



**OPINION 6**  
EXPLORING THE DEPTHS  
OF THE HUMAN MIND

**WORLD 8**  
TRUMP THREATENS TO END BIDEN  
IMMIGRATION PROGRAMMES

**MONEY 10**  
JIO-BP INAUGURATES 500TH  
EV CHARGING STATION

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# Police altered documents in RG Kar case, claims CBI



Activists of various left wing parties clash with police personnel during a protest march against the alleged sexual assault and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, Thursday

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation has reasons to believe that a section of Kolkata Police officials had tried to create fake documents in the Kolkata lady doctor rape and murder case. In its remand letter submitted before Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sealdah the CBI has said that the officials at Tala Police Station which has jurisdiction over the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital where the August 9 rape and murder took place had tried

to "create" and "alter" certain documents that could change the direction of the case. Hearing a writ petition the Calcutta High Court had transferred the case to the CBI following allegations that the Kolkata Police was trying to suppress facts. While seeking an extended remand for former Officer in-charge of Tala Police Station Abhijit Mondal and arrested former RGMCH Principal Sandip Ghosh the CBI has told the Court that some additional facts had surfaced during the investigation of the two accused persons.

"During custodial interrogation of both the accused persons, new/additional facts have emerged to the effect that some false records pertaining to the instant case were created/ altered in the police station," the CBI letter said. The agency also told the court that the CCTB footages of the said police station had been confiscated and handed over to the Central Forensic Laboratory for analysis. The parents of the victim had also alleged similar things before the media. "We had

told repeatedly how we were given three versions of 'sudden illness, suicide and then death over telephone before we rushed to the hospital ... then in the hospital we were made to sit for three hours while her mother literally held their feet to let her see her daughter's face once," said the father of the victim. The ordeal did not end there as the old parents were made to sit in the Tala Police Station for more than an hour and were repeatedly monitored while they wrote the FIR. "They also forcefully cremated my daughter without our wishes ... as we wanted to get a second postmortem conducted" as the autopsy was done post sundown defying the general protocol in the Kolkata Police manual, they alleged. Incidentally, the postmortem was done not on the request of a DCP but that of a sub-inspector, a letter recovered by the CBI showed. The CBI has been trying to find out who was instructing Mondal and also who was instructing the person and who was instructing the arrested police officer and for what reason, sources said adding "everything will become clear in the coming weeks when the call details and forensic reports come up"

# Domestic Violence Act applicable to all women: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a civil code that is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation or social background. A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said the 2005 legislation was applicable to all women for more effective protection of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution. "The Act is a piece of civil code which is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation and/or social background for a more effective protection of her rights guaranteed under the Constitution and in order to protect women victims of domestic violence occurring in a domestic relationship," the bench said. The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman challenging an order of the Karnataka High Court in a matter related to the grant of maintenance and compensation. The woman had earlier filed a petition under section 12 of the Act which was allowed by a Magistrate in February 2015 granting Rs 12,000 as monthly maintenance and Rs 1 lakh towards compensation to her. The top court noted that the husband had filed an appeal against the order which was dismissed by the appellate court on the ground of delay. The court noted that later, he filed another application under section 25 of the Act, which deals with duration and alteration of orders, before a magistrate but the same was dismissed. The bench said thereafter, he filed an appeal before the appellate court,



which allowed it and remanded the matter to the magistrate with a direction to consider his application by giving an opportunity to both parties to adduce their evidence. The judges noted that aggrieved by the order, the woman approached the High Court which dismissed her plea in April last year and directed the magistrate to consider the application filed by the man under section 25 of the Act. In its verdict, the Supreme Court referred to section 25 and said it was evident that an aggrieved person or a respondent as defined under the Act can seek for alteration, modification or revocation of an order made under the provisions of the Act if there was a change in the circumstances as per sub-section (2) of section 25. The bench said a Magistrate, while exercising discretion under section 25(2) of the Act, has to be satisfied that a change in the circumstances has occurred, requiring to pass an order of alteration, modification or revocation.



## Hindu Temple vandalised in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Unknown miscreants have vandalised the BAPS Hindu temple in California's Sacramento, desecrating it with expletive-laden graffiti saying "Hindus go back!", the BAPS Public Affairs said. "Less than 10 days after the desecration of the @BAPS Mandir in New York, our Mandir in the Sacramento, CA area was desecrated last night with anti-Hindu hate: "Hindus go back!" We stand united against hate with prayers for peace," the BAPS Public Affairs said in a post on X. Wednesday night's incident comes after the desecration of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, on September 17. "Our condemnation of hate remains resolute; our sadness has only deepened; and our prayers for all, including those with hate in their heart, have grown stronger," the organisation said in a statement. "BAPS is working with law enforcement authorities on this hate crime," the statement said. "The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Sacramento is home to a vibrant Hindu community engaged in numerous activities and projects to support the larger community. We are and shall remain an integral part of this community's fabric," the statement added.

## SC to hear Godhra incident appeals on 15 January

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear on January 15 the appeals filed by the Gujarat Government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Rajesh Bindal made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter on the next date of hearing. On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed when the S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express was burnt at Gujarat's Godhra, triggering riots in the State. Several appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the October 2017 verdict of the Gujarat High Court which had upheld conviction of several convicts and commuted the death penalties of 11 to life term.



Gujarat Government's counsel Swati Ghildiyal requested the bench to post the matter for hearing on some other day as she was to argue before another Supreme Court bench in a death penalty-related matter. "We have to first understand what are the cases of individuals? What is the prosecution's case? Then we have to ascertain the roles," the bench observed, adding that hearing in the matter will take at least three days. Now we will not adjourn it on the next date," the bench said.



People gather at a government hospital after their family members drowned while taking holy dips in rivers and ponds during the 'Jivitputrika' festival on Wednesday, in Aurangabad district of Bihar, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. At least 43 people, including 37 children, drowned and three others went missing in separate incidents in 15 districts of the state, according to officials

## Several drown during Bihar festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

At least 43 people, including 37 children drowned and three others went missing while taking holy dips in rivers and ponds in separate incidents during the 'Jivitputrika' festival in Bihar, the State Government said on Thursday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. The incidents occurred in 15 districts of the state during the festival held on Wednesday. During the 'Jivitputrika' festival, women fast for the well-being of their children and both take holy dips. "A total of 43 bodies have been recovered so far. Further search operation is on," a statement issued by the Disaster Management Department (DMD) said. The process of providing the ex gratia has begun and family members of eight deceased have already received it, the statement said. "The incidents of drowning were reported from East and West Champaran, Nalanda, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Buxar,

Siwan, Rohtas, Saran, Patna, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Gopalganj and Arwal districts. The DMD has pressed several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) for search and rescue operations. Eight children drowned in Aurangabad district - four at Itahat village under Baruna police station area and another four at Kushaha village of Madanpur police station. According to reports from Kaimur, seven minors drowned in Bhabhua and Mohania police station areas when they were taking bath in the Durgawati river and a pond, respectively. Four incidents of drowning were reported on Wednesday evening from Annabad village under Bihta police station area of rural Patna and five persons, including two boys, drowned in Daudpur, Manjhi, Taraiya and Marhaura police station areas of Saran district. "The incidents took place when the victims, along with their family members, went for a holy dip in the water bodies," Aurangabad District Magistrate Srikant Shastri said.

## FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT TO MEET TROOPS AT SIACHEN



President Droupadi Murmu pays tribute at the Siachen War Memorial during a visit to Siachen Base Camp, on Thursday

## HP govt face flak by party for adopting Yogi model

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh was summoned to Delhi and reprimanded by the Congress brass over a controversial order issued by his department mandating food outlets across the State to display the name and address of their owners, which has however been withdrawn. Facing flak by the party high command the Himachal Pradesh Government on Thursday said no such decision has been taken. The State Government in a statement said it has not taken any decision that makes it mandatory for street vendors to display nameplates or other identification at their stalls. The development came as the Congress came under fire on social media as well as within the party over the move as it had criticised a similar move by the Uttar Pradesh Government during the Kanwar Yatra a few weeks back. Sources said Vikramaditya has been asked not to give controversial

remarks on this matter. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was upset with Vikramaditya. The Himachal Urban Development Ministry's order came under criticism from Congress leader TS Singh Deo, who called it a reprehensible and discriminatory move. BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said Singh must stick to his words. "If Vikramaditya Singh has talked about implementing vendors' policy on the pattern of Uttar Pradesh, he should stick to his words," Thakur, who is Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, said. Last week, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania constituted a seven-member committee headed by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan for the framing of a policy for 'Street Vendors,' according to a statement. The decision to register outside workers with their identity came following massive protests weeks ago for the demolition of alleged unauthorised portions of a mosque in Sanjauli.

## SC rejects Gujarat Government plea in Bilkis case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat Government seeking a review of the court's verdict which contained certain observations against the State while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 riots. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan also rejected the application for listing review petition in open court. "Having carefully gone through the Review Petition, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, we are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the Review Petition, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The Review Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said. The Gujarat Government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgment, holding the State guilty of "usurpation of power" and "abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds.



# Heavy rains likely in 8 districts today, temperature to fall at few places

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With light to moderate rain being witnessed in various parts of the State at the fag end of the monsoon, the State meteorological centre forecast on Thursday that the maximum temperature is likely to fall by three to four degrees Celsius at a few places during the next 24 hours.

The centre has also issued an orange alert regarding the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain likely to occur at a few places in Bageshwar district while a yellow alert has

been issued regarding the possibility of heavy rain likely to occur at isolated places in Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh and Nainital districts of Uttarakhand on Friday. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning/intense to very intense spells of rain are likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of the State today. Apart from this, light to moderate rain/thunderstorms are likely to occur at most places in Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Nainital and Cham-

pawat districts and at many places in the remaining districts of the State.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly to generally cloudy sky. One to two spells of light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied with lightning are likely to occur, which may be intense in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 30 degrees Celsius and 23 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

# No plaint received regarding any theft of Rs 50 crore from ex IAS officer's home: DGP

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Rumours have been circulating on social media about an alleged theft of Rs 50 crore from the house of a former IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh in Bhimtal, Nainital district. However, Uttarakhand director general of police Abhinav Kumar has refuted these claims, stating

that no official complaint has been received regarding the alleged incident. During a media interaction in Nainital on Thursday, Kumar, who is on a three-day visit to the Kumaon division, clarified, "I have also been hearing such rumours on social media, but neither

I nor the Nainital police have received any official complaint in this regard." He stated that he cannot speak for the Uttar Pradesh police in this matter while adding that they have not contacted Uttarakhand police about any such matter so far.

# Dehradun district hospital to have its own blood bank

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to further improve patient care, the State administration recently approved the proposal for the establishment of a blood bank at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay district hospital, the hospital's medical superintendent Dr VS Chauhan said. Recently, the newly appointed district magistrate Savin Bansal emphasised the importance of having a blood bank at the hospital. As a result, the administration has become actively involved in preparing a proposal for this facility. Regarding this, Chauhan stated that, in accordance with the DM's instructions, they recently submitted a proposal to the State administration for the establishment of a blood bank at the hospital. The proposal has been approved by the administration. Further, the officials concerned have inspected the hospital to identify a suitable location for the construction of the blood bank. With the approval of the proposal, the only step remaining is to issue a tender to hire a company to build the blood bank. Chauhan added that they anticipate the State administration will soon re-

lease a tender for this purpose.

He further stated that the chief medical officer Dr Sanjay Jain has asserted that they have allocated Rs 50 lakh for establishing the blood bank on the hospital premises. However, the DM has promised that additional funding will be provided to the hospital if needed.

Regarding the blood bank requirements, he said that along with the establishment of the blood bank, equipment including deep freezers, specialised components and cross-matching instruments will be necessary. Additionally, three to four pathologists, nurses, medical officers, technicians and other staff will be needed to operate the blood bank. He emphasised the significance of obtaining a license for the functioning of the blood bank. Once the blood bank is established, they will promptly seek the license. He further emphasised that the establishment of the blood bank at the hospital was delayed by some years due to unavoidable reasons.

# Cocaine worth Rs 1.3 crore seized in Haridwar, trio arrested

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police arrested three accused with cocaine reportedly worth over Rs 1.3 crore in Haridwar on Thursday. In a joint operation, the police and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) apprehended three cocaine smugglers on a motorcycle and seized 183 grammes of cocaine, estimated to be worth Rs 1.3 crore in the market. The accused were arrested and a case has been registered against them under relevant sections of the law. After their medical examination, they were presented in court and subsequently sent to jail, the Haridwar senior superintendent of police Prameshendra Bohral said. He revealed that the ANTF had received information regarding cocaine trafficking in the district. Acting on this information, the ANTF team closely monitored the suspects, alerting their network of informants to gather daily updates on the smugglers. Following a solid tip-off that three individuals will arrive in the Landhaura area with a considerable quantity of cocaine, a joint team of ANTF and police planned a sting operation and suc-



cessfully apprehended the smugglers. The arrested accused have been identified as Azad, Tanveer Ali and Farayad Ali, all three from Lakshar. During interrogation, the smugglers provided crucial information regarding their drug operations and further action will be taken accordingly, he added.

# Conserving biodiversity vital for enhancing Himalayan agroecology: Mathur

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The entire Himalaya is a mirror of agroecology in itself. This vibrant food civilisation can be made successful only by conserving biodiversity. This success will prove to be a milestone in the direction of food sovereignty along with sustainable increase in the livelihood of farmers, the former chairman of National Biodiversity Authority, VB Mathur said. He was speaking as the chief guest at the meeting of stakeholders of Uttarakhand on agroecology.

of aspects ranging from production of crops to processing and consumption, but due to many obstacles in this essential process of agroecology, farming in the mountains of Uttarakhand is facing big challenges," he said while also pointing to the barren landscape of Pauri, Almora, Cham-pawat and Bageshwar in the central Himalayas of Uttarakhand. He also stressed on the need to reduce the distance from laboratory to field and production to market by making the agricultural policy practical.

He said, "Insecurity is rising in an alarming form and its solution lies in saving agricultural biodiversity. He said that the demand for Himalayan agricultural products is increasing, but the vitality of farming is falling in the same proportion. To deal with this irony, farmers, scientists, officials and policy makers will have to come together and reduce the production cost of crops. We also need to learn about the conservation of Himalayan environment and ecology from small countries like Nepal and Bhutan," Mathur added.

Former principal scientist and head at ICAR-National Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, Bhowali, Ishwari S Bisht spoke on agroecological change of food systems in Uttarakhand, major challenges and opportunities. "The farmer has the best knowledge

India representative at the Alliance for Biodiversity International, JC Rana said, "The Himalayan Agroecology Initiative (HAI) is a strategic effort that works in collaboration with governments and with the support of a broad group of stakeholders to support multi-stakeholder processes that help develop, build and implement a roadmap for agro-ecologically sustainable food systems. The primary objective of this effort is to improve the livelihood and sustainability in the three Himalayan countries-India, Nepal and Bhutan- and to empower farmers, farmer producer organisations and other key stakeholders to better benefit from public policies that support organic/natural agriculture, food processing and consumption.

# Employees rally against NPS and UPS

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A rally was organised by the National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) here on Thursday in support of the one-point demand for restoration of the OPS. Large number of employee organisations took part in the rally organised at the Parade Ground. The employees are protesting the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and the newly launched Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). The NMOPS Uttarakhand chapter president Jeetmani Painyuli said that the employees have rejected the OPS due to its many flaws. He said that the 10 per cent contribution given monthly by the employees in

UPS will not be returned to the employees. Painyuli said that under OPS the employees get the benefit of full pension on completion of 20 years of service, which has been increased to 25 years under UPS. The upper age limit for recruitment of employees in government jobs in the State is 42 years due to which most of the employees get only 18 to 24 years of service, thus making them ineligible for full pension under UPS. Painyuli said that the government has divided the employees into three categories OPS, NPS and UPS which proves that it is playing divide and rule policy.

# Corbett authorities to act against fraudulent portals duping tourists

PNS ■ RAMNAGAR

The Corbett Tiger Reserve authorities are preparing to take action against fraudulent websites which allegedly dupe people into making online bookings in Corbett. People make bookings through such websites and make digital payments, only to learn later that they had been defrauded. The Corbett authorities have identified such websites and are preparing to take legal action against them. The address of the authentic website of the tiger reserve is <http://corbettgov.in>. This website enables visitors to make online bookings. However, some fraudulent websites are also offering the same service in order to defraud the public. Among other actions, such websites cause a single permit to be issued to two tourists. The Corbett administration formed a team to identify such websites. The members of this team posed as tourists and called on the mobile phone numbers provided on the portals. A number of such fraudulent websites have been identified by the team. Corbett field director Saket Badola said that they had been receiving information about such fraudulent websites for quite some time. Notices will first be issued to such websites. If these fraudulent websites are not shut down soon, legal action will be initiated, he added.

# THDCIL, MREL ink MoU to boost renewable energy projects in Maharashtra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

THDC India Limited and MAHAGENCO Renewable Energy Limited (MREL), Maharashtra signed an MoU in Mumbai on Thursday for development of new age renewable energy projects aimed to facilitate the delivery of clean and affordable energy from diverse sources to effectively accelerate the implementation of Net-Zero strategy. The MoU was signed in the presence of the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis. Lauding the MoU, the THDCIL chairman and managing director RK Vishnoi said that it marks a substantial advancement in Maharashtra's energy infrastructure and underscores THDCIL's and MREL's commitment to advance the nation's renewable energy cap

# Measures discussed to check human trafficking

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Uttarakhand Police held a workshop on Thursday for stakeholders on awareness and capacity building to combat human trafficking. NCW member secretary Meenakshi Negi emphasised the importance of understanding the root causes of human trafficking to effectively combat it. Factors which fuel it include sexual exploitation, domestic slavery, organ trafficking, forced labour and surrogacy. She stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all departments to prevent it. The Uttarakhand State Commission for Women (USCW) chairwoman Kusum Kandwal emphasised the importance of ensuring the safety of females. She suggested organising workshops in villages to raise awareness on this issue. Additional director general of police Amit Sinha stressed the need for immediate action upon receiving information about missing persons, particularly women and children to effectively prevent human trafficking. He also urged the police to utilise the latest technology and make all efforts to locate missing persons.

**DEBITS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN**  
Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur,  
Saharanpur Road, Dehradun

RC No. 312/2022 Date: 24.09.2024

Central Bank Of India Certificate Holder  
Versus  
M/s Kreative Korner & Anr. Certificate Debtor

**DEMAND NOTICE**

To,  
CD No.1: M/s Kreative Korner, through its proprietor Mrs. Riya Bati, Office at 22 A, Inder Road, Dalanawa, Dehradun- 248001, Uttarakhand.  
2nd Address: 30, Teg Bahadur Road, Dalanawa, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand.

CD No.2: Mrs. Riya Bati, W/o Sh. Rahul Bali C/o Naresh Sharma, 29/11 Pritam Road, Dalanawa, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in OA.No.69 of 2020 passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT Dehradun an amount of Rs. 34,48,772.00 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Forty Eight Thousands Seven Hundred Seventy Two Only) along with pendente-lite and future interest @ 9.50 % Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 07.02.2020 till realization and costs of Rs. 77,000.00 (Rupees Seventy Seven Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally). Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that it is not possible to serve you deeman notice in ordinary course, therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to pay the above sum within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 02.12.2024 at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings.

In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay,  
a. Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.  
b. All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Recovery Officer  
Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun

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**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Branch Office: 2nd floor, JJ Tower, 59-Rajpur Road, Adjoining Ram Tirath Ashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun (U.K.)-248001., Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Kharsa No 945, Railway Road, Jwalapur, Opp. Jwalapur Railway Station, Haridwar (U.K.) 249407

**POSSESSION NOTICE - Under Rule 8 (1)**

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken physical possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under. The borrowers in particular & the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER'S / S & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUT-STANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF PHYSICAL POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Loan No. X0HEHRA00002055623 Borrower and Co-borrower 1. SANJAY KUMAR S/O JYOTI PRASAD, R/O: House No. 441, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee, Haridwar 247667, ALSO AT: House No. 246, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667	15/09/2024	Rs. 34,56,587/- AS ON 09/01/2024 with further interest thereon.	All that piece & parcel of Residential property/Property measuring 92.283 sq. meters registered as per sale deed bearing document number 11,813 dated 29/10/2007 situated in Chaw Mandi, Roorkee Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar	25/09/2024
2.	JITENDRA KUMAR S/O JYOTI PRASAD, R/O: House No. 441, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee, Haridwar 247667, ALSO AT: House No. 245, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667				
3.	SUNITA GOSWAMI W/O SANJAY KUMAR R/O: House No. 441, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee, Haridwar 247667				
4.	LEELAWATI DEVI W/O PHOOL GIRI JYOTI PRASAD, R/O: House No. 441, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee, Haridwar 247667, ALSO AT: House No. 246, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667				
5.	M/S JYOTI & SONS Through Its Partner (SANJAY KUMAR), # 551, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee Haridwar 247667				

Date: 27/09/2024  
Place: DEHRADUN/HARIDWAR

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited  
Authorized Officer

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

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Shubham Goyal/ Hans Mukhi/ Raj Kumar/ Deepa/ LBDEH00005145058	Property Bearing Khata No.1758 (Fasli Year 1418-1423) Kharsa No.1446, Situated At Mouza-Jeewangarh, Tehsil Vikasnagar, Pargana Pachwadoun, District Dehradun, Uttaranchal- 248001/ September 24, 2024	April 12, 2024 Rs. 19,00,352/-	Dehradun/ Vikasnagar

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

Date: September 27, 2024  
Place: Dehradun & Vikasnagar

Sincerely Authorised Signatory  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

# THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In my aadhar card my name mentioned as Kwanra Devi and DOB 12.05.1940 is incorrect whereas my correct name is KAURI DEVI and correct Date of Birth is 01.07.1941 as mentioned in my Birth Certificate, Voter ID and in my husband's military records. Kauri Devi w/o Late Kundan Singh resident of Vill Kudai, Narendranagar, Tehri Garhwal.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Sandeep Kumar to Sandeep Kumar Pokhriyal and in future I should be known as Sandeep Kumar Pokhriyal S/o Jagmohan Prasad Address: Ward-06, Shiddanagar, Kotwar, Pauri Garhwal, UK

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This to declare that I am the absolute owner of the property bearing Khata No 1331 (Fasli year 1420 -1420) Kharsa No 646 Da, area 83.64 sq mtr situated at Mauja Kargi Grant, Pargana Centraldoon, District Dehradun. It was purchased from its previous owner Mohd. Vasim, S/o Mohd. Shamshad, R/o Muslim Basti, Kargi Grant, Dehradun. Mohd. Vasim purchased from Ramashray Mishra S/o Sh. Ram Sakha Mishra R/O Police Lines, Block C, Race Course, Dehradun. Ramashray Mishra purchased from Bashir Ahmad, S/o SH. Murad Baksh, R/O 31, E.C.Road, Dehradun through his POA Sh. Shanawaz Khan S/O Late Mohd Ali R/O 19, Babaganj Darshani Gate, Dehradun (POA registered in Sub Registrar office Dehradun in Book No 4, Jild 363 page 237 to 244 at Document No 629 dated 07.07.2021) which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Dehradun vide Book No 1, Jild 4793 Page No 325 to 340 at Serial No 9056 dated 02.12.2012. Original sale deed of the above said property has been actually lost somewhere and despite sufficient efforts could not be found yet. If it is found by anyone, may contact Alok Pundir Advocate, Civil Court Compound, Dehradun Mobile No 9412054852

**Gulam Sarwar** S/o Sh. Aabid Hussain, resident of vill-Pegampur, District Saran, Bihar (2) **Shamshab Baig** S/o Sh. Kalu Beg, resident of vill Chandakturk, PO Bhaneda, Kiratpur, District Bijnour.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform that I have Lost My Original Documents for Property/Plot No.36, in Kharsa No.177 and 178, Ansal Green Valley, Dehradun, Moza Jakhn Rajpur Road, Pargana Central Doun Uttarakhand while making photocopies outside the Mehrauli Sub Registrar Office at Yogmaya Mandir, 1. Original Sale Deed, Bahi No.1, Jild No. 1999, page 297-318, document no. 6918 dated 09.07.2007. 2. Original Sale Deed, Bahi No.1, Jild No. 2338, page 295-324, document No. 2009 dated 17.04.2008. 3. Original General Power of Attorney (GPA), Bahi No.4, Jild no. 038 pages 140-149, document no. 1306 dated 30.12.2009. If anyone finds please contact: Sh. Rajveer Sharma S/o Sh. Bharm Sarooop Sharma R/O-244, Ward No. 2, Mehrauli, New Delhi & 10/4, Yogmaya Mandir Complex, Mehrauli New Delhi. Mob.: 9922971424

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# Unemployment rate declining in Uttarakhand: PLFS report

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In what can be termed a positive news, a recent report of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows that the unemployment rate in Uttarakhand is declining.

As per the report the unemployment rate has come down from 4.5 per cent to 4.3 per cent in all age groups in the State. The maximum decline however, has come in the age group of 15-29 years where the unemployment rate has come down from 14.2 to 9.8 per cent.

There has also been a significant improvement in the worker population ratio in all age groups in the state in 2023-24 as compared to the year

2022-23. In the age group of 15-29 years this ratio has increased from 27.5 per cent to 44.2 per cent which indicates that more employment opportunities are available to youth in the State. The participation of youth in the labour force has also increased in the year 2023-24 as compared to the year 2022-23. In the age group of 15-29 years it has increased from 43.7 per cent to 49 per cent. The report suggests that Uttarakhand has also surpassed the national average in the working population average.

In Uttarakhand, this average has been 49 per cent in the age group of 15-29, while the national average is 46.5 per

cent. Expressing happiness on the achievement chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that the State government has taken a resolve to make Uttarakhand one of the leading states of the country.

He said that the government is endeavouring to create more and more employment opportunities. Dhama said that employment to 16,000 youth was given in different departments of the State government in the last three years. He said that in coming years most of the investment proposals in the State will get grounded which will create lakhs of employment opportunities.

# Improved employment generation result of BJP Govt's policies: Bhatt

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has claimed that the improved employment generation and number of appointments to government jobs in Uttarakhand is a result of the foresight of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama. The BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt said that due to the policies and commendable efforts of the State government, the current government has appointed more youth to government jobs than the total number of youth appointed to such jobs by successive governments since the creation of the

State. Appreciating the working population average surpassing the national average, Bhatt thanked the State government for this achievement.

"This is the success of the policies of the BJP government headed by CM Dhama. Uttarakhand coming on top in the PLFS report for providing employment to youth is a result of the State government's policies. Along with increasing the participation of youth in the labour force, the presence of other age-groups has also increased in the labour

force. The increased employment opportunities have caused a decrease in the unemployment rate," the BJP State president said.

Referring to the number of government jobs provided by the Dhama government, he said that more than 17,000 youth had been given appointment letters to government jobs during the past three years. In addition to this, the number of jobs in the private sector and self-employment is in the lakhs, Bhatt averred.



## CANDID NOTES

**Gajendra Singh Negi**

### Raging rumour

Talk about a high profile heist to the tune of a whopping sum of Rs 50 crore in the bungalow of a retired officer of Indian Administrative Services is presently making rounds in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and New Delhi. It is being speculated that the ill-fated bungalow located in the Bhimtal area of Nainital district in Uttarakhand belonged to an IAS officer who once lorded over the Babudom of UP and is still very influential in the corridors of power in Lucknow. The buzz is that the high profile Babu refrained from registering a formal complaint with the police about the heist but the official machinery of the two States is on its toes to nab the audacious thieves. Interestingly, amid wild speculations and name shaming in the social media, the former additional chief secretary of UP Awanish Awasthi, who was appointed by UP government as the chief advisor to CM Yogi Adityanath after his superannuation in 2022, took to the social media platform X in which he proclaimed that a smear campaign to tarnish his image is being carried out on social media and warned of a strong and decisive legal action against those involved in this business.

### U-turn

A powerful bureaucrat of the Himalayan State stirred a hornet's nest when he conceptualised and proceeded with a plan for government takeover of a portion of the playground of prestigious Saint Joseph's Academy located in the neighborhood of the State secretariat and Police headquarters in Dehradun. The purported objective was to create a large parking space for decongesting busy Rajpur Road and nearby high security area. A powerful lobby of former Josephites and well wishers of the famed school started a campaign against the takeover move. It was alleged that some land sharks are behind the motive which is being portrayed as a traffic decongestion and parking space creation plan. The crescendo of the protest became so loud that a harried government decided to roll back the land takeover plan. The onus is now on the school management to fulfill its promise to allow the vehicles of the parents and visitors inside its sprawling campus which otherwise are parked on the roads spawning perpetual traffic jams.

### Power play

The decision of the Pushkar Singh Dhama government to provide 50 per cent subsidy to the consumers using less than 100 units of electricity in a month and the households using up to 200 units in the snow covered areas of the State has come as a major reprieve for the State unit of BJP in the Himalayan State. After the twin defeats in recent Assembly bypolls of Manglaur and Badrinath, the saffron party is now facing the twin challenge of crucial Kedarnath Assembly bypoll and elections of Urban Local Bodies in the State. Considering the ground situation, the BJP bigwigs are expecting a tough fight from a spirited Congress party in Kedarnath by-election. The BJP is hoping that the power subsidy plan of CM Dhama will prove to be a major weapon in its hands in the upcoming battles of Kedarnath and ULB elections.

# FSSAI declares secretariat & Suddhowala jail complex as Eat Right Campuses

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand secretariat and the district jail complex, Suddhowala, have been officially recognised as Eat Right Campuses by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The certification process was carried out under the supervision of the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) of Uttarakhand. The canteens and food services operating in both the secretariat and the district jail complex underwent a food safety audit and the food handlers were provided training under the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme. The training and audit process were conducted by organisations authorised by FSSAI, including the Academy of Management Studies for training, URS Certification for audits and The Red Carpet Venture for implementation. The expenses for the entire process were covered by Herbalife

India as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, ensuring no financial burden on the secretariat or jail administration. This initiative falls under FSSAI's Eat Right India movement and aims to promote safe, healthy and sustainable food in different workplaces and institutions including jails. The chief secretary Radha Raturi also lauded the efforts of the administrations of secretariat and district jail for achieving this commendable recognition. She said that this initiative plays a crucial role in creating a sense of responsibility and accountability towards food safety and nutrition within the prison system and secretariat. Raturi also congratulated the food supervisors of various food services in the secretariat, including Indira Amma Bhojanalay and the GMVN canteen for their role in achieving this milestone.

# MCD marks 34 spots for comprehensive cleaning drive

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In line with the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has initiated a comprehensive cleaning drive targeting 34 black spots across the city. These black spots, designated as cleanliness target units, are being cleaned thoroughly on a daily basis as part of the fortnight-long campaign. The officials said that the MCD has also taken proactive steps to prevent further littering in these areas by planting flowers, trees and placing decorative pots. A sanitation worker has also been assigned to each location for regular monitoring. Besides this, the MCD has planned 46 awareness programmes to educate the public out of which 26 have already been completed. These awareness initiatives include street plays, small rallies and public engagement sessions with local representatives. Jingles and banners are also being used to promote cleanliness.

seeing the operations, with eight senior officers deployed in the field to ensure effective execution. According to assistant municipal commissioner and campaign nodal officer SP Joshi, all activities will be completed by October 1, with the closing ceremony scheduled for October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

These activities have been uploaded to the government's portal for transparency. The campaign has also extended to sewage treatment plants and two cow shelters managed by the corporation, as per the officials. They informed that the municipal commissioner Gaurav Kumar has been personally over-

# Opposition parties, Jharkhand Govt planning to change State's demography: Dhama

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that the Jharkhand government and opposition parties are engaged in a conspiracy to change the demography of Jharkhand. He was addressing a public meeting (Parivartan Sabha) at Kundhit in Jharkhand on Thursday.

Dhama alleged that intruders are getting protection from the Jharkhand government and a conspiracy is being hatched to hand over the land of tribals to intruders who are also playing with the lives of young women.

He expressed apprehension that increasing infiltration will raise the number of intruders in the State. Dhama said that the tribal population in the area has decreased from 44 per cent to 28 per cent. He said that the Jharkhand government has always deceived the tribal population. Dhama said that about two lakh posts in different



Gaurav Diwas.

Dhama said that the Union government has given gifts of new highways, elevated roads, and infrastructure development and has constructed 57 new railway stations in Jharkhand. He listed construction of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar and foundation stone laying of 20 Eklavya residential schools in the State as achievements of the Union government.

departments of government are vacant in Jharkhand. He promised the BJP will fill all these vacant posts when it comes to power in the State.

The CM said that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee created the separate

State of Jharkhand which helped in enabling the tribal society on the path of development. He said that PM Modi is also working to enhance the prestige and honour of tribals. Dhama said that PM Modi declared the birthday of great Birsa Munda as the Janjatiya

BJP district president Sumit Soren, MLA Aparna Singh Gupta and others accompanied Dhama in the meeting.

# MCD imposes Rs one lakh penalty each on Centrio Mall and Bakshi Plaza

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The MCD has imposed a penalty of Rs one lakh each on Centrio Mall and Bakshi Plaza for discharging untreated wastewater into a storm water drain near Kalika Temple in Salwala area. A joint inspection was conducted on Thursday by the sub divisional magistrate, sanitation team of the corporation and Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) on the directions of Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal in response to public complaints. The

Bakshi Plaza as per the norms and that the untreated wastewater was directly ending in the drain. Meanwhile, although Centrio Mall's STP was functional, the inspection revealed that contaminated water was still being dis-



charged into the drain, as per Khanna. He stated that the team took serious note of the violations and imposed a fine of Rs one lakh each on both establishments. They were also ordered to remove the slab covering the storm water drain for thorough cleaning by the corporation.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Narendra Singh Rawat, Shanti Rawat, Narendra Singh Rawat S/o Sh. Man Singh Rawat, 73400500278, 2181/218 Med Regl Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir, Srinagar - 190018	Property bearing Khasra No. 602 GA, Village-Haldwani Talli, Tehsil Haldwani, District-Nainital, Uttarakhand.	29/08/2024 Rs. 9,02,664.09/-	12/4/2023

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: September 27, 2024  
Place: Dehradun  
Sincerely, Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

## JEWELLERY AUCTION NOTICE

Offers are invited for the public auction of the gold ornaments, pledged in favour of the Bank, for the purposes of recovering the dues owed by the Borrower(s) to the Bank, as detailed below. Auction will be conducted at premises of Canara Bank, Sub Area Canteen Branch, (18516) Dehradun, auction date 11.10.2024 at 11.00 AM Onwards.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower	Account No.	Date of NPA	Outstanding Amt.	Auction Date, Time & Place	Security	Remarks
1.	Mr. Anas Kureshi	180080111903	15.08.2024	Rs. 2,46,323.00 as on 19.09.2024	11.10.2024 11.00 AM & Canara Bank Branch Area Canteen, Dehradun	Jewellery Nett Weight 89.050 Gross Weight 100.160	Interested person may contact Branch for further details

The auction shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the sale by the Bank. A bidder participating in the auction shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the aforesaid terms and conditions of sale. Submission of the Bid is Physical Auction.

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# VP Dhankhar reflects upon J and K transformation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Dal lake in Srinagar was "dull" when he went there in 1990 but is now teeming with tourists, while pointing out that Article 370 is no longer applicable to the region. Addressing the 83rd foundation day celebrations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dhankhar recalled his visit to Srinagar in 1990 as a Union minister, when he stayed in a hotel near the Dal lake. "Everything was dull. D-U-L-L. Not even 20 souls could be seen on the road. A state of dejection and hopelessness," the vice president said. He said the Rajya Sabha, which he presides over as its chairman, was informed last year that two crore tourists had visited Jammu and Kashmir. Dhankhar pointed out that Article 370, which was envisioned as a temporary provision of the Constitution, is no longer there.



"Article 370, the only article labelled as temporary and which was taken by some people, including those who had taken an oath under the Constitution, to be permanent, is no longer there," he said. "The state of the nation today is beyond my dreams. I never imagined. I did not conceive of the Bharat that it is today," Dhankhar said, comparing the present-day situation with that of the 1990s. The vice president said the 1990s were a period when India had to pledge its gold with Swiss banks to sustain its financial credibility as forex reserves had plunged to USD 1 billion and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, issued directives to India in

the garb of advisories. "Now, the IMF says India is the most-favoured global destination for investments and opportunity, and the World Bank calls India a role model on digitisation," he said. Dhankhar said the 1990s were also an era of middlemen on the corridors of power, corruption was rampant and only a person with pedigree could get access to opportunities. "Now, the power corridors are fully sanitised. The middleman has disappeared.... All transactions take place digitally, without a human interface. That is the change I never imagined," he said. The vice president expressed satisfaction that recognition for the scientific community has increased significantly. "Soothing to note that in the last few years, recognition for the scientific community has gone up. It has gone up in several ways, including the government being very serious about it, and the prime minister's heart and soul are deeply in the scientific community," he said.



Former Attorney General KK Venugopal and CJI DY Chandrachud sharing lighter moments at MK Nambyar Memorial lecture PNS

## Lawyers indispensable in constitutional discourse: CJI Chandrachud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday said lawyers play an indispensable role in shaping constitutional discourse. While judges have the ultimate authority to interpret the Constitution, it is the lawyers who craft and present the interpretive frameworks for the judiciary to consider, said CJI, while addressing MK Nambyar memorial lecture here. "In this sense, interpretation is as much a job of a lawyer as it is of a judge, for without robust legal arguments and advocacy, constitutional interpretation

would lack the necessary depth and diversity of perspectives," said Chandrachud. Noted lawyer MK Nambyar is father of former Attorney General KK Venugopal. "As we celebrate the legacy of Mr MK Nambyar, we must remember that there were many more like him, who left their imprints on the Constitution, enhanced it, infused it with meaning, and took the texts to its legal destiny. The reason we celebrate them is that they read in between jurisprudential lines, and travelled beyond the text, beyond obsequious obedience of the supposed 'intent of the framers'.

# President Murmu salutes Siachen soldiers bravery, sacrifice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Siachen base camp and told soldiers posted at the world's highest battlefield that all citizens salute their bravery. Addressing the troops, she said in difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland. The President said as the supreme commander of the armed forces, she felt very proud of them and that "all citizens salute their bravery." "They face severe weather conditions. In difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they remain deployed at their front with full devotion and vigilance. They present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland," President Murmu said. She told soldiers that all Indians are aware of their sacrifice and bravery and "we respect them," according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dressed in Indian military



uniform, Murmu also paid tributes at the Siachen War Memorial. The Memorial, she said, is a symbol of the sacrifice of soldiers and officers who have been martyred since the Indian Army began Operation Meghdoot on the Siachen Glacier on April 13, 1984. Under Operation Meghdoot, the Indian Army established its full control over the glacier. The President said since the commencement of Operation Meghdoot, "the brave soldiers and officers of the Indian armed forces have ensured the security of this region." Lt Governor of Ladakh Brigadier B D Mishra had

received President Murmu on her arrival at Thoise airfield. President Murmu is the country's third president to have visited Siachen base camp, located in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the others being A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind. While Kalam visited in April 2004, Kovind went to the base camp in May 2018. The Siachen glacier is at a height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain range. It is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle extreme cold, high winds and frostbite among other severe weather conditions.



## Engineers Conclave kicks off in Hyderabad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 11th Engineers Conclave, jointly organised by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) in Hyderabad, commenced on Thursday, defence ministry said here. Giving details, officials said the aim of the two-day annual conclave is to deliberate on two strategic priorities, 'Additive Manufacturing for Defence Applications' and 'Defence Manufacturing Technologies'. The event, being held at Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO, brings together engineers, scientists, academicians and industry leaders to discuss emerging technologies and advancements in indigenisation. The conclave was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission Dr Anil Kakodkar and Guest of Honour, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat. DRDL Director (Hyderabad) Shri GA Srinivasa Murthy, Director General, Missiles and Strategic Systems Shri U Raja Babu, and INAE President Prof Indranil Manna addressed the gathering.

# Modi, Congress leaders greet Manmohan Singh on his 92nd birthday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted his predecessor and Congress leader Manmohan Singh on his 92nd birthday. Congress leaders lauded his contributions and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi hailed his humility, wisdom and selfless service in shaping the country's future. Modi said in a social media post, "Birthday greetings to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh ji. I pray that he is blessed with a long and healthy life." Manmohan Singh was prime minister of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government between 2004 and 2014. He was also India's finance minister in the P V Narasimha Rao-led government during 1991-96, an epochal era for the country's economy marked by wide-ranging reforms. Born in 1932 in a region now part of Pakistan, he is credited as being the key architect of the economic reforms



effected by the Rao-led government that broke the stranglehold of socialist-era policies. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge led party leaders in greeting Manmohan Singh and hailing his contributions to the country. Kharge said he stood as a "rare embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of politics." "On the occasion of his birthday, I extend my warmest wishes to former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh ji," Kharge said. "He stands as a rare

embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of politics. A visionary statesman, whose actions spoke louder than words, we remain deeply grateful for his tremendous and invaluable contributions to the nation," the Congress chief said. Wishing him good health, happiness and a long life ahead, he added. In a social post, Rahul Gandhi said, "Happy Birthday to Dr Manmohan Singh ji. Your humility, wisdom, and selfless service in shaping our country's future continue to inspire me and millions of Indians. Wishing you good

health and happiness always!" Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also extended birthday greetings "to the pioneer of liberalisation and economic reforms in the country." "Manmohan Singh ji gave the people wonderful welfare policies and rights like MGNREGA, Right to Food, Right to Information, Right to Education. Due to your historic efforts for inclusive development, India became one of the few economic powers in the world. Your honesty, hard work, simplicity and humility are an inspiration for all of us. May God keep you healthy and a long life," she said in a social media post. Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal, while extending his warmest greetings to Manmohan Singh, said India saw "unprecedented growth, progress and transformation during the UPA era" under his stewardship. "It was a time when through a rights-based welfare framework and a reformist zeal, India saw its greatest

reduction in poverty and a massive growth of the middle classes," he said. "His (Singh's) journey from humble origins to the highest office in the country is an inspiration for generations to come. He is not someone who makes a big show of himself, but rather lets his hard work and talent do the talking," Venugopal said. Even today, his advice and expertise continue to guide us in our actions, he said. "Despite the innumerable attacks he faced, like he once said, history will be kinder to him and his contributions to India's development will be written in golden letters in history," Venugopal added. Several other Congress leaders hailed Manmohan Singh's contributions to the country while greeting him. The Congress said in a social media post, "Renowned economist and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's entire life has been dedicated to the country. He has made many public welfare policies keeping in mind the interest, progress and welfare of all sections of the country."



# India sees major decline in out of pocket expense on health

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

There has been a significant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health, dropping from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 39.4 per cent in 2021-22, data available from the National Health Account (NHA) has revealed, reflecting a major shift towards more equitable healthcare access in the country. Describing the trend as a "very positive indicator," Dr V K Paul member (Health) of NITI Aayog said that the substantial savings—over Rs 1 lakh crore—has been resulted from the central health flagship Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme. Additionally, other initiatives, like the free dialysis scheme launched in 2015-16, have positively impacted millions of individuals. "More than Rs 1 lakh crore savings have accrued from the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY and this has had a positive impact on the recent NHA estimates," he added. He also stated that other schemes "like the free dialysis scheme, launched in 2015-16 have benefited 25 lakh people, he said while releasing the Union Health Ministry's National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India 2020-21 and 2021-22. A crucial measure of healthcare accessibility and financial burden, as high levels

of such spending can lead to significant financial strain for families, OOPE refers to the payments made directly by individuals at the time they receive healthcare services or goods including medical consultations, hospital stays, medications, diagnostic tests, and other health-related costs that are not covered by insurance or government programs. Since catastrophic health expenditure often leading to debt or financial hardship, the India's National Health Policy 2017 has set ambitious goals. It aims for a significant decrease in OOPE, targeting a 25 per cent reduction in the proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure by 2025. Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra added that the increase in government health expenditure (GHE), rose from 1.13 per cent of GDP in 2014-15 to 1.84 per cent in 2021-22, and from 3.94 per cent to 6.12 per cent of general government expenditure (GGE). Per capita GHE tripled from Rs 1,108 to Rs 3,169 during the same period, with a notable increase of 37 per cent from 2020-21 to 2021-22. These changes reflect the government's commitment to enhancing public health investment, with GHE's share of total health expenditure growing from 29 per cent to 48 per cent.

# Left parties demand ceasefire in Gaza conflict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Left parties issued a joint statement on Thursday demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and informing that they will observe October seven, which marks the completion of a year of an ongoing conflict in Gaza, as a day to demand an end to the war. The statement was issued by five parties -- the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, the All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party. It was signed by Prakash Karat on behalf of the CPI(M), Dipankar Bhattacharya of the CPI(ML) Liberation, D Raja of the CPI, Manoj



Bhattacharya of the RSP and G Devarajan of the AIFB. The parties called upon the Indian government to halt all arms exports to Israel and work for a two-State solution, whereby an independent Palestinian State can come into existence. "October 7 marks the completion of one year of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. In the name of retaliating against Hamas for the latter's attack within Israel on October 7 last year, the Israeli armed forces have conducted a brutal and indiscriminate attack on Palestinians in Gaza," the

Left parties said. They said as a result of the war, nearly 42,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, have died and thousands more are buried under the rubble. "Israel has not spared residential buildings, schools and hospitals from their savage aerial and ground bombardment," they said, adding that a medical journal, "The Lancet", has estimated that the death toll from Israel's aggression could be above 85,000 (as of August 6), counting both the direct and indirect fatalities. The Left parties pointed out that even as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said in January that the Israeli actions were leading to possible genocide and called upon Israel to cease military actions in Gaza, Israel has so far "scuttled all meaningful talks for a ceasefire".

# Navy chief strengthens naval ties on Greece visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh NK Tripathi is on a four-day official visit to Greece beginning Thursday. This visit is part of ongoing efforts to further consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Greece, with a focus on enhancing naval co-operation, defence ministry said here. During the visit, the Navy chief will engage in bilateral discussions with senior Greek defence officials, including Ioannis Kefalogiannis, Deputy Minister of Defence, Vice Admiral Dimitrios E



Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff (HGNS), Vice Admiral Christos Sasiakos, Deputy Chief of Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

The discussions are expected to cover a broad spectrum of defence cooperation areas, particularly maritime security, joint training initiatives, and exploring avenues for future operational collaboration between the two navies. As part of his visit, Admiral Tripathi will visit the Salmis Bay, the base of the Hellenic Naval Fleet as well as the Hellenic Naval Academy. Through demonstrations and visits to Hellenic naval assets, the Hellenic Navy has planned to introduce Greece's naval capabilities and training methodologies to the Navy chief.

# Over 50 common medications flagged for quality concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over 50 drugs including popular medications such as Paracetamol tablets IP 500mg, anti-diabetic drug Glimpiride, vitamin C softgels, Vitamin C and D3 tablets Shelcal, and high BP medicine Telmisartan, among others have been found to be of "Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert" as per the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), the country's top drug regulator. The alert was issued after random monthly sampling conducted by state drug officers. The regulator releases the list of "not of standard quality" drugs every month. The batches of medicines flagged by the CDSCO in its drug alert for August are of companies such as Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and



Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Nestor Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Priya Pharmaceuticals and Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd, according to a news agency. The CDSCO's drug alert for August also included samples from batches of medications such as D3 tablets and Ciprofloxacin tablets. Antibiotics such as Amoxicillin And

Potassium Clavulanate tablets have also been categorised as not of "not of standard quality". While batches of some drugs failed the 'dissolution test' as per Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and failed the 'Assay' and 'water' test as per IP, some were identified as spurious or having uniformity of volume issues. These

drugs are produced by several pharmaceutical companies. According to the CDSCO, the drugs licensing authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu, have not submitted any data regarding the Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert for August 2024. In August, the top drug regulator had banned over 156 fixed-dose drug combinations in the Indian market due to potential risks to humans. These included popular fever drugs, painkillers, and allergy tablets. Earlier in February, the DCGI Rajeev Raghuvanshi instructed states/UTs to keep a strong vigilance and surveillance on the quality of drugs available in the market by doing random sampling of the medicines.

# Modi targets Congress: Infighting, lies drive Haryana to back BJP again

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The Congress spends most of its time infighting, tells lies to grab power and remains distant from public issues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed on Thursday while asserting the people have decided to give another chance to the BJP to serve Haryana.

Interacting with Haryana BJP workers through the NaMo app as part of the party's "Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot" programme, he discussed fieldwork at the booth level for the October five assembly polls and told them to make utmost effort to win each booth.

"A week remains for polling (in Haryana) and (you should) focus on every family in a polling booth," he told

party workers. There are 20,629 polling booths in Haryana.

Modi began his nearly hour-long interaction by mentioning his special connection with the people of Haryana, where he extensively worked for the party organisation in the 1990s, and expressed his gratitude to them.

Alleging the Congress has failed as an opposition in the past 10 years, the prime minister claimed its maximum time goes into infighting. Every child in Haryana is aware of the grand old party's internal strife, he said.

These days, the Congress' loudspeakers that were earlier making big claims have fallen weak, Modi said. "Some are saying the Congress is becoming weak each day.

During the past 10 years, the Congress has failed as opposition too."

"The party remained far from people's issues for 10 years... Such people can never win the trust of the people of Haryana," he said.

"But our strategy should not be to sit pretty on their internal strife. They are going to die their death, but we have to plant our flag deep by working harder than before," Modi said.

Attacking the Congress further, he said, "The entire basis of those who are fighting against us in the polls is lies. They repeatedly tell lies, their talks have no head and tail and they vitiate the atmosphere."

Modi claimed the Congress made tall promises to the people of Himachal Pradesh like they would "lay roof



made of gold for every house". But after coming to power in the state, development came to a standstill, the prime minister alleged, adding they talked of the old pension scheme but were now unable to pay salaries or carry out

recruitments. The Congress had promised to give Rs 1,500 to women who are waiting for it even after two years, he said. Himachal Pradesh is an example of how they told lies to win elections and the people of Haryana need to be

informed about it, the prime minister said at the interaction.

He alleged the Congress were experts in lying but wear the mask of "Raja Harishchandra". You will have to go door-to-door to expose them, Modi told the BJP workers.

One cannot imagine how many atrocities were committed against the Dalits during the Congress rule in Haryana, he said and asked the party workers to expose such incidents publicly.

"Haryana has for the first time got an OBC chief minister. They never made a chief minister from the backward classes. But the Congress will never say this," Modi said.

He alleged the Congress was not able to accept that Modi and Nayab Singh Saini, both

of who come from backward classes, became prime minister and Haryana's chief minister, respectively.

Recounting the BJP government's initiatives for farmers, the prime minister alleged that during the Congress rule in Haryana, the farmers got Rs 2 compensation cheques for crop damage.

It is the BJP government in Haryana which has been giving minimum support price on 24 crops, he said, adding the farmers should seek clarification from the Congress for their lies on the issue and tell them how much crops were being procured at MSP. Accusing the Congress of indulging in a scam with funds for Dalits' welfare in Karnataka, Modi alleged the party did not fulfil even a single promise in states where

it is in power, be it Karnataka or Telangana.

Now they are talking big in Haryana, he said, adding, "Spreading rumours and telling lies is in their blood". The Congress people live only for their family and that is their character, he said in response to a Haryana BJP worker's feedback during the interaction.

"I have full belief that the BJP is forming the government with a big mandate. One voice is heard from every home 'Bharosa Dil Se, Bajpa Phir Se' We have to put all our might to win the polling booth. You have to break all records of voting," he said.

Referring to the Haryana BJP's "Mahra Haryana-Non-Stop Mahara" campaign, Modi said it has been inspired by mothers and sisters from the state.



## BJP gears up for crucial J and K Assembly polls

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■**  
JAMMU

The Bharatiya Janta Party is fully geared up to defend its 'impregnable citadel' in the last and crucial phase of maiden assembly polls in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the third phase polling is scheduled to take place across 40 Assembly segments. Out of these 40, 24 seats fall in the Jammu region.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, BJP won 19 out of 21 Assembly segments from the four districts of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, and Udhampur.

This time three new seats have been added, one each in Kathua, Samba, and Udhampur during the Delimitation of Assembly constituencies.

BJP's performance in this phase is going to make or break the chances of government formation on its strength.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday claimed that the Congress-NC alliance has been wiped out in the first two phases of the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

He also hit out at Omar Abdullah for contesting two Assembly seats out of fear. On Rahul Gandhi's claim to restore statehood in J&K if his party wins, Amit Shah responded that it can only be done when "BJP wants".

Leaving no stone unturned, the top brass of the party has already started carpet bombing across different Assembly constituencies of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur districts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a mega rally here in MAM sports stadium on September 28 ahead of winding up the month-long high-octane campaign.

On Thursday Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed eight rallies covering all four districts of the Jammu region. Other star campaigners of the party including Smriti Irani,

Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Nitin Gadkari have addressed a series of meetings in Jammu. Both the leaders while targeting the opposition parties Congress, National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party appealed to the voters to give a decisive mandate to the BJP candidates to ensure the formation of a stable government that can carry forward the growth-oriented agenda of the Union government at the helm of affairs.

Addressing a rally in the border belt of Ramgarh Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath Thursday said, "After BJP's return (to power) here, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is also going to be a part of Jammu and Kashmir. And this is the commotion in Pakistan, they are struggling to save their democracy".

Comparing the situation in both countries the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said, "On one side there is India and on the other side there is Pakistan, there is a shortage of food there, naturally, beggar Pakistan is not able to handle itself today. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is raising its voice for separation from it.

It is saying that we also had the right to participate in the J&K elections... Balochistan is also saying that our chemistry does not match with Pakistan. Because Pakistan is the enemy of humanity, it is a cancer of humanity. The world must be freed from this cancer..."

He said that the ongoing Assembly polls in J&K are historic and the "results will be a slap on the faces of NC, PDP and Congress.

He said Pakistan's condition at present is horrific. "The country is falling apart. On the contrary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives 80 Crore people of India a free ration and 60 Crore are getting free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh which has been enhanced up to Rs 7 lakh.

"Pakistan is a sinking ship," he said. Yogi also addressed two other election meetings in RS Pura and Chhamb.

## Kolkata Court gives death sentence to rape, murder accused

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
KOLKATA

A POCSO b(Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) Court on Thursday awarded death sentence to a man for raping and murdering a 6-year-old girl about a year and a half ago terming it "not a rare but rarest of rare case."

The sentence comes against the backdrop of the ongoing controversy over the RG Kar College rape and murder case. Special POCSO Judge Sudipto Bhattacharya sentenced Ashok Kumar Shaw the accused to death terming he deserved no mercy for the crime he had committed against a child who had no chance of defending herself.

"Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent," the judge said while announcing the quantum of punishment. The victim was raped and



murdered in the Tiljala area of south-east Kolkata, on March 26, 2023. She was allegedly lured away by the convict.

The police subsequently discovered her body in a nearby flat. Wednesday's was the third such verdict in a matter of a few months in the State.

"The prosecution was able to establish the case successfully and the guilty was finally brought to book... and an exemplary punishment was awarded," said Madhavi Ghosh the Public Prosecutor.

## PM Modi cancels Pune visit due to heavy rain, orange alert

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■** MUMBAI

Amid continued heavy rains witnessed for the second consecutive day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled his scheduled visit to Pune on Thursday to inaugurate, dedicate and lay foundation stones for several development projects worth Rs. 22,600 crore and throw open the Solapur Airport to air traffic.

Confirming the development, Pune divisional commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar said: "The Prime Minister's visit to Pune has been cancelled. The scheduled programmes have been officially postponed," Pune divisional commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar said.

"Owing to an orange alert issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Prime Minister's programme has been cancelled.

In the event of rains, people coming for the programme will have problems. Keeping the safety of people in mind, the PMO has cancelled the programme," Maha-Metro spokesperson Hemant Sonawane said.

Pune recorded 130 mm of rainfall on Wednesday and there was no let in heavy rains on Thursday as well.



During his visit to Pune, Modi was to flag off the Metro train scheduled to run from District court yMetro station to Swargate, Pune. The inauguration of Pune Metro section of District Court to Swargate meant completion of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-I). The cost of the underground section between District Court to Swargate is around Rs 1,810 crore.

The Extension of Pune Metro Phase-I is developed at the cost of around Rs 2,950 crore The three stations -- Market Yard, Padmavati and Katraj -- coming under

the project have been constructed underground.

During his Pune visit, Modi was also to lay the foundation stone for the Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule's First Girls' School at Bhidewada.

Modi was also to dedicate to the nation Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project covering an expansive 7,855 acres under the National Industrial Corridor Development Program of Govt. of India, situated 20 kms south of Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar (known earlier as Aurangabad).

## Delhi HC asks Centre to review Rahul Gandhi citizenship petition



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre to obtain a copy of a petition pending before the Allahabad High Court on the issue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship. The court said a petition on a similar issue is also being heard by the Allahabad High Court and two courts can't deal with the same issue simultaneously.

On Wednesday, Allahabad High Court sought response from Union Home Ministry on its notice to Rahul on British Citizenship holding. The court said before proceeding further in the matter, it will be in the interest of justice to know the position about the pending petition in the Allahabad High Court. "We read in the newspaper that Allahabad High Court is also seized of

the controversy. Two courts cannot deal with the same issue simultaneously.

"You (Centre) check up the status of the petition at Allahabad High Court and also obtain a copy of the petition. We just want to be doubly sure that we are not taking over someone else's jurisdiction," a bench of Chief Justice designate Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. The bench was hearing a plea by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy for directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to decide his representation seeking cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's Indian citizenship. Swamy, in his plea, also sought a direction to the Home Ministry to furnish a status report on the representation filed by him against Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The plea, filed by advocate Satya Sabharwal,

said that on August 6, 2019, Swamy had written a letter to the ministry alleging that Gandhi had "voluntarily disclosed" to the British government that he was a citizen of British nationality, amounting to holding a British passport.

During the hearing, the Centre's counsel urged the court to grant some time to obtain a copy of the petition filed at the Allahabad High Court. The bench listed the matter for further hearing on October 9. On Wednesday, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court asked the Centre whether it has taken any decision on a representation filed under Citizenship Act, 1955 asking it to inquire into allegations that Gandhi has a British citizenship.

It was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) moved by BJP worker from Karnataka, S Vignesh Shishir, claiming that he has done detailed enquiries into the issue of Gandhi being a British citizen and has got several new inputs. In his plea in the Delhi High Court, Swamy has said that the Congress leader, being an Indian citizen, has violated Article 9 of the Constitution, read with the Indian Citizenship Act, and would cease to be an Indian citizen.

## Sanjay Raut found guilty in defamation case

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■** MUMBAI

In a major political development in the run-up to the State Assembly polls, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut was on Thursday found guilty and sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment in a 2022 defamation case filed by Medha K. Somaiya - wife of BJP's former MP Kirit Somaiya.

A Metropolitan Magistrate's court awarded him a fine of Rs 25,000, in the same case. Immediately afterwards, Raut moved an application before the court which suspended his jail sentence for 30 days to enable him file an appeal in an upper court. The court also granted him bail against a cash surety of Rs 15,000.

The 25th Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazgaon, came out with this politically significant Order in a libel suit filed in April 2022 by Medha Somaiya against Raut, who had alleged a Rs 100-crore toilet construction scam linked to Yuva Pratishthan, a non-government organisation run by the Somaiyas, at Mira Road in Thane district.



## NCW urges companies to address workplace harassment

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the tragic incident involving a young Chartered Accountant at Ernst and Young (EY) India in Pune, who reportedly died due to severe work pressure, Delina Khongdup, a member of the National Commission for Women, has called upon the companies to urgently address employee's concerns regarding workplace harassment including work pressure.

Addressing Assocham 5th Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conclave 2024, she also underscored the importance of prioritising maternity benefits which is essential for fostering a supportive work environment.

Providing these benefits not only supports women during a critical life stage but also enhances overall employee well-being and job satisfaction, she said, stressing the need for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

"This should be a constant practice in organisations for the entitlement of women and all genders. This is a human and social responsibility to achieve gender diversity for all walks of society. India has a vast diversity and there should be a feeling of inclusivity in all the places possible," she said.

"Corporate India should recognise this inclusivity and bridge the gender balance relationship in working spaces. Harassment in the workplace and non-payment of maternity benefits should be addressed immediately for betterment.

We should apply a holistic approach to achieve the goal of Viskit Bharat @2047," Khongdup added.

Ravi Bhatnagar, Co-Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National CSR highlighted the importance of recognising employee well-being at workplaces so that gender diversity can take center stage. Dr Shweta Sharma, a clinical psychologist and Joint Secretary Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists (IACP) while talking to The Pioneer agreed as she said that by ensuring access to maternity leave and other related support, companies can promote a culture of inclusivity and care, which ultimately benefits everyone in the organisation.

She further said that from a psychological standpoint, the importance of work-life balance in a company's policy cannot be overstated, particularly in high-stress environments like EY India, where demanding workloads often contribute to mental health struggles. "A well-structured work-life balance policy promotes mental well-being, reducing burnout, stress, and anxiety among employees.

It allows individuals to maintain personal time for rest, relationships, and self-care, which are vital for psychological resilience. Companies that prioritize this balance can significantly improve employee satisfaction, productivity, and retention.

Encouraging staff to seek help when needed helps reduce the stigma around mental health challenges," said Dr Sharma.

## Anvar claims CM Vijayan is held hostage by political aides, accuses police of gold smuggling

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■** KOCHI

Political Kerala had a jolt on Thursday evening as an independent MLA in the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front dared Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to reply to his allegations against P Sasi, the political secretary of the chief minister and M R Ajith Kumar, additional director general of police.

P V Anvar, the MLA, hitherto considered as a close confidante of Vijayan, declared in a press meet at Nilambur that the Kerala Chief Minister is being held hostage by a coterie led by his

new son-in-law Mohammed Riyaz (who is also the minister for PWD and tourism), political secretary Sasi and ADGP Ajith Kumar. "Pinarayi Vijayan will be the last Communist chief minister in the State. Even M V Govindan, the CPI(M) state secretary, does not have any role in the party or in the government today," charged Anvar.

The seriousness of Anvar's press meet could be understood from the fact that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan asked Raj Bhavan officials to translate a word by word account of what the



MLA said in the presser. The media meet was convened by Anvar in violation of the CPI(M) diktat to him not to speak to the

media. But Anvar's response to the directive has put the party and the chief minister in a quandary as he alleged that the police in the State had

robbed gold worth crores of rupees smuggled into the country by poor Muslim workers returning home after their trip to West Asian countries.

"Last three years saw 180 instances of police seizing gold from poor workers returning home via Calicut International Airport. Though the police is bound to hand over the gold to the Customs department, they have not followed the instructions," said Anvar who alleged that the gold was shared by the coterie consisting of Sasi and Ajith Kumar. He went to the extent

of calling Ajith Kumar, one of the senior IPS officers in the State a "criminal".

By the time the press meet was over, it was clear that Anvar had declared a war against Chief Minister and the CPI(M) leadership. But P C George, seven time MLA and a senior BJP leader in Kerala told

The Pioneer that Anvar himself has no credibility as he was facing serious criminal cases in connection with unauthorized construction of private check dams, quarrying and mining. "He is an Islamic terrorist and his allegations lack conviction," said George.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Trouble for Siddaramaiah

Karnataka CM faces fresh political and legal challenge as alleged land scam during his previous tenure gains traction

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing the heat as a special court has directed the Mysuru Lokayukta police to investigate his connection with an alleged MUDA scam. This follows the Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's approval for the investigation. Siddaramaiah finds himself embroiled in a controversy as a probe into an alleged land scam during his previous tenure (2013-2018) gains momentum. The allegations revolve around irregularities in the denotification of prime land in Bengaluru, where government-owned land was allegedly released for private development, bypassing legal procedures. This development has not only triggered a political storm but also raised questions about the stability of his government, which is already navigating internal challenges. The case, brought to light through opposition parties and activists, accuses Siddaramaiah of misusing his position to facilitate the denotification of land in favour of private individuals. It is claimed

that these actions led to substantial financial losses to the state exchequer. The denotification process is typically reserved for cases where the government no longer requires the land for public purposes. However, the opposition alleges that the decision-making was influenced by vested interests.

The probe, aims to examine Siddaramaiah's role and whether he acted within the framework of the law. While the investigation is in its preliminary stages, the political ramifications are already visible. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanding a thorough investigation and even his resignation, the pressure on Siddaramaiah is mounting. In response to the accusations, Siddaramaiah has strongly denied any wrongdoing, calling the probe a politically motivated attempt to tarnish his image and destabilise his government. Siddaramaiah's defence rests on his claim that the land denotification was carried out in compliance with legal procedures and was vetted by relevant authorities. He also pointed out that similar cases have been registered against several politicians across party lines, suggesting that this is a standard political practice to harass the CM's of the Opposition parties and not unique to his administration. If the investigation gathers pace and incriminating evidence surfaces, it could weaken his authority, both within his party and in the eyes of the public. The BJP, as the principal opposition in Karnataka, is likely to leverage the land scam to question Siddaramaiah's integrity and leadership. Their demand for accountability could lead to prolonged political uncertainty, especially if the case moves into the courts or if there are calls for judicial oversight. Further, any perception of corruption, especially in a state like Karnataka where electoral battles are fiercely fought, could erode Siddaramaiah's public image. His government, which came to power on promises of transparency and development, may find itself in a difficult position defending its track record if this case gains momentum and more evidence surfaces.



Siddaramaiah has strongly denied any wrongdoing, calling the probe a politically motivated attempt to tarnish his image and destabilise his government. Siddaramaiah's defence rests on his claim that the land denotification was carried out in compliance with legal procedures and was vetted by relevant authorities. He also pointed out that similar cases have been registered against several politicians across party lines, suggesting that this is a standard political practice to harass the CM's of the Opposition parties and not unique to his administration. If the investigation gathers pace and incriminating evidence surfaces, it could weaken his authority, both within his party and in the eyes of the public. The BJP, as the principal opposition in Karnataka, is likely to leverage the land scam to question Siddaramaiah's integrity and leadership. Their demand for accountability could lead to prolonged political uncertainty, especially if the case moves into the courts or if there are calls for judicial oversight. Further, any perception of corruption, especially in a state like Karnataka where electoral battles are fiercely fought, could erode Siddaramaiah's public image. His government, which came to power on promises of transparency and development, may find itself in a difficult position defending its track record if this case gains momentum and more evidence surfaces.

### PICTALK



An artist gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess at artisans' village Kumartuli, in Kolkata. PTI

## World tourism day: Uniting people, fostering peace

Whether visiting cultural landmarks, enjoying local cuisine, or simply interacting with people, tourism fosters global unity and peace

Every year on September 27, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, a reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in fostering cultural exchange, boosting economies, and promoting peace. As borders open and people explore new destinations, tourism serves as a bridge, uniting diverse cultures and breaking down barriers between nations. In 2024, as we celebrate World Tourism Day, the theme focuses on the far-reaching benefits of travel beyond leisure, recognising how tourism helps us understand the world, its people, and its many cultures in deeper and more meaningful ways.



Tourism is not merely about sightseeing; it's about experiencing the essence of a place, its history, and its culture. As Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, emphasises, "Tourism is primarily a way to immerse oneself in new cultures and experience history." Through tourism, individuals are given the chance to see the world through different lenses, fostering greater acceptance and understanding of other people and their ways of life. This broader understanding is why cities like Moscow have prioritised cultural tourism as a key driver for their economic and social growth. The Moscow tourism strategy emphasises the importance of museums, exhibitions, and cultural events, which help travelers connect with the history and artistic traditions of the region. This approach reflects a global shift in tourism, where travelers seek deeper, more authentic experiences that expand their worldviews. Tourism has always played a unique role in creating connections between people from different backgrounds. It allows us to learn from one another, building bridges of

understanding and respect. On World Tourism Day, this aspect of travel is especially highlighted, as we reflect on how it fosters harmony in an increasingly interconnected world. As Kush Kapoor CEO of Roseate Hotels & Resorts, points out, "Tourism is about the connections we forge and the cultural experiences we offer." Kapoor stresses the importance of offering travelers more than just a stay, but a chance to explore different cultures and traditions. In a world where differences can sometimes divide, tourism brings people together, promoting peace and mutual respect. For hotels and resorts, the focus is now on providing culturally aware experiences, from diverse culinary offerings to personalised services that reflect the traditions and customs of visitors. This kind of attention to cultural diversity enriches the overall travel experience, making it more inclusive and meaningful. Beyond cultural connections, tourism is a major economic driver for many countries. It generates millions of jobs, supports local businesses, and

contributes to the global economy. Sustainable tourism focuses on minimising the environmental footprint of travel while maximising the positive social and economic impact on host communities. From eco-friendly hotels to tours that support local artisans, tourism can be a powerful tool for inclusive development and environmental protection. Perhaps the most significant impact of tourism is its role in promoting global peace and understanding. By encouraging interactions between people of different cultures, tourism helps to break down prejudices and build mutual respect. As we celebrate World Tourism Day, it's important to remember that each journey is not just a trip to a new place but an opportunity to engage with the world in a way that promotes peace and harmony. When people experience the customs, values, and traditions of other cultures, they begin to appreciate the similarities and shared humanity that unite us all. (The author is a travel writer, views expressed are personal)



ANJALI PATHAK

# Exploring the depths of the human mind



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

As AI draws comparisons to human cognition, the mystery of the mind grows more complex, raising crucial questions about its unused potential



The human mind is a unique organic entity whose lengths of reach and visions of the range are still to be fully mapped. Many believe that an average mind works at less than 30 per cent of its potential. Putting this in the context of artificial intelligence, the matter becomes even more complex. There is a theory doing the rounds in the field of artificial intelligence that suggests that entities of artificial intelligence have the potential of organic functioning, just like the human mind. The evidence for this is fairly mixed. Some conclusions may emerge over time. The crucial question concerning artificial intelligence however does include its possibilities and potential for organic evolution and growth. As observed, sooner or later, answers will emerge. Even otherwise, the human mind is a suo motu logic of its existence. Attempts to map it, are indeed one of the exciting aspects of human endeavour. Notwithstanding some breakthroughs in mapping the brain, there are areas of brain function that need a closer look both physically and operationally. Interestingly, notwithstanding all this, there is a common reference to the 'second childhood' of human beings, where people, upon reaching a certain

age, start behaving with child-like traits. It is difficult to explain this process, but it is fairly obvious to notice. Similarly, the jury is out on the age by which, the basic orientation of the brain fully takes place. One also needs to know when it matures enough to develop a relationship between the 'conscious' brain and the 'subconscious' brain. Notwithstanding the diverse interpretations of the above narrative, it is obvious that at some stage the basic foundations of the mind seemingly get concretised. One such example is the influence of early childhood experiences on a growing human being. There are stages of childhood emerging into early adulthood. All this becomes integral to the individual's ways of thinking and behaving. Popularly, this is known to affect the orientations of a growing individual on matters of finance, gender or for that matter even values. The list can be extended but more to the point one does not know, exhaustively, of all the influences which go into the making of an operationally adult human mind. Very often, there may be latent influences on a human mind



MANY AREAS OF THOUGHT, REFLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND RESEARCH MAY CONTAIN INDICATIONS OF UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF THE MIND. IT MAY BE A CHALLENGE, BUT A CHALLENGE THAT CANNOT BE EVADED

that may not manifest themselves until a much later point in adulthood. All in all, many ambiguities remain, and so do many contradictions that stay alive so far as the working of the mind is concerned. Above all, it is generally believed that hormonal changes affect the working of the mind. Both men and women reportedly pass through menopause in their later life. Many are of the view that menopausal effects are more identifiable amongst the women than the men. An issue, however, remains to be fully answered: what are the factors that influence the working of the mind? Yet another element that influences behaviour is the fall out of a mental shock. It can have many approximations of derailing the thought process of the individual, and indeed, impacting many values. Put simply, many areas of thought, reflection, analysis, and research may contain indications of understanding the dynamics of the mind. It may be a challenge, but a challenge that cannot be evaded. Further, there are also some transgenerational aspects to it. Say, how two parents deal with each other, or singly and collectively deal with a child

is an important factor for the child's growth. This can carry on across generations. Physiologically, the passing of some genes is known to happen across generations. This is not only in terms of physical characteristics but also certain diseases that may have affected one of the grandparents in a given generation and resurfaced again two generations later in the physical system of a descendant. The mapping of this process, as of today, needs much additional work to be done. This also contains a whole research agenda of human physiology, physical anthropology, medicines and more. Such a subject matter would deserve an integrated approach of not just, anthropology, psychology, genetic sciences and more, but a whole setup of support disciplines with appropriate interdisciplinary framework. This will give insights into the physiology of the human being and the composition of the brain and mind. It is a challenging task, but it is a task that cannot be avoided. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### GOVERNOR SPARKS CONTROVERSY

Madam — Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, in an unprecedented move on the evening of June 29 last year, unilaterally removed Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthilbalaji from the Council of Ministers. But he hastily backtracked from his decision late at night because he too knew that his act was not only illegal but also unconstitutional. Some people say that Ravi has always been in the habit of being in controversies. But I believe that R N Ravi is a Governor later, first he is the order follower of the ruling Home Ministry. The ideology of the Home Ministry is clearly visible in every decision and every speech of him. For example, just two days ago, while giving a lecture, he said that 'secularism is a European concept, that is why it was not a part of the Indian Constitution earlier, later, an 'insecure Prime Minister' got it added to the Constitution during the Emergency'. For example, in one of his sentences, he first hinted at the concept of a Hindutva nation and secondly, he also criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Some critics are demanding the immediate removal of R N Ravi from the post of Governor, whereas I believe that this is an ideological war which has been started by the central Government through the Governor, hence it would be better to answer this verbal war with thoughts only. Ravi should be asked, and then he will also say that the entire Constitution of India is external and is a copy of Europe, especially Britain, hence the entire Constitution should be abolished? Is our Constitution, on the basis of which we are proudly waving the flag of being the largest democracy today, also a European concept? Has the Governor forgotten that he has taken oath of this Constitution? Secularism is an integral part of our Constitution. It is our biggest duty to keep religion separate from politics. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### Ukraine appreciates India's efforts



The meeting of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of his US visit for the Quad is taken with the overwhelming gesture from the Ukrainian counterparts. Ukraine has been visited by almost all the Quad leaders in person, and India particularly is playing a spe-

cial role in establishing peace within Ukraine with its humanitarian assistance, negotiating stability deals and peace settlement mediation between Ukraine and Russia. The Indian efforts for peace initiation is so far are still moving ahead in the back channel diplomatic level. For which Ukraine is thankful for the clear support of India towards Ukrainian integrity and sovereignty. India's efforts in this regards is particularly welcoming that, we take care of every nation near or far from us; stuck in the political or economic or geopolitical turmoil, India's assistance will be helpful to ensure peace and tranquillity in the war hit country. Also such moves will also help India to meet its commitment of becoming Vishwa Shanti Guru or World's Peace Leader in the time to come. This peace collaboration between India and Ukraine will take Indian diplomatic skills to the next level. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

#### INDIA'S HOCKEY DOMINANCE CONTINUES

Madam—Indian hockey is on a high as exemplified by the way Manpreet Singh's men dominated the Men's Asian trophy at China's Hulunbuir. Notwithstanding the fact that India was the favourites to lift the title, the boys had to perform on the day, and they did. Although India fought hard to overcome an unexpected resistance from China in the final, the same team it had blanked in the league match, there was little doubt that it was the best team on display throughout the tourney. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medal, 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, bronze at the recent Paris Olympics, and now Asian gold: India has had an excellent run on the astroturf for a couple of years, after a long, long period. The best part of the present Indian hockey team is the unity and spirit with which they come across the field come what may. Coach Craig Fulton's disinclination towards unnecessary and unwarranted chopping of players, in contrast to a few former coaches, has played its role. The talented players, of course, are indispensable

to Indian hockey. At the same time, it is felt that India should not rest on its laurels; 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands should be another platform to showcase their undoubted brilliance. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

#### ENCOUNTERS RAISE CONCERNS

Madam —The recent reports of police encounters resulting in the deaths of alleged criminals raise a critical question about our justice system and accountability, such as how can we allow a system where police act as judge, jury, and executioner? Does law enforcement cross the line from justice to vigilantism? The tragic killings in Badlapur, Unnao, and Chennai reveal a disturbing trend. We need to consider how we can assure accountability that seems to reward extrajudicial actions. It is imperative for supreme courts to intervene and uphold the principles of justice in democracy. Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

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## FIRST COLUMN

## SHARPENING THE QUAD VISION

Quad summit focused on maintaining peace in the Indo-Pacific region as its top priority



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Modi's high-profile visit to the US this week reiterated the salience of US-India bilateral, underscored by several key decisions with a clear focus on the future of this 21st century partnership. This visit by the Indian PM, coming after his trips to Russia and Ukraine, points towards a multi-pronged approach, where India is willing to have diplomatic engagements at the highest level, keeping its national interests sacrosanct.

That PM Modi and President Biden have found a mutual friendship framework, despite the Indian PM having held a political roadshow of sorts with his predecessor in the Oval Office, is a signal to the large world, that the US-India bilateral has bipartisan support. The Quas leaders' summit, Modi's rockstar concert-style engagement with the Indian diaspora and his meeting with top CEOs from the technology sector in the US, all point towards an escape velocity having been achieved by the US and India, with no scope of a look back.

China was the invisible elephant in the room, at the Quad leaders' summit. The statement from the Quad summit without naming an aggressive, maritime international law violator, China, mentioned "As four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific, we unequivocally stand for the maintenance of peace and stability across this dynamic region, as an indispensable element of global security and prosperity.

We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. We condemn recent illicit missile launches in the region that violate UN Security Council resolutions. We express serious concern over recent dangerous and aggres-



sive actions in the maritime domain. We seek a region where no country dominates and no country is dominated—one where all countries are free from coercion, and can exercise their agency to determine their futures. We are united in our commitment to upholding a stable and open international system, with its strong support for human rights, the principle of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition on the threat or use of force in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. Respect for the leadership of regional institutions, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), is and will remain at the centre of the Quad's efforts." While Quad is not a defence partnership like NATO, the presence of a global superpower, China with its coercive maneuverers in the entire Indian Ocean region, bore heavily on the leaders during the summit in Delaware. Delhi, Delaware (President Biden's hometown), Sydney, and Tokyo are keenly watching the international waters, and violations by China have been reported. The leaders announced "Today we are announcing a new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), to enable our partners in the region to maximise tools provided through IPMDA and other Quad partner initiatives, to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behavior. We look forward to India hosting the inaugural MAITRI workshop in 2025. In addition, Quad partners intend to layer new technology and data into IPMDA over the coming year, to continue to deliver cutting edge capability and information to the region." China would continue to be a key concern for Quad leaders, and would perhaps serve as the super glue closely packing these four countries, with major interest in the Indo-Pacific region in a tighter embrace. The next Quad leaders' summit is likely to be hosted by Delhi, where a new US president is likely to be the key guest of honour. Given that ex-President Trump had encouraged the Quad grouping and President Biden has elevated it to leaders summit, it is safe to assume that QUAD is here to stay.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Dissanayake's rise amidst Sri Lanka's political uncertainty

As the nation transitions under Dissanayake's leadership, questions loom about his ability to navigate the complex web of rivalries that define Sri Lanka's volatile democracy



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

One of the senior editors in Colombo recounted an experience he had in Parliament after a crucial debate, where he observed two politicians discussing serious issues. After the discussion, the editor remarked to one of the leaders, "Look, you always attack him in Parliament, but behind the scenes, you are so close and listen to him carefully." This leader was none other than Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the newly elected ninth Executive President of Sri Lanka and leader of the Marxist-Leninist Party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. The person he was listening to was his predecessor, former President Ranil Wickremesinghe, a neoliberal democrat. In response to the editor's comment, Dissanayake stated, "Whatever we say in Parliament, listening to him for five minutes behind the scenes is where we can learn a lot about politics." Wickremesinghe embodies the craft of political manoeuvring, while Dissanayake represents an idealism that has sought to reshape politics through violent revolution, a pursuit that has, lamentably, cost over 60,000 young lives. But later, he engineered a shift among a few key party members to adopt a middle ground to attract liberal democrats through the NPP alliance. So far, it has been a successful story.

The friendship between these two leaders grew for a reason: Wickremesinghe was facing serious internal rifts within his party, the United National Party, where his junior, Sajith Premadasa, was rebelling against him. The history of this party is filled with tales of internal conflicts and bitter betrayals that continue to haunt its prosperity. Nevertheless, Wickremesinghe demonstrated resilience, showing that no matter who declared a power struggle against him, he could adeptly play the game of politics. This Machiavellian politician, well-versed in power dynamics, understands that he would never engage in a battle when it could be won through deception. The painful reality, however, is the consequences of these internal conflicts within political parties as the country enters a new era dominated by "political coalitions." In my opinion, this is not a healthy exercise for a robust democracy.

The erosion of political parties, the backbone of political ideologies, inevitably paves the way for unprecedented crises and precarious social outcomes. However, few realise that the friendship between Wickremesinghe, a man from Colombo's elite and a well-established political family, played [knowingly or unknowingly] a vital role in President Dissanayake's victory. The longstanding enmity between Wickremesinghe and Premadasa was undoubtedly a significant factor in Dissanayake's success, even though many predicted that no candidate would secure the over 50 per cent of votes required to win.

The results reflect the polarised political divisions in Sri Lanka, where minority-dominated areas remarkably rejected Dissanayake, presenting a significant challenge for the forthcoming general elections, as his political alliance will need to secure over 113 seats out of 225 to establish its power in Parliament.

Erik Solheim, former Norwegian minister and climate change advisor to Sri Lanka, who has been actively involved in Sri Lankan politics since the LTTE era as



THE RESULTS REFLECT THE POLARISED POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN SRI LANKA, WHERE MINORITY-DOMINATED AREAS REMARKABLY REJECTED DISSANAYAKE, PRESENTING A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE FOR FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS, AS HIS POLITICAL ALLIANCE WILL NEED TO SECURE OVER 113 SEATS OUT OF 225 TO ESTABLISH ITS POWER IN PARLIAMENT

a mediator in peace talks, commented on the significance of this election, stating, "The weakness of the election winner is that his coalition has very little experience running a complicated state like Sri Lanka. They may struggle to achieve a majority in Parliament and implement their many promises in a challenging economic environment."

Despite the worldwide congratulatory messages pouring in for the new leader, I find these insights particularly useful for forecasting the future trajectory of electoral outcomes and the challenges that the island nation is likely to face. The caretaker government, appointed for just two months until 14 November, faces low expectations and should refrain from making new appointments, wisely retaining some senior ministry secretaries from the previous administration.

If the President fails to secure a majority in the House, he will need to form a coalition, but if that proves impossible, the opposition may take control of Parliament, leading to chaotic infighting—an alarming scenario for an inexperienced President unprepared for Sri Lanka's complex political landscape. This situation accentuates significant uncertainties ahead. Historical trends suggest that a President's party or coalition often secures a majority in subsequent elections; however, the recent election results, where the winning candidate failed to garner over 50 per cent of the vote amidst three main contenders, complicate this.

The strong support for Sajith Premadasa and Ranil Wickremesinghe in Tamil-dominated provinces indicates a serious challenge for the newly elected President and his coalition as they approach the upcoming par-

liamentary elections. However, what is remarkable about this election is that it was exceptionally peaceful, with no violence reported, allowing for a refreshing power transition. The commendable role played by the Elections Commission in Sri Lanka cannot be overstated.

This calmness is particularly surprising in a country where people previously took to the streets, violently ousting the Prime Minister and President after experiencing a devastating economic crisis. Many find it hard to believe. Nonetheless, this should not be seen as the calm before the storm, as the country's economy remains precarious. No leader can fulfil all the promises made during the election campaign. The responsibility now lies with the leader and his team to convince the public, fostering understanding and collaboration to overcome the challenges ahead. This is where the reality of the much-discussed "new renaissance" will be tested against the ground realities. The nation-state and its historical trajectory will provide important lessons in understanding what the future may hold. What does it mean for a nation's history to be an intricate weave of choices and consequences rather than a mere succession of events? This perspective compels us to reflect on the profound implications of individual and collective decisions on the essence of a nation. The dismissal of "what ifs" simplifies a complex reality rich with potential paths, urging us to explore the interplay between certainty and possibility.

In the post-independence landscape, missed opportunities for reconciliation and economic transformation reveal a dissonance between political aspira-

tions and societal realities. The notion of a 'false renaissance' recurs throughout pivotal moments: the 1948 declaration of Independence, the 1956 Sinhala Only Act, the 1972 establishment of a republic, the 1977 shift to an open economy, the election of the first female executive president in 1994, the conclusion of the civil war in 2009, and the election of an apolitical leader (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) to overhaul the social structure in 2019—all serve as warnings against complacency born from superficial progress that obscures unresolved tensions and deep-rooted systemic issues.

Therefore, sensationalising the new leader's humble family background and expressing anger towards the "self-proclaimed elites" and their alleged corruption may not provide the sustainable answers that the nation desperately seeks. Instead, it is the collective will and the leader's capacity to engage with those who oppose him that will be essential for embarking on this new journey. While propaganda may orchestrate a false renaissance, the shimmering illusions of progress starkly contrast with the gritty ground reality, exposing a profound philosophical enigma: the allure of superficial advancement often obscures the underlying fractures of society. This compels us to confront the uncomfortable truths of our existence that we habitually choose to ignore in our quest for meaning and coherence.

This challenge now lies before the new leadership. Behold an essential, paradoxical truth: within this tranquil interlude lies the profound anticipation of the storm to come.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are Personal)

## Agri-tech 2.0 : Digital innovations paving the path to sustainable farming

By boosting productivity, promoting sustainability and reducing environmental impact, these technologies offer a pathway for sustainable future

As the global population heads toward an estimated 10 billion by 2050, the agricultural sector faces mounting pressure to significantly increase food production. For India, with its vast and diverse agricultural landscape, this presents a critical challenge. Traditional farming methods alone will not be enough to meet the needs of a growing population while also addressing the threats posed by climate change, dwindling natural resources and the imperative for sustainable practices. In this context, agri-tech, the convergence of technology and agriculture, offers a transformative pathway forward. By integrating cutting-edge digital technologies into farming, India has the potential to enhance productivity, sustain-



AUROBIND UPADHYAY

ability, and resilience. This article explores how these emerging technologies are reshaping the agricultural sector in India, positioning it to meet the demands of the future.

**Agriculture at a Crossroads:** For decades, agriculture has been the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50 per cent of the workforce and contributing significantly to GDP. However, the sector is

now facing unprecedented strain. The growing population, along with environmental challenges such as erratic weather patterns, water scarcity, and soil degradation, has placed the industry at a critical juncture. The traditional methods of farming are no longer sufficient to meet the increasing demand for food while preserving the environment. This is where agri-tech comes into play, providing innovative solutions that can transform Indian agriculture by improving efficiency and promoting sustainable practices.

**Precision Agriculture: Data-Driven Farming:** One of the most promising advancements in agri-tech is precision agriculture, which leverages technologies such as GPS, IoT sen-

sors, and drones to optimise farming operations. By gathering and analysing real-time data on factors like soil health, weather conditions, and crop growth, precision agriculture enables farmers to make informed decisions. This approach helps in the efficient use of water, fertilisers, and pesticides, minimising waste and environmental harm while maximising crop yields.

In India, the adoption of precision agriculture is accelerating. According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these techniques have the potential to increase yields by 15-25 per cent while reducing input costs by 10-15 per cent. The precision agriculture market in India is expected to grow significantly, from USD 57.6 mil-



lion in 2020 to USD 124.2 million by 2025. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for water conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for better fertiliser management are further driving this growth.

**AI and Machine Learning:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are also playing a crucial role in modernising Indian agricul-

ture. By analysing vast amounts of data from satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and historical crop performance, AI algorithms can predict potential problems like pest outbreaks and suggest the best times for planting. AI-powered platforms are already being used to predict pest infestations and optimise pesticide use, potentially reducing the need for harmful chemicals by up to 30 per cent.

**Ensuring Transparency:** Blockchain technology is emerging as a revolutionary tool in agricultural supply chains. By offering a decentralised ledger for recording transactions, blockchain ensures transparency, reduces fraud, and promotes fair trade practices. For farmers, suppliers, and consumers alike,

blockchain provides verifiable information about the origin and journey of food products, ensuring adherence to sustainability standards. The blockchain market in India's agriculture and food supply chain is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47.8 per cent, reaching USD 289 million by 2027.

**IoT and Smart Farming:** The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionising how farmers monitor and manage their crops. IoT devices, such as soil moisture sensors and weather stations, provide real-time data on environmental conditions, allowing for better decision-making in the field. For example, smart irrigation systems can adjust water usage based on real-time data, saving water and improving crop health. The IoT in agriculture market

in India is projected to reach USD 634.5 million by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 12.5 per cent.

**Use of Drones:** Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, drones provide farmers with detailed aerial imagery of their fields. This helps in identifying issues such as nutrient deficiencies, pest infestations, and water stress. Farmers can then take targeted actions, reducing waste and environmental damage. The use of drones in Indian agriculture is expected to grow substantially, with the market anticipated to reach USD 108 million by 2025.

(The writer is chief growth officer with Arahax Technologies; views are personal)





Zelensky visiting WH as partisan divide grows over Ukraine war



U.S. President Joe Biden, center, with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, left, Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, right, and other world leaders pose for a family picture of the launching of a Joint Declaration of Support for Ukrainian Recovery and Reconstruction, Wednesday in New York.

Labor Party members deal a blow to Starmer day after his appeal for unity

Liverpool (England) (AP): Members of Britain's governing Labour Party dealt Prime Minister Keir Starmer a blow on Wednesday, rejecting his decision to cut payments that offset winter heating costs for millions of retirees. The vote on the final day of Labour's annual conference is not binding, but it's a setback to Starmer's efforts to unite his centre-left party around the contentious measure. Since winning office in July, Starmer has cautioned that the dire state of the public finances inherited from the last Conservative government means he must make hard choices such as ending the winter fuel allowance, worth between 200 and 300 pounds (USD 262 and USD 393), for all but the poorest pensioners. Trade unions that are among Labour's funders and allies organised resistance to the cut at the conference in Liverpool, northwest England. They forced a vote on a demand for the decision to be reversed. It was narrowly passed in a show-of-hands vote amid cheers and jeers in the conference hall. "I do not understand how our new Labour government can cut the winter fuel payment for pensioners and leave the super-rich untouched," said Sharon Graham, general secre-

Pope arrives in Luxembourg

ly does. "I don't feel up to the trip. I'll greet you from here," he said, referring to the trip down the aisle. The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the decision was due to the logistics of the aircraft, with just a single aisle, and the short duration of the flight, and was not a reflection of Francis' health. Francis later seemed in fine spirits as he met separately with Grand Duke Henri and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden at the duke's palace. Migration, climate change and peace are likely to be themes during the visit, which continues later Thursday with Francis' arrival in Belgium. EU figures show that barely half of Luxembourg inhabitants, or 52.6%, are native citizens, with 37.2% coming from other EU nations like Portugal and 10.2% from outside the EU. After his meetings, Francis will speak to the country's Catholic priests and nuns. The venue is the late-Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame, which was built in the early 1600s by Francis' own Jesuit order and stands as a monument to Christianity's long and central place in European history. The trip is a much-truncated version of the 10-day tour St John Paul II made through Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1985, during which the Polish pope delivered 59 speeches or homilies and was greeted by hundreds of thousands of adoring faithful. In Luxembourg alone, John Paul drew a crowd of some 45,000 people to his Mass, or some 10% of the then-population, and officials had predicted a million people would welcome him in Belgium, according to news reports at the time. Even then, the head of the Catholic Church faced indifference and even hostility to core Vatican teachings on

AP WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is visiting Washington on Thursday as U.S. support for his country's fight against Russia faces a partisan reckoning in this year's presidential election. Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, has pledged to continue sending military assistance to Ukraine if she's elected. She'll have her own meeting with Zelensky after the Ukrainian leader sits down with President Joe Biden, who announced billions of dollars more in missiles, drones, ammunition and other supplies. The weapons include an additional Patriot missile defense battery and a new shipment of glide bombs that can be deployed from Western fighter jets, increasing their strike range. "The United States will provide Ukraine with the support it needs to win this war," Biden said in a statement, pledging to ensure that all approved funding is disbursed before he leaves office. He also said he would convene a meeting with

IMF approves US\$ 7b bailout for Pak

since 1958 and the sixth EFF. Pakistan will pay around a 5 per cent interest rate on the IMF loan, The Express Tribune quoted the Ministry of Finance as saying in a statement given to the Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated this would be Pakistan's last IMF programme; a statement he made after the approval of the 24th programme in 2023 as well. Shehbaz, giving credit for the new bailout package to Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir and the finance team, noted the federal government cannot complete the 25th programme without the cooperation of all four provinces. The Sindh government on July 30 ratified a memorandum of understanding for signing the

AP KYIV

The IMF has approved a US\$ 7 billion new bailout package for Pakistan, authorising the immediate release of the first loan tranche of less than USD 1.1 billion to reinforce the cash-strapped country's efforts to address the ongoing economic crisis. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) board met on Wednesday in Washington to give a nod to the staff-level agreement with Pakistan after Islamabad promised to overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to provinces, and agree to limit subsidies. The Prime Minister's Office confirmed the Executive Board of the IMF approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) totalling US\$ 7 billion. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained

Taliban: No one faces discrimination in Afghanistan

The Taliban said Thursday it was absurd to accuse them of gender discrimination and other human rights violations, as four countries vow to hold Afghanistan's rulers accountable under international law for their treatment of women and girls. Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands are set to start legal proceedings against the Taliban for violating a UN convention on women, to which Afghanistan is a party. "Afghanistan is responsible under international law for its ongoing gross and systematic violation of numerous obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women," they added. The countries said they did not politically recognise the Taliban as the legitimate leaders of the Afghan population. "Afghanistan's failure to fulfil its human rights treaty obligations is a key obstacle to normalization of relations," they said. The Taliban's deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said human rights were protected in Afghanistan and that nobody faced discrimination.

other world leaders focused on Ukraine's defense during a visit to Germany next month. Ahead of his White House visit, Zelensky was meeting with a handful of senators on Capitol Hill before heading across the Capitol to talk to House members, including the Republican chairs of several committees. Zelensky's tumultuous relationship with former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, continued to deteriorate this week. Instead of dollars to a man who refuses to make a deal" to end the war. His message dovetails with Russian propaganda that claims intransigence by Kyiv — not aggression from Moscow — has prolonged the bloodshed. It's the most politically treacherous landscape that Zelensky has encountered in Washington since Russia invaded nearly three years ago. Ukrainian officials are anxious to maintain good relations with whoever becomes the next president of

the United States, which is its biggest and most important provider of arms, money and other support. But the effort risks slipping into the political blender of the presidential campaign, polarizing the discussion around a war that used to be a bipartisan cause célèbre in Washington. Zelensky is eager to secure as much leverage as possible before Biden leaves office — including acquiescence to fire long-range Western weapons deeper into Russia — as a hedge against the possibility that American support erodes after the election. The latest round of sniping started on Sunday, when The New Yorker published an interview with Zelensky in which he criticized JD Vance, Trump's running mate, as "too radical" for suggesting that Ukraine needs to give up some territory to end the war. Zelensky also dismissed Trump's boasts that he could quickly negotiate a solution, saying "my feeling is that Trump doesn't really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows how."

On the same day, Zelensky toured a Pennsylvania factory producing munitions for the war. He was joined by Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro, a top surrogate for Harris, and Republicans criticized the visit as a political stunt in a political battleground state. House Speaker Mike Johnson demanded that Zelensky fire the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S., alleging that the tour was "designed to help Democrats and is clearly election interference." Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, wasn't scheduled to attend any of the Capitol meetings with Zelensky on Thursday. But in a show of some lingering bipartisan unity, Johnson was flanked by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, as he entered the senators' meeting. Zelensky did not answer questions about his relationship with Trump as he walked in. Zelensky's trip to Washington coincides with the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where the Ukrainian leader spoke on Wednesday.

Vijay Kumar S/O Tejvir Singh R/O-1553 Vivekanand Nagar, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201001, declare that name of my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly mentioned in the School records, according to the school admissions records daughter name mentioned as Kanishka, her correct name is Kanishka Goswami aged 14 years and according to school records wife's name is Rashmi, the correct name of my wife is Rashmi Goswami.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Khushboo Agrawal Wife of Nishant Kumar, currently residing at Flat No 1-A-111, G C Grand, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram , Ghaziabad-201014, U P have changed my name from Khushboo Agrawal to khushboo Agrawal. Henceforth I would be known by the name Khushboo Agrawal for all future purposes. PD(797)C It is hereby notified to all concerned that due to my marriage to Mr. Ankur Garg, my name has been changed from Suchi Goyal to Suchi Garg. Suchi Garg W/o Mr. Ankur Garg Resident of H-1816, Pratik Edifice, Sector-107, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar. PD(798)C LOST & FOUND I, Khushdeep Rai S/o Late Sohan Lal have lost my original Share Certificate and Possession Letter of Flat No.64, Lok Sabha Sect. CGHS Ltd, Sansad Vihar, Plot No.2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi, finder please contact: 9811546464 PD(799)A

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.EMP/PE/27/2024/370 No.EMP/PE/TECH-11/2024/370 Date: 18.09.2024 Name of the work: Vehicle Speed Detection System at Paradip Port Authority. Estimated Cost: 1.57,50,050/- . Last date & time of submission of bid: dt. 09.10.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/40/2024-2025 dt.26.09.2024 CORRIDGENDUM NO.-01 The amendment is made in the tenders floated vide following Tender Notice No: GEM/2024/B/5371559; Dated: 06-09-2024. Name of work: Mechanized cleaning of coaches of through passing trains at New Jalpaiguri platform during halt under "Clean Train Station" (CTS) scheme for a period of four years. Now Please read as: Date & Time of closing of Tender at 19:00 Hrs on 04-10-2024 instead of 19:00 Hrs on 27-09-2024. Date & Time of Opening of Tender at 19:30 Hrs on 04-10-2024 instead of 19:30 Hrs on 27-09-2024. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Sr. DME/Kathihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile" PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Anvar Khan who is the owner of the Plot No.17A, area measuring 100 sq.yds. out of Khatwa No.3, Khatwa No.8, Mustafil No.16, Killa No.12, 13, situated at Ghazipur, Tehsil Badkhal, Distt. Faridkot, Haryana, vide Transfer Deed dated 21.01.2023 (Vide Doc. No.1849) executed by Mr. Chandika Khan and same to be finance & mortgage by SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), Noida. That Original Sale deed dated 01.06.1999 executed by Mr. Ishwar Singh Sharma as attorney of Mr. Mohan Lal in favour of Mr. Hasnuddin has been cancelled. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBF/C, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim (right/interest) creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances. iin etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector-2 Noida, UP-201301 Contact No: 9120-4269379

ICICI Bank Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390007, Gujarat Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400051, Maharashtra Branch Relocation Notice On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., MET Hjaigar Branch Dear Customers, We wish to inform you that with effect from October 30, 2024, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below: New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., Highway Mart Reliance MET Ltd, S/O No.22, 23 & 24, Sector 7 A, On SH 15, Dabri Toe, Hjaigar, Haryana - 124515. There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times. Sincerely, Branch Manager, MET Hjaigar Branch

MECHANISED CLEANING OF KATHIHAR RAILWAY STATION GEM Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/5415608 Dated: 23-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Custom Bid for Services-Mechanised cleaning of Kathihar Railway Station for the period of Three (03) years. Estimated Bid Value: ₹13,42,12,019/- . EMD Amount: ₹8,21,100/- . Bid End Date: 16:00 hrs. of 16-10-2024 & Bid opening at 16:30 hrs. of 16-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.Gem.gov.in DRM (C), Kathihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers With A Smile" INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK Punjabi Bagh Branch 1/52, North Ave, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi- 110026 Notice is hereby given that the Original Sale Deed bearing Registration No. 518 Dated 04.05.1999 for property admeasuring 50 sq. yds, forming part of Khatwa no. 1129 Khatwa no. 1006, Khastwa no. 5036/2724 - (1-13) 5037/2724(1-18) Surat Nagar, Line Paer, Bahadurgar, Jhajjar, Haryana have been lost and are not traceable by the Bank. The Said Sale Deed was executed in favour of Sh. Iaiti Kumar and was deposited with the bank as security against home loan. Anyone who finds the same is requested to return it to the Punjabi Bagh Branch of the bank within 15 days of the receipt of this notice. Subsequent, to which the Bank shall take the necessary steps for issuance of Duplicate Documents. Any Objections to the issuance of the duplicate documents shall be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this notice. It is further to be noted that the said property is free from any or all encumbrances and is not mortgaged with the bank any more. SANJAY KUMAR JHA ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER PUBLIC NOTICE I, P.K Jain Alias Pravech Kumar Jain son of Shri F.T. Jain, Proprietor, M/S:-Pee Kee Enterprises, presently residing at-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, District-Ghaziabad, UP, P-201009, hereby declare under oath that the above mentioned name and address are true and correct. It is informed to the general public that my name is P.K. Jain alias Pravech Kumar Jain son of Shri F.T. Jain, Proprietor, M/S:-P.K. Enterprise, present resident-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, District-Ghaziabad, U.P.-201009. An industrial property No. D-342, Sector-10, Noida (area 114 sq.m.) was sold by me on 19/09/1991 to M/s. VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI, for which a Mou was signed between me and viewndra Agarwal, proprietor, of the company M/s. VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI, have any transaction, legal claim, liability or dispute with the above property of Shri P.K. Jain alias Pravech Kumar Jain and neither will it happen in future. After cancellation of the above MOU, now Shri P.K. Jain s/o Shri F.T. Jain resident-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, is now again the Lawfull owner of this industrial property No. D-342, Sector-10, Noida (area 114 sq.m.) and he has full authority to transfer/sell this property to any person. In this sequence, now Shri P.K. Jain son of Shri F.T. Jain resident-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP-201009 is transferring industrial property No. D-342, Sector-10, (Area 114 sq.m.) directly in favour of Shri Dinesh Bansal son of Mr. Ved Prakash Bansal resident-C-46, Sector-20, Noida, in Noida for which we i.e. M/s VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS PVT LTD REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI, has no objection. We have clear conscience on this. If anyone has any objection to the above transfer, then inform me on my mobile no: 9810011155 within 15 days from the date of publication of this public notice or on my REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI.

# CBDT reshuffles responsibilities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the authority that supervises the income-tax department's work in the country, has carried out a fresh reshuffle of responsibilities amongst its members, with the investigation wing reporting to the chairman. An official order issued on September 24 said CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, will be in charge of "coordination and overall supervision" of the board's work and that of the investigation, central and criminal investigation directorates. Earlier, there used to be an independent post of member (investigation) in the CBDT, but it was done away with last year as part of the work re-orientation of the board and



the chairman was authorised with the "supervision of the work of investigation", a senior officer told PTI. Some other members' responsibilities were also reorganised then, he said. According to the order, Harinder Bir Singh Gill, a

judicial), besides the additional charge of member (income tax). Prabodh Seth of the 1989 batch will be the member (administration) and his batchmate, Ramesh Narain Parbat, will be the member (legislation), according to the order that also listed out the zonal charges for these officers. The CBDT, under the Department of Revenue in the Union finance ministry, is headed by a chairman and can have six members in the rank of a special secretary. The board currently has a vacancy of two members. The latest reshuffle was affected as the tenure of two members ended in August, with Pragma Sahay Saxena taking voluntary retirement from service and the scheduled superannuation of Pravin Kumar, the officer said.

# Jio-bp inaugurates 500th EV charging station

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nant Mukesh Ambani, Director, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Murray Auchincloss, CEO, bp, on Thursday inaugurated the 500th Jio-bp pulse EV-charging station of Jio-bp. Jio-bp is a fuels and mobility joint venture between RIL and global energy giant BP. "The commissioning of the EV-charging station enables access for guests at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Jio World Plaza and Jio World Convention Centre in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, marking the installation of the 500th Jio-bp pulse charging point in India," a company statement said. Jio-bp has expanded its network of EV-charging stations at a rapid pace, growing from 1,300 to 5,000 in just a year. With 95 per cent of its EV-charging network comprising fast charging stations -- the



highest in the industry -- the company is poised to deliver high speed electrons with unmatched industry-leading uptime of 96 per cent, establishing itself as the country's most reliable charging network, it said. Jio-bp is also the first in the industry to deploy the top-rated 480 KW chargers backed by unique CVPs, which enables it to provide an efficient and quick charging experience at locations such as malls, public parking, corporate parks, hotels, and wayside amenities. "By reducing range anxiety through its rapidly growing charging infrastructure, minimising charging time

with DC fast chargers, and delivering a seamless charging experience through its state-of-the-art Jio-bp pulse charging app, Jio-bp has occupied pole position in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in India," it said. Ambani said Jio-bp is playing a pioneering role in accelerating EV adoption in India. "With the largest network share of fast-charging stations, fastest growth in EV charging infra, and highest reliability, Jio-bp is offering a well-packaged, digitised charging solution to millions of Indians". With its foray into green electrons, powered by

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd's solar power plants, Jio-bp is making rapid progress in its broader goal of promoting sustainable green mobility in India. "EV charging is one of bp's key transition businesses in our journey to becoming an integrated energy company. We are focusing on scale, speed, and strategic locations to provide a seamless customer experience. By combining bp and RIL's capabilities, we are delivering EV charging with convenience, creating a unique value proposition for customers," Murray Auchincloss said in a statement. With its sustained charging infrastructure growth, pioneering customer proposition, and focus on sustainability, Jio-bp is reinforcing its position as the fastest, mostly widely available, and most reliable EV charging partner in India.

# ICRA sees room for petrol, diesel price cuts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A reduction in crude oil prices in recent weeks has improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing state-owned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre, rating agency Icrs said on Thursday. The price of a basket of crude oil India imports averaged USD 74 per barrel in September, down from about USD 83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by Rs 2 per litre. In a note, Icrs said the marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have improved in recent weeks with the reduction in crude prices. The rating agency anticipates that there is headroom for the downward revision of retail fuel prices if crude prices remain stable at current levels. Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by Rs 15 per litre for petrol and Rs 12 a litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September 2024 (till September 17). The retail selling price (RSPs) of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 (Rs 2/litre was reduced on petrol and diesel on March 15, 2024) and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by Rs 2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable". Crude prices have witnessed a sharp decline in the last few months, primarily due to weak global economic growth and high US production and the OPEC+ has pushed the rollback of its production cuts by two months to combat the declining prices. A decline in the price of crude oil -- which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at



refineries -- had rekindled hopes for a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction in March. While petrol and diesel pricing is deregulated (meaning oil companies have the freedom to fix retail rates), the state-owned fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have rarely used this freedom since late 2021 by not revising prices in line with cost. They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high, prompting the government to roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected during the pandemic to take advantage of low oil prices. The freeze continued into 2022 but the war-led spike in international oil prices prompted a Rs 10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March 2022 before another round of excise duty cut rolled back all of the Rs 13 a litre and Rs 16 a litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel done during the pandemic. That followed the current price freeze which began on April 6, 2022, and continued till March 15 reduction. Thereafter there has been a freeze in rates again. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 87.62 a litre. Icrs said the Singapore Gross

# India aims to integrate scalable food security interventions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is seeking to integrate scalable food security interventions into existing government programmes while promoting local crop varieties, a top government official said on Thursday. Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi outlined these priorities during a review of the implementation of the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) country strategic plan (CSP) for India spanning 2023-2027. Chaturvedi, who chaired the first meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC) under the new CSP, suggested the officers to "identify the scalable interventions and



initiatives and prepare mechanisms for including the same in ongoing programmes of ministries/departments." The secretary called for a dedicated workshop to discuss the agriculture sector initiatives in detail, highlighting the need for a focused approach, an official statement said. Chaturvedi emphasized

promoting nutritious local varieties of rice and millets alongside fortified cereals, signalling a shift towards indigenous crop promotion. He advised exploring the possibilities of bringing the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) into different initiatives. The secretary also emphasised that while accessing the

nutritional outcomes of the programmes "we should also look at the standards on nutrition applicable for the Indian population." The committee, comprising joint secretaries from various ministries and NITI Aayog representatives, is tasked with coordinating and reviewing progress on initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. The CSP, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding between India's agriculture ministry and UN-WFP, focuses on four key outcomes: enhancing food-based social protection systems, promoting diverse and nutritious diets, empowering women financially, and building climate-resilient food systems.

WFP Country Director Elizabeth Faure briefed the committee on ongoing initiatives, including efforts to boost food security for smallholder farmers in Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, and the nationwide push to bring millets in mainstream. The meeting saw participation from various ministries, including Food & Public Distribution, Women and Child Development, and Rural Development, as well as agencies like the National Disaster Management Authority and India Meteorological Department. India, the world's most populous country, faces significant challenges in ensuring food security for its 1.4 billion people.

# India set to achieve GDP growth in FY25 says Finance Ministry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is set to achieve 6.5-7 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators till August, a finance ministry report said on Thursday. The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations of macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth, investment, employment and inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position. "A challenge on the macroeconomic front is of navigating the continuing uncertainty in global economic prospects. We will likely encounter a cycle of policy rate cuts globally amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical conflicts," the Monthly Economic Review for August said. On balance, the report said, the GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in Q1 FY25 and the



movements in high-frequency indicators till August fit well with the real GDP growth projection of 6.5-7 per cent for FY25, provided by the Economic Survey 2023-24. For the remaining part of the financial year, it said, a reasonable expectation is that public expenditure will pick up, providing added growth and investment impetus. In the farm sector, higher kharif acreage is already visible. Adequately replenished reservoir levels will potentially give a fillip to the upcoming Rabi crops as well.

The skewed spatial distribution of rain may have an impact on farm output in a few regions. However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and demand should get stronger, and food inflation will be milder, it said. There are also incipient signs of strains in certain sectors. For instance, the automobile dealers' body FADA has pointed to moderating sales of passenger vehicles and a build-up of inventory, it added. Data from Nielsen IQ indicated that the growth of

fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in Q1 FY25. While these may turn out to be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring. Further, capital spending by Indian states has declined in the current financial year. Stock markets around the world are booming, it said. "Consequently, the risk of an eventual correction has risen. If the risk materialises, the spillover effect may be felt globally as well," it said.

# Dr Reddy's faces penalty in Mexico for regulatory deviation



Dr Reddy's Laboratories said on Thursday the Mexican drug regulator has imposed a penalty of around Rs 28 lakh. The drug regulatory body of Mexico has imposed a penalty of MXN 6,51,420 (Rs 28 Lakh) on the company for deviation from prescribed guidelines for filing intimation of import of a reference standard for one of the active pharmaceutical ingredients, the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a regulatory filing. Shares of the drug maker were trading 0.39 per cent up at Rs 6,720 apiece on BSE.

# Fixing SpiceJet's broken wings

Can the low-cost airline heal enough to effectively compete with IndiGo and Air India?

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

Days after low-cost carrier SpiceJet raised Rs 3000 crore from institutional investors, the airline promptly cleared pending salary dues estimated to over Rs 80 crore. It is believed that the beleaguered low-cost airline will use much of the remaining funds to settle dues with a host of creditors from leasing companies to airports. However, even if much of the funds the airline has raised will go towards clearing dues, the fact is that SpiceJet did successfully manage to raise this large sum of money. This is despite the airline having to face a litany of problems and constantly being dragged to the courts by everyone from the previous owners, the Maran family of the Sun Group to various leasing firms. In fact, just last week the Supreme Court upheld a

Delhi High Court order mandating the return of three engines used by the airline on their Boeing 737 aircraft. With leasing companies asking the airline to pay up, and taking their aircraft away, the airline is down to just having 21 operational aircraft according to website airfleets.net. This is a precipitous decline from the halcyon days of the airline before Covid when the airline had almost five times as many aircraft in its fleet and was the first Indian operator of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. However, the one-two punch of the coronavirus shutdown and the grounding of the Boeing 737MAX fleet worldwide following two deadly disasters almost knocked the airline out. But this is not a time to dwell on the past, the fact is that despite difficult odds the airline has managed to raise a



large sum of money from Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) with institutions such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, BNP Paribas, Nomura and Tata Mutual Fund subscribing to the issue. The quality of investment is a very positive indicator of the future prospects of the airline. SpiceJet has a lot to do, first and foremost to regain the confidence of employees,

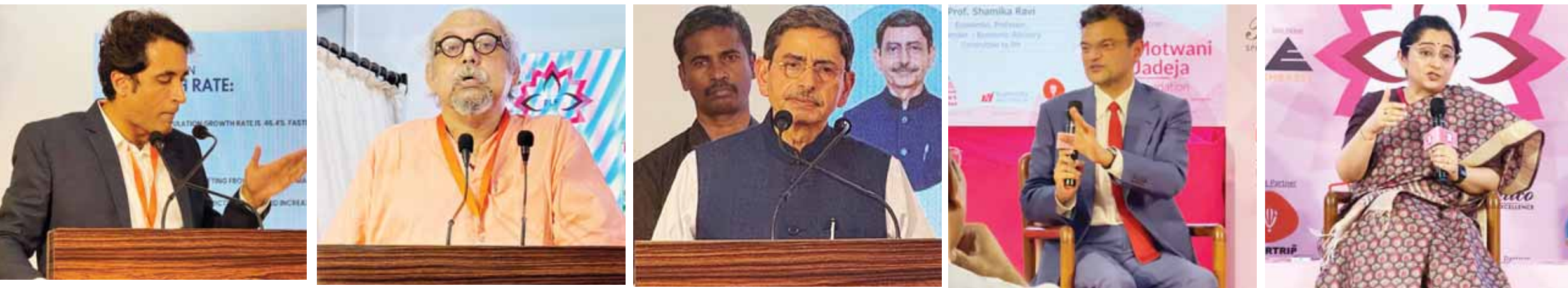
service providers and most importantly customers. They can do this by becoming more reliable and offering more services. Due to issues with leasing companies, the airline has been forced to wet-lease temporary aircraft from airlines in Cambodia and Turkey. They should now concentrate on operating their own fleet and by repaying dues owed to leasing firms, rebuild their

confidence in SpiceJet as a reliable airline. There is now talk of the airline growing to 100 aircraft by the end of 2026. If this fructifies, it is a welcome move as the Indian aviation sector needs the competition as the domination of IndiGo and Air India/Air India Express leave customers with little choice. This duopoly needs to be challenged, and SpiceJet

was a capable third player in the sector. Now however, they will have to deal with increased competition from the likes of Akasa. That said, the growth prospects for the Indian aviation sector are extremely high. Between January and June 2024, domestic air traffic numbered 79.35 million passengers, which was a growth at 4.28 percent from the same period last year. The growth could have been higher still had it not been for the collapse of Go First last year and persistent engine problems with Pratt&Whitney GTF engines plaguing IndiGo leading to almost a quarter of their fleet grounded. If SpiceJet can get their act together, and there is no reason to doubt that they can't after the fund-raise, the Indian aviation sector could easily grow to 250 million passengers per year by 2028.

# INBRIEF

- NGEL INKS JV AGREEMENT WITH MAHAPREIT**  
NEW DELHI: NTPC Green Energy Limited, entered into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT) on 25th September 2024.
- KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM SKMCH&RC) has inaugurated a Tobacco Cessation Centre at its Kattankulathur location. The center, located at the Psychiatry OPD (C-1/37), First Floor, C Block, will operate from Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 2 PM.**
- AMRITSAR: The Punjab government has approved the renaming of government schools to honor prominent freedom fighters and martyrs, aiming to commemorate their sacrifices for the country's independence.**
- AMRITSAR: An orientation workshop for college eco-club in-charges from seven districts was organized by the College Development Council, Guru Nanak Dev University under the Environment Education Programme.**



PONDICHERRY LITERARY FESTIVAL

# SHAPING INDIA'S LITERARY FUTURE

As India's literary festivals increasingly become platforms for political agendas and sensational debates, the Pondicherry Literary Festival offers a breath of fresh air

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Literary festivals are reasonably new phenomena that have sprouted across the globe. They are gatherings of authors who come from all corners of the world to discuss the evolution of literature and the modern trends that drive it. A festival syndrome has taken over India's literary world. The land of Kalidasa is bereft of any authors who are incapable of matching the stature of global-quality writers. Though there are writers who get patronage from some publishing firms or newspapers because of their obsession with anarchy and "out-of-the-box" stances like equating Maoists as "Gandhians with AK-47 rifles" and comparing their country to a "mobile-free republic", they are mere pygmies when compared to the ones in the global arena. The literary festivals that mushroomed across India gave a lot of hope to average Indians. The general expectation was that young authors would get a platform to tell the world what they felt about the emerging Indian literary world. But what we saw was that the festivals were getting hijacked by a coterie who set the agenda for wannabe writers. They want the new-generation authors to speak and write only against the concept of India. These literary festivals became an extension of the

Progressive Writers' Forum of the former Soviet Union, where the Communist Party was the last word on literature. The Party would decide what constitutes literature and ask the writers to "compose" ideology in the form of novels and poems. The two-day Pondicherry Literary Festival held on 21st and 22nd September brought in a refreshing change. The Pondicherry Literary Festival, officially launched in 2018, has emerged as one of the leading cultural events in south India - nay, in India itself. The event featured the crème de la crème of India's intelligentsia. It saw the active participation of authors like Aravindan Neelakantan, Anand Ranganathan, Kanchan Gupta, Vikram Sampath and many others. The event has systematically avoided noise from debates that are curated for the sake of polemics, thus giving an undesirable lease of life to debunked narratives. "We empower with knowledge on spiritual, religious and cultural subjects that showcase Bharat Shakti and critically evaluate what holds her back via lectures and conversations, book talks and presentations on science and technology, defence and security. This year we focus on Bharat in the New Age. 'Bharat Shakti' is a phrase we have chosen from the writings of Sri Aurobindo to serve as our guiding principle. Pondicherry is Sri Aurobindo's seat of *sadhana* and we take these



associations with reverence and respect," said Alo Sud, the festival director, who is the moving spirit behind this event. Pondicherry Lit Fest had a baptism by fire in 2018. "There were attacks and diatribes on us from the Left ecosystem, who had no qualms in designating this festival as a Sanghi, right-wing event. We do not categorise people based on rights, lefts or based on religions. This is an event where delegates can come, take part and return with their minds filled with ideas, knowledge and ground realities," said Alo Sud. In an era where commercial writers/authors advertise their new



works well in advance, authors like Aravindan Neelakantan and Anand Ranganathan are exceptions. They do not publicise their new works and it is by word of mouth that their contents get disseminated. The "secular media" blackout their groundbreaking works because of the unpalatable facts they highlight. It is Pondicherry Lit Fest that offers everyone (irrespective of caste, creed, ideology, and religion) a platform to air their views and grievances. The delegates were given a bird's-eye view of the happenings in spheres like science, technology, defence and security. The festival

stood out because there was no name-calling or Modi-bashing. The rest of the literary festivals staged across India seem to be dedicated to abusing Narendra Modi. Sometime in 2016, a Carnatic musician, feeling he was being relegated to the fourth round, came out with a startling disclosure that there was no freedom of expression under the Sangh Parivar regime. It hogged national limelight, as even the staunchest critic of Modi was hearing such an allegation for the first time. The result? The musician became an overnight star and was honoured with the

title *Sangeeta Kala Nidhi!* What Dr M Rajeev Kumar, a noted critic and author of many short stories and dramas, says about lit fests is noteworthy. "We do have many lit fests, but their agenda is fixed. There is no literature or culture in these events other than promoting certain politicians, their ideologies and some publishing houses. Lit festivals are for open discussions and not for name-calling and abusing rivals," said Dr Kumar, who has been writing for more than five decades and has yet to be invited to at least one lit fest in Kerala. Interestingly, there are lit festivals in West Asian countries too, where the targets are Modi and Indian nationalism. There are frontal organisations of extremist outfits as well as the CPI(M) (masquerading as cultural associations). This is what makes Pondicherry Lit Fest stand out from other events. Lucid speeches, lively discussions, and speakers who are keen to take the participants into confidence make it distinct from other such festivals. Delegates are treated to sumptuous meals of knowledge, wisdom and erudition. Who said avant-garde art and literature are meant only for intellectuals? Come to Pondicherry and you will be elevated to the level visualised by Sri Aurobindo, for whom the waterfront state was the second home.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

SEPTEMBER RELEASES

**Time to Come Home: Sowing the Seeds of Self-Love for Lasting Happiness** by DAMINI GROVER (PRICE: ₹399, PAGES: 280) Hay House

In *Time to Come Home*, award-winning psychologist and life coach Damini Grover offers a transformative guide that dives deep into the vital themes of self-love and personal growth. The book emphasises that self-love is foundational for a fulfilling life, helping readers reconnect with their true selves while embracing their imperfections. Grover provides actionable steps and relatable stories to create a clear roadmap for understanding and practising self-love in everyday life, addressing common challenges of self-acceptance and personal development. This inspiring work invites readers to honour their worth and prioritise their happiness, ultimately leading to lasting fulfillment.

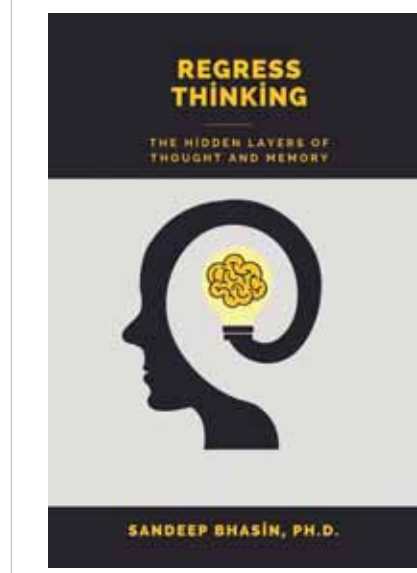
**Turtle Moon**  
By HANNAH GOLD (Price: ₹499, Pages: 337) HarperCollins Children's Books

In *Turtle Moon*, Silver Trevelon's family grapples with unhappiness due to the absence of a long-awaited sibling. When her father receives an invitation to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica, Silver hopes it will be the adventure that brings her family closer together. As she settles into life at the animal centre, she witnesses a rare leatherback turtle nesting on the beach. However, excitement turns to alarm when the turtle's eggs are stolen, propelling Silver and her new friends into a perilous quest to retrieve them. Their journey into the heart of the jungle uncovers long-buried secrets, testing their courage and resolve.

## Exploring the interplay of thought and memory

In 'Regress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory', author SANDEEP BHASIN explores the complexities of the mind and how understanding our thought processes can enhance creativity and memory, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

**R**egress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by Sandeep Bhasin invites readers on an enlightening journey through the complexities of the mind, combining historical insights with contemporary applications to offer a fresh perspective on creativity and cognitive processes. With over thirty years of experience across various fields, Bhasin draws on his extensive knowledge to explore these themes further. The book is structured around several central themes, each highlighting the vital role of creativity as a multi-dimensional process. Bhasin explores the psychology of creativity, illustrating how ideas emerge from the intricate interplay of different brain functions. He introduces the notion of *Regress Thinking*, a concept that encourages readers to retrace their cognitive steps to uncover hidden insights that might have been overlooked in the rush of everyday thought. This methodology is not just an academic pursuit, it has tangible applications in business, technology, and personal development. Bhasin's writing is both clear and engaging, making complex concepts accessible to a broad audience. He encourages readers to adopt a mindset of experimentation and to regard failure as an essential part of the creative process. By drawing connections between historical innovations and modern challenges, he highlights that lessons from the past can provide crucial strategies for tackling present-day problems. A standout aspect of the book is its use of case studies and real-life examples,



which illustrate the various manifestations of regression and its impact on individual's lives. These narratives offer practical insights and inspiration for overcoming challenges, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding and managing regression. Bhasin empowers readers to harness the potential of regression while mitigating its negative effects. One particularly compelling section of the book focuses on the four stages of the creative process: preparation, incubation, illumination and verification. Bhasin explains how each stage contributes to idea



**ABOUT THE BOOK**  
**Book :** Regress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by SANDEEP BHASIN PH.D.  
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generation, urging readers to embrace the non-linear nature of creativity. He also discusses the significance of environmental factors, mindset and collaboration in enhancing creative potential, reminding us that creativity

flourishes in supportive and stimulating settings. Moreover, Bhasin's examination of cognitive efficiency sheds light on the brain's remarkable ability to prioritise information and dismiss what it considers unimportant. This selective forgetting is framed as a beneficial feature, reinforcing the idea that understanding our mental processes can significantly enhance our learning experiences. *Regress Thinking* serves as a guide to individual creativity, it advocates for harnessing collective intelligence in our interconnected world. Bhasin promotes a culture of openness and collaboration, positioning these

elements as essential for addressing the pressing issues we face today. *Regress Thinking* is a fascinating read that intertwines history, psychology and practical application. It acts as both a manual and a companion for those looking to unlock their creative potential and navigate the intricacies of modern life. With its actionable insights and philosophical reflections, this book is a significant addition for anyone interested in enhancing their cognitive abilities and nurturing innovation. Bhasin's approach will resonate with those eager to explore the depths of their minds and utilise the past as a springboard for future success.

# INDIA LIKELY TO MAINTAIN SUPREMACY OVER BANGLADESH

**PTI ■ KANPUR**

India would want their big guns Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to fire when the mighty hosts aim for a clean sweep against a beleaguered Bangladesh in the second and final Test starting here on Friday.

The all-round show of Ravichandran Ashwin, Shubman Gill's sublime hundred, Ravindra Jadeja's quality batting and Rishabh Pant's roaring comeback allowed India to script a comfortable victory in Chennai despite being put under pressure by the Bangladesh pacers on day one.

The way India bounced back in the game reaffirmed their supremacy in Test cricket, especially at home where they are on course for a record extending 18th consecutive series win. Having made a successful return in white-ball cricket, it was time for Pant to show that it is the Test arena where he can make the maximum impact.

It seems he has even added one more dimension to his game: curbing his aggressive instinct



if the situation demands, making him even more dangerous.

However, both Rohit and Virat's bats remained silent in the series-opener as Bangladesh pacers — Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed — bowled probing lines on a supportive track and were rewarded. With a long Test season ahead of them, the two premier batters must be itching to get back among the runs.

Playing his first Test at home since March 2023, Kohli did not look at his sharpest and one can trust him to not go for expansive cover drives at the start of his innings.

**CHANGE IN COMBINATIONS:** The Green Park wicket has traditionally been a low and slow track that assists spinners. While it is expected to offer some assistance to the fast bowlers initially, the basic nature of the pitch, prepared with black soil brought from Unnao, is not expected to change much.

The wicket will become slower as the game progresses. It means, India can field three spinners instead of three

their playing eleven. They struggled against a high-quality Indian pace attack in their first essay in Chennai and then could not handle Ashwin and Co while chasing an improbable target.

The team management has given contrasting statements on Shakhb Al Hasan's availability. While a selector had said that he is doubtful due to a finger injury he suffered while batting in Chennai, chief coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said he is eligible for selection.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, who failed to apply themselves with the bat in the series opener, are expected to make changes to

pose a huge challenge for the players. The humidity has been very high in the city in the last few days. The Indian team made Thursday's practice optional, saying it needs to save players from searing heat.

The match may see interruptions on first and third day with weather forecast predicting rain.

India have not lost a Test to Bangladesh till date and the visitors will need a special effort to reverse that statistic.

**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, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakhb Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.



## Shakib retires from T20Is, says Kanpur Test will be his last if no farewell at home

**PTI ■ KANPUR**

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakhb Al Hasan on Thursday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at home.

His final international game for Bangladesh will be in the Champions Trophy which is likely to be held in UAE and Pakistan.

The 37-year-old great, who featured in 129 T20Is for Bangladesh will, however, continue to play in franchise leagues.

"I have played my last T20 match in T20 World Cup. We have discussed this with the selectors. Looking at the 2026 World Cup, this is the right time for me to move out. Hopefully, BCB will find some great players and we will perform well," said Shakib on the eve of the second and final Test against India here.

Shakib, who has played 70 Tests, scoring 4600 runs and taking 242 wickets might just play his last Test in the North Indian industrial town in case the cricket board can't assure him of his security after being accused of murder although he wasn't even in the country at that time.

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise everything so that I can go to Bangladesh. If that won't happen, the match against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he added.

Shakib was named as an

## India is capable to make a strong impression in women's T20 WC: Sthalekar

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar said India have the all-round depth to grab an elusive ICC title during the upcoming women's T20 World Cup.

The global showpiece will be held in the UAE from October 3 and India's best effort in the event remains a final berth in 2020, where they lost to Australia.

"I can see Australia in the semifinals as they are aiming to win their fourth (title) in a row. England too had a strong pre-tournament build-up. India's chances are also very high and I expect them to be in the semifinals, if not in the finals," Sthalekar told a select group of journalists at the ABC — International Development's five-day cricket commentary and mojo programme at the Australian High Commission.

The former Australian skipper validated her argument citing good options through India's line-up.

"India has got power, depth, decent bowlers and if their 4-7 number batters can score at a good strike rate, they will be in a good position. They need a good start from the openers. Jenimah Rodriguez did well in the West Indies (in the CPL) recently. It will be fascinating to see how she performs in the WC," she said.

Delving further deep into the chances of the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side, Sthalekar said India have the wherewithal to beat Australia, their nemesis in global events over the years.

"For example, in the 2020 T20 WC, Poonam Yadav took four wickets in the first game and

dislodged Australian middle-order. India won that match by 17 runs.

"If any top order Indian batter scores a century or bowlers have a good day, they can take the game away," said the veteran who was the first woman to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODIs.

Expressing delight over ICC's decision of having equal prize money in men's and women's WCs, the 45-year-old said it will have a bigger impact on the game.

"From a prize money perspective, I think it's really good. But what I am most pleased about than just the winner getting the same prize money as their male counterpart is how much money teams are getting for just participating in the World Cup.

"So, it ensures that it's not just the strong nations getting stronger and wealthier, but there is an effort at growing the global game," she said.

She used Scotland to leverage her point.

"Scotland coming in for the first time will earn money, probably more money than their national contract. The headline is equal prize money and that was primarily the intention.

"But when you look a little bit deeper, they would like to have a bigger impact on the game."

After her playing days, Sthalekar has established herself as a respected voice of the game over the last decade.

The Indian-origin Aussie described the effort she put in to reach the higher rungs of her job as a commentator.

"Not everyone has to be a Richie Benaud or a Danny Morrison. But we all have different skills and strengths that we bring to the commentary box. That's why you have diverse personalities (doing commentary)," she said.

Sthalekar picked commentating during the IPL as her biggest career moment.

"You have to have goals in your career and IPL (commentary) was my 10-year goal as a commentator. But I got a call to be in the IPL commentary team within six months.

"I remember my first IPL game as a commentator at the Eden Gardens in 2015. Some 70000 screaming fans were there and I had to do an interview with Gautam Gambhir," she said.

## Pujara was backbone of Indian batting on last two Aus tours, he will a big miss this time: Vihari



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Hanuma Vihari, part of India's back to back series wins in Australia, reckons the services of veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara will be dearly missed when the team aims for a hat-trick Down Under later this year.

The five Test series begins in Perth from November 22. Out of favour Pujara was the leading run-getter in the 2018-19 series with 521 off 1258 balls and was once again the backbone of Indian batting three years later when he accumulated 271 runs off 928 balls.

Across the two teams, the 103-Test veteran by far faced the number of balls to wear out the opposition attack comprising Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

As another Border-Gavaskar Trophy is on the horizon, Vihari wondered who can play Pujara's role this time around.

"Pujara will be a big miss. He was the backbone of the batting line-up in the last two series for Team India. He took blows, he batted time, he stayed there for a long time, he saw the new ball, he got runs. He made the job easier for the other batters coming in," Vihari told PTI in an interaction arranged by JioCinema.

"So that kind of role... Who will play is a question mark for me. Currently I would say we have an attacking mode of a batting line up (the top six). All like to play their shots. Virat is the only one I feel in that batting line up who can be like a glue to the other batters.

"He can stay on and bat the most number of overs and you know batting in Australia



## India U20 face stern Iran test in AFC Qualifiers

**PTI ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)**

India will be looking to iron out the rough edges before facing Iran in their next Group G game of the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025 qualifiers here on Friday.

India put up a good show to register a 4-1 victory against Mongolia in their first Group G match but there is still a lot of work to be done.

"The last match was a big motivation for our team. I've always maintained that winning the first match of a tournament is crucial, and the boys stuck their heads in and played extremely well against Mongolia," said Ranjan Chaudhuri in a release.

"But we cannot rejoice in the victory just yet. We must immediately begin preparations for the next game. We missed a lot of chances against Mongolia, and that is something we cannot afford against Iran.

"They are an extremely good side, but we have made our plans according to their game as well. Anything can happen on the day, and with a little luck, our boys can get a good result. The most important thing for us is to play our game well, and come out of the match with our heads held high, with a smile," he said.

While India registered a 4-1 win against Mongolia, Iran trampled hosts Laos 8-0, a result that puts them firmly on top of Group G. However, Iran head coach Hossein Abdi was wary of India's potential threat.

"India have quality players, many of whom I've seen at the U-17 level in Thailand last year. They play a fast game, have shown a good understanding of football. I think the game has progressed very fast in India recently, and we will see further advances in the future," he said.

"We will give it our best against them, but the most important thing at this level is that the players are safe. It's all about building good human relations and doing well for the country," said Abdi.

## Man United stunned 1-1 by Dutch club Twente in revamped Europa League

**AP ■ MANCHESTER**

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag questioned his players' killer instinct after they were held to a 1-1 draw by his old club FC Twente in the revamped Europa League.

Sam Lammers capitalised on a mistake by Christian Eriksen in the second half at Old Trafford and raced away to fire an equalizer for the Dutch underdog.

"You saw that was the game of their life. They fought for every yard and we didn't," Ten Hag said. "99% is not enough, You have to give 100%. You have



kill the game. You have to finish it off."

Eriksen had put United ahead with a stunning first-half strike but was caught in possession by Lammers, whose goal secured an unexpected point for the visitors.

Ten Hag had spoken before the game of his affection for the team he supported as a boy in the Netherlands and represented as a player. He said it was "not nice to have to hurt something you love."

Instead it was United fans left in pain, despite Eriksen seemingly putting the home team on course for victory.

United has won just three of

seven games in all competitions this season and Wednesday's draw came after a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday.

Eriksen swept United ahead in the 35th with a first-time shot into the top corner. Connecting with a loose ball just inside the box, the playmaker didn't break stride as he whipped his effort past Twente goalkeeper Lars Unerstall with power and precision.

With one fist clenched, he ran to the corner to celebrate in front of the home fans.

But it was Twente's supporters

"And you have to fight until the end and score the second goal." Like the Champions League, the second-tier Europa League has a new format and 36 teams instead of 32. It features a league system in which each team plays eight games against different opponents through January, replacing the old group stage.

In a clash between the Turkish and Greek champions, Galatasaray beat PAOK 3-1. Victor Osimhen, who moved from Napoli to Galatasaray earlier in September, made his presence felt.

The Nigeria striker's goalbound header was

deflected by defender Abdul Rahman Baba into his own net early in the second half. Giannis Konstantelias equalized on a rebound before Osimhen set up Yunus Akgün to net the winner. Mauro Icardi added a stoppage-time goal.

Lazio cruised past Dynamo Kyiv 3-0. Boulaye Dia struck twice and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru added one. Both teams ended the game with 10 men.

Real Sociedad, struggling in La Liga, got a goal from Ander Barrenetxea at Nice but the home team salvaged a 1-1 draw thanks to Pablo Rosario's goal late in the first half.

Another team struggling

domestically, Bundesliga's Hoffenheim took home a point from Denmark in a 1-1 draw with Danish Superliga's leader Midtjylland. Dario Osorio put the hosts ahead late in the first half before substitute Max Moerstedt leveled it in the final minute.

In Brussels, Anderlecht struck twice in the span of five minutes in the second half on the way to a 2-1 victory over Ferencváros. Yari Verschaeren scored on the hour and Kasper Dolberg added the second from the spot.

Slavia Prague scored in each half for a 2-0 win at Bulgaria's Ludogorets.