and 'D' posts of the uniformed services of the state
- Lakshpati Didis: **25 Lakh Women** to turn **Lakshpati Disid by 2027**. Allocation of **Rs. 1,162 Crore** for generating economic activities and enhancing the reach of SHG products



Major Government of India Initiatives

- Record allocation of **Rs. 10,586 Crore** for railway infrastructure in Odisha in 2024-25
- Eight New railway projects worth **Rs 19,000 Crore** approved, focusing on unconnected aspirational districts and tribal areas.
 - Bargarh Road-Nuapara Road (138 km) new line
 - Sardega-Bhalumuda (37 km) new double line
 - Gunupur-Therubali (73.6km) new line
 - Junagarh- Nabarangpur (116.2km) new line
 - Badampahad-Kendujhargarh (82km) new line
 - Bangiriposhi-Goramahisani (85.6km) new line
 - Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram via Bhadrachalam (173.6km) newline
 - Budhamara-Chakulia (60km) new line
- Three more **Vande Bharat Express trains** to improve **connectivity of Odisha**
 - Berhampur - Tatanagar Vande Bharat Express (via Kendujhargarh)
 - Rourkela - Howrah Vande Bharat Express
 - Raipur - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (Connecting Khariar Road, Kantabanji, Titilagarh, Kesinga and Rayagada in Odisha)
- New **National Highway** projects to **improve road connectivity and spur economic growth** of the state
 - Six-lane 60 km Bhubaneswar-Puri highway at an estimated cost of Rs 1,800 Crore
 - 200 km Chandikhole-Barbil at Rs 10,000 Crore
 - Four-lane 54 km Khurda-Nayagarh NH-57 at Rs 1,100 Crore
 - Four-lane 46 km Kesinga-Junagarh NH-26 at Rs 1,000 Crore



Rural Development

- '**Setu Bandhan Yojana**': **500 new bridges** to be constructed to improve rural connectivity.
- PMGSY-4:** All-weather connectivity to 1523 unconnected habitations
- '**Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha**': **Rs 1,000 Crore** for building rural infrastructure and ensuring holistic development
- Around **1 Lakh houses** completed in **last 100 days** under PMAY(G)
- '**Antyodaya Gruha Yojana**': Housing for left out low income households with budgetary support of **Rs 100 Crore**
- In **last 100 days**, Household Tap Connection to more than **1.25 Lakh households** provided through a combination of Mega, Single and Solar Piped Water Supply projects



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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 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

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-mouthing 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

Showdown over Rahul's remarks in the US



KALYANI SHANKAR

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



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)



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

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)

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, as he dismissed the former prime minister's accusation that the government was pushing to amend the constitution to keep him in prison.

Geo News quoted Asif as saying Khan should reflect on what chaos he created in the last four years, he said, adding there was an attempted rebellion against the state on May 9 last year. Khan is facing several cases in connection with the May 9 violence in which supporters of his party allegedly attacked military installations following his arrest.

what may. Defending the coalition government's move to make judiciary-centric constitutional amendments, Asif said that the changes are aimed at maintaining a balance of power among institutions, not just at ensuring accountability. Claiming that the PTI was willing to support the constitutional package, he said that "the former ruling party has requested the government to postpone the amendment until December."

court from delivering its verdict in a case of alleged corruption against former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. The move comes after Khan and his wife petitioned the Islamabad High Court to stay the proceedings of the Al-Qadir Trust case and acquit them.

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. The lawyers of Khan and Bibi said that they should be acquitted from the case on which the court has issued notices to the parties made in these petitions.

Bangladesh's interim gov't 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 and prevent "subversive acts".

(Ansar) officers and 25th batch sepoy recruits at the Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Academy in Safipur, Chowdhury said, "The Army has been given the magistracy power to ensure public service and maintain the law and order."

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," Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said.

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 over China's increasingly assertive military actions around Japan, officials said.

coast of the disputed Japanese-controlled islets it calls the Senkakus, the ministry said. China claims the same islets, calling them the Diaoyus. Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Moriya told reporters that "the latest incident is absolutely unacceptable from the perspective of the national and regional security."

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 and discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties.

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 due 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 ग्रंथी, संभाग क्र. 1, भद्रभद्रा रोड, भोपाल
क्र./1145/तशा/प.च./2024 दिनांक : 14.09.2024
विज्ञप्ति
इस कार्यालय द्वारा गुजरबंदरिया (मंदसौर), मल्हारगढ़ (मंदसौर), साबाखेड़ा (मंदसौर), डिंडोरी एवं बड़नगर (उज्जैन) स्कूल में फर्नीचर प्रदाय एवं स्थापित करने का कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा क्रमांक 2024_MPPHC_369947_1 दिनांक 21.09.2024 समय अपरान्ह 17:00 बजे तक खरीदी जा सकती है। निस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं अन्य विवरण Portal : www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
म.प्र. माध्यम/116476/2024 परियोजना ग्रंथी

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
LOST & FOUND
PUBLIC NOTICE
Reg-Upper Ground Floor (without rooftop terrace rights), (with one reserve Car Parking at left side still area) said floor. Built up Property Bearing No. 11, area measuring 55 sq.yds., out of Khadra No. 105/01, Situated in the area of Village Palam, Delhi State, Delhi, colony known as in Block-E, Vishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").
It is known to all that our clients, Mr Govind Singh and Mrs. Rekha Devi (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mrs. Jyoti Sharma and Mr. Jugal Kishore Sharma (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners in respect of the said floor. The seller has further informed the purchaser that the said floor was inherited by his legal heirs viz., Mrs. Savitri Sharma, Mr. Uditi Sharma, Ms. Savitri Sharma and Mrs. Jyoti Sharma, Later on, Mrs. Savitri Sharma, Mr. Uditi Sharma, Ms. Savitri Sharma executed a Relinquishment Deed in favour of Mrs. Jyoti Sharma in respect of the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE
Date: 19.09.2024
Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-
NIT No. Brief Tender Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/24-25/FK/PPR/MS/1224 RATE CONTRACT FOR REPLACEMENT OF Old CEILING FANS OF BRPL CONSUMERS WITH BEE 5 STAR RATED SUPER ENERGY EFFICIENT BLDG (26W & 28W) FANS in BRPL 4.50 Crores 9,00,000/- 25.09.2024 15:00 HRS 25.09.2024 15:30 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹1180/-
For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brol.Eaution@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submit on of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that our client Sh. Arun Goyal has paid off all dues towards home loan availed from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd (formerly known as DHFL LTD). Home loan account number U10 1290001272 App number 00816047. The above mentioned Home loan was taken for property located in Gurgaon - Flat No. 1222, 12th Floor, Lower 18, Soire Woods, Sector-103, Gurgaon, Haryana 122005. Mr. Arun Goyal was a co-applicant both in the property and home loan application along with his father, Late Sh. Arun Kumar Goyal. His father had died on 09-09-2013 at Delhi. As per surviving member certificate no. 0060000245478 the only heirs are Suman Goyal, Anmol Goyal and Divya Goyal. & Death was registered at MCD bearing regd no. MCDOLR-013-040610129. Deceased was known by two names i.e. ARUN KUMAR GOYAL AND ARUN GOYAL; both were same person. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof by sale, transfer, mortgage, inheritance, family arrangement, possession, or otherwise are hereby requested to notify the same to us in writing with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date thereof. Failing which, the claims/claims of the said persons will be considered to have been waived or abandoned.
Dhan Singh Nagar (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
We at Eye 7 Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi-110024 are going to destroy all medical record with us Date 01/10/2013 to 31/08/2019. If anyone needs a copy of the same, Please collect from the hospital within next 30 days.
M.S. Eye 7 Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Karun Mahesh Dhingra D/o Late Sh. Himmat Ram & W/o Late Sh. Mahesh Kumar Dhingra R/o H-42, GF, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 19 is the owner of DDA Janta Flats J-4/G/6B, Kalkaji, New Delhi -19 vide DDA File no. F-31 (82)/75. The original Allotment Letter, DDA Possession Letter, NOC, Set Position of the above said property has been lost or misplaced by me and is not traceable insight of my best efforts. An F.I.R./N.C.R. to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi, LR No.2106620/2024 dated 10.09.2024.
Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address /Phone No.9810066107 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

ELECTRICAL WORKS AT NEW GUWAHATI
E-Tender Notice No. EL-GH-959R1 of 2024-25 Dated: 07-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Name of work: At New Guwahati: Electrical work in connection with construction of additional 3 nos. pit lines with cover shed, 4 nos stabling lines, 02 nos. automatic washing plant-Phase I. Tender Value: ₹6,47,71,293/- Earnest Money: ₹4,73,900/- . Date of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 30-09-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE, Guwahati

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Plot No. 13, Near Sai Mandir, Main Road, Savita Vihar Delhi - 110092
CIN: L8510KA1924PLC0011228
Website: www.karnatakabank.com
CORRIDGENDUM
With reference to "Notice Regarding Locker Operation" advertisement of Karnataka Bank Ltd. Published in Pioneer (English & Hindi) Delhi Edition Newspaper - on 20-06-2024. In the advertisement it is wrongly mentioned as Locker Number 283 instead of 282. All other matter of the advertisement will remain unchanged.
Date: 19.09.2024 Karnataka Bank Ltd. Place: Delhi Savitha Vihar Branch

UP GRADATION OF EXISTING POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM
Tender Notice No.: Dy. CEE/PS/MLG/HQ/22R/24-25, Dated: 16-09-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Tender No.: DYCEEP-PS-MLG-HQ-22R-24-25. Name of Work: At CH(Maligaon) : Up gradation of existing power supply system for Central Hospital, Maligaon. Advertised Value: ₹. 98,17,71,717/- Earnest Money: ₹. 1,96,400/- . Date and time of closing of tender at 15:00 on 08-10-2024. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. CEE/PS/MLG/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

THE SECOND SCHEDULE (See Section 47b) Form No.4
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Sec.82)
HON'BLE SMT. S.R.BADVE (14TH JOINT C.J.J.D. AND J.M.F.C. COURT, PUNE)
S.C.C No.29667/2019
M/s Industrial Electronic & Allied Products Versus Complainant
Mrs. Nirmala Mehrotra and Anr.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that 1. Mrs. Nirmala Mehrotra and 2. Mr. Uday Mehrotra both having last address E 484, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi- 110048, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of Dishonour of Cheque punishable under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. Mrs. Nirmala Mehrotra and Mr. Uday Mehrotra cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said 1. Mrs. Nirmala Mehrotra and 2. Mr. Uday Mehrotra have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. Mrs. Nirmala Mehrotra and 2. Mr. Uday Mehrotra of E 484, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi- 110048, is required to appear at Hon. J. J. D. and J. M. F. C. Court, Pune Joint C. J. J. D. and J. M. F. C. Court, Pune before this Court (or before me) to answer the said complaint on the 22nd day of October Dated, this 9th day of September 2024.
(Signature) (S.R.Badve)
(Seal of the Court) 14' JMFC

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 against the work- Comprehensive Operation and AMC of ETP with capacity 50 KLD at ROH/New Jalpaiguri for a period of 02 (Two) years treated as cancelled on administrative ground. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DME/Katihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General public is hereby informed that my clients: Shakti Chand Chandel s/o Late Shri Amil Chand Chandel and Lata Devi Chandel w/o Shakti Chand Chandel, have severed all relations with their son-Vishal Chandel aged 26 years, due to his adamant attitude & his acts and decision are beyond the control of my clients. Hence they disowned and disinherited him from all movable and immovable properties and ceased their all relations with him. Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever may be, may do so at their risk. My clients are in no way responsible for his any acts and agreements or deeds.
Sudhir Kumar Sangal, Advocate
151, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Puri, Lajpat Nagar-2, New Delhi-110024.
Enrollment: D/6653/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
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, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-
S.No. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date
01 14240839 METAL CUTTING GAS 108458 KGS 09-10-24
02 77245628 MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY OF 11200 MM CURVED THICK 20 SET 22-10-24
03 08241521 PROCUREMENT OF SSD AC 118 NOS/SET 22-10-24
04 08240027 PROCUREMENT OF SHUNT LED SIGNAL 3476 NOS 25-10-24
05 08240026 PROCUREMENT OF ROUTE LED 4878 NOS 28-10-24
Note:1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 Dated: 17/09/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2899/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (http://ireps.gov.in) for the allotment of under mentioned contracts at following Railway stations/locations:
E-Catalogue No. Date & Time of bidding Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-17-2024 04.10.2024 at 11:00 Hrs Badali 2nd Entry, Kunkhacheta Site-1, Tuglakabad = Total 3 Sites
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen https://ireps.gov.in/
All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfill following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids :- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module. - Payment of One Time Registration Fee. - Current Account in State Bank of India. - Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account. - Lien Marking of Funds. - Updation of Turnover Details. - Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.
Railway Authority Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial to contact, in case Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. of any enquiry Email: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084
No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/2022 Dated: 17.09.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2904/24

UNIT OF INDIAN TEAM HELPED THEM PREVAIL IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL: HARMANPREET

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh credited India's recent success to strong team camaraderie, emphasising that their deep bond and willingness to "die for one another" helped them overcome China to win the Hero Asian Champions Trophy for a record-extending fifth time. India rode on Jugraj Singh's late strike to defeat China 1-0 in a tense final in Hulunbuir on Tuesday. Pakistan won the bronze medal with a 5-2 win over South Korea. "The final was really intense; the Chinese were breathing down our necks throughout the game and made it really difficult for us to create a clear goal scoring chance," Harmanpreet said in a Hockey India release. "But the team over the last year has built immense trust in each other. We are willing to die for one another. It was this sense of unity reassuring us that we will find a way to win the game together." Harmanpreet said India's successful run in last year has instilled a strong belief among players. "The gold medal in last year's Asian Champions Trophy in



Chennai, the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games and the bronze from the Paris 2024 Olympics have instilled

a deep camaraderie within the team. Harmanpreet, who has been shortlisted for FIH's Player-

of-the-Year Award after scoring 10 goals at Paris, once again led from the front as the team remained unbeaten in

the competition. Out of India's 26 goals in the competition, Harmanpreet scored seven and all were

from penalty corners. Harmanpreet said it is now crucial for India to keep building on the success. "We are proud to have retained our title but the work doesn't stop now," he said. "We have areas we need to improve; we need to build depth in our squad as well. The team will head back to camp after a short break and start preparing for the tournaments ahead to make our supporters proud again," he added.

India vice-captain Vivek Sagar Prasad said the Olympics bronze medal made India the "team to beat" in the tournament. "All the teams in the group stage were tough to play against. The bronze medal from the Olympics painted a target on our backs; we were the team to beat," he said. "But every single person on the team stepped up to make it seem like we were cruising past our opponents. The youngsters slotted in seamlessly, Krishan and Suraj alternated to bail us out of tricky situations."

"The defenders remained reliable, and the midfielders and forwards ran riot on the pitch. All in all, it was very enjoyable," he added.



Man United routs third division Barnsley 7-0 in English League Cup

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag savored the "perfect night" after routing third-division Barnsley 7-0 in the English League Cup. It was United's biggest margin of victory under the Dutchman, who has been in charge for more than two years. Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Christian Eriksen all scored two goals each in the third round match at Old Trafford, with Antony also on target. "Not for me, but for the team, this is the perfect night. I think we could do everything that we planned to do. We won, (we are in) next round, scored some great goals, entertained the fans and we worked on our game model, so we are happy," Ten Hag said.

The size of the victory surpassed United's previous best under Ten Hag: 4-1 wins against Real Betis and Chelsea in his first season at the club. It was the biggest since a 9-0 win over Southampton under former manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in 2021. Encouragingly for Ten Hag, Rashford's scoring touch appears to have returned after a troubled season last year when he managed just nine goals.

Rashford's double came after he ended a 12-game barren run with a goal against Southampton over the weekend. "Football is football. Sometimes you have ups and sometimes downs, but we have to use these games to get momentum and consistency," Rashford said. Garnacho also scored in that 3-

0 win in the Premier League and emulated Rashford by making it three goals in his last two games. Eriksen struck twice late on. Rashford blasted United in front after cutting inside Marc Roberts in the 16th minute. Antony doubled the lead when winning and then converting a penalty in the 35th. Garnacho poked home from close range in the second minute of first-half stoppage time. United overpowered Barnsley after the break with Garnacho scoring his second when racing through on goal in the 49th. Rashford scored again in the 58th.

It was the first time Rashford has scored more than one goal in a game since February 2023. Eriksen's double came in the 81st and 85th. Bottom of the Premier League and without a point, Everton's troubled campaign went from bad to worse after it was eliminated by second-to-last Southampton - losing 6-5 on penalties.

The Merseyside team had taken the lead through Abdoulaye Doucoure in the 20th at Goodison Park, but Taylor Harwood-Bellis evened the game in the 32nd. Southampton goalkeeper Alex McCarthy saved Ashley Young's penalty in sudden death to seal Everton's fate. Eberechi Eze struck the winner as Crystal Palace beat second-division Queens Park Rangers 2-1 and Brentford survived an early scare against third-tier Leyton Orient to win 3-1. Brandon Cooper fired Orient ahead in the 11th, but Fabio Carvalho, Mikkel Damsgaard and Christian Norgaard eased Brentford to victory.

Harry Kane scores 4 goals in Bayern's 9-2

AP ■ MUNICH

Harry Kane broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player when the Bayern Munich striker scored four times against Dinamo Zagreb. It was one of several records broken as Bayern routed Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in one of the highest-scoring games in Champions League history — and an emphatic start to European competition for new coach Vincent Kompany. "Amazing game, a bit of a crazy game for sure," Kane told broadcaster DAZN. "To score all those goals in the end was a great night." Kane took his tally to 33 in the competition by scoring in the 19th, 53rd, 73rd and 78th minutes - three of the goals were penalties - to surpass Rooney's record of 30. "To be honest, after the second

(penalty) I didn't really know what to do with the third one, but thankfully I was able to put it away," Kane said. Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot to give Bayern the lead over the Croatian club after his teammate Aleksandar Pavlovic was fouled by Ronaël Pierre-Gabriel. That drew Kane level with Rooney's record of 30, and he scored his 31st on a rebound after goalkeeper Ivan Nevistic parried Joshua Kimmich's shot in the 57th. Kane scored two more from the penalty spot to extend his record. Four other Bayern players scored in the emphatic win and there were two goals for new signing Michael Olise on his Champions League debut after signing from Crystal Palace. Leon Goretzka's header in stoppage time made Bayern the first team to score nine goals in the Champions League era. Some teams, including Bayern, achieved that feat in the old



European Cup. It was the highest-scoring game in the competition in terms of total goals since Borussia

Dortmund beat Legia Warsaw 8-4 in 2016, according to UEFA. The 31-year-old Kane has scored 12

Champions League goals since moving to Bayern a year ago and scored 21 before that for Tottenham. Kane now has 53 goals in 50 games in all competitions since moving to Bayern. Kane has scored nine goals in his last three games for club and country including two for England against Finland in his 100th international game and a hat trick Saturday for Bayern against Holstein Kiel in the Bundesliga. Kane and Kylian Mbappé were joint top scorers in last season's Champions League with eight goals each. Another record was broken when Thomas Müller came off the bench to play his 152nd Champions League game for Bayern. That's the most for a player for one club, breaking a tie with former Barcelona player Xavi Hernandez. Müller has made the joint fourth-most appearances in the competition of any player.



Tvesa, Pranavi lead Indian challenge in Spain

PTI ■ DÉNIA (SPAIN)

Tvesa Malik and Pranavi Urs will spearhead the Indian challenge at the La Sella Open, starting Thursday, as the Ladies European Tour (LET) resumes action after a break for the Solheim Cup. Tvesa and Pranavi, who have had modest seasons, will be joined by Ridhima Dilawari and invitee Seher Atwal. Diksha Dagar has taken a break while Vani Kapoor and Amandeep Drall are playing on the domestic Hero WPG Tour. Seher, a winner on the domestic Hero WPGT like Tvesa, Pranavi and Ridhima, will go out with April Angurasarane of Thailand and Emily Penttila of Finland, while Tvesa plays with Blanca Fernandez of Spain and Tiffany Chan of Hong Kong at the La Sella Golf Resort. Pranavi tees off with Dortha Forbrigg of Norway and Agathe Sauzon of France from the first tee with Ridhima Dilawari with Linda Osala of Finland and Kim Metraux of Switzerland. After the Solheim Cup took place at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, in the United States, the Tour returns to Europe.

La Sella Open came on the LET calendar in 2023 and returns this year with the 72-hole stroke play competition taking place at La Sella Golf Resort. A field of 132 players will be teeing it up with a cut to the top 60 professionals and ties at the end of the second round. Defending champion Nuria Irturiz returns to the tournament where she won her fourth LET title in 2023. Irturiz, one of 15 Spanish players in the field this week, is joined by fellow LET winners Marta Martin, Ana Peláez Trivino, Carmen Alonso and Maria Hernandez. The field includes former LET Order of Merit winners Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand and Lee-Anne Pace of South Africa. Nine winners from the 2024 LET season are in town, including Order of Merit and Rookie of the Year leader Chiara Tamburlini. England's Annabel Dimmock won her last start at the KPMG Women's Irish Open and will be hoping to continue her form. Germany's Helen Briem is an invite this week and the teenager has already made history winning four times on the LET Access Series in 2024.

Roma fires Daniele De Rossi after going winless in its opening 4 Serie A matches

AP ■ ROME

Roma fired coach Daniele De Rossi on Wednesday in a move that was surprising despite the Giallorossi going winless in their opening four Italian league matches. De Rossi, a former Roma captain, was hired in January to replace the fired Jose Mourinho and impressed so much during the second half of last season that he was given a contract extension in June through 2026-27. "The club's decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages," Roma said. "A heartfelt thank you to Daniele, who will always be at home at the Giallorossi club, for the work done in recent months with passion and dedication." Roma added that "communication regarding the team's technical guidance will follow." Roma hosts Serie A leader Udinese on Sunday. One possible replacement for De Rossi could be former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri,

who was fired for his ugly outburst toward the referees in the Italian Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico in May. Former AC Milan coach Stefano Pioli, who was reportedly close to signing with Al-Nassr — the Saudi Arabian club that Cristiano Ronaldo plays for — could be another option. After opening with a scoreless draw at Cagliari, Roma was beaten 2-1 at home by Empoli. Draws at Juventus (0-0) and Genoa (1-1) followed - leaving Roma with only three points and in 16th place. De Rossi had transformed Roma into a better attacking unit than Mourinho's defensive teams but this season has produced only two goals. Next week, Roma opens its Europa League campaign against Athletic Bilbao at the Olimpico. Romelu Lukaku's loan spell at Roma ended after last season but talented striker Paulo Dybala stayed with the club after considering a move to Saudi Arabia. Roma's American owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin have often made surprising decisions.

FIFA teams up with UN health agency for campaign to educate world soccer about concussion

AP ■ GENEVA

FIFA teamed up with the World Health Organization on Wednesday for a campaign to educate the soccer industry about the risks of concussion injuries. "Concussion is a public health issue of concern at all levels of football, and many other sports, requiring greater levels of awareness and action," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. Ten years after the alarming case in the 2014 World Cup final of Germany player Christoph Kramer, world soccer governing body FIFA is sending a toolkit to each of its 211 national federations to help teach at all levels of soccer that symptoms of a head injury can take up to 72 hours to appear. Kramer continued to play in the final against Argentina for 14 minutes after being injured despite being in clear distress. Match referee Nicola Rizzoli later said he alerted Germany players after Kramer asked if he was playing in the final. At the 2022 World Cup, Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand was treated for several minutes on the field after clashing heads with a teammate, then continued to play on against England before finally being replaced. FIFA favors letting teams make an extra substitution to remove immediately a player with a suspected head injury. That lets team medical staff

evaluate injuries at length without the pressure of trying to send players back into the game. At soccer's rules-making panel, known as IFAB, FIFA has consistently blocked proposals to allow temporary substitutions that would let injured players with a suspected concussion be assessed just for several minutes before potentially returning to the game. FIFA medical advice is that symptoms can take up to 72 hours to develop. "The symptoms of a concussion can change or evolve within the minutes, hours, days and even weeks after the traumatic event," FIFA said of the new "Suspect and Protect" campaign.

Asian Games medallist Kiran fails dope test



Punia missing from latest list of suspended athletes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian Games bronze-winner shot-putter Kiran Baliyan has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for testing positive for a banned substance as a slew of athletes across sports figured in the latest list of dope offenders. Surprisingly, Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia's name is missing from the latest update though he figured in a previous list issued by the NADA recently. The NADA had, on June 23, suspended Punia for a second time, three weeks after its Anti-Disciplinary Doping panel (ADDP) had revoked his suspension on the grounds that he was not served a "notice of charge" by the national body. NADA had on April 23 suspended the Tokyo Olympics bronze-medallist wrestler for his refusal to give his urine sample for dope test during the selection trials held in Sonapat on March 10. The sport's global governing body United Wrestling World (UWW) had also suspended him.

Bajrang, who, along with Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, spearheaded a long protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly sexually harassing women grapplers, had appealed against the provisional suspension and the ADDP had revoked it on May 31 till NADA issues the notice of charge. The 25-year-old Baliyan, who had become only the second Indian to win a medal in women's shot put in the Asian Games at Hangzhou last year, returned positive for metandienone, an anabolic androgenic steroid banned at all times. She had won gold at the 2023 National Inter-State Championships and a silver in the 2024 Federation Cup. She stares at a maximum ban period of four years, if she is proven guilty. Hammer thrower Manju Bala, who had won a bronze in 2014 Incheon Asian Games, also figured in the list. She tested positive for dehydrochloromethyltestosterone (steroid) and SARMS (ligandrol).

Shalini Chaudhary, who won silver at the Federation Cup this year, also tested positive for the steroid metandienone. Long-distance runner Chavi Yadav tested positive for drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid. Other top Indian track and field athletes like javelin thrower D P Manu, quarter-miler Deepanshi and middle-distance runner Parvej Khan have been serving provisional suspensions. In wrestling, 2023 U20 World Championships bronze medallist Arju tested positive for stanozolol. Badminton makes a rare entry with doubles player Krishna Prasad Garaga, a member of the Indian team that won gold in 2022 Thomas Cup, testing positive for Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG). Wushu players T Menaka Devi, Manjinder Singh and Goutam Sharma figured in the list as the sport has seen a surge in doping cases recently. Bhupendra Singh Byadwal (pencak silat), Ashish Phugat (rowing) and Ribason Singh Ningthoujam (canoe) are also among those who have been provisionally suspended by the NADA.

India look to spin a new story but tricky Bangladesh no pushovers

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Littered largely with lopsided contests, India's hopes of walking down that familiar path will hinge on sorting an uncharacteristic batting infirmity against spin when they face Bangladesh in a two-Test series starting here from Thursday. Bangladesh, who are fresh from a recent 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan, are no pushovers this time and this will add to India's list of concerns as they look to take that bold first step into a long season that features 10 Tests, including a possible berth in the World Test Championship Final. India's 40-4 (win-loss) home record in the last decade is awe-inspiring but there is an ever-little crack, which is getting more pronounced in the past three years, particularly in the case of star batter Virat Kohli. Kohli was a constant in India's bull run at home since 2015, crunching runs for fun against all comers. But since 2021, his numbers against spin have dipped - an average of 30 in 15 Tests in this period. This is not to hold against

Kohli's extraordinary qualities as a batter, but it's an area that the champion cricketer himself will certainly want to improve upon. Skipper Rohit Sharma has also been prolific in dismantling spin, especially since his promotion as an opener in 2017 against South Africa. He averaged over 90 against tweakers. But since 2021, it has come down to a less flashy 44 in 15 matches. KL Rahul, a batter who is backed by Rohit as equally proficient against spin and pace, offers a slightly bleaker picture. In the last three years, he has played five Tests at home but against the slower kind, the elegant right-hander's average has taken a beating and stands at 23.40. Collectively, these stats need to be taken as an indication of waning skills but, perhaps, also as a reminder to refocus on perfecting the art of playing spin, often the core strength of batters from this part of the world. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had stressed on this point recently after India's debacle against Sri Lankan



spinners in a three-match ODI series which they lost 0-2. There are bright points too in Rishabh Pant (five matches, average 70), Shubman Gill (10

matches, average 56) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (five matches, average 115). However, the numbers of Jaiswal and Gill are constituted

by their breakaway series against England earlier this year, but the Three Lions did not have an experienced spin attack to lean upon.

In contrast, Bangladesh have much more potent spinners in left-armers Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who can

hurt any opposition on their day. Here, India will bank on the firepower and innovative approach of Pant to unsettle and eventually take down the visiting spinners as the Delhiite is expected to return to Test cricket for the first time since his horrific car accident in 2022. In the bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are certain to figure in the first eleven, and it's as formidable a unit as one would get irrespective of conditions. India will ponder over whether to go with a third seamer in either Akash Deep or Yash Dayal, considering that the MA Chidambaram Stadium may offer a red-soil pitch, or field a third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav as is the prevailing trend in a home Test. India can also consider the option of giving another run to Axar Patel as it can give a fillip to late order batting against a Bangladesh attack that also has two express quicks in Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud. New head coach Gautam Gambhir too might have a small but significant personal goal in front of him, that is to

start the first Test series under his tutelage on a winning note, after returning from Sri Lanka with a tad underwhelming 1-1 record from a white ball tour. An obsessed pursuant of victory, he will want to set it right. Rohit might carry a contrarian view on such individual targets and dress rehearsals, but India's effort in this series, first in six months for them in the traditional format, will certainly be a strong pointer to the course for the season ahead. **TEAMS (FROM):** **India:** Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal. **Bangladesh:** Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Momtaz Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.



Rishabh Pant braces for Test return after 632 days

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A harsh sun beating down on him, Rishabh Pant was engrossed preparing for his first Test in two years, taking down net bowlers in that unmistakably Pant-ish way. From getting tossed up some 40m into air off a toppled car to getting back to cricket field at the highest level is nothing less than extraordinary. It was hard to believe that 632 days have passed since Pant has played a Test match, and, coincidentally, his last five-day game was also against Bangladesh in 2022. Now, the same opposition awaits him on his return to Test cricket come Thursday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, and while the cricketing landscape around him remains largely unchanged, though some worthy contenders have come up in the interim. Dhruv Jurel has impressed all with a gritty outing in front and behind the stumps during the home series against England earlier this year. None could have faulted the team management if they continued with Jurel for this match, but head coach Gautam Gambhir underlined the value Pant brings to the table. "We all know how destructive he can be (as a batter) and what he can do in Test cricket. Obviously,

it gives him the freedom to go out there and express himself. He has got runs everywhere around the world. "It is always good to have someone like him who can open the game for us and more importantly can bring a lot of impact as well," Gambhir said in the pre-match press meet here. Of course, Pant has made his return to international cricket through the white ball formats, and was a part of India's T20 World Cup winning squad too but the long-format matches offer a vastly different challenge in terms of skills and the duration of concentration. Pant showed his readiness for the grind of red-ball cricket while playing for India B in the recent Duleep Trophy match at Bengaluru. After a rather nervy 10-ball seven in the first innings against India A, Pant showcased his full range with a 47-ball 61 that contained nine fours and two sixes. He tumbled, shuffled across and went deep into crease during that knock, but the management could have been more eager to see how he responded to the task of wicket-keeping. Pant aced that test with flying colours, taking seven catches, five alone in the second innings, in that match. The 26-year-old flew around behind the stumps to latch on to catches way down the leg side,

a telltale sign of a wicket-keeper's anticipation and agility, and was in the right position when the spinners operated. Jurel played for India A, but it was clear that the match was more of an audition for Pant ahead of his reintegration into Test cricket, which was supported by a quick assessment by the NCA physios. Gambhir delved on Pant's role as a wicketkeeper. "Not only with his batting, he has been excellent behind the stumps as well. Probably his batting overshadows his keeping many times. "But actually, see what he has done in Indian conditions...it is never easy to keep against people like Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep. So, what he has done behind the stumps has been remarkable. "Obviously, he brings a lot of good things to the Test side. Not only from the batting point of view, but from the keeping point of view as well," Gambhir detailed. Above all this, Pant gives a different angle to the whole game of cricket with his attitude. Ricky Ponting, who worked with Pant at Delhi Capitals, gave an insight. "He's an infectious character to have around the group. He loves his cricket. He's a winner. He doesn't just play to make a few runs and be out there for the fun of it," Ponting recently told Sky Sports.

Important to build relationship with seniors to take Indian cricket forward: Gambhir

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday underlined the significance for him to build on the existing cordial relationship with the senior players like skipper Rohit Sharma and batting talisman Virat Kohli to take Indian cricket forward. Gambhir, who took over from Rahul Dravid after the T20 World Cup, has shared the Indian dressing room with the likes of Kohli, Rohit and Ashwin in the not-so-distant past. "It's still early days (for him as coach). But the good part is that I have played with those guys (seniors). At one stage we were sharing the dressing room as players, when they were younger, who

have now become experienced guys," Gambhir said in the pre-match press meet here. "When you have that kind of a relationship, sometimes it gets much easier than building a relationship. Obviously, now the roles are different. "The relationship we can build over a period of next couple of years. It's going to be very important, and now we should keep taking it a little bit forward because we've got massive challenges coming our way," he added. The spat between Gambhir and Kohli after an IPL match at Lucknow has often been portrayed in social media as an example of strained relation between them. But Gambhir did not buy those



assumptions. "Sometimes people have made a lot of hue and cry about these things. But that's not true. My relationship with everyone in the dressing room team has

been really, really good. "More importantly I think the heart needs to be in the right place. When the passion is there, I think a lot of things can ease. I think the desire to win each and every time when we walk onto the cricket field, it's there. So, I think we've started off really well," said Gambhir. To buttress his argument, the 42-year-old explained his rationale behind selecting the eleven for a particular match. Communication, for him, is the watch word here. "I think the most important thing is clear communication. See, we don't drop anyone. We only select the best playing 11. We think and do the job for that particular Test match."

Ponting joins Punjab Kings as head coach on four year contract

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australian great Ricky Ponting was on Wednesday appointed head coach of Punjab Kings, replacing compatriot Trevor Bayliss in the underperforming IPL franchise. The former Australian captain has made the switch to Punjab Kings from Delhi Capitals, a team he was part of for seven years. "We are delighted to have Ricky on to guide and build our team for the next four seasons. His experience is crucial to help us develop a squad to deliver on-field success," franchise CEO Satish Menon said. An IPL source added that Ponting will take a call on the rest of the support staff. Under Ponting, Delhi Capitals became a force to reckon with though the elusive title never came. The team reached the final in 2020. He has also coached Mumbai Indians. Punjab too have never won the IPL since the league's



inception in 2008 and the four co-owners will be hoping the World Cup-winning captain takes them all the way. Punjab's sole final appearance came way back in 2014 and they are one team which is often criticised for frequent

chopping and changing. They have failed to finish even in the top five in the last seven editions and ended ninth out of 10 teams earlier this year. In a team statement, Ponting promised a different style of play going forward. "I am excited to take up the new challenge. I had great conversations with the owners and the management about the way forward and was truly elated to see the alignment of our visions for the team. "We all want to repay the fans who have stayed with the franchise over the years and we promise that they will see a much different Punjab Kings going forward," he said.

Bayliss was in charge of the side for the past two seasons with now-retired Shikhar Dhawan as its captain. Sanjay Bangar was head of cricket development, Charles Langveldt, the fast bowling coach, and Sunil Joshi took care of the spinners. Prior to Bayliss, Anil Kumble coached Punjab Kings but success eluded them. Punjab have had a strong core including Arshdeep Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran and Jonny Bairstow but the results have not come. Uncapped Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma were the standout players for Punjab Kings in an otherwise forgettable season this year.

Malvika stuns Paris Olympics medallist Tunjung in China Open badminton tournament

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

India's Malvika Bansod pulled off a sensational straight-game victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the women's singles opening round of the China Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Indian, ranked 43rd in the world, displayed immense grit as she saved three game points in the opening game to defeat the world No. 7 Indonesian 26-24 21-19 in a 46-minute match, marking the biggest win of her career. Malvika, a B. Tech graduate in computer science from SRM University in Chennai, will next take on Scotland's Kristy Gilmour, a two-time Commonwealth Games medallist. She was the sole Indian bright spot in the women's singles as compatriots Aakarshi Kashyap and Samiya Imad Farooqui exited in the first round. Aakarshi lost to Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 15-21 19-21, while Samiya was outplayed by Gilmour 9-21 7-21 in a one-sided contest.



In other Indian results, the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 21-16 15-21 17-21 to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu. The mixed doubles duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy lost 10-21 16-21 to Malaysia's Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing. A left-handed shuttler, Malvika, from

Nagpur, transitioned to the senior international circuit in 2019, winning the Maldives International title and finishing runner-up at the 2022 Syed Modi International. She has been in good form this year, claiming the Azerbaijan International title. Malvika, once coached by former India junior chief coach Sanjay Mishra, made headlines in 2022 when

she defeated 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal at the India Open, breaking into the world's top 30. However, her progress was hampered by health issues as she contracted dengue and typhoid following her participation in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. After her recovery, Malvika consistently faced top-ranked players in early rounds of world tour events. Despite early exits, she managed to maintain her position in the world's top 50. She has played close matches against the likes of world No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi and former world champion Nozomi Okuhara. Currently training under coach Shrikant Vad at the Thane Badminton Academy, Malvika continues to push her game forward. "This is her biggest win, and she is extremely happy. She has been performing well, but lacks experience, and sometimes luck hasn't favoured her," her mother Trupti told PTI. "Sanjay sir was like a father figure to her, but once he took up his role as BAI secretary, we struggled to find a replacement."

[GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
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INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)
"e"-Procurement Notice
IDENTIFICATION NO.-IFB-SE PWD BGH No.08 OF 2024-25
No. 4483 Dated, 13.09.2024

- The Executive Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Road works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.
- No of Road work: - 02 Nos.
- Cost of Tender Paper: - Rs.6,000/- & Rs.4,000/-
- Class of contractor:- "D" & "C" Class Contractor
- Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids: - 11:00 Hrs. of 19.09.2024 to 17:00Hrs. of 26.09.2024.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid: - 27.09.2024 at 11:30 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
- Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only

Executive Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division
 OIPR-34039/11/0006/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
JHARSUGUDA (R&B) DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
"e"-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-SE-R&B-JSG- 06 OF 2024-25.

1.	The Executive Engineer, Jharsuguda (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors for Construction of Civil & Electrical Work as detailed in DTCLN .	
2.	Nature of Work	Civil & Electrical works
3.	Estimated cost	Rs. 18.00 Lakhs, to Rs. 33.00 Lakhs
4.	No. of work.	03 (Three) Nos
5.	Tender Cost	Rs. 6000/- (as per DTCLN)
6.	Class of Contractor	Civil "C" & "B"
7.	Availability of bid document in the website	10.00 A.M. of 21.09.2024 to 05.00 P.M. of 30.09.2024
8.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	11.00 AM on Dt. 01.10.2024
9.	The bidders have to participate in ON-LINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website .	

Executive Engineer
 Jharsuguda (R&B) Division
 OIPR-34094/11/0007/2425