

**OPINION 6**  
DEBUNKING CONSPIRACY THEORIES WITH AI

**WORLD 8**  
TALIBAN SUSPENDS AF POLIO VAX DRIVES

**MONEY 10**  
PIYUSH GOYAL LAUNCHES BHASKAR

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12 SPORTS

## MODI'S 100 DAYS PROJECTS PUSH HISTORIC



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Projects worth over ₹15 lakh crores have been launched in the first 100 days of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government for a historic third term. The projects focussed on infrastructure, farmers, middle class, women, and minorities, among others, according to a Government statement. Incidentally, the will Government will complete first 100 days on Tuesday coinciding with Prime Minister Modi's birthday. Before hitting the campaign trail for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Modi had given several tasks to officials to be completed within the first 100 days of the third NDA Government.

The central Government has approved projects worth ₹3 lakh crore in 100 days with primary focus on roads, railways, ports and airways, the statement said. This includes approval of eight national high-speed road corridor projects spanning over 900 kilometres. It also includes approval of the Wadhavan Mega Port in Maharashtra at a cost of ₹76,200 crore, which will be among the top 10 ports in the world. The Government has also laid the foundation stone of Shinkun-La Tunnel, to connect Ladakh with Himachal Pradesh. The 17th instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi was also released. As part of the instalment, ₹20,000 crore has been distributed to 9.3 crore farmers. "So far, ₹3 lakh crore has been distributed to a

12 crore 33 lakh farmers," the statement added. Furthermore, the Minimum Support Price for Kharif crops for 2024-25 has been increased, which benefited 12 crore farmers by approximately ₹2 lakh crore. In a relief to middle class, the NDA government announced no tax on income up to ₹7 lakh, helping salaried individuals save up to ₹17,500 in taxes, the Government statement said. "The standard deduction increased to ₹75,000 and the exemption limit for family pension was raised to ₹25,000. A comprehensive review of income tax rules is to be conducted within six months to make them concise, clear, and easy to understand," the statement added.

Continued on Page 2



File Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

## Kejriwal to meet LG today, likely to tender resignation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Arvind Kejriwal sent shockwaves across political circles saying that he would step down as the Chief Minister of Delhi, the AAP chief will meet Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, during which he is likely to tender his resignation. Saxena has given him an appointment for a meeting at 4:30 pm on Tuesday. AAP had earlier said Kejriwal sought time for a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor. Regarding the final decision over the New Delhi CM, the AAP legislative party meeting will be held on Tuesday at CM's house. Meanwhile, the AAP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) deliberated on the selection of the next chief ministerial candidate and the composition of the Delhi cabinet at Chief Minister's

residence. The committee also reviewed strategies for the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections, as the party aims to broaden its political presence in the neighbouring state. Kejriwal held one-on-one talks with leaders of the Public Affairs Committee of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for their feedback on who should be the next Chief Minister of the national capital. "During the meeting, he (Kejriwal) sought one on one feedback from each leader on his replacement. Tomorrow, the legislative party meeting is there and this discussion will go into the second round," Bharadwaj said after the meeting. Among those who attended the PAC meeting were Kejriwal, former deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chaddha and five city cabinet Ministers.

Continued on Page 2

## Capital to combat vector borne diseases

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of two deaths by dengue reportedly in the national Capital including a 54-year-old patient who died at Lok Nayak Hospital and another at Safdarjung Hospital, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has intensified efforts to combat the spread of vector borne diseases including spraying and fogging of more than 4.20 lakh houses with insecticides. The two deaths due to dengue include a 54-year-old patient who died at Lok Nayak Hospital and another at Safdarjung Hospital. According to data by the MCD, a total of 675 cases of dengue have been reported this year till September 10. A total of 967 cases of vector borne diseases including 260 cases of malaria and 32 cases of chikungunya have been reported in the same period.

The maximum numbers of dengue cases were witnessed in the Najafgarh zone with 103 cases, followed by Shahdara North zone with 84 cases, South zone with 71 cases, Central zone with 67 cases, Karol Bagh zone with 60 cases, Rohini zone with 56 cases, Shahdara South zone with 50 cases, West zone with 45 cases, Narela zone with 42 cases, Civil Lines zone with 40 cases, and City SP zone with 33 cases. The lowest was reported from Keshav Puram zone with 24 cases.

Amid a surge in cases of the vector-borne disease at several city hospitals in Delhi, the civic body is taking a multi-pronged approach with the officials visiting over 2.59 crore households, with 1,56,932 found to be breeding mosquito sites. "Breeding sites are destroyed on the spot, and homeowners are educated on health and hygiene practices," a senior MCD official said. He added that drains, water bodies, and surface water collections are sprayed weekly using manual and motorised sprayers and larvivorous fishes have been introduced at 213 locations in clean water collections. "23 special drives have been conducted to cover vulnerable areas such as police stations, construction sites, parks, hospitals, schools,



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Government offices, and DTC depots," he added. Additionally, MCD has also conducted special fogging operations in Kavad camps, Krishna Janmashtmi pandals, temples, and Lal Quila. The civic body also mentioned that low lying areas along railway tracks are being sprayed by power spray tankers mounted on railway wagons.

Chaired by the MCD's Mayor Shelly Oberoi and Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, the civic body has conducted 28 Inter-Sectoral Coordination Committee meetings under the chairmanship of the Mayor and Commissioner at headquarters and zonal levels, involving major stakeholders such as Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi Police, Public Works Department (PWD), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Horticulture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Education, and Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) departments to ensure effective coordination and implementation of control measures. "Nodal Teachers of all schools have been trained for prevention of mosquito breeding in schools. Fogging and focal spray operations will be conducted at public gatherings and religious festivals to control adult mosquito populations," he said, adding that outdoor fogging operations will be intensified in September-October, depending on mosquito density and disease situation and legal notices, challans, and administrative charges will be levied on repeated offenders.

Continued on Page 2



## MLA to reward ₹11 lakh to cut tongue of Rahul Gandhi

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking development that has unleashed a massive controversy in Maharashtra, an MLA belonging to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Monday announced a bounty of Rs 11 lakh to anyone who chops the tongue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over the latter's purported comments on reservations. In a video clip that has gone viral landing the BJP-led MahaYuti Government in an embarrassing situation, Shiv Sena (Shinde) MLA Sanjay Gaikwad said: "While on foreign soil, Rahul Gandhi said that he wants to end reservations in India. This has exposed the Congress' true face. Gandhi's statement reveals his mindset that is inherently opposed to reservations. I will reward anyone who cuts off Rahul Gandhi's tongue with Rs 11 lakh".

"In the Lok Sabha polls, they (the Congress) secured votes by spreading lies that the Constitution is in danger...BJP will change the Constitution and today in the United States he said that his party will put an end to reservations given by late Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," Gaikwad, an MLA from Buldhana said.

As was expected, the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) turned up the heat on Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP and Ajit Pawar of the NCP. Having found themselves on the defensive, Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar had distanced themselves from Gaikwad's statement.

Continued on Page 2

## Didi, doctors meet positive

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the crucial two-and-a-half-hour meeting between Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the agitating junior doctors ending on a "positive note" the State Government is likely to announce "some very important decisions" pertaining to the doctors' demands on Tuesday, sources said.

The agitating doctors had been demanding justice for the lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who was raped and murdered in the morning of August 8.

Though the doctors had not come out of the meeting venue as minutes were still being written, sources privy to the proceedings said that the doctors had "vividly communicated to the Chief Minister" their demand including administrative actions against the erring officials of the Health Department including the Health Secretary and two directors of Health apart from Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal. The Government side told the doctors that as certain decisions including those on administrative actions against the senior officials could be taken only after certain procedures, such issues could be addressed subsequently. On whether the doctors who had been on "cease work" would join duty right away was



A delegation of junior doctors moves to board a bus from their dhama site near Swasthya Bhawan for a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at her Kalighat residence, in Kolkata, West Bengal, Monday PTI

not made clear as the sources from the doctors' side said that the delegation would speak to the media after a general body meeting that would take place around midnight at the sit-in site near Swasthya Bhawan Government. They however, said the "meeting has taken place in a very cordial atmosphere and both the sides were eager to cooperate."

Earlier, the junior doctors on Monday evening reached Chief Minister's residence. This was hours after the Mamata Banerjee Government tried for "one last time" to break the 36-day impasse and offered a "constructive dialogue". The medics had been asking for punishment for those responsible for the August 9 felony and "destruction" of evidence; departmental action against arrested former RG Kar

principal Sandip Ghosh; resignation of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and Health Secretary NS Nigam; improved security for healthcare workers; and eradication of the 'threat culture' in Government hospitals allegedly perpetrated by a political lobby that indulges in mass cheating, extraction, victimisation, smuggling of bodies, corruption etc. In the meeting which was a prolonged one "security related issues in the State's medical colleges were being discussed in the initial phase," sources said. "It is still early days and will take a good time to end as the discussions have just started ... there are many points and counterpoints that were raised and heard," said an official.

Continued on Page 2

## INDI alliance divided on Article 370, says HM

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Launching a frontal attack on the pre-poll alliance partners, Congress and the National Conference on the last day of campaigning in Kishtwar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday appealed to the voters in the region to punish these parties by voting in favour of the BJP as they (Congress-National Conference) have always "nurtured and nourished" terrorism. Shah vowed to "bury terrorism deep into the earth so that it would not be able to rear its head again."

Addressing three back-to-back election rallies in the region Shah said there is a clear fight between the Congress-National Conference alliance and the BJP — one wanting to bring back Article 370, and the other committed to stopping it.

Shah reiterated the Constitution's Article 370, which gave special status to J and K, is history and will never come back.

The Home Minister also paid tributes to all those who have been killed in terror-related incidents, and specially referred to the deaths of BJP leaders Anil Parihar, Ajit Parihar and RSS leader



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during a public meeting ahead of J&K Assembly elections, in Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir, Monday PTI

Chanderkant Sharma. BJP has fielded former Minister Sunil Sharma from Padder-Nagseni and Shagun Parihar, daughter of Ajit Parihar, from Kishtwar assembly constituency.

Reminding the voters about the promises made by the alliance partners in their election speeches and party manifestos, the Union Home Minister emphasised, "NC and Congress say that if they come to power, they will bring back Article 370. Modi revoked Article 370 and it has become history. It has no place in the Indian Constitution," he added. Shah said they will also not allow the NC-Congress to snatch reservations of Gujjars and Paharis.

There will be only one

constitution, one Prime Minister and one flag that is our beloved tricolour." Campaigning for the BJP candidates, Shah said attempts were being made to bring back the 1990s-like situation and spread terrorism. "NC and Congress have made promises that their Government will release terrorists. But this is Narendra Modi's Government and none has the guts to spread terrorism." Shah also targeted NC chief Farooq Abdullah and asked him where he was when Kishtwar was bleeding from terror attacks. "He should be asked if he comes here. But I know where he was. He was enjoying summer vacation in London," Shah said.

He said the BJP Government

has resolved to wipe out terrorism and initiated some measures.

"We have strengthened village defence guards and special police officers. We have replaced their obsolete rifles and they are being equipped with self-loading rifles...we are raising a security grid. Terrorists may come but they will be wiped out."

He claimed that NC and Congress had said if they came to power, they would reconsider reservation to Paharis and Gujjars. "Firstly, the reservation would not have been possible, had Article 370 stayed here. Secondly, I am watching the Kashmir situation. Let me tell you that neither Farooq Abdullah nor Rahul Gandhi is going to form the Government," he said. Shah referred to Maharaja Hari Singh, Jammu and Kashmir's last king, and said he was banished from his State. "These parties (NC and Congress) not only insulted Maharaja Hari but also did not allow him to return home. His ashes came back. These parties, who insulted Maharaja Hari Singh, are responsible for the exodus of Pandits, denied rights to women and reservation to marginalised sections...will you bring them back?" he asked.

## Will never surrender: Trump after assassination attempt

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Hours after another failed attempt on his life, former US President Donald Trump on Monday said he will never surrender and never stop fighting for Americans.

The Republican presidential candidate also thanked the US Secret Service and other law enforcement officials for their "outstanding" job after what the FBI said was an apparent assassination attempt while playing golf on one of his golf courses in Florida's West Palm Beach.

The former President remained unharmed in the latest assassination bid about two months after another attempt on his life at a Pennsylvania rally.

"I am Donald J. Trump. FEAR NOT! I am safe and well, and no one was hurt. Thank God!", the Republican presidential candidate said on his campaign website. "There are people in this world who will do whatever it takes to stop us. I will not stop fighting for you. I will Never Surrender! I will always love you for supporting me. Through our UNITY we will Make America Great Again! I will Never Surrender!" Trump said. "THE JOB DONE WAS ABSOLUTELY



OUTSTANDING," the former President said in a post on Truth Social. "I would like to thank everyone for your concern and well wishes — It was certainly an interesting day! Most importantly, I want to thank the US Secret Service, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and his Office of brave and dedicated patriots, and, all of the law enforcement, for the incredible job done today at Trump International in keeping me, as the 45th President of the United States, and the Republican nominee in the upcoming presidential election, SAFE," Trump said.

Local authorities said the US Secret Service agents protecting Trump fired at a man pointing an AK-style rifle with a scope while the former President was golfing with donor Steve Witkoff when shots were fired, CNN quoted a source familiar with the development as saying. President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris were briefed and updated on the investigation.

Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate and Trump's rival in the upcoming election, in a statement, said "violence has no place in America."

"I have been briefed on reports of gunshots fired near former President Trump and his property in Florida, and I am glad he is safe. Violence has no place in America," Harris said on X. Biden echoed that thought in his statement, adding that he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service "has every resource, capability and protective measure necessary to ensure the former President's continued safety."

"As I have said many times, there is no place for political violence or any violence ever in our country," Biden said on X, adding that he was "relieved the former President is unharmed."

## EID-E-MILAD-UN-NABI



Muslims take part in an Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi procession in Prayagraj, Monday, September 16, 2024 PTI

# PM Modi to visit poll-bound Maharashtra for third time this month

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In his third foray into Assembly poll-bound Maharashtra in less than a month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Wardha in Vidarbha region on September 20, coinciding with the first anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, an occasion where he would extend benefits to artisans and crafts-persons. Modi, who is in the Assembly poll campaign-mode even before the announcement of the schedule by the Election Commission of India (ECI) had earlier addressed a "Lakshpati Didi Sammelan" at Jalgaon in north Maharashtra on August 25 and laid a foundation stone for Rs 76,000 crore Vadhvan Port at Palghar in coastal Konkan region August 30. At the "Lakshpati Didi Sammelan" Modi had distributed certificates to 11 lakh "Lakshpati Didis" who recently became e Lakshpatis, released a "Revolving Fund" of Rs 2,500 crore, benefiting about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHG) and disbursed



bank loans of Rs 5,000 crore which will benefit 25.8 lakh members of 2.35 lakh SHGs. The August 30 2024 function was politically significant, considering that Modi had - in a damage-control effort - tendered apology to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's imposing statue at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg district over the collapse of the revered Maratha king's 35-feet tall statue at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg district ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls. At the first anniversary function of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, Prime Minister Modi will dole benefits to artisans and crafts-persons under this scheme. It may be recalled that Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana - known popularly as PM

Vishwakarma was launched on September 17, 2023 in New Delhi. The scheme - which is coordinated by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) --is aimed at providing end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades - carpenter (suthar/badhai), boat maker, armourer, blacksmith (lohar), hammer and tool kit maker, locksmith, goldsmith (sonar), potter (kumhaar), sculptor (murtikar, stone carver), stone breaker, cobbler (charkar)/shoemaker/footwear artisan, mason (rajmistri), basket/mat/broom maker/coir weaver, doll and toy maker, barber (naai), garland maker (malakaar), washerman (dhoobi), tailor (darzi) and fishing net maker. At the function, Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar will be present. A few union ministers will also attend the event.

# Hindu outfit roots for BCCI to cancel India-Bangladesh cricket tour

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The right-wing Hindu Janajagruti Samiti (HJS) on Monday rooted for the cancellation of all India-Bangladesh cricket matches as well as cultural programs featuring Bangladeshi artists, until the attacks on Hindus stop in the neighbouring country. In a representation submitted to the Special Executive Officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the HJS called for cancellation of the forthcoming tour of Bangladesh cricket team to India from September 19 to October 12. Advocate Anish Paralkar of HJS, Vinayak Shinde of the Manav Seva Pratishthan, Advocate Rahul Patkar, Ravindra Dasari, and Sandeep Tulsakar were present on the occasion. "India is set to host two Test matches and three T20s against Bangladesh from September 19 to October 12, 2024, in Chennai, Kanpur, Gwalior, Delhi, and Hyderabad....While fanatical Jihadis in Bangladesh openly kill Hindus, burn their homes, vandalize temples, seize land, and rape Hindu women, how



can we play cricket matches with them? We will never tolerate this," the HJS said in its representation to the BCCI. "The Hindu community in Bangladesh continues to face relentless attacks, with 230 reported deaths and incidents of anti-Hindu violence across 52 of the 64 districts," HJS national spokesperson Ramesh Shinde said. The representation - copies of which are being sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar. "Following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, these attacks

have intensified, especially in rural areas where Hindus live in constant fear. Recently, a young Hindu, Utsav Mandal, was brutally assaulted by a jihadi mob inside a police station over alleged blasphemy charges, further illustrating the ongoing violence and persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh," Shinde said. Shinde said that as much as "Muslim countries unite and strongly oppose any attacks on the Muslim community, India should adopt a similar stance against the violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh".

# 15 nominations for upcoming Assembly elections withdrawn in Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A total of 47 candidates are in the fray for four Assembly seats in the upcoming Assembly elections as 15 nominations were withdrawn on Monday. Monday was the last day of the withdrawal of nomination papers for the assembly polls. Prominent among those in the fray for Gurgaon seat are BJP Mukesh Sharma from Gurgaon seat, Congress Mohit Grover from Gurgaon and Independent Naveen Goyal. Likewise, former minister and BJP candidate Rao Narbir Singh from Badshahpur seat Congress Vardhan Yadav and Independent Kumudni Jhangu. Similarly, BJP Bimla Chaudhary from Pataudi (SC) constituency, Congress Par Chaudhary from Sohna assembly constituency and BJP Tejpal Tawar from Sohna seat, Congress Rohtas Khatana and others. According to a statement issued by the District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Gurugram Nishant Kumar Yadav, 15 can-



didates withdrew their candidature in the office of respective returning officers in the district, leaving 47 candidates in the poll fray. Yadav said that election symbols have been allotted to the candidates who have filed nominations in all four Assembly constituencies of the district namely Pataudi, Badshahpur, Gurgaon and Sohna on Monday. He informed that on Monday, 7 candidates from the Pataudi Assembly, 13 from the Badshahpur Assembly, 17 from the Gurgaon Assembly and 10 from the Sohna Assembly are now in the poll battle. He informed that voting for the Assembly elections will be held on October 5 and counting will be held on October 8, the result will be declared along with the counting.

# Rahul Gandhi conspiring to end reservation in India, claims Meghwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Monday slammed the Congress alleging that Rahul Gandhi, sitting in America, was conspiring to end reservation in India. Addressing a meeting of party officials at the BJP office in Gurukulam, Meghwal claimed that during the Lok Sabha elections, Congress cheated and threatened the people of SC, ST and OBC categories that if the BJP came to power, it would abolish the Constitution and end the reservation, but in the true sense, ending reservation is the real agenda of Rahul Gandhi and Congress. "The BJP government for the third time is necessary for the development and progress of Haryana. Elections are to be held on October 5 and there is very little time left now. In such a situation, efforts will have to be made day and night at many levels," he said. He added that at the time of elections, Congress runs a narrative of confusion, lies and rumours to cheat people. It is the responsibility of the work-



ers to expose the lies of Congress and to spread the achievements of the Modi and Nayab governments to the people. "Rahul Gandhi, sitting in America, was conspiring to end reservation in India," he alleged. "The BJP government has changed the picture and destiny of the country and the state in 10 years. People are also feeling the changes that have taken place in the last 10 years," Meghwal claimed. BJP District President Kamal Yadav while giving assurance to Arjunram Meghwal said that this time lotus will bloom in all the four assemblies of Gurugram district. He said that all the workers are working hard.

# Crime Branch arrests 17-year-old youth for killing two brothers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Crime branch arrested a 17 year old for killing two brothers due to harassment in east Delhi's Geeta Colony. According to the police on Monday, on Saturday at 06:41 pm, information was received at Geeta Colony police station about a 20 year old Sahid having gunshot injuries on his head. He was declared brought dead by the doctor. "The deceased was brought to hospital by his elder sister. On enquiry, sister of the deceased stated that some children informed that her brother Sahid was lying in the street and blood was oozing. She took her brother to LNJP where he was declared dead. She didn't know more about the incident," DCP Crime Branch Rakesh Paweriya said. Further, the deceased's elder brother 30 year old Irshad, alias Bobby, was also found missing and the house of the deceased was found locked from the outside, which is hardly 30 to 40 meters far away from the spot. The local police noticed some



fresh blood flowing out in the small drain of the house and then the lock of the house was broken and found that Irshad was lying unconscious inside the house and was having gunshot injury in his head. "He was sent to the hospital where he was declared dead. He was married," he said. "The shooter was identified as one juvenile, who was on the run since the incident. In the enquiry, he stated that they took the ground and first floor of the house of Rani Garden on rent from father of the deceased about four to five years back and given Rs 4 lakh in lieu of the security. In a written document, it had been agreed that they can stay there as long as the money is not returned," he said. However, Asfak got married

with his second wife and went to some unknown place from there. "After that, the deceased people started pressuring them to vacant their rented house. Both were aggressive and they used to harass the juvenile as well as his family. He was so fed up due to day to day harassment being done by the deceased persons," the DCP added. On 14.09.2024, at about 3 to 4 pm, the juvenile was in his house and the deceased Irshad started abusing him without any reason and he shot him. "After that, he saw Sahid at his shop and he also shot Sahid on his head with point blank. Then he left the spot and kept the pistol (weapon of offence) in the house of his cousin in Rani Garden," he said.

# Man arrested for stalking woman, her two daughters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 24 year old man has been arrested for allegedly stalking a woman and her daughters in the southwest Delhi's Cantonment area. Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena on Monday said, "The complainant alleged that at 8.30 pm on August 23, she was walking towards Gopinath market with her mother and two daughters. Her daughters were 100-150 metres ahead of her, when a car started following them continuously for almost 15 minutes." The complainant alerted her daughters and also posted about the matter on social media. "She also filed a complaint at Delhi Cantonment police station the next day," he said, adding that an FIR was registered under 78(1) BNS and 12 POC SO Act and further investigation were taken up. He added that a team was formed to nab the offender. "The team analysed CCTV



track of the alleged car for more than 115 kilometres covering from Delhi Cantonment to Pari chowk in Noida and then back to Delhi. However, complete footage trail could not be checked as no CCTV were present in UP beyond Pari Chowk," the police said. "Number of the vehicle was obtained which was found in the name of Tinku, the son of a criminal who is wanted in an attempt to murder case in Uttar Pradesh and has

been absconding since last six months," the DCP said. The team came to know that the registered car often comes to Delhi from Chilla check post of UP-Delhi border and returns after some-time. "The team was posted there for 10 days at the check-post and the accused, identified as Rajat, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Jewar, was nabbed. He was produced before the court and sent to Judicial custody," DCP Meena added.

# Didi, doctors meet...

From Page 1 The modalities of the talks hinged on a proposal of mutual exchange of minutes of the meeting as against the live streaming - or alternatively videography - of the proceedings as earlier demanded by the doctors, sources said. "There is a hearing on the issue in the Supreme Court tomorrow and I want a solution before that ... we have offered talks for one last time so that the doctors can go back to work as health services are getting hampered ... more so

because we have a flood-like situation emerging and the doctors' services will be required ... no side can sit and watch the people suffer like this ... so I asked the Chief Secretary to invite the doctors so that we can come to a solution," the Chief Minister said. When asked as to whether she was expecting a solution immediately she said, "I expect a solution ... the two sides should seat with an open mind and iron out the issues." Talks had twice fizzled out after the doctors demanded live-streaming or

at least videography of the proceedings to which the Government denied permission. Subsequently the doctors demanded exchange of signed copies of minutes of the talks on Saturday to which the Government agreed but by the time two sides agreed upon issues it was too late and the doctors had to return to their sit-in site. On Monday morning, a letter from the Chief Secretary Manoj Pant came to invite the doctors for talks to which they agreed but with a condition that they would have to be allowed in

with two professional stenographers to record the minutes. Meanwhile in a related development the RG Kar issue tended to affect the Kolkata Police force too after the CBI arrested Abhijit Mondal, the SHO of the Tala Police Station for his alleged complicity in destroying evidence at the place of occurrence. Junior officers approached the senior IPS officials demanding immunity from the complex situations arising in their places of work in the recent days.

# Kejriwal to meet LG...

From Page 1 "Today is a holiday and tomorrow is the first working day of the week. He will tender his resignation tomorrow to Lt Governor and after the resignation is accepted, a meeting of party MLAs will be held to decide on the new name," he said at a press conference in the afternoon. "Saying anything right now will be assessment," said Bhasradwaj. AAP leader also said the AAP has said it has put the ball in BJP's court by demanding early elections in Delhi in November, and now it is up to the Opposition party to decide whether it was prepared to face Kejriwal. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal held a series of meetings with his close confidantes at his residence including Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha for over an hour where they discussed the probables for the Delhi Chief Minister's post and its impact on the upcoming Haryana polls. Sisodia did not speak to the media while leaving. Since Kejriwal's surprise resignation decision on Sunday, Delhi Ministers Atishi, Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bhasradwaj, Kailash Gahlot, some MLAs from the reserved category, including Deputy Speaker of Delhi Assembly Rakhi Birla, as well as the AAP supreme's wife Sunita Kejriwal, were making the rounds as probables for the post. Ruling out the possibility of Sisodia taking

over, Kejriwal said someone from the AAP will take his place until polls are held. This effectively means that the top leaders of AAP are not in the race for the Chief Minister's post. Even though this Chief Ministerial stint will only be for a few months, the AAP leadership would be looking to choose a prominent leader who can articulate the party's position on key issues and has wide acceptability among the party ranks. Assembly polls in Delhi are due in February next year, even though Kejriwal also demanded that the election be held in November along with the Maharashtra polls. The main opposition BJP has scoffed at Kejriwal's announcement. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva has said Kejriwal is saying the people should decide if he should be Chief Minister. "The people have announced their verdict three months back (during Lok Sabha polls). You had roamed Delhi streets and asked for votes. The people gave their answer and put you in your place," he said. The Congress, which contested the general election in Delhi in alliance with AAP, termed the AAP leader's move a political stunt. "It would have been better if he had resigned when Delhi was facing floods and drinking water shortage. I hope Delhi soon gets a new Chief Minister who can go to his office and sign files," said Delhi Congress chief Devendra Yadav.

# MODI'S 100 DAYS...

From Page 1 The Modi Government also implemented a unified pension scheme, under which Government employees with 25 years of service will receive 50 per cent of their average basic salary as pension. "Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana three crore houses (were) approved. One crore houses under the urban scheme, two crore houses (were) approved for construction in rural areas," the statement said. It also said that so far, over four crore houses have been approved in both urban and rural regions in India. On women empowerment, in the first 100 days, the Prime Minister Modi Government has awarded certificates to 11 lakh new 'Lakshpati Didis'. According to Government figures, over one crore 'Lakshpati Didis' now earn more than ₹1 lakh every year. Besides, the MUDRA loan has been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. As regards empowerment of minorities and tribals, under the Prime Minister's Developed Tribal Village Campaign, as many as 63,000 tribal villages were approved to be developed, helping in improving the socio-economic status of five crore tribals. Furthermore, the Namaste scheme has been extended to include waste pickers along with sanitation workers, promoting their social and economic empowerment. The first 100 days focused on improving the ease of

doing business, which included abolishing the angel tax and reducing corporate tax. The Government is also setting up ₹1000-crore venture capital fund for space sector startups. An approval has also been given for the Gen-Next Support for Innovation Startups (GENESIS) programme to support startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, the statement said. On youth empowerment and skill development, the Prime Minister Modi-led NDA Government has announced a ₹2 lakh crore-package to promote empowerment and skill development among the youth. The goal is to benefit 41 million youth over the next five years. The Government has also announced more than 15,000 new appointments, and first-time employees covered under EPFO, an incentive of up to ₹15,000 will be provided in three instalments. In the health sector, the Ayushman Bharat Scheme has been expanded to include all citizens aged 70 and above under free insurance of up to ₹5 lakh. Besides, 75,000 new medical seats have been added, which will help the "healthcare system more effective and reduce dependence on foreign medical education," the statement said. Furthermore, the National Medical Commission is preparing a National Medical Register to create a centralised repository of doctors in the country.

# Capital to combat vector borne...

From Page 1 "97,397 legal notices, 32,384 challans, and 7,929 administrative charges have been levied under the provision of Malaria and other Vector Borne Diseases Bye-Laws under DMC Act. Police complaints will also be lodged against defaulters allowing repeated mosquito breeding," he said.

and Talibanshahi of this Government," he said. Condemning Gaikwad's statement, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar of the Congress and his counterpart from the Upper House, Ambadas Danve of Shiv Sena (UBT) slammed Gaikwad for his "outlandish" statement. "The Shinde-led Shiv Sena is not even worthy of taking Rahul Gandhi's name... Gaikwad is nothing more than a traitor MLA from a stolen party (Shiv Sena led

by Uddhav Thackeray," Wadettiwar said. Congress Legislative Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat said: "Gaikwad's statement against Gandhi mirrors the attitude of the assassins of Mahatma Gandhi.... The conspiracy to discredit Rahul Gandhi by putting words in his mouth will never succeed. Nobody dares to even touch Rahul Gandhi's hair as crores of Congress workers are his protective shield." "If there is even an iota of law left in the State, the Shinde Government should

immediately take action against Gaikwad for his poisonous remarks," Thorat said. Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote on the micro-blogging site X, "Prime sample of a gaddar, the blatant abuse of the elected post they hold to incite acts of violence against Rahul Gandhi. The disgraceful home Minister of Maharashtra will ignore any action and expecting anything from the traitor CM and his panaas khoke fauj is a joke!"

# Revamp of all ISBTs expected to be over in one month

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing revamp work of all the three Inter-State Bus Terminals (ISBT) namely Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan is expected to be over in a month's time, Raj Niwas said on Monday.

Giving details, officials said after improvement in turn-around time, circulation of buses and better peripheral traffic, owing to introduction of new stand fee structure from Sunday, works is on in full swing for improvement of civic and other infrastructure inside and around the complexes.

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena, who had visited ISBT Kashmere Gate on 31.08.2024 and ISBT Sarai Kale Khan and ISBT Anand Vihar on 09.09.2024 along with senior

officers, had found and underlined many discrepancies, shortcomings and lack of maintenance and issued directions to rectify and redress the same.

The LG, who has been reviewing traffic and transport issues along with senior officials of Delhi Police and Transport Department on a weekly basis since the beginning of August, had inspected the three ISBTs and taken stock of the passenger amenities and operational processes.

He had found the deteriorating infrastructure & amenities at the ISBTs and posted his concerns on social media.

The DTIDC has submitted a compliance report on the action taken with regards to the directions issued. So far, the following works with regards to makeover, repair and maintenance have been



carried out.

At Entry Gate of buses at ISBT Kashmere Gate, damaged footpath, which had been pointed out by LG, has been reconstructed.

Also, condition of Porta Cabin at the entrance barrier of FASTag was found in deteriorated condition same has



been improved.

The face of store room near FASTag barrier was in bad condition same has been improved. A damaged wall of ASI was observed and a letter has been written to ASI to restore the same.

Also, encroachment along the ASI wall was directed to be removed and the DM in coordination with ASI, is ensuring the same.

At departure block of ISBT Kashmere Gate, encroachment of existing shops in ISBT Premises was observed and the same has been removed.

It was observed that existing

tiles, manhole covers was directed to be rectified. The work is in progress. On the first floor of ISBT Kashmere Gate, during inspection, existing condition of lights were found insufficient. Now sufficient light fittings have been provided.

At exit gate of ISBT Kashmere Gate towards Lothian Road, damaged footpath was observed accordingly same has been reconstructed. During inspection horticultural works were found to be insufficient.

Now sufficient planters and plants have been placed at various locations.

As regards ISBT Sarai Kale Khan, the face work of entire ISBT was in bad condition. Works to rectify the same are in progress. Sanitary fittings of toilet were old and some of them have cracks.

Replacement of fittings is in progress.

The roofing of platforms was old and corroded. Replacement of roof is in progress. Face work of Administrative block was directed to be improved and the same is in progress.

In the premises of ISBT Anand Vihar, it was directed to provide a passage through platform A and DMRC Boundary wall. The work is in progress.

During the inspection by LG, a number of potholes in between platform A and B, platform B and C and DTC entry road were found. Repair work of road is in progress.

During inspection, it was observed that there was a depressed portion of flooring on the platform D. The replacement of Kota stone is in progress.

# Kejriwal proposal to resign not out of ethics but compulsion: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Monday lashed out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his resignation, stating that the 'proposal is not out of ethics but compulsion' and demanded that the election should be conducted in October while South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri blamed him of playing an unsuccessful sympathy card.

Bidhuri accused Kejriwal of trying to create a state of confusion among the people and said, "He is saying that till the verdict of the people comes he will not sit on Chair. He had to resign due to the conditions imposed by the Supreme Court. The court will give a verdict on the allegations of corruption on him, not the people. Therefore, he is trying to play an unsuccessful sympathy card."

He added that till the verdict of Supreme Court comes in the liquor police linked money laundering scam, these conditions will remain applicable. "It is natural that in such a condition he is trying to fool the public. Kejriwal is trying to straighten up his political agenda by doing drama over the resignation and misleading the public," the BJP leader said, adding that he should forget that



people will show any sympathy towards him because they are watching Delhi being destroyed.

AAP supreme on Sunday announced to resign and not sit on the CM's chair till the people give him a "certificate of honesty" and sought early polls in the national capital in November.

Attacking Kejriwal, Sachdeva said, "Arvind Kejriwal's resignation is not a matter of following ethics but a compulsion. He has been talking about going among the people since yesterday, but I challenge him to go before the women of Delhi after having pushed millions of families into alcohol addiction."

Sachdeva lashed out at the AAP government over rain related deaths and said, "In the past 77 years since Independence, Delhi has

AAP Government deprived thousands of poor families by withholding ration: BJP LoP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta on Monday accused the Arvind Kejriwal government of being against Dalits and the poor, stating that the government has deprived thousands of poor families by withholding ration and the state BJP MLAs will meet the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to demand their intervention in the matter.

Addressing the press conference, Gupta said, "The Kejriwal government has conspired against the poor, denied them their rightful entitlements, and revealed its anti-Dalit and anti-poor stance by halting the distribution of ration. The BJP legislative group will soon meet with Delhi's Lieutenant Governor to demand his intervention in this matter."

The LoP said that during the tenure of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' was launched under the 'National Food Security Act' to provide ration to the poorest families. He added that as per

the 2011 census, 1,56,800 extremely poor families in Delhi were entitled to 35 kilograms of ration per month.

Attacking the AAP government, he claimed, "Ten years ago, in 2015, when the AAP came to power, 76,458 poor families were receiving ration under this scheme. However, after nearly 10 years, the number has decreased to 66,532."

"This means around 10,000 fewer people are being served, despite the fact that the number should have increased over the past decade. As per the original plan, ration cards could have been issued to the remaining 90 thousand poor families from the total of 1,56,800, but the anti-Dalit and anti-poor Kejriwal government did not do so," Kejriwal alleged.

Gupta alleged that after the BJP raised demands for issuing ration cards to these families, on July 31, 2019, the Delhi government's 'Food and Civil Supplies Department' prepared a list of these poor families, organized by assembly constituencies, and sent it for approval to the concerned minister, Imran Hussain.

AAP has put ball in BJP court: Bharadwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday said the AAP has put the ball in BJP's court by demanding early elections in the national Capital in November, and it is up to the opposition party to decide whether it was prepared to face Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Kejriwal will tender his resignation as chief minister on Tuesday and the process to choose his replacement will start after that. There has been no discussion on which the next chief minister will be," he said.

He said that Monday is a holiday and Tuesday is the first working day of the week. "He will tender his resignation tomorrow to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and after the resignation is accepted, a meeting of party MLAs will be held to decide on the new name," the senior AAP leader said at a press conference.

Bharadwaj said the candidate chosen will then present their claim to the president through Saxena. "We have the majority and we will be invited and then the process for oath taking will



happen. This should take a week," he added.

"The ball is in the BJP's court. They can decide on early polls if they are ready to face Kejriwal. One person said he had resigned during incarceration, the BJP would have claimed that he resigned succumbing to their pressure. The chief minister took a wise decision that he came out of jail and resigned of his own accord," the Delhi minister said.

He added that Delhi elections will be the first polls that will be fought on the plank of 'honesty'. "People are keen to vote quickly and want early elections to choose Kejriwal. There is resentment against BJP Lord Ram had given up his kingdom and chosen to go on exile for the sake of his ideals. Bharat, who was chosen in his place, waited for Lord Ram to return. Kejriwal is not Ram but is setting an example by giving up his chair," he said.

Kejriwal resignation political stunt: Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav on Monday called Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation 'a political stunt' and said that the move to wash off the stains of corruption from his soiled hands will not cut much with the people this time.

"Arvind Kejriwal's claim that he will now occupy the Chief Minister's chair only after he goes through 'Agni Pariksha' (Trial by Fire) to prove his innocence before the people, was a clear admission of guilt, that he had committed huge corruption in the now scrapped liquor deal," Yadav alleged.

He claimed that Delhiites feel relieved to see the exit of a corrupt Chief Minister. "Kejriwal had stalled the development of the Capital by 50 years, and he should explain his failure to fulfill the 10 guarantees he had made to the people of Delhi," the Congress leader said.

Yadav claimed that Kejriwal's resignation is a 'drama and political stunt to get the sympathy of the people'

# Man drowns after falling into open drain in Bhajanpura

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man drowned after falling into an open drain in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura area.

According to the police on Monday, the incident occurred in the Bhajanpura area at 6:08 am on Sunday, when Harish Baaisla was returning home. DCP North east Jimmy Chiram said, "A PCR Call was received on Sunday at 06:08 am regarding a boy falling in a drain. It was found that Harish

Baaisla, 32 years old, had fallen down inside an open drain near AB Block Bhajanpura and had drowned."

Police teams reached the spot upon receiving information about the incident. "The body was taken out of the drain with the help of locals and rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead," the DCP added.

Harish was married and was survived by his wife and one child. "We have launched further investigation into the mat-

ter," said the officer.

Sources in the police said that Harish was out with his friends to celebrate one of his friend's birthday and while returning home early morning he failed to spot the drain. "His father Yogender Kumar also works with Delhi Police," said the source.

Baaisla worked as a private operator in Khajuri Khas Police Station for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

# Protests erupt at GGSIPU following student suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Protests erupted at the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University on Monday after following the suicide of a 25-year-old student who was recently expelled by the university administration.

Gautam Kumar, a first-year MBA student, allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the seventh floor of his hostel building on Sunday.

He was a native of Vaishali in Bihar and was enrolled at the IP University main campus in Dwarka Sector-16, Southwest



Delhi.

He was expelled for allegedly consuming alcohol and narcotic substances in his hostel room along with five other stu-

dents.

Amid the protests, the university administration has 'relieved' hostel warden Rakesh Kumar of his duties, IP

University registrar Kamal Pathak told PTI.

Hundreds of students gathered outside the Vice-Chancellor's office, holding a sit-in to demand justice for the deceased. They carried posters reading "Justice for Gautam" and "Don't Let the Suicide Note Disappear" and chanted slogans calling for accountability from the university.

Protesters also demanded the resignation of Rakesh Kumar, accusing him of expelling the students without conducting a proper investigation.

As per the expulsion order dated September 14, Gautam and five other students were removed from hostel residency for consuming alcohol and narcotic substances. The order prohibited them from entering the hostel premises and directed them to vacate their rooms by 2 pm on September 15.

Police teams were stationed outside the Vice-Chancellor's office and university officials were seen attempting to de-escalate the situation.

According to students, he was distressed after being expelled following a birthday party celebration in the hostel.

# Police arrest three men for smuggling stolen phones to Bangladesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested three men for allegedly smuggling stolen mobile phones to Bangladesh, officials on Monday said.

Police said that with their arrest, 10 theft cases registered in Delhi were cracked, and 60 high-end mobile phones were recovered from their possession. The arrested accused have been identified as Morjen Hossain (35), Mithu Sekh (28), and Mohammad Asik (26), police said.

Police said investigations revealed that stolen mobile phones were being smuggled out of India to countries like Bangladesh, where these mobile phones were sold in the grey market.

"A tip-off was received that three suspects Morjen Hossain, Mithu Sekh and Asik were carrying a large quantity of stolen mobile phones. A team was formed and they were nabbed from a rented house in the New Seemapuri area,"

Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Rakesh Paweriya said.

Hossain and Mithu Sekh allegedly revealed that they purchased stolen mobile phones from their associates named Rihaan and Sakir from Seemapuri and further supplied these stolen mobile phones to their associate named Masoom in West Bengal, police said.

"These stolen mobile phones are further sold in Bangladesh. Accused Mohammad Asik had come to take the delivery of these phones," he said, adding they have already supplied around 800 to 900 mobile phones in Bangladesh so far.

Police said that accused Hossain was arrested by the NIA in connection with smuggling of counterfeit Indian currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denominations from Pakistan through the India-Bangladesh borders and after coming out of jail, he allegedly started dealing in stolen mobile phones.

# HC directs MCD to pay ₹10 lakh compensation to kin of youth crushed to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to pay a Rs 10 lakh compensation to the family of a 17-year-old youth who was crushed to death after a concrete block fell on him from a flat owned by the civic body.

The high court said the responsibility for proper maintenance of the premises rested upon the MCD which was duty bound to maintain it in such a way that it would not endanger the lives of passersby or individuals entering the space.

"It is conclusively established that the death of the deceased was caused due to the falling of the slab / lantern / block of concrete in the quarters owned by the MCD.

"Therefore, the responsibility to ensure that proper maintenance of the premises unequivocally rested upon the MCD, which is predominantly cast with a bounden duty to maintain and repair constructions in dangerous conditions in the



territorial limits of Delhi," Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav said.

The court directed the MCD to pay Rs 10 lakh to the family members of Sonu, who died in July 2007, when he was returning home and a concrete slab fell on him from a flat owned by the civic agency.

"Furthermore, the MCD also had a duty to maintain the premises in a manner that would not endanger the lives of passersby or individuals entering the premises," the court said, adding that the negligence of MCD in failing to adequately maintain the premises is manifestly evident from the

record.

The counsel for the family claimed that the quarters were in a "dangerous condition" about which the MCD was aware. The lawyer claimed there was no watchman, fencing or signboard in place which could warn the passersby about the underlying threat due to the dilapidated state of the construction which led to the incident.

It was claimed that the youth was studying in a government school in class 11th and that he was the captain of the school's junior kabaddi team and a member of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), indicating that had his life not been tragically cut short, he would have had a promising future.

The petition for compensation was opposed by the MCD's counsel who argued that there was no lapse on part of the civic body. The lawyer said there was no reason for the youth to enter the premises through a path he did when an alternative road quite wide was available to him to reach his home.

# Former DDU hospital employee sentenced to five years RI for raping differentially abled woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court has sentenced a 53-year-old former staff of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital to rigorous imprisonment for five years for raping a differentially-abled woman in October 2021.

Additional Sessions Judge Aanchal was hearing arguments on sentencing against the man, who was earlier convicted under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 376 C (sexual intercourse by a person in authority).

The woman had gone to the hospital to get her disability certificate and the accused while taking her X-ray inserted his finger into the victim's private parts causing injuries and partially rupturing her hymen, the prosecution said.

In its verdict dated September 6, the court said, "It is the well-settled law that it is not possible to have any cut and dry formula relating to imposition of sentence but the object of sentencing should be to see that the



crime does not go unpunished and the victim of crime as also the society has the satisfaction that justice has been done to and imposing sentence."

"It has not been the case that the convict had been in a state of mental stress or trauma or the offence was committed by him by any compulsion but the offence was committed by the convict breaching the privacy of the prosecutrix who was physically challenged," it added.

The court, however, said that the aggravating circumstances needed to be bal-

anced with the mitigating circumstances and the prospects of the convict getting reformed.

"As on date, the convict is about 53 years in age. He has already lost his job from the hospital.

He spent more than one year in custody during trial and nothing adverse to him was ever reported to this court and on his release on bail, he had been appearing regularly," the court said.

It sentenced the convict to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for five years along with Rs 5,000 fine.

# Naval commanders conference to address China, Israel-Hamas conflict



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

China's growing assertiveness in the Ind-Pacific region and South China Sea and ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict will figure prominently in the Naval commanders' conference here from September 17 to 20. Giving details, officials said here on Monday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference.

operational and administrative issues between the Naval Commanders. Held against the backdrop of evolving geo-political and geo-strategic dynamics, regional challenges and complexity in maritime security situation in West Asia, the Conference plays a crucial role in shaping future course of Indian Navy. During the Conference, Rajnath will address the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security and national expectations. The Chief of Defence Staff along with the Chiefs of Indian Army

and Indian Air Force will engage with Naval Commanders to foster collaborations amongst the three Services across spectrum of conflict and convergence towards theaterisation. The Conference will commence with the inaugural address by the Chief of the Naval Staff and he will review major Operational, Materiel, Logistic, HR Development, Training and Administrative activities pursued by the Indian Navy over last six months and deliberate upon key milestones to be crossed to safeguard maritime interests.

The Indian Navy has responded with strength and resolve against emerging threats of drones and missiles affecting safety of trade, demonstrating its capability as Preferred Security Responder in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The Commanders will also review the ongoing Naval projects to enhance indigenisation through 'Make in India' in consonance with the vision of complete Aatmanirbharta by 2047.

Towards Navy's commitment to protect India's maritime interests in the region, the Conference would witness comprehensive review of the Operational preparedness, inter alia discussions on the Navy's capability enhancement plan, promoting national vision of indigenisation, self-reliance and realising combat effectiveness of Naval forces. The Commanders' Conference as pivotal platform upholds Navy's commitment to safeguard India's maritime interests and Navy's status as a combat ready, credible, cohesive and future ready force.

# Air Force Association celebrates 44th Annual Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Air Force Association (AFA) celebrated its 44th Annual Day on Monday. As part of the celebrations, the President of Air Force Association, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria (Retired) laid a wreath at the National War Memorial here on behalf of all IAF Veterans in the morning to honour those Armed Forces personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New

Delhi on the same day, IAF said. Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari was the Chief Guest for the AGM. The meeting also had several retired Chiefs of the Air Staff, and serving officers in attendance.

Air Force Association is a welfare organization in the non-governmental sector, actively involved in the welfare of air veterans and their families. The Association is also deeply committed in alleviating the sufferings of widows and destitute children. The Association was established in 1980 under the patronage of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. It has 20 branches spread all over the country. In addition, it has two branches in UK and Australia. It has nearly 98,494 Air Veteran members and 7,470 Spouse members. Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari was the Chief Guest for the AGM. The meeting also had several retired Chiefs of the Air Staff, and serving officers in attendance.



# SC to hear muslim plea on Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a plea of the Muslim side against the Allahabad High Court order rejecting their petition challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar will hear the plea filed by the Committee of Management Trust, Shahi Masjid Idgah against the August 1 order of the high court. The mosque management committee's plea has been filed through advocate RHA Sikander. On August 1, the high court rejected the plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura, and ruled that the "religious character" of Shahi Idgah needs to be determined.

Justice Mayank Kumar Jain of the high court had concluded that the cases "do not appear to be barred by any provisions of the Walf Act, 1995; the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991; the Specific Relief Act, 1963; the Limitation Act, 1963 and Order XIII Rule 3A of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908." On August 9, the top court had extended its stay till November on the operation of the Allahabad High Court order that allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex. A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had ordered continuation of the stay the apex court had imposed on January 16 on the operation of the December 14, 2023 order of the high court.

The high court had dismissed the Muslim side's contention that the suits filed by Hindu litigants relating to the dispute over the Shahi Idgah mosque complex adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple violated the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, and were thus not maintainable. The 1991 Act prohibits changing the religious character of any shrine from what existed on the day of the country's Independence. It exempted only the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute from its purview. The cases filed by the Hindu side seek the "removal" of the Aurangzeb-era mosque they claim was built after demolishing a temple that once stood there. In its ruling, the high court had said the 1991 Act did not define the term "religious character" and the "disputed" place cannot have a dual religious character -- of a temple and a mosque, which are "adverse to each other" -- at the same



# Cambridge researchers unveil blueprint behind floral patterns in Hibiscus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Do you know flowers not only captivate with their colors but also guide pollinators like bees with their intricate patterns, much like a road map to their nectar? A team of researchers from the University of Cambridge's Sainsbury Laboratory has unveiled a hidden blueprint behind these floral designs, particularly in hibiscus flowers (Gudhal in Hindi). They found that bees prefer larger bullseyes over smaller ones and fly 25% faster between artificial flower discs with larger bullseyes -- potentially boosting efficiency for both bees and blossoms. This blueprint, laid down early in petal formation, determines the size and shape of the eye-catching bullseye patterns that can significantly influence a flower's appeal to pollinators, said the study published in Science Advances. "Remarkably, bees are drawn to larger bullseyes, which could boost their foraging efficiency by 25%. This discovery not only deepens our understanding of how plants attract pollinators but also reveals the sophisticated strategies flowers use to evolve and thrive in their ecological niches," explained Dr Edwige Moyroud, main author of the study understanding the mechanisms underlying pattern formation in petals. The researchers discovered that

a pre-pattern forms on the petal surface very early in the flower's development, long before the petal displays any discernible color. "The petal acts like a 'paint-by-numbers' canvas, where different regions are predetermined to develop specific colours and textures long before they start looking different from one another." The research also revealed that plants can precisely regulate and alter the shape and size of these patterns through various mechanisms, which could influence plant evolution. By refining these designs, plants might enhance their ability to attract pollinators or potentially draw different insect species. "If a trait can be produced by different methods, it gives evolution more options to modify it and create diversity, similar to an artist with a large palette or a builder with an extensive set of tools. By studying how bullseye patterns change, what we are really trying to understand is how nature generates biodiversity." Lead author Dr. Lucie Riglet said in the study that she explored the mechanism behind hibiscus petal patterns by studying the development of petals in three hibiscus flowers that had identical overall sizes but varied bullseye patterns. She observed that the pre-pattern starts as a tiny, crescent-shaped area long before the bullseye becomes visible on petals smaller than 0.2mm.

# President Murmu to inaugurate 8th India Water Week 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the four-day 8th India Water Week 2024 to be kicked off from Tuesday, bringing international and domestic water experts under a platform to deliberate on issues beyond conventional solutions and exploring innovative approaches to address the complexities of water management in the 21st century. Addressing the media during the Curtain Raiser Press Conference here on Monday, Secretary (Jal Shakti) Debashree Mukherjee said that the theme of the mega event is 'Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management'. "Our theme underscores a



fundamental truth: achieving sustainable water management requires collaboration across all sectors and levels," she added. Mukherjee further informed that the event, the eighth in the series, will be inaugurated in the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti CR Paatil and Minister of State Raj Bhushan Choudhary. It is being organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The event will feature distin-

guished delegates, including experts in the field of water resources from various countries, as well as ministers and senior officers from Central and State Governments, faculty from various academic institutions, representatives from non-governmental organizations, and civil society. The aim is to initiate regular and systematic discussions and talks with eminent stakeholders through seminars, exhibi-

tions, and other parallel sessions to build public awareness and gain support for implementing key strategies for the conservation, preservation, and optimal use of available water, said a statement here. At the event, while representatives from the government sector will share their vision and perspectives on the water sector, global experts will present their insightful and thought-provoking ideas. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, participating as a partner ministry, will showcase its efforts to advance sustainable water practices in rural India. It is promoting Water-Sufficient Villages as part of its initiative on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals through targeted panchayat development plans by converging resources.

# Congress claims Modi in his 100 days proved weak PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Modi 3.0 completing 100 days, the Congress on Monday claimed that Narendra Modi in his third term had proven to be a "weak" prime minister who was dependent on crutches and setting new records for U-turns. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the past 100 days had weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace. These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters. Modi's "habit" of turning a blind eye to issues and running away from challenges continues to persist, she



claimed. "Each moment of the government in these 100 days has been marked by instability, indecision and immaturity. There have been multiple attempts to inflate a punctured balloon but the thorn pricked by the public in the Lok Sabha elections, has not given Narendra Modi any chance to rise again," she said. "Do you remember the tall claims made during the election campaign that Narendra Modi was planning for the first 100 days? Where is that plan now?"

Because from day one, Modi has proven to be a weak prime minister, dependent on crutches, setting new records for U-turns," Shrinete said and cited alleged U-turns on issues of lateral entry in civil services, broadcast bill, Waqf bill, indoxation and NPS. Posing questions to the prime minister, Shrinete asked if he had any plan or vision for the next five years. "Do you have a plan to improve relations with our neighbouring countries? Do you have a plan to address the economy, income inequality, unemployment, inflation, or women's safety?" Shrinete asked. "Besides blowing the whistle on corruption, what have you done? In fact, all those you called corrupt are now in the BJP. Are you planning to legitimise corruption now?"

# SC to hear pleas on demolition of properties of person accused of crime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday pleas which have raised grievances that properties of persons, who are accused of some crime, were being demolished in several States. While hearing these petitions on September 2, the apex court had questioned how can anybody's house be demolished just because he was an accused. The apex court had said it proposes to lay down certain guidelines on the issue that would be enforceable across the country. "How can anybody's house be demolished only because he is an accused? Even if he is a convict, still it can't be done without following the procedure as

prescribed by law," observed the bench comprising Justices B R Gavi and K V Viswanathan. However, the court dais it will not protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment on public roads. "We propose to lay down certain guidelines on 'pan-India basis' so that the concerns with regard to the issues raised are taken care of," the bench had said on September 2. It had asked the counsel appearing for the parties to give suggestions so that the court can frame appropriate guidelines. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, had referred to an earlier affidavit filed by the state in the matter. He had said the affidavit states

that merely because a person was alleged to have been a part of some offence can never be a ground for demolition of his immovable property. According to Mehta, the state has said demolition of an immovable property can take place "only for violation of and in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the respective applicable municipal law or law governing development authorities of the area". The top law officer had said no immovable property can be demolished solely on the ground that the owner or occupant of such property was involved in a criminal offence. The counsel appearing for one of the petitioners had said almost every state was now indulging in this and demolishing properties.

# Congress to chair external affairs, agriculture, rural development committees in LS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress will chair the parliamentary standing committees on external affairs, agriculture, and rural development in the Lok Sabha and education in the Rajya Sabha, party sources said on Monday, with talks between the government and the opposition over the panels' chairship concluding. In all, the Congress is set to have the chairship of four department-related standing committees — three in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress will chair the Department Related Standing Committee on External Affairs; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing; Rural



Development and Panchayati Raj in the Lok Sabha; and Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in the Rajya Sabha, a source told. Significantly, the Congress will chair the crucial committee on external affairs after a gap of five years. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor headed

the panel on external affairs between September 2014 and May 2019. The Congress last held the chairship of two department-related standing committees in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha. While Jairam Ramesh headed the committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Abhishek Singhvi chaired the panel on Commerce. Tharoor headed the Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers in the Lok Sabha. Talks have been going on for quite some time over chairship of the department-related standing committees, with the government and opposition bargaining hard over control of key committees such as external affairs, defence, finance and home.

# Varicose veins linked to serious health risks, new treatments enhance safety, effectiveness

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Often dismissed as merely a cosmetic nuisance, Varicose veins, the enlarged and twisted veins typically found in the legs, can pose significant health risks and should not be underestimated, health experts have warned. For individuals with varicose veins face up to a five-fold increased risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a potentially life-threatening condition. Varicose veins are also linked to peripheral arterial disease and other vascular disorders, caution health experts. In a study published online in Cureus, Chukwuyem Ekhaton, Neuro-Oncology from New York Institute of Technology, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, USA said while some individuals remain asymptomatic, others experience discomfort such as

pain, itching, and throbbing. "If left untreated, chronic venous insufficiency can progress to more severe stages, leading to complications like edema, skin changes, ulcers, and bleeding. Recent advancements in treatment have enhanced safety, effectiveness, and long-term success, said co-author Sophia B Bellegarde, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, American University of Antigua, Coolidge, ATG. Dr. Vimal Bhandari, former head of the National Organ Transplant and Tissue Organisation (NOTTO) and Professor of Surgery at ESI Hospital and Medical College, explained, "The condition arises when the valves within veins fail to function properly, leading to blood pooling and causing the veins to become twisted and enlarged. This malfunction is not only a cosmetic issue but a



precursor to serious complications if left untreated." He advised seeking medical attention if varicose veins cause discomfort, swelling, or affect daily activities. Symptoms such as persistent pain, swelling, skin ulcers, sudden vein enlargement, or changes in skin color or texture should prompt a consultation with a healthcare provider. Early intervention can prevent complications such as venous ulcers, redness, eczema, and, in severe

cases, ruptured veins. Diagnosis of varicose veins and related complications often involves a Doppler ultrasound, which helps detect issues like DVT. Treatments include modern techniques such as radiofrequency ablation, which burns the affected veins to close them off and improve blood flow, said Dr Achintya Sharma, Senior Consultant and Incharge of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Max Hospital and Tirath Ram Shah

Hospital. He highlighted the prevalence of varicose veins, noting they affect approximately 40-60% of women, often due to factors like pregnancy and weight gain, and 15-30% of men. "Modern methods focus on minimally invasive procedures rather than traditional invasive surgeries. Options include compression therapy, sclerotherapy, and laser therapy. Sclerotherapy involves injecting a solution into the vein to cause it to collapse and fade over time." Dr Aakash Patel from Shalby Hospitals, Ahmedabad talked about the Glue therapy, a minimally invasive and highly effective solution for treating varicose veins. He said that the therapy allows patients to return to their daily activities with minimal downtime. It has been effectively used in the United States and Europe for the last 5 years.

# I want Haryana to be number one once again: Congress veteran Hooda

PTI N ROHTAK

"I want to fight this battle not for myself but for you... I want Haryana to be number one once again." Congress veteran Bhopinder Singh Hooda declared from the dais while addressing a poll rally in his home constituency Garhi Sampla-Kiloi here a few days ago. The former Haryana chief minister, who turned 77 on Sunday, has remained a four-time MP from Rohtak and defeated former deputy prime minister Devi Lal from the parliamentary seat in the 1990s. Although the Congress has made it clear that its MLAs and the high command will pick the chief minister if the party wins the elections, Jat stalwart Hooda is virtually the face of the Congress for the upcoming Assembly polls. The Congress is contesting 89 seats - except Bhiwani which it has left for the CPI(M) --

and the majority of these have gone to Hooda loyalists or those considered close to him. Besides, the party has re-fielded all 28 sitting MLAs, most of whom owe allegiance to Hooda. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, barring the Sirsa seat contested and won by his bete noire Kumari Selja, Hooda's choice prevailed in the remaining eight of the nine constituencies from where the Congress contested. It won five seats, including Sirsa, while its INDIA bloc ally AAP unsuccessfully fought the Kurukshetra seat. In the Assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is fighting solo after talks with the Congress to stitch an alliance did not materialise. It is believed that Hooda was opposed to any tie-up with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party for the Assembly polls. Notwithstanding opposition from some of his detractors

within the party, Hooda has managed to maintain a tight grip on the affairs of the Haryana Congress. The Garhi Sampla-Kiloi assembly segment, a Jat-dominated rural constituency in Rohtak from where the former chief minister is seeking a re-election, came into being in 2007, following the delimitation of constituencies. It is considered as a "gadhi" (bastion) of the Hooda family. Before the delimitation, this seat was known as Kiloi. In 2005, the Congress high command handpicked Hooda, who was then a Rohtak MP, to be the chief minister of the state after the party returned to power winning 67 seats. Hooda had edged out party veteran Bhajan Lal from the chief ministerial race and remained in office till 2014. After filing his nomination papers last week, Hooda told the people of his constituency, "You gave me a chance.



Whatever I am today, it is due to you and your blessings". He said even at this age, he wanted to fight an "aar paar ki ladai (do-or-die battle)", not for himself, but for the people of the state and sought their support to oust the BJP from power. "I want our state to be number one once again in all spheres," he asserted. Hooda reiterated that in the next month's elections, peo-

ple will "reject the vote katu (vote cutter) parties" and there will be a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress, which has been out of power for more than a decade. Asked how confident he is about Congress' victory, Hooda said, "We will win with a big majority. Chhattis biradari (people of all sections) have made up their minds to bring Congress back

to power. The BJP is on its way out and the Congress is coming back to power." Hooda said when he got the opportunity to run the government, Haryana was way ahead in various developmental parameters -- per capita income, investments, law and order, employment generation, welfare of farmers and poor, among others. "But today, the state has fallen behind. Unemployment is at its peak, crime is increasing and people are feeling insecure," he said. Hooda said the people are fed up with the 10-year rule of the BJP. Slamming the BJP's claims of ensuring a transparent administration, equitable development and jobs on merit, the Congress leader said, "Everyone knows their claims on development are hollow and this government has been hit by various scams". "But they are experts in event management and they always

try to cover up their failures," he said. Hooda has assured doubling of pension for the elderly, filling up of two lakh "vacant" posts, 300 units of free electricity and gas cylinders at Rs 500 each, and restoration of the old pension scheme for government employees if the Congress comes to power. The BJP has fielded 35-year-old Manju Hooda, Rohtak Zila Parishad chairperson, against the senior Congress leader in Garhi Sampla-Kiloi. Asked if she considers the contest a challenge, Manju Hooda said, "I have been among the people and getting their work done (as Zila Parishad chairperson). I have ensured development. So, I don't look at it as a challenge. I trust the hard work which I have been putting in and I am confident that the people will give their blessings to me," she said. Before the withdrawal of nominations, 11 candidates

from the INLD, the JJP, the AAP and some Independents were in the fray from the constituency. Among the Independents is 26-year-old Amit Hooda, a commerce graduate, who is currently pursuing his post-graduation. "I come from a non-political background and this is my first election. I have always been motivated by my grandfather who did a lot of social service. I also wanted to do something for my people, so that is the inspiration behind my fighting election," he said. Meanwhile, Rajender, a Congress supporter claimed that Hooda will win by a huge margin as Garhi Sampla-Kiloi is his pocket borough. A BJP supporter, however, claimed that Manju Hooda would emerge victorious as she has the support of the people, especially the youth, due to her work and the development carried out by the BJP government in the state.

## BJP may back sitting MLA, withdrawn nomination: Jangra

PTI CHANDIGARH

Rohitash Jangra on Monday said he has withdrawn his nomination and hinted that the party may back sitting MLA Gopal Kanda, who has been supporting the state government. Kanda is the supremo of the Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) and is seeking re-election from the Sirsa Assembly seat. "I have withdrawn my nomination. The decision has been taken in the interest of the state and the country... We have to ensure a 'Congress-mukt Haryana'," Jangra told PTI over the phone. Asked if he had withdrawn in the HLP leader's favour, Jangra said, "Gopal Kanda has supported us (BJP) for five years. We have taken this decision for Sirsa's development." However, Interacting with



reporters in Sirsa later, Jangra said, "The party had given the ticket and it was the party's directive (regarding withdrawing of nomination)". The BJP, like the Congress, will now be contesting 89 of the 90 Assembly seats in the state. The Congress has left the Bhiwani seat for CPI(M).

Last week, the BJP released its third and final list of candidates for the Haryana polls, in which the party fielded Jangra from Sirsa. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) said on Thursday that it was extending support to Kanda in Sirsa. However, following the BJP's

withdrawal of its candidate, INLD leader Abhay Chautala said he would hold discussions with his party leaders to decide whether to continue supporting Kanda. "If they (BJP) have supported Gopal Kanda and if he has taken their support...I will speak to Kanda regarding this and discuss the issue within our party and then take a decision (on whether to continue support to Kanda)", Kanda told reporters while campaigning in his Ellenabad constituency in Sirsa district. The INLD is contesting the assembly polls in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Sirsa after withdrawing his nomination, Jangra said he has been associated with the BJP for more than four decades and had fought the Zila Parishad polls in 1994. Senior BJP leader and former MP Ashok Tanwar, who

accompanied Jangra, said, "There is only one aim which is to form a BJP government for the third time and to have a Congress-mukt Bharat and Congress-mukt Sirsa". Reacting to Congress allegations that the BJP had "surrendered" before Kanda, Tanwar said, that the opposition party had surrendered before foreign powers. "On foreign soil, they give statements to weaken the country. And those who have accepted defeat can say anything. We have to keep the Congress at bay," he added. Polling for the 90 Assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and the votes will be counted on October 8. The ruling BJP is eyeing a hat-trick of wins but faces a stiff challenge from a resurgent Congress, which is looking to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor.

## Great need to improve basic facilities all over Gurugram: Badshahpur BJP candidate

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

BJP candidate from Badshahpur assembly constituency and former minister Rao Narbir Singh said that there is a great need to improve basic facilities all over Gurugram including Badshahpur. "Most of the government schools and hospitals here are in a bad condition. The weak hands leading Badshahpur during the last five years are responsible for these conditions. If the people of Badshahpur support him and send him to the assembly, then every government school in Gurugram will become a model school like a private school," he said. Rao Narbir Singh said that during the last 20 years, the condition of Gurugram has



changed rapidly. The population here has exceeded 30 lakhs but the resources are still limited. The common man of Gurugram is still not able to get the full benefit of government facilities because the arrangements here have never been given proper attention. He further said in 2014, the people of Badshahpur elected him to the Vidhan Sabha and the BJP government made him a cabinet minister. Singh, while explaining his plan, said that this time he

wants to improve the system of government schools and government medical facilities. There are 827 government schools in Gurugram. To make all these government schools model schools, cooperation will be taken from multinational companies. There are more than 400 MNC offices here, with whose help the condition of every government school will be improved and made the best," he added. Apart from this, it is necessary to have four civil hospitals in the four corners of Gurugram. "There should also be four vegetable markets here so that the people of this city with a population of millions do not have to face any kind of problem. I also want to build a dozen more underpasses and flyovers in Gurugram so that there is no problem at all," he asserted.

## Will try to make Gurugram most modern city in State: BJP candidate

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

BJP candidate from the Gurgaon seat, Mukesh Sharma, said that he will try to make Gurgaon the most modern city of the state; only then will Gurgaon be recognized on the lines of Indore in India and Singapore abroad. During a public meeting, he asserted that in the last 10 years, the saffron party has done a lot of work for Gurgaon, but being an industrial hub, the population of Gurgaon is increasing day by day. Accordingly, there is a need to increase the infrastructure in Gurgaon. "The city's bus stand is a basic problem in Gurgaon; for this, he is continuously making efforts, and after becoming an MLA, he is assuring that the bus stand of Gurgaon will be no less than an airport. Here, air-conditioned rooms, free Wi-Fi, clean toilets and drinking water will be arranged for



the passengers to sit," he said. He further said that there are big private hospitals in Gurgaon, which is also known as a medical hub. People come here for treatment not only from the country but from many countries, but economically weaker people can not afford these expensive, and due to this, they have to face serious diseases and some untoward incidents happen. "Soon there will be a grand government hospital in Gurgaon. Not only this, there will be a

very big medical college here, where people can get free treatment," he said. Apart from this, Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav said a total of 47 candidates from the four assembly constituencies of the district are in the fray. He said that on Monday, 7 candidates from the Pataudi Assembly, 13 from the Badshahpur Assembly, 17 from the Gurgaon Assembly and 10 from the Sohna Assembly are in the poll battle.

## Last day of campaigning for J and K Assembly polls

PNS JAMMU

The high-octane campaigning for all 24 Assembly constituencies spread across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir came to a close on Monday evening with top leaders of the BJP, National Conference, Congress, Peoples Democratic Party, and a new entrant, the supremo of the Awami Ittehad Party making a last-minute effort to woo voters. The candidates conducted roadshows and public meetings before winding up their two-week-long hectic campaigning ahead of the first round of polling on September 18. The high-profile Assembly constituencies of Doda, Kishtwar, Banihal, Padder-Nagseni, Bhaderwah, Bijbehara-Srigufwara, Pulwama, and Kulgam are to be watched out in the first phase of polling in which over 23.27 lakh voters will decide the fate of 219 candidates in the fray.



Out of nine female candidates in the fray, five are contesting from the Kashmir division while four others are from the Jammu division. Candidates fighting elections from the Kashmir division include 37-year-old Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP Chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti from Bijbehara-Srigufwara constituency on Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ticket, Afroza Bano as an independent from Kulgam and Sakeena Masood Itoo from D

H Pora constituency on National Conference ticket. The political parties have deployed a large number of women cadres to reach out to the women voters in their respective constituencies. Candidates contesting from the Jammu division include Shagun Parihar from Kishtwar on a BJP ticket, Meenakshi Bhagat on Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) from Bhaderwah, Meenakshi Kalra an independent candidate from Doda West, Pooja Thakur from Padder-Nagsani

on NC ticket. 29-year-old Shagun Parihar is challenging former minister Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo of the National Conference while Pooja Thakur of NC is contesting against BJP organization secretary Sunil Sharma. Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party has fielded its youth leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra from the South Kashmir constituency of Pulwama. He is fighting against Mohd Khalil Band of the National Conference. Parra unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls in May 2024. Another constituency of Pahalgam is witnessing a triangular contest between Altaf Ahmad Wani of the National Conference, Shabir Ahmed Sediqui of the PDP, and Rafi Ahmed Mir of JKAPNI. From Kulgam, CPI (M) leader Mohd Yusuf Tarigami is defending his turf for the fifth time in a row. Tarigami has won all four previous Assembly elections of 1996, 2002, 2008 and 2014. This time he is facing a tough

challenge from an Independent candidate Sayar Ahmad Reshi supported by the banned Jammat-e-Islami. The Kokernag Assembly segment, reserved as an ST category seat, is also witnessing an interesting contest between Zafar Ali Khatana of the National Conference and Haroon Rashid Khatana of the PDP. BJP has also fielded its candidate Roshan Hussain Shah Gojar. Six independent candidates are also in the fray from the reserved seat to try their luck. According to official sources, out of 23.27 lakh voters 5.66 lakh youths are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise during Phase-I polling. These 5.66 lakh young electors are between the age group of 18-29 and include 1,23,922 First Time Voters between the age of 18-19 years, with 6552 of them male and 58380 female electors. In Phase- I, 28,310 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and 15,774 voters above the age of 85 are eligible to cast their vote.

## Kin mourn deaths of ten people in three-storey house collapse

PNS MEERUT

Never before had so many bodies lined up at the graveyard at the same time. Two days after a three-storey house collapsed, killing 10 people, residents of Zakir Colony recount with a shudder the loud explosion, the clouds of dust and the terrible aftermath of the tragedy. Not far away, seven-year-old Riya retells the horror of seeing her home crumble right in front of her eyes, killing her father and sister. Her entire family was inside when it happened on Saturday afternoon. The burial was held late on Sunday evening. Shops and markets remained shut in view of the last rites procession. "There was a loud explosion when it happened. Clouds of dust engulfed the area and in no time, the three-storey building had turned into rubble," said Naseem, a resident of the locality. Fifteen people were trapped under the debris of the col-



lapsed structure. Five persons injured in the incident are under treatment in hospitals. Riya, who lost her father Sajid (40) and sister Sania (15), has been very quiet since the incident, her relatives said. When mediapersons asked her about the incident, she said she saw the house collapse right in front of her eyes as she was playing just outside. All of her family was inside. Riya's mother is still battling for life in the hospital. Sajid's relative Hafiz Shahrukh said he was unable to understand whether to take care of the injured relatives or make

arrangements for burial of the dead. Others in the locality said Farhana (27), who was among the 10 who died, was seven-month pregnant. As the bodies arrived in the locality on Sunday, a day after the incident, residents were overwhelmed with emotion. Around 6 pm, the 'Namaz-e-Janaza' was read before the burial. Some people of the locality came out on the street to express their condolence as the last procession of the victims was taken out. Grieving family members and neighbours went to pay their

last respects at the graveyard. A small crowd had to stand outside for the last rites. Meanwhile, the site of the house collapse has been sealed by authorities. Leaders of many political parties, including ministers, met family members of the victims and offered their condolences. UP minister Dharampal Singh, who met the family members on Monday, also inspected the site where the building collapsed. Speaking to reporters, Singh, who is the minister in-charge of Meerut, called it a "painful and unfortunate" incident. "People were sleeping. They had no idea what kind of calamity would happen," the minister said. "UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji is very sensitive towards such incidents. I have come here today on his instructions. We will provide more help than expected. We will even make arrangements for the livelihood of the kin of the victims," he said.

UP Minister of State for Energy Somendra Tomar met the relatives of the victims late on Sunday evening. Tomar, who is also the Meerut South MLA, assured family members of all possible help from the government. Leaders of Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Congress and Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) also met the victims' kin. ASP district president Surendra Singh Rachauti demanded that the government should immediately pay a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to family of each deceased and Rs 5 lakh to kin of injured persons. Houses for the victims' families should also be built, he said. Congress MP from Saharanpur Lok Sabha constituency Imran Masood said "The government should provide all possible help to the family members of the deceased persons. Top leadership of the Congress party will be informed about the entire incident and all possible help will be provided at the party level," he said.

## Family of deceased boy refuses compensation by WB Government

PTI KOLKATA

Turning down the compensation of Rs 2 lakh, the family of a 10-year-old boy who died at a state-run hospital in Dakshin Dinajpur district rejected the West Bengal government's claim that the ongoing agitation of the junior doctors caused his death. Shivam Sharma, a class 3 student, was injured in a road accident, following which he was taken to the Balurghat hospital. His family alleged that he died there due to the negligence of a senior physician who despite being on duty was late in attending him. "There are no junior doctors at this hospital. And he died on August 12, three days after the incident at the RG Kar hospital when the agitation by the junior doctors was at a nascent stage. So any claim that he was a victim of junior



doctors' cease work is wrong," said Shivam's uncle Anand Sharma. Shivam died as the senior medic on duty did not attend him on time, he alleged. "Instead of passing the buck, the authorities must take action against the senior physician whose negligence took away a precious life," he said. Turning down the compensation offered by the state government, he said, "We want action against the guilty,

not monetary help." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced that the state government would pay a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of 29 people who died allegedly after not getting treatment due to the ongoing cease work of the junior doctors. Shivam was among them. Officers of the state Health Department could not be reached for comment.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Damage control

### Kejriwal's resignation announcement sparks speculation about the move and the future of AAP

In a move that has surprised many, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is set to resign on September 17. As speculations swirl about the reasons behind his decision, political observers are divided—some see it as a strategic manoeuvre, while others suggest it might be a forced move driven by internal and external pressures. The resignation raises serious questions about the future of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and crucially, who might succeed him as the next Delhi chief minister. Kejriwal, known for his populist style of politics, has in the past made many bold announcements that appeared to be strategic gambles, often aimed at galvanising his voter base. His decision to step down as Delhi's Chief Minister in 2014 over the Jan Lokpal Bill is a notable example. The Congress party maintains that this upcoming resignation could be another political gimmick, designed to keep Kejriwal in the spotlight or shift the narrative around AAP's recent challenges, especially when the Delhi elections are just months away.



Interestingly, Kejriwal did not resign while he was in jail and ran the Delhi government from behind the bars. He maintains that it is the BJP's design to embroil non-BJP chief ministers into false cases of corruption and send them to jail, make them resign and split their party. He is vocal about it and implores other CMs not to resign come what may. However, there are also compelling arguments that this resignation may be more than just a stunt, an attempt to revive the party. His resignation is perhaps a necessary response to salvage his image as an honest and selfless leader and boost his party's standing in the upcoming elections. He would have an advantage when he goes to voters and tells them about his resignation and plays a victim card. Regardless of whether Kejriwal's resignation is a tactic or a forced measure, it undeniably leaves AAP at a critical juncture. Kejriwal has been the face of the party since its inception, and his exit from the Delhi Chief Minister's office could destabilise the party's core support base. More so as second-in-command, Manish Sisodia will also not be named as the new CM. AAP has worked hard to position itself as an alternative to the national parties, with a focus on governance, education, healthcare, and anti-corruption measures. However, the party's fortunes have largely depended on Kejriwal's leadership. His potential resignation could either pave the way for the party to mature into a broader, more stable entity or expose its dependency on a single individual. The pressing question now is: Who could be the next CM? Many AAP leader could take his place—Sanjay Singh, Atishi Marlena, Raghav Chadha or even his wife Sunita but it would be Kejriwal's choice for sure. As AAP looks ahead, the question remains: can the party make a comeback in the next elections despite its top brass embroiled in serious charges of corruption and wrongdoing. Well, Delhities would know better.

### PICTALK



Folk artists take part in a human chain organised as part of 'International Democracy Day' celebrations, in Bengaluru. PTI

## A cup of garam chai: The essence of India

In India, tea is a symbol of unity, ritual, and tradition. This humble drink connects regions, cultures and generations, creating cherished memories, one sip at a time

In India, tea transcends mere consumption; it embodies a lifestyle. Whether in the bustling streets of Mumbai or the serene backwaters of Kerala, the clinking of tea cups resonates, marking the essence of every region in the country. Whether it is scorching summers or bone-chilling winters, tea is a remedy that brings Indians together to start the day, refuel, or simply enjoy a moment of solace.



brew crafted entirely from milk. Next come the imaginative elements: cardamom for an aromatic boost, ginger to add a warm, spicy flair, or masala for its rich, intricate taste. The possibilities are limitless, reflecting the boundless diversity that India embodies. But what unites us all is the essence of tea. It's not just about the flavours, but the moments it creates. Picture a rainy monsoon day, the air fresh and invigorating, with a warm cup of tea cradled in your hand. You take a sip, relishing the warmth, as you nibble on fresh theplas or crispy pakoras. Perhaps it's one of those crisp early winter mornings when you are cocooned in your blanket, your chai infused with ginger to stir your senses as you savour that buttery paratha. These experiences are not just about satisfying a craving but about creating memories and connections, one cup at a time. Tea doesn't just complement Indian food—it enhances it. Whether it's dunking biscuits into a hot cup of chai, enjoying a slice of cake alongside tea, or savouring it with savoury snacks like samosas, this beverage possesses an enchanting quality that enhances any meal. Tea is often the centrepiece of these culinary experiences. There's an unsaid rule in many households: the tea must always be hot, plentiful, and perfectly brewed. Once the kettle is on, everything else fades into the background. The allure of tea

As the digital age unfolds, one thing is clear: conspiracy theories have never been easier to spread, nor harder to debunk. In 2024, as humanity embraces cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, it's a strange paradox that ancient prophecies and far-fetched theories still hold a powerful grip on the collective imagination. From claims that the Moon landing was faked to the spread of false narratives about the COVID-19 pandemic, conspiracy theories shape our perception of world events, offering an alluring—if misleading—explanation for the chaotic times we live in.

Our fascination with the unknown has deep historical roots. Figures like the 16th-century mystic Nostradamus and the blind Bulgarian prophet Baba Vanga have captivated millions with their supposed ability to foresee global disasters, political upheavals, and even pandemics. For centuries, people have tried to align Nostradamus' cryptic quatrains with real-world events, from the rise of Hitler to the assassination of JFK. Similarly, Baba Vanga's alleged predictions of 9/11, Brexit, and natural disasters have only fueled modern fears of impending doom. Yet, despite the scepticism that surrounds their claims, these figures remain symbols of the human desire to make sense of a world that often seems beyond our control. In today's world, conspiracy theories have evolved. No longer confined to whispered conversations in dimly lit rooms, they now dominate social media platforms and news outlets. The Flat Earth Society, which defies centuries of scientific evidence to insist that the Earth is flat, finds new believers daily. The widely debunked theory that NASA staged the 1969 Moon landing still draws attention, as do theories that connect Nostradamus' prophecies to modern political figures like Donald Trump. While such theories may seem harmless or even entertaining to some, the consequences are often real and dangerous. The COVID-19 pandemic, for exam-



ple, was a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. False claims that the virus was engineered as a bioweapon, or that 5G technology spread the disease, circulated rapidly. These beliefs not only stoked fear but also fueled vaccine resistance, leading to a slower public health response. As artificial intelligence continues to revolutionize our world, it's also becoming a powerful tool for both the spread of and the fight against conspiracy theories. AI itself has become a subject of suspicion, with some fearing it as a means of mass surveillance or control. But AI is also being deployed to combat misinformation. Researchers have recently begun experimenting with AI chatbots, like GPT-4, to engage with conspiracy theorists directly. In a controlled study, participants were invited to express their beliefs in specific conspiracy theories. The AI then engaged them in a three-round dialogue, offering counterarguments and evidence to debunk their claims. Remarkably, these conversations led to a 20% reduction in participants' belief in their chosen conspiracy theory, and the effect lasted for at least two months. While these results are promising, they only scratch the surface of a much larger issue. Conspiracy theories persist because they provide simple, emotionally charged explanations

AI IS ALSO BEING DEPLOYED TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION. RESEARCHERS HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN EXPERIMENTING WITH AI CHATBOTS, LIKE GPT-4, TO ENGAGE WITH CONSPIRACY THEORISTS DIRECTLY



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

resides in its egalitarian nature. From the opulent palace kitchens to the humble street-side vendor offering steaming cups of chai in traditional clay cups known as kulaks, tea is savoured across all levels of society. It represents a delightful indulgence, a tiny joy amidst the chaos of everyday life. For countless individuals, the day remains uninitiated until that initial sip of tea is savoured. In a nation as vast and varied as India, finding something that brings us all together is uncommon; however, it is precisely this connection that tea fosters through collective rituals and appreciation. The next time you enjoy your tea, keep in mind: that it's more than just a beverage. It embodies the essence of tradition and ritual, a vibrant celebration of all that distinguishes India. Served with hot parathas or a delectable slice of cake, tea weaves through the vibrant cultural fabric of the nation, connecting us, sip by sip. (The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

### KEJRIWAL TO RESIGN

Madam — Kejriwal's move to resign and call for fresh elections to Delhi Assembly is a ploy to assert his position in the party and capitalize incarceration sympathy in to popularity. The SC's bail condition in any case bars him from entering the secretariat and permits signing only such orders which are to be sent to LG for his assent which effectively debars him as a functional CM. This condition will require an alternative CM until the term ends in February 25 which is too long a period in politics by which time the alternative leader chosen, can marginalize Kejriwal, to assert his leadership position. AAP now has a chance to negotiate a deal with Congress by bartering seats in Haryana for a possible coalition in Delhi elections and can fight to regain it's hold on Delhi. The victory thus scored in Delhi assembly election apart from giving a morale booster for Kejriwal and his supporters in AAP will also help him assert his leadership position in the party. He will also move the court subsequently, as popularly elected leader of the assembly, for relaxation in the bail conditions which court may also consider with some conditions which bears relation to the charges framed. Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

### NEED FOR MORE EXPRESS TRAINS

Madam— It is with reference to the news: P M Modi flags of Vande Metro, inaugurates four Vande Bharat trains in Bihar - September 16. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated four Vande Bharat trains in Bihar and Vande Metro in Gujarat. As Railway Minister said these trains not only reflect the success of the "Make in India" initiative but also set new global standards of speed, safety and service. In the fast moving world Vande Bharat trains, Tejas Express, Shatabdi Express and Duronto trains are must for Indian Railways. But these premium trains to attract niche clientele in spe-

### A politician and a gentleman



Heaping praises on any big figures from any walk of life after their demise is a common trend but the septuagenarian veteran Marxist leader and general secretary of the CPI(M) Sitaram Yechury was one of the select few national political personalities who was always held in the highest esteem by all

his peers across the political divide, irrespective of divergence of views. Verily, the departed Communist leader's out-of-the-blue passing away has left the his party orphaned and, hence, it will take time to find his befitting replacement notwithstanding, the void his demise has caused in the national political space can never be filled adequately. Sitaram Yechury has left a deep void in the national political arena. Revered by peers across political divides, his untimely demise has orphaned his party, leaving a leadership gap that will take time to fill. Despite political differences, Yechury's ability to command respect from all corners remains unparalleled. His absence will be profoundly felt, and the space he occupied will be difficult to replace. A true stalwart, his legacy will endure. Rest in peace, Sitaram Yechury. Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### PRISONER NO 626710

Madam — Umar Khalid has completed four years in jail without trial. He was arrested under the UAPA on September 14, 2020, in connection with the Delhi riots. Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that courts cannot decline bail, even under the special anti-terror law UAPA, and other offences, once the accused satisfies his prima facie innocence. But he and 11 others have still been awaiting trial in jail. Khalid is accused of making two speeches that instigated protestors to block roads. A documentary, "Prisoner No. 626710 is Present", on him has shown his controversial speech in Maharashtra in 2020 in its entirety. It is reported that he urged the people in that speech to use Gandhian means to oppose the new citizenship laws, which sparked fears of disenfranchisement. If it is true, then it means that Mahatma Gandhi could have faced the UAPA had he still been alive. Sujit De | Kolkata

Specific segments is not acceptable. Until some years ago general and sleeper coaches made up close to 70% of its rake, while the rest were air-conditioned coaches. Today that proportion stands inverted. Barely 25% of the rake is open to general and sleeper class travel. Every day about 23 million passengers travel by trains, most of them are middle income group and below average income group. When people from these groups could not get reserved tickets and seats in general coaches, they are compelled to wrongfully occupy sleeper and air-conditioned compartments. Central government and Indian Railways must think of a major section of the Indian population in making convenience for their train travel. Apart from introducing fastest and luxury trains, introducing more Express trains with sleeper and general compartments is the immediate solution to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the passengers travel in AC or reserved compartments. P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## KARMIC CYCLES AND VEDIC WISDOM

Shradh rituals help ancestral souls go beyond cycle of birth and death



ASHWINI GURUJI

The soul incarnates into a physical body which is made up of the five elements in various permutations and combinations, reincarnating birth after birth depending on the kind of karmas that one does in a lifetime. Certain souls do not reincarnate, either because they are finished with their karmic cycle of the lok (the Prithvi lok) or because they are stuck in a different dimension of existence and are unable to manifest in the human body, as their karmic balance is not sufficient to entitle them for human birth. These souls either remain suspended as energies and are called ghosts and spirits or they go to a different dimension of existence called the pitr lok or the lok of the ancestors.

Whatever dimension or level of existence they are in unless they have been freed from the cycle of birth and death, they need energy from their offspring to offset their karmic balance to enable them to reincarnate again. Shradhs are an important part of the Hindu/Vedic culture and cater to these ancestors' needs. On these days the constellations are such that the gateways to the other dimensions open and they are allowed to visit the earth to meet their near and dear ones. These ancestors depend on their children and grandchildren to do good deeds in their name and to chant specific mantras, both these acts free the souls from bondages of these not-desired yonis or levels of existence.

It is the basic duty of the family members to perform certain rites and do charity and guardian in the names of their close ones. At present and age, the youth of the country has no idea about the power and efficacy of the Vedic sciences and the phenomenal knowledge of the Vedic



mantras and rituals, the present education system is to be blamed for this as it is completely based on what the colonial masters chose for us, they were fearful of the power of the Vedas and hence destroyed the gurukul system and ensured that we were taught redundant sciences and tweaked history to their advantage the purpose was so that the coming generations lose faith in their culture and follow the colonial masters blindly. The result that they wanted is visible today.

For the younger generations who might be thinking by now that this article reeks of Hinduism and is a fairy tale based on fiction, I would like to point out certain facts of history. In the ancient world, the main cultures flourishing around 4000 years back were the Egyptians, the Mesopotamians, the Romans, the Mayans etc. and of course our very own culture. None of the present day religions or schools of thought were present, except the Hindu religion and the Vedic thought. All the cultures are prevalent believed in the other world and travelling of the soul to other dimensions.

The pyramids are aligned in the north-south direction and the shafts in them are pointing towards the three main stars of the Orion belt which the scientists of today say could be the birthplace of stars and human origin. The technology to move such heavy stones to build pyramids is still not available to mankind. As a matter of fact, scientists are to date baffled by them, they were further baffled when they found high doses of radioactivity in the bones indicating an atomic explosion of the human remains at Mohenjo Daro. 4000 years back when these civilisations were flourishing, at that time the third guy or the diaper yug was in process, if we just try to go back further to the treta yug and read about the the various weapons used in the Ramayana war, we would realise that our ancestors knew the way the creation functions and the secrets of the lokas and the world of energy. The hindu culture is the only culture that predates all the other cultures and is still the largest practised religion, its mantras and practices are not mumbo jumbo but they are a gift of a highly advanced civilisation to the present day humans. That's why it has survived till date.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

## Social business promises inclusive development



UTTAM CHAKROBARTY

Social businesses have the potential to blend financial sustainability with solutions to social issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation

The deliberations of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the globe are getting louder. However, SDGs have much to do with inclusive development in India. Nevertheless, as India marches towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, the challenge of inclusive development remains a daunting task. Despite robust economic growth, disparities in wealth, education, healthcare, and opportunities persist, leaving large segments of the population marginalized. In this context, the concept of social business has garnered increasing attention as a solution that addresses both social and economic challenges simultaneously.

Of late, this alternative paradigm for development is getting a boost in the country. Social business is a powerful model designed to tackle pressing social problems - poverty, inequality, healthcare and education - while operating in a financially sustainable way. Unlike traditional businesses, which prioritize profit maximization for shareholders, social businesses are driven by a mission to solve societal issues, and any profits generated are reinvested into the business to scale its impact. This innovative approach to entrepreneurship is particularly relevant in India, where the scope for addressing societal gaps through market-driven solutions is immense. The Genesis of Social Business Over the past decade, India has witnessed a surge in interest in social entrepreneurship. Fueled by rising awareness of social issues, a growing youth population, and the rise of impact investment funds, the country is now home to a plethora of social businesses across sectors.

Organizations like SELCO, which provides affordable solar lighting to low-income households, and Araku Coffee, which empowers tribal farmers through sustainable agriculture practices, exemplify how businesses can be a force for good. India's unique landscape of socio-economic diversity also presents a fertile ground for social innovation. Entrepreneurs are finding creative ways to solve challenges related to agriculture, healthcare, sanitation, education, and financial inclusion. For example, Amul, India's dairy cooperative giant, operates on principles that align closely with social business, ensuring fair wages for farmers while providing quality products to consumers. Similarly, Goonj, a non-profit working in rural India, converts urban waste into useful products, addressing both poverty and waste management. An Alternative Path India, with a population of over 1.4 billion, faces an array of socio-economic challenges.

Although the country has made significant progress in areas like technology and infrastructure, millions continue to struggle with basic needs like clean water, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Traditional government interventions and charity-driven models, while vital, often fail to create sustainable and scalable solutions. This is where the social business model comes in—bridging the gap between business and social responsibility. Facets of Social Business India's healthcare sector, while rapidly growing, remains highly unequal. Millions of people, particularly in rural areas, lack access to quality medical services. Social businesses like Narayana Health, founded by Dr. Devi Shetty, are addressing this issue by providing low-cost, high-quality



WITH THE RISE OF A NEW GENERATION OF SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ENTREPRENEURS, SUPPORTED BY IMPACT INVESTORS AND TECHNOLOGY, THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL BUSINESS TO DRIVE CHANGE IS GREATER THAN EVER

healthcare to the masses.

The education sector in India faces challenges of accessibility, quality, and affordability, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Social enterprises like Teach for India are working to bridge the gap by bringing talented individuals to teach in under-resourced schools. Agriculture remains the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50% of the population. However, smallholder farmers often struggle with access to markets, credit, and sustainable practices. Social businesses like DeHaan, which offers end-to-end agricultural services including input distribution, crop advisory, and market linkage, are empowering farmers and improving their incomes. India's push towards renewable energy, in line with its commitments to combat climate change, has opened up a new frontier for social businesses.

The rise of eco-friendly and sustainable products, driven by social businesses, has also led to a growing market for sustainable fashion and organic products in urban areas.

**Growing Graph of Social Business** A critical enabler of social business in India has been the rise of impact investing. Impact investors, unlike traditional venture capitalists, seek to generate not just financial returns but also measurable social and environmental impact. The growth of funds like Aavishkaar, Acumen, and Omidyar Network has provided crucial capital to early-stage social businesses, allowing them to scale and deepen their impact. The Indian government has also recognized the potential of social businesses to drive inclusive growth. Programs like Startup India, which provides financial support, mentorship, and tax incentives, have been extended to social enterprises, encouraging more entrepreneurs to tackle pressing social issues. Not All Roses Many social businesses, especially those operating in rural areas, struggle to secure the necessary funding to scale their operations. Traditional financial institu-

tions often view social enterprises as high-risk, given their focus on impact rather than profit maximization. Although impact investing is on the rise, the availability of patient capital—long-term, low-return investments necessary for social businesses to thrive—is still limited. One of the biggest challenges for social businesses is scaling their impact while maintaining financial sustainability. Often, social enterprises are deeply rooted in local contexts, which can make it difficult to replicate their models across different geographies. Additionally, scaling can sometimes dilute the focus on the social mission, as businesses seek profitability to sustain growth. The regulatory environment for social businesses in India is still evolving. Navigating complex bureaucratic processes, securing the necessary permits, and dealing with multiple government agencies can be time-consuming and expensive. There is also a lack of clear legal recognition for social businesses, which often operate in a grey area between non-profit organizations and traditional for-profit companies.

**Measuring Social Impact:** Unlike traditional businesses, where success is measured purely in terms of financial performance, social businesses must demonstrate their social impact. However, measuring impact can be complex, and there is no standardized framework for doing so. Many social businesses struggle to strike a balance between maximizing their impact and ensuring that they remain financially viable. India's booming tech industry has become a key driver of social innovation. The proliferation of smartphones and internet connectivity has enabled social businesses to reach remote and underserved populations more effectively. From fintech solutions that provide micro-loans to rural entrepreneurs, to edtech platforms offering quality education at scale, technology is unlocking new opportunities for social businesses to deepen their impact. One notable example is the Jan Dhan-

Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, a government initiative that has expanded financial inclusion by linking bank accounts to mobile numbers and Aadhaar (India's biometric identification system). This digital infrastructure has empowered social businesses to deliver services like digital payments, insurance, and healthcare more efficiently.

**The Way Forward**

As India continues its journey toward becoming an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society, social businesses will play an increasingly important role. With the rise of a new generation of socially conscious entrepreneurs, supported by impact investors and technology, the potential for social business to drive change is greater than ever. The COVID-19 accelerated the momentum for social entrepreneurship in India, with many seeing social businesses as a key pillar in the country's post-pandemic recovery. However, for the social business movement to truly take off, greater support from the government, investors, and civil society is essential.

Policymakers must create an enabling environment through targeted incentives and streamlined regulations. Meanwhile, impact investors need to provide more patient capital to allow social enterprises to grow sustainably. Precisely, social business represents a powerful tool for driving inclusive development in India. By addressing social problems through innovative, financially viable solutions, social businesses can empower individuals, uplift communities, and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous society.

As India continues to evolve, the role of social business will only grow in importance, offering hope for a future where economic growth and social progress go hand in hand.

(The writer is an Associate professor at the School of management, Presidency University, Bengaluru; views expressed are personal)

## Empowering teachers, empowering India: Paving the path to becoming Vishwa Guru

With the National Education Policy 2020 and NCTE programs paving the way, India is poised to reclaim its status as a global beacon of knowledge

P.M. quotes 'Education is not just a way to gain knowledge but a means to transform the world'. It is our teachers who will lead this transformation, making India not only a land of knowledge but a beacon of hope and wisdom for the entire world. Teacher's Day, celebrated few days back, serves as a poignant reminder of the selfless contributions made by teachers throughout their careers.

It allows students to express their gratitude, love, and respect for the people who have guided and inspired them to become true citizens. The celebration is a vehicle for recognising the immeasurable value teachers bring to society and emphasising the importance of education



PANKAJ ARORA

as a pillar of the nation. India now moves closer to realizing its dream of becoming a Vishwa Guru, the teaching profession continues to be a vital force in this journey, as India is well on its way to reclaiming its ancient mantle. India's rich educational heritage is deeply rooted in its culture, recapitulating the legacy of Indian education, where teachers are equated

with creators 'Brahma, the creator of the universe' in Hindu philosophy. This essence of the guru-shishya (teacher-student) relationship, where knowledge was imparted by sages in gurukuls, gave a strong emphasis on the holistic development of children. The teachers or 'Gurus' were revered, holding a status that was even higher than that of emperors. India's ancient universities like Nalanda and Takshashila were some of the earliest global learning centres of learning for the world. India's ancient texts, such as the Vedas and Upanishads, have long been sources of wisdom for the world. As India strives to reclaim its position as a global leader in knowledge, the role of teach-

ers becomes even more crucial who are at the centre of this transformation. The time is ripe for the youth of India to embrace the teaching profession; by investing in the teaching profession and addressing its challenges, India can build a strong foundation for a future where it leads not just in power, but in wisdom and knowledge as well. The role of teachers in this endeavour is indispensable, making them the true architects of India's bright future, by inspiring curiosity, encouraging critical thinking, and instilling values, they are shaping the future leaders of the world. Prime Minister Modi's vision for India as a global leader is not just about economic growth or technological advancement; it is



about creating a society where knowledge, wisdom, and values are cherished. As India marches towards its goal of becoming a Vishwa Guru, the teaching profession will be playing a pivotal role in shaping this vision. Teachers are the torchbearers

of knowledge, and their empowerment is crucial when India embarks on its mission of becoming a Vishwa Guru. India's aspiration to become a Vishwa Guru is deeply intertwined with its education system, where National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020 has emerged as a significant step in this direction, focusing on improving teacher education, and professional development, and creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes a more flexible, multidisciplinary approach to education, places a strong focus on the professional development of teachers.

For India to truly become a Vishwa Guru, it must invest in its teachers, who serve as architects of the nation's future through their unwavering dedication. This is where NCTE is playing a pivotal role in providing them with the resources, training, and support they

need to excel in their profession. The flagship programs of NCTE are instrumental in elevating the status of teachers in society, by giving them the right support & training. India's teachers will undoubtedly lead the way in shaping the future of the world. It recognizes that to nurture future leaders, teachers themselves must be continuously learning and adapting to new pedagogies to ensure that they are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

(The writer is the Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi and Professor of Education in the Department of Education, University of Delhi; views are personal)

# Taliban suspends Af polio vax drives

AP ■ DUBAI

The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said on Monday. It's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress. Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. It's likely that the Taliban's decision will have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond.

News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunisation campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organisation said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunisations in places like mosques.



The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO.

"Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy." Polio campaigns in neighbour-

ing Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilise children.

As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronised campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere.

During a June 2024 nationwide campaign, Afghanistan used a house-to-house vaccination strategy for the first time in five years, a tactic that helped to reach the majority of children targeted, the WHO said.

But southern Kandahar province, the base of Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, used site-to-site or mosque-to-mosque vaccination campaigns, which are less effective than going to people's homes.

Kandahar continues to have a large pool of susceptible children because it is not carrying out house-to-house vaccinations, the WHO said. "The overall women's inclusion in vaccination campaigns remains around 20 per cent in Afghanistan, leading to inadequate access to all children in some areas," it said. Any setback in Afghanistan poses a risk to the program in Pakistan due to high population movement, the WHO warned last month.

Pakistani health official Anwarul Haq said the polio virus would eventually spread and continue affecting children in both countries if vaccination campaigns aren't run regularly and in a synchronized manner.

"Afghanistan is the only neighbour from where Afghan people in large numbers come to Pakistan and then go back," said Haq, the coordinator at the National Emergency Operation Centre for Polio Eradication. "People from other neighbouring countries, like India and Iran, don't come to Pakistan in large numbers."

There needs to be a united effort to eliminate the disease, he told The Associated Press. The campaign suspension is the latest obstacle in what has become a problematic global effort to stop polio. The initiative, which costs about USD 1 billion every year, has missed multiple deadlines to wipe out the disease and technical mistakes in the vaccination strategy set by WHO and partners have been costly.

The oral vaccine has also inadvertently seeded outbreaks in dozens of countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East and now accounts for the majority of polio cases worldwide. This was seen most recently in Gaza, where a baby was partially paralysed by a mutated strain of polio first seen in the oral vaccine, marking the territory's first case in more than 25 years.

# Ex-BBC news anchor gets suspended sentence

AP ■ LONDON

Former BBC news anchor Huw Edwards, once one of the most prominent media figures in Britain, was given a suspended prison sentence Monday for images of child sexual abuse on his phone.

Edwards, 63, pleaded guilty in Westminster Magistrates' Court in July to three counts of making indecent images of children, a charge related to photos sent to him on the WhatsApp messaging service by a man convicted of distributing images of child sex abuse.

Chief Magistrate Paul Goldspring sentenced Edwards to a six-month prison term suspended for two years. He will be listed on a sex offenders register for seven years. "It is not an exaggeration to say your long-earned reputation is in tatters," Goldspring said. Edwards' fall from grace over the past year has caused turmoil for the BBC after it was revealed the publicly funded broadcaster paid him about 200,000 pounds (USD 263,000) for five months of his salary after he had been arrested

in November while on leave. The BBC has asked him to pay it back.

"We are appalled by his crimes," the BBC said in a statement after the sentencing. "He has betrayed not just the BBC, but audiences who put their trust in him."

Edwards had been one of the BBC's top earners when he was suspended in July 2023 over separate claims made last year involving a teenager he allegedly paid for sexually explicit photos. Police investigated and decided not to bring charges.

Although Edwards was not publicly named at the time those allegations surfaced, his wife later revealed he was the news presenter investigated and said he was hospitalised for serious mental health issues. He never returned to the air but the BBC kept him on the payroll until he resigned in April for health reasons. Edwards began his BBC career in Wales four decades ago. He went on to become lead anchor on the nighttime news for two decades and led the coverage of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 as well as

election coverage. The BBC said at the time of his guilty plea that it was shocked to hear the details of the charges against him.

More than 375 sexual images were sent to him on WhatsApp between December 2020 and August 2021. More than 40 were indecent images of children, including seven classified as "category A" — the most indecent — with children estimated to be between 13 and 15. One child was aged between 7 and 9. In chats with Alex Williams, who was later convicted of distributing child sex abuse images, Edwards was asked if he wanted sexual images of a person whose "age could be discerned as being between 14 and 16," and Edwards replied, "yes xxx," prosecutor Ian Hope said.

"From that chat in December 2020, Alex Williams said that he had a file of vids and pics for you of someone special," Hope said. Edwards asked who the subject and was then sent three images that appeared to be the same person who appeared to be aged 14 to 16, Hope said.

# 3 journos allegedly attempting to flee Bangladesh arrested

PTI ■ DHAKA

Three journalists and another person were taken into custody while allegedly attempting to flee Bangladesh through the northern Mymensingh border with India, the police said on Monday. Prominent journalists Mozammel Babu, the chief editor of the private Ekatoor TV, and Bhorer Kagoj editor Shyamol Dutta, who were among the four detained while attempting to flee in a car early on Monday, were considered close to ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's regime and face "several cases" in Dhaka.

Others taken into custody included Ekatoor TV reporter Mahbabur Rahman and driver Selim, the police said. They were initially detained by the neighbourhood police near the zero line of the Dhobaura border of Mymensingh district at 6 am, the police said. The vil-



lagers later handed them over to Mymensingh police, it said. Private Samoy TV channel reported that Babu and Dutta, both prominent faces, were assaulted by locals who snatched away the money they were carrying before calling the police.

"They are now in our custody and their safety has been ensured during their stay in the police station. We have enhanced the security vigil," a police officer said. The official

said the Mymensingh police were awaiting concerned officials to take them to Dhaka for required legal procedures. The police in Dhaka on August 21 arrested another journalist couple Farzana Rupa and Shakil Ahmed while they were preparing to onboard a France-bound aircraft. The couple has been charged with murder during the anti-reservation students movement that eventually turned out to be a mass upheaval leading to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5. Identical murder charges have been lodged against several other journalists, drawing concern from international journalist rights groups and watchdogs. The interim government of Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus indicated they were unlikely to be arrested until thorough investigations into the allegations against them.

# Israeli airstrikes kill 16 in Gaza

AP ■ DUBAI

Jerusalem (AP): Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes have killed 16 people in the Gaza Strip, including five women and four children. A strike early Monday flattened a home in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 10 people, including four women and two children. The Awda Hospital, which received the bodies, confirmed the toll and said another 13 people were wounded.

Hospital records show that the dead included a mother, her child and her five siblings.

Another strike on a home in Gaza City killed six people, including a woman and two children, according to the Civil Defence, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. Israel says it only targets militants and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

# Houthis down another US-made drone

AP ■ DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed Monday that they shot down another American-made MQ-9 Reaper drone, with video circulating online showing what appeared to be a surface-to-air missile strike and flaming wreckage strewn across the ground. The U.S. military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Houthis' claimed

downing of a drone over the country's southwestern Dhamar province. The Houthis have exaggerated claims in the past in their ongoing campaign targeting shipping in the Red Sea over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, the online video bolstered the claim, particularly after two recent claims by the Houthis included no evidence. Other videos showed armed rebels gathered around the flaming wreckage, a propeller similar to those used by the armed drone visible in the



flames. One attempted to pick up a piece of the metal before dropping it due to the heat. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesperson, identified the drone as an MQ-9, without elaborating on how he came to the determination. He said it was the third downed by the group in a week, though the other two claims did not include similar video or other evidence. The U.S. military similarly has not acknowledged losing any aircraft. Saree said the Houthis used a locally produced missile.

CIA over Yemen for years. The Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels as well.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. Those attacks include a barrage that struck the Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion in the Red Sea. Salvagers have begun towing away the burning oil tanker, hoping to avoid a catastrophic leak of its 1 million barrels of oil on board.

# French EU commissioner resigns after attacking leadership of top official

AP ■ BRUSSELS

An influential French member of the European Union's powerful executive branch resigned on Monday, calling into question the leadership of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen just as she tries to assemble a new team for the next five years. Thierry Breton, a French business executive and commissioner for the EU's vast internal market who recently clashed with tech billionaire Elon Musk, suggested that von der Leyen had gone behind his back to get another French official named in his place to the next commission.

In a post on social media platform X containing his resignation letter to the EU's top official, Breton said that von der Leyen's move was "further testimony to questionable governance -- I have to conclude that I can no longer exercise my

duties in the college". The commission proposes legislation for the 27 EU member countries and ensures that the rules governing the world's biggest trading bloc are respected. It's made up of a College of commissioners with a range of portfolios similar to those of government ministers, including agriculture, economic, competition, security or migration policy.

With an eye to keeping a gender balance within the commission for her second term at the helm, von der Leyen had asked each member country to supply the name of a male and female candidate for policy commissioner. Most only proposed one candidate, often a man.

The commission chief, a former German defence minister, has been pressuring smaller countries to change their minds. In recent weeks, a man who was the preferred candi-

date of the government in Slovenia withdrew and a woman was proposed in his place. Von der Leyen decides which country gets which portfolio, and some of them, like those involving trade or finance or EU enlargement, are coveted by certain countries. Plum jobs like the post of "vice president" -- the commission has seven of these -- are also much sought after. Breton suggested that he was a victim of these political machinations. Few days ago, in the very final stretch of negotiations on the composition of the future College, you asked France to withdraw my name -- for personal reasons that in no instance you have discussed directly with me -- and offered, as a political trade-off, an allegedly more influential portfolio for France in the future College," he wrote in his resignation letter.

"You will now be proposed a

different candidate," he said. It was not immediately clear who French President Emmanuel Macron might name in his place. Macron's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In any case, nothing is set in stone. The commission nominees must still pass a grilling in the European Parliament to take office.

Breton has irritated some in the commission with his go-it-alone approach. Acting last month without von der Leyen's approval, he took to X to warn Musk of possible "amplification of harmful content" by broadcasting an interview with former US President Donald Trump. Musk, who owns the social media platform, posted a derogatory reply. Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung urged the EU to "mind their own business instead of trying to meddle in the US presidential election."

# Starmer, Meloni discuss curbing migrant boats to UK and Italy

Rome (AP): UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is meeting Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome on Monday, as the two very different politicians, from left and right, seek common cause to curb migrants reaching their shores by boat. The visit comes after at least eight seaborne migrants died off the French coast over the weekend. Support for Ukraine is also on the agenda for the trip, part of Starmer's effort to reset relations with European neighbours after Britain's acrimonious 2020 departure from the European Union.

The centre-left Labour Party prime minister isn't a natural ally of Meloni, who heads the far-right Brothers of Italy party. But migration has climbed the UK political agenda, and Starmer hopes Italy's tough approach can help him stop people fleeing war and poverty trying to cross the English Channel in flimsy, overcrowded boats.

More than 22,000 migrants have made the perilous crossing from France so far this year, a slight increase from the same period in 2023.

Several dozen people have perished in their attempts, including the eight killed when a boat carrying some 60 people ran

aground on rocks late Saturday. The same day, 14 boats carrying 801 migrants reached Britain.

Starmer promised "a new era of international enforcement to dismantle these networks, protect our shores and bring order to the asylum system."

"No more gimmicks," he said before his trip to Rome -- a reference to the previous Conservative government's scuttled plan to send some asylum-seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda.

Meloni pledged a crackdown on migration after taking office in 2022, aiming to deter would-be refugees from paying smugglers to make the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Italy. Her nationalist conservative government has signed deals with individual African countries to block departures, imposed limits on the work of humanitarian rescue ships, cracked down on traffickers and taken measures to deter people from setting off.

Italy also has signed a deal with Albania under which some adult male migrants rescued at sea while trying to reach Italy would be taken instead to Albania while their asylum claims are processed. The number of migrants arriving in Italy

by boat in the first half of this year was down 60 per cent from 2023, according to the country's Interior Ministry.

Starmer wants to learn from Italy's mix of tough enforcement and international cooperation, though Italy's approach has been criticised by refugee groups and others alarmed by Europe's increasingly strict asylum rules, growing xenophobia and hostile treatment of migrants.

The leader of Italy's right-wing League, Matteo Salvini, who is deputy prime minister in Meloni's government, has been accused by prosecutors of alleged kidnapping for his decision to prevent a rescue ship carrying more than 100 migrants from landing in Italy when he was interior minister in 2019. British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper defended the government's decision to seek advice from Italy's right-wing administration, saying "we've always had a history of working with governments that have different political parties that are not aligned". She said the UK was interested in Italy's experience in fighting organised crime, as well as its deals with countries such as Tunisia to stop migrants' journeys before they reach the sea, and its deal with Albania.

# Columnists resign from Jewish Chronicle over Gaza articles fabrication claims

London (AP): Three prominent columnists have resigned from the newspaper Jewish Chronicle over allegations it published fabricated articles about the Israel-Hamas war.

The resignations on Sunday came after the London-based newspaper removed multiple articles by a freelance journalist and apologized to readers, saying it conducted an investigation into the writer and was "not satisfied with some of his claims". The newspaper did not specify which articles by the journalist, Elon Perry, were problematic. Among other claims, Perry -- who described himself as a commando in the Israel Defense Forces -- alleged that Hamas leader Yahya

Sinwar planned to smuggle himself and Israeli hostages out of Gaza through the border area with Egypt known as the Philadelphi corridor. The claims were questioned by Israeli media outlets.

Long-time Jewish Chronicle columnist Jonathan Freedland resigned in protest on Sunday, saying "the latest scandal brings great disgrace on the paper" and that it has "departed from the traditions that built its reputation as the world's oldest Jewish newspaper". "Too often, the JC (Jewish Chronicle) reads like a partisan, ideological instrument, its judgements political rather than journalistic," Freedland wrote on the social media platform X.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, people brace for rain on a street as Typhoon Bebinca made landfall in Shanghai, China, Monday.

# Typhoon Bebinca makes landfall in Shanghai

PTI ■ BEIJING

Bebinca, the strongest typhoon to have hit China's Shanghai city in 75 years packing wind speed of 42 meters, made landfall on Monday bringing the megacity of 25 million to a grinding halt.

The typhoon, with the maximum wind force near its center reaching 42 meters per second, churned ashore at the Lingang area of Shanghai's Pudong District, the Shanghai central meteorological observatory said. The city has already mobilised thousands of relief and rescue workers to attend to emergencies.

Bebinca is believed to be the strongest typhoon to land in Shanghai in 75 years. It is the 13th typhoon to hit China this year.

**Bebinca is believed to be strongest typhoon to land in Shanghai in 75 years**

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Sunday activated a Level IV emergency response for east China's Anhui Province and raised the response in Shanghai and Zhejiang to Level III, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Bebinca has already led to flight cancellations over Shanghai and the suspension of passenger ferry operations in the city. Shanghai Railway Station has announced plans to suspend passenger trains on

several routes passing through the city from Sunday to Monday. More than 414,000 people in the megacity of 25 million have been relocated by the end of Sunday, and all highways in the city were closed in anticipation of the typhoon, Hong Kong based South China Morning Post reported.

All flights from Pudong and Hongqiao airports were cancelled from 8 pm on Sunday. Ferries have stopped running, while bus services have been suspended in the waterfront district of Fengxian. The operator of Shanghai's airports stated that temporary rest areas have been prepared for passengers, and in-house catering vendors and convenience stores have been instructed to offer continuous service.



# Constitutional changes to keep him jailed: Imran

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday rejected the anticipated constitutional changes, claiming that it was an effort to keep him in prison by controlling the judiciary. The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician made the remarks during an informal conversation with journalists at the Adiala Jail, where he has been lodged since August last year. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder said that "the purpose of constitutional amendment is only to keep me in jail". He added that the rulers have decided to sink the judiciary. "All this is being done to hide the election fraud," Khan claimed that if actual election results were revealed, everything will be reversed. The PTI leader claimed that the government was pursuing to set up a new constitutional court out of fear of the Supreme Court. "The establishment of a constitutional court is being implemented because they are afraid of the Supreme Court," he said, adding that the new



amendments would destroy the future of the country. He further said that the money of those behind the amendment is lying outside and the people sitting in the government do not want to see an independent judiciary. "The interests of the elite and the interests of the country are contradictory," he said. Khan also claimed that 4,000 Pakistani companies were registered in Dubai in six months and the country is being run by taking loans, which was the main cause of difficulties being faced in controlling inflation. He criticised Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, claiming that the gov-

ernment wants to destroy the judiciary to bring Isa back. "They think we will remain silent against it. If this happens, we will strongly protest against it," he warned. He also criticised amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, claiming they were used to forge billions in corruption. He argued that the government's actions threaten the rule of law and increase political instability through threats to judges and the elimination of political opposition. Announcing a peaceful protest in Lahore on September 21, he called on the public to defend their rights and the judiciary. On Sunday, Khan launched a scathing attack on his opponents, including the chief justice, the establishment and his rival politicians. The former premier posted that the government was reportedly going to introduce a constitutional amendment to rewrite the rules about the top judiciary. Khan lashed out at the government for trying to tweak the laws to allegedly control the judiciary.

# Court orders release of arrested lawmakers of Imran's party

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Monday ordered the immediate release of all the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) lawmakers arrested from the Parliament House following the party's power show on September 8 in Islamabad. Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain heard the bail pleas and granted post-arrest bail to the PTI MNAs who were taken into custody by the Islamabad police with their cases registered at the Sangiani police station, Geo News reported. The bails were granted against surety bonds worth

Rs30,000 each, it said. During the hearing, prosecutor Raja Naveed told the court that Sunni Ittehad Council lawmaker Muhammad Ahmed Chattha is also named in the case. He requested the court against approving bails as the minimum sentence for provisions imposed in the case is three years, the channel said. "Has anything been recovered from Sher Afzal Marwat, Ahmed Chattha and other MNAs?" the judge questioned the prosecutor. He responded to the question in the negative. Meanwhile, the court also approved the pre-arrest bail petition filed by PTI leader Ali Bukhari in the case pertaining

to his violation of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) and assault on police personnel during the party's rally. Following the hearing, the court issued a notice and adjourned the hearing of the case till October 1. The police arrested several leaders of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, including its chairman and around a dozen lawmakers, after the authorities accused his supporters of pelting stones at police personnel and violating the permission for the rally by over-stepping the allotted time limit by several hours. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and lawmaker Sher Afzal

Marwat were also arrested from the Parliament House for allegedly violating the newly enacted public gathering law during the party's power show. Marwat had resisted the arrest and asked the police to show an arrest warrant. While Gohar was later released, Marwat was kept in custody for violating regulations devised under a new law — Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and also accused of clashing with police personnel on the rally day. At least 10 PTI lawmakers, who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House, were brought to the lower house on September 12 after their pro-

duction orders were issued by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. During the rally, the PTI supporters demanded the release of their leader and warned to get him out of jail through street protests. The 71-year-old former-cricketer-turned-politician faces a slew of legal cases and has been in prison for more than a year after being sentenced in a graft case. Khan was arrested on August 5 last year after his conviction in the first Toshakhana corruption case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Since then, he has been in jail in different cases.

# China seeks 'resolute crackdown' on Tibetan separatists

**PTI ■ BEIJING**  
China's top security official visited Tibet last week and instructed the local authorities to step up a crackdown against separatists in the backdrop of the US stepping up its support for the region by passing a new law pressing Beijing to hold talks with the Dalai Lama. Chen Wenqing, the head of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission — the ruling Communist Party's top security body, visited the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and some of the 10 Tibetan autonomous prefectures across Yunnan, Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai last week and reviewed security. He called

for a resolute crackdown against separatists. He also asked the local officials to maintain stability and guard against independence activities, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday. His visit took place as China is tightening security in Tibet ahead of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic to be celebrated on October 1. China's top judges and prosecutors have also made their rounds of Tibet. Zhang Jun, President of the Supreme People's Court, visited Tibetan courts last week and said it was necessary to hand down tough punishment to keep up the pressure on "violent terrorism, ethnic sep-

aratism and other serious criminal crimes", the Post reported. Ying Yong, head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, also inspected public prosecutors' offices in Tibet earlier this month. He stressed the need for prosecutors to "harshly crack down on all kinds of separatist infiltration, sabotage activities and crimes endangering national security in accordance with the law". In July, the US passed the Resolve Tibet Act, which enhances its support for Tibet and promotes dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama toward a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the status and governance of the remote Himalayan region. Signing the legislation passed

by the US Senate and the Congress in July, President Joe Biden said it showed the bipartisan commitment in America to advancing the human rights of Tibetans and supporting efforts to preserve their distinct linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage. He also called on Beijing to resume direct dialogue, without preconditions, with the Dalai Lama, or his representatives, to "seek a settlement that resolves differences and leads to a negotiated agreement on Tibet". China opposed the Resolve Tibet Act, terming it as a destabilising Act. The Act enhances US support for Tibet — empowering State Department officials to active-

ly and directly counter disinformation about Tibet from the Chinese government. It also rejects Beijing's claims that Tibet has been part of China since "ancient times", pushing for negotiations without preconditions between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives or the democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community. Last month, China lodged "serious protest" with the US after a top Biden administration official met the Dalai Lama and reaffirmed Washington's commitment for advancing the human rights of Tibetans and supporting efforts to preserve their distinct historical, linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage.

# 20 to 50 people killed in PNG violence, says UN

**Melbourne (AP):** Violence among illegal miners in Papua New Guinea has left between 20 and 50 people dead, a United Nations official said on Monday. The fighting started days ago and is continuing in the Porgera Valley, near the site of a landslide in May estimated to have killed more than 2,000 people, according to the South Pacific island nation's government. The UN's humanitarian adviser for Papua New Guinea, Mate Bagossy, said the death toll of at least 20 as of Sunday was based on information from community members and local authorities in Gona province in the nation's mountainous inland. "We have confirmed that at least 20 people have been killed, but as per the last news that I have, it's likely up to 50 people," Bagossy told The Associated Press. "The fighting is continuing. Today some security forces have started moving in... so it remains to be seen what effect this will have," Bagossy said, referring to the army and police. Bagossy did not have information on the

numbers wounded. National Police Commissioner David Manning said an emergency had been declared on Saturday after the violence escalated, with police mobilising to protect residents and infrastructure. "The deteriorating situation has been caused by illegal miners and illegal settlers who are victimising traditional landowners and using violence to terrorise local communities," Manning said in a statement. The nearby New Porgera gold mine has halted most of its operations because of the violence until at least Thursday. "Over the past 24 hours a significant escalation in tribal fighting has impacted many of our local employees. Homes have been destroyed, family and friends injured or killed, and people have been unable to sleep while living in fear," New Porgera General Manager James McTiernan said in a statement on Sunday. "I am incredibly saddened by these devastating events and sincerely hope that the govern-

ment will soon restore peace to the valley," McTiernan added. Tribal warfare is a growing security problem across Papua New Guinea and is rife in Enga where a massive landslide on May 24 is estimated to have buried hundreds of villagers. The United Nations conservatively estimated 670 villagers had died, while the Papua New Guinea government said more than 2,000 people had been buried. An unknown number of refugees from tribal violence in neighbouring areas are thought to be among the casualties, adding to the complications in calculating a credible death toll.

# Nepal's PM to raise issue of melting snow, mountain eco-system

**Kathmandu (PTI):** Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on Monday that he would draw the world's attention to the issues of melting snow and rising sea levels at the United Nations General Assembly's 79th session. Addressing the House of Representatives about his forthcoming visit to the US to attend the UN General Assembly, Oli said he would present Nepal's clear view on the protection of the human race and the Earth as well as the eco-system of the Himalayas and the oceans at the 'Summit of the Future'. Oli on September 20 is embarking on a visit to the US, his first foreign trip after assuming the post of prime minister. The 'Summit of the Future' will be convened at the world body's headquarters on September 22 and 23. The summit will produce an inter-governmentally negotiated, action-oriented pact for the future with chapters on sustainable development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance. "I will not let the country's prestige and dignity down during the visit," the prime minister said. The prime minister said he would inform the UN about the Himalayan nation's policy not to interfere in other countries' affairs and not to let others interfere in its internal affairs as per the UN Charter. "During the UN General Assembly, I will clearly put my views on Nepal's constitution, democratic values, identity as a sovereign independent nation, justifiable national interest, and commitment," Oli said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public in general is hereby informed through this notice that I Kamal Khanna S/o Om Prakash Khanna, R/O H No 44, Road No. 43, Punjabi Bagh, West Delhi, Delhi-110026 that I have disowned my Brother-in-Law (Mr. Arun Kathuria), Nephew (Mr. Tarun Kathuria) and Nephew's Wife (Mrs. Palak Kathuria) all R/O B-3 Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 and all my legal heirs and successors including children's of my nephew from my movable and immovable Assets/properties as I do not have cordial relations with them. In case any person deals with them in any way, he/she shall be doing so at his/her own risks and I shall not be bound in any manner whatsoever.  
Kamal Khanna  
H No 44, Road No. 43, Punjabi Bagh, West Delhi, Delhi-110026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public in general is hereby informed through this notice that I Seema Kathuria W/o Sh. Arun Kathuria, D/o Om Prakash Khanna, R/O B-3, Kirti Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110015, that I have disowned my Husband (Mr. Arun Kathuria), Son (Mr. Tarun Kathuria) and Daughter in-law (Mrs. Palak Kathuria) all R/O B-3 Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 and all my legal heirs and successors on my laws side including my grandchildren other than my parental and other Kamal Khanna from my movable and immovable Assets / properties as I do not have cordial relations with them. In case any person deals with them in any way, he/she shall be doing so at his/her own risks and I shall not be bound in any manner whatsoever.  
Seema Kathuria  
B3, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Hemant Goyal S/o Mr. Ashok Goyal is the owner of Flat No. 1B-12A07, Tower-1B, at 12A Floor, situated in the Okhla area near at Sadafpur, Bagha Suiated at Residential Group Housing Complex, 'Nilaya Greens', out of Kharsa No. 1015, 1023/1, 1023/2, 1023/3 min., at Village Morta, Raj Nagar Extension, NH-58, Pargana - Jajalabad, Tehsil and Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 22.03.2023 (Doc. No. 27859) registered in SR-VI-Ghaziabad. Agreement for Sale (with terms & conditions) dated 29.09.2020 is not available with our client and our client intend to mortgage the above mentioned property against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Co. Ltd. mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.  
NCR LAW ASSOCIATES & CONSULTANTS A-98, Sector-3, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201009.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Sh. Ram Gopal S/o Late Sh. Sheesh Ram the owner of a Residential Plot, area measuring 145 sq. yards, i.e. 121-22 sq. mtrs. out of Kharsa No. 455, situated in the Okhla area near at Sadafpur, Bagha and Jelsai Dabri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. through Registered Gift Deed Dated 04.09.2024 executed by Smt. Jagwati, W/o Late Sh. Sheesh Ram in favour of Sh. Ram Gopal S/o Late Sh. Sheesh Ram vide Reg. No. 10043 at SR-I/INDIA U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehlan, F-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehlan, F-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is informed that Mr. RESHAM LAL & Smt. JAGPAL KAUR R/O B-6, G-2 CHANDER NAGAR GHAZIABAD UP had disowned our only son Dr. RAJNEESH KLER from all our self acquired moveable assets & immovable properties due to certain misunderstanding by issuing Public Notice in News Papers during the month of May 2022. Now everybody is informed that we wish to own our only son back and we intend to give his all share in our assets and properties and want to make all required changes legally during the time we are alive.  
Rahul Tawari, Advocate  
Ch. No. 407, Saket Court Complex New Delhi-17.

**E-AUCTION FOR DEVELOPMENT, UPGRADEATION, OPERATION & MANAGEMENT AT KAMAKHYA STATION**  
E-Auction invited for Development, Upgradeation, Operation & Management of AC Dormitories and AC Retiring Rooms at Kamakhya Station. Auction Catalogue No.: RR-DOR-KYQ-1-24. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Days: 1826; Auction Start Date & Time : 11:00 hrs. on 26-09-2024.

Seq.No.	Lot No./Category	Stations
AA/1	PnU-LMG-KYQ-WRL-55-24-1 (Pay No and Use - Lounges/Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms)	At Kamakhya

Auction closing date & time : At 11:30 hours on 26-09-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Note : Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

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**NOTICE**  
(For the Attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)  
Compulsory Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to the DEMAT Account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority.  
Notice is published in pursuance of section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the said Rules") notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs as amended from time to time and Regulation 39 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.  
The Rules, inter alia, require the Company to transfer all the shares in respect of which Dividend has not been claimed by the Shareholders during the last 7 consecutive years starting from the Interim Dividend of the financial year 2017-2018, to the demat account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority set up by the Central Government within 30 days from the due date of transfer i.e., December 17, 2024, in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.  
Accordingly, the Company has sent individual communications to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to the demat account of the IEPF Authority in compliance of the said Rules, at their latest available address advising them to claim their dividends expeditiously. The Company has uploaded the complete details of such shareholders and their folio number or DPID-Client ID on its website i.e., www.indagrubber.com. This Notice shall be deemed to be the adequate notice in respect of issue of new Share Certificate(s) by the Company on behalf of those Shareholders who hold Shares in physical form, for the purpose of transfer of their Shares to the DEMAT Account of the IEPF Authority in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.  
Concerned shareholders may note that, any further dividend, and other corporate benefits, on such shares shall be credited to the IEPF Account of the IEPF Authority. Upon credit of such shares to the said Demat account, no claim shall lie against the company in respect of the unclaimed dividend amount and such shares transferred to IEPF Account. However, shareholders may claim back the shares credited along with the unclaimed dividend amount from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure given under the IEPF Rules. The procedure for claiming the same is available at www.mca.gov.in and www.iepf.gov.in.  
For any further information/clarification on this matter, the concerned shareholder may write to the Company at Indag Rubber Limited, Khemka House, 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, Tel.: 011-26963172-73. Email: info@indagrubber.com or contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent - Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Limited at D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 Tel.: 011-26812682-83, email-admin@skylinertia.com.  
By order of the Board  
For Indag Rubber Limited  
Sd/-  
Company Secretary

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Rajendra Singh and my client Sh. Anil Singh S/o Mr. Sukumar Alas Sukumar Singh and Mr. Sukumar Singh alias Mr. Sukumar Singh S/o Mr. Ram Sahai the owner of the Property No. L-1466, Area measuring 200 Sq. Mtrs. on Plot No. 32, out of Kharsa No. 121A, Situated at Vijay Estate, G. and D. Block, Vindol Park, in the area of Village Mirzapur, Palki, Delhi, by virtue of Authorisation Slip Dated 18.07.2024 regd. at Doc. No. 2224/6195231. The aforesaid property is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., M/s. Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. Inadvisable documents were mortgaged the property number G-106 and whereas, as per General Power of Attorney, Agreed to Sell & Will Dtd. 02.03.2024 has been changed property number G-106 to C106 and now, Authorisation Slip dated 18.07.2024 regd. at Doc. No. 2224/6195231. This will be considered correct from now onwards. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below addresses, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.  
Rahul Tawari, Advocate  
Ch. No. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001  
Mob.: -91-8076188226

**District Level Micro Small Enterprises Facilitation Council Notice (U/O 5 rule 20 epc)**  
In the court of Ghanshyam Thorl (DLMSEFC cum Deputy Commissioner Amritsar)  
M/s Raa Vee Knitting Industries, 5, Naushera, Gali Mata Sudha Vihar, Amritsar.  
VS  
M/s Saurabh Trading Co., P. 64, Pitampura, Delhi, 110034.  
Online application no. and date- UDYAM- PB-01-0053225/M/00001 Date 09-05-2024  
Application has been filed u/s section 18 MSME Act 2006 in DLMSEFC by M/s Raa Vee Knitting Industries  
Publication issued to: M/s Saurabh Trading Co. Address: P. 64, Pitampura, Delhi, 110034.  
In the above title case, the defendants/respondents could not be served. It is ordered that defendant (s)/respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 24/09/2024 at 12.00 PM. This is last opportunity to appear before the court otherwise the case will be ex parte. Dated this day of 11/09/2024.  
Member Secretary cum General Manager, (DLMSEFC) District Industries Centre, Focal Point, Amritsar.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Mother Mrs. Kiran Lata booked a Flat No 106, Tower No. CS-9 Supertech Capetown Sector-74 Noida at her name and make the co-applicant to my father Late Kamal Singh. Now after his demise in Corona pandemic I have requested M/S Supertech Ltd. to make the co-applicant to my younger son Mr. Rahul Singh. If anybody have an objection he/she may contact M/s Supertech Ltd. at their Head Office E Square Plot No C02 Sector 96 Noida (UP) within 30 days of this article.  
Rahul Singh, Mob-8860302136.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This information for the General Public that my client Savita Sahoo W/o Raj Mangal Sah R/O G-26, G-Block, Aya Nagar, Phase-6, South Delhi-110047, has disowned and disinherited both their sons namely Vinod kumar along with his wife Vibha Kumari and another Son Sunil along with his wife Pooja kumari, from all their moveable & immovable properties and have also severed all their relations from there. Therefore my client shall not be responsible for any act and conduct done by them in future.  
(Shivendra Pratap Singh) Advocate  
Ch.No.407, Saket Court Complex New Delhi-17.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
A Registry No 9218 dt 23-12-2005 registered at Bahi No. 1 Zild 1634 at pages 79 to 84, area 9082.50 Sqm land at village Ranaull Latpur, Dabri sold by Smt. Premvati w/o late Sh. Deep Chand to Ashtech Marketing Pvt Ltd & another registry no 3543 dt 31-5-2005 registered at Bahi No.1 Zild 1581 at pages 315 to 320, area 9082.50 Sqm land also at village Ranaull Latpur, Dabri sold by Harish Chand S/o Ramji Lal to Vijay Goel S/o Raj Kishore, Gopal Garg S/o Harish Chand & Dinesh Garg S/o Ram Kishan Das, for Land located at Khata No. 273 Khasra Nos. 568, 578, 615Kh, 616 and 618 and regd. at Sub-Registrar- Dabri are lost somewhere on 14/09/2024 near old bus stand, Ghaziabad, UP. Anybody who finds, may return to Ashtech Industries Private Limited, C-50, RDC, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad. He/ She will be suitably rewarded.  
Shiv Kumar Agarwal  
9810441926

**PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY LUDHIANA**  
**ADMISSION NOTICE (Ph.D.)**  
Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. programmes on all India basis in the following disciplines for the academic session 2024-25  
• Agricultural Extension Education  
• Agricultural Meteorology  
• Agronomy  
• Molecular Biology & Biotechnology  
• Entomology  
• Food Processing Technology  
• Genetics & Plant Breeding  
• Microbiology  
• Plant Pathology  
• Soil Science  
• Horticulture (Fruit Science)  
• Horticulture (Vegetable Science)  
• Horticulture (Floriculture & Landscaping)  
• Farm Machinery & Power Engineering  
• Irrigation & Drainage Engineering  
• Processing & Food Engineering  
• Renewable Energy Engineering  
• Soil & Water Conservation Engineering  
• Agricultural Economics  
• Biochemistry  
• Botany  
• Business Administration  
• Chemistry  
• Microbiology  
• Zoology  
• Apparel & Textile Science  
• Resource Management & Consumer Science  
• Food & Nutrition  
• Extension Education & Communication Management  
• Human Development & Family Studies  
Minimum Qualification: An Overall Credit Point Average (CPA) of 7.00 (out of 10.00) or 70% marks or equivalent at Master's level in the respective discipline as mentioned in PAU prospectus 2024-25 uploaded on PAU website and an OCPA of 6.00 (out of 10.00) or 60% marks or equivalent at the Bachelor's level. For reserved categories i.e. SC/ST and BC/OBC candidates minimum eligibility marks shall be 65% and 55% respectively at Master's and Bachelor's level.  
Last date for receipt of applications  
Without late fee 14.10.2024 With late fee of Rs. 1,000/- 21.10.2024  
For applying  
Online application form will be available at PAU website www.pau.edu  
The duly completed application forms should reach in the office of the Registrar, Thapar Hall, PAU, Ludhiana 141004 on or before the due date. For course details, qualifications, eligibility criteria, entrance tests, fee and other details, visit the University website (www.pau.edu). Application forms, which are incomplete without entrance test fee (wherever applicable)/received after the prescribed date, will not be considered.  
Note: The University awards various scholarships/stipends/fellowships. For details, visit the University website www.pau.edu  
Registrar

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN  
This information for the General Public that my client Sushela wife of Dharm Singh Tokas resident of 85, Munirka Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110067, has disowned and disinherited their son namely Kapil Tokas and daughter-in-law namely Praveen Solanki alias Praveen Tokas from all their moveable & immovable properties and have also severed all their relations from them. Therefore my client shall not be responsible for any act and conduct done by them in future.  
(Ombar Sangwan) Advocate  
Ch.No.5, Patiala House Court No Delhi-110001.

**FOR SALE**  
It is a Public notice that I, undersigned is the owner and in possession of Unit No.403, 404, 405, 428, 429 & 432, on 4th Floor, having its total area 4600 Sq.Ft. approx. in the ANGEL BUSINESS SQUARE, built on Plot No. 14/2, 14/2A, 14/18/A, 14/19 & 14/19A, Site IV, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. I wish to sell the above said shops/offices to the intending buyers and its offer price is Rs.2500 to 3000/- Per Sq.Ft. Interest buyers can contact us: Mobile No. 9810984294  
Mr. GAUTAM CHAND JAIN  
Director of  
M/s. N.S. BUILDWELL PVT. LTD.  
57, Brothers Apartments, 16, I.P. Extn. Patparganj, Delhi-110092

**COMPLETE TRACK RENEWAL WORKS AT GUWAHATI**  
E-Tender Notice No. 28 of 2024 Dated: 12-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1. Tender No. DENGHY-22-2024. Name of work: Azara-Kamakhya Jn. (SL) & Guwahati-New Guwahati (NL)-CTR (P)-2-100 Tkm & 0.500 Tkm respectively. Tender Value: ₹2,50,47,179.68/- Earnest Money: ₹2,75,200/- SN.2. Tender No. DENGHY-23-2024. Name of work: Agthori-Kamakhya Jn. (SL)-Removal of Reverse Curves-4 Nos. Tender Value: ₹1,52,06,347/- Earnest Money: ₹2,26,000/- SN.3. Tender No. DENGHY-24-2024. Name of work: New Bongaigaon Jn.-Kamakhya Jn. (SL)-TBSR (H-Beam)-185 Nos. Tender Value: ₹5,10,25,590.42/- Earnest Money: ₹4,05,100/- Date of closing of tender: 13.00 hrs. of 07-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in  
Divisional Engineer/Guwahati  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**PAWERGRID POWERGRID**  
**NOTICE**  
1. Petition for determination of tariff under Section 62 read with Section 79 (1) (d) of Electricity Act, 2003 and under the Regulation 15 (1) (a) and Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Condition of Tariff Regulations) 2019 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Condition of Tariff Regulations) 2024 Combined Asset under "Provision of 400 KV bays at Shujalpur for Part ATS of RAPP 788" in Western Region.  
The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd., Jabalpur (2) Madhya Pradesh Ayudhyog Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd, Indore (3) Gujarat Uja Pradesh Niyam Ltd., Vadodra, (4) Electricity Department, Government of Goa, Panaji, (5) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., Mumbai, (6) DNHDD Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Silvassa (7) Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Raipur, (8) Sterile Technologies Ltd., New Delhi.  
3. Tariff details:  
a) 2019-24 block (₹ in Lakhs)  
Asset detail EDOC Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24  
Combined Asset 16.02.2016 2750.32 Revised AFC based on truing up 502.70 486.41 475.30 468.58 463.16  
b) 2024-29 Block (₹ in Lakhs)  
Asset detail Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29  
Combined Asset 2750.32 AFC 470.27 446.62 432.57 411.31 337.40  
4. A copy this notice and of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in.  
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Narooji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.  
Place: GURUGRAM Sd/-  
Date: 11.09.2024 Deputy General Manager (Commercial)  
**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-120001, (Haryana) Tel: 0124-2571700-719  
Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016. Tel: 011-26560112, 26560121  
www.powergrid.in, CIN : L40101DL1989GO038121  
**A MAHARATNA PSU**

**verka**  
Har Din Da, Har Din Da  
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66  
Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop  
e-tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-  
Sr. No. Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty  
1. For Verka Chandigarh Dairy Hiring of services for outsourcing activities / contractor for packaging UHT milk & milk products / beverages. Annual  
2. For Verka Mohali Dairy a) Outsourcing the activities related to city- supply demand, dispatch & milk supply helpers. Annual  
b) Flex & glow sign boards, banners, stickers and other advertisement material etc. Annual  
3. For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Supply of rice husk 1000 MT  
b) Pest control services. Annual  
c) Refrigerated vehicle for supply of milk & milk products for jammu and katra (09 MT) 02 Years  
4. For Verka Patiala Dairy a) Fire wood Half Yearly/1500 MT  
b) Annual Maintenance Contract for Bulk Milk cooler, Capacity 01kl, 02kl, 03kl & 05 kl. 114  
c) Job contract for :- i. Loading / unloading of different materials. As per requirement  
ii. Production, Packing of SFM bottles and operation, repair and maintenance of all machines related to SFM. 30,000 to 50,000 (bottles per day as per demand)  
iii. Operation, repair and maintenance of pouch filling machine, tray washer & coding of pouches. 55,000 to 60,000 (day or as per demand)  
5. For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Supply of pet jar with sleeves capacity-200ml, 500ml & 1 Ltr. Annual  
6. For Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Ghanaia-Khe-Banjer Disposal of the unserviceable materials.  
NOTE:  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NTI), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.  
2. Contingendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.  
Dy. General Manager (Purchase)  
NA/12/25427/2023/37674 Dated CHD :- 09/09/2024

# Piyush Goyal launches BHASKAR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday launched the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative, which will serve as a central hub where startups, investors, service providers, and government bodies can collaborate and exchange ideas.

"Let's make this a one-stop shop for all data dissemination for engagement and interaction, one-stop shop for the entire ecosystem through simple and easy-to-use links, and easy to navigate," he said.

It will be a single point of contact for startups looking for various requirements like mentors and finance, he added.

Through this platform, all the key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies can interact with each other to promote the sector's growth. The primary goal of BHASKAR is to build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the



start-up ecosystem. To achieve this, the platform will offer features like networking and collaboration, providing centralised access to resources, creating personalised identification, enhancing discoverability and supporting India's global brand. BHASKAR will bridge the gap between startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders, allowing seamless interaction across sectors.

Through this initiative, every stakeholder will be assigned a unique BHASKAR ID, ensuring personalised interactions and tailored experiences across the platform. Using powerful search features, users can easily locate relevant resources, collaborators and opportunities to ensure faster decision-making and action. The government would invite all stakeholders to become part of this transformative initiative as it

addresses the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and investors. By serving as a centralised registry, BHASKAR will enable seamless access to a wide array of resources, tools, and knowledge to help fuel the entrepreneurial journey from ideation to execution.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the aim is to take the startups to 50 lakh in the coming years.

"This platform will bring everyone together (including investors and mentors)," Bhatia said, urging startups to come forward and help build this.

DPIIT Joint Secretary Sanjiv said the initiative will further strengthen the country's startup ecosystem. By January 16 next year, all the districts of India will have at least one startup, he added. Sanjiv also said the department has urged over 100 corporates and unicorns to set up incubation centres for manufacturing sector startups. The department has shared a handbook with the companies on corporate incubation and acceleration.

# Sensex hits new high

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Equity benchmark index Sensex rebounded nearly 100 points to hit a lifetime closing high on Monday, while the broader Nifty ended just shy of its record peak, propelled by bargain hunting in energy, utility and banking stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intraday high of 83,184.34.

The NSE Nifty rose 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75, over 5 points lower than its previous record. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day high of 25,445.70.

"The domestic market traded in a narrow range with a positive bias as the participants are keenly awaiting the Fed's decision this week. The weakness in the US job market and benign inflation are pointing at a slew of rate cuts on the table.

"The inflow of foreign money and an expectation of

stability in domestic growth may keep sentiment optimistic," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

NTPC was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.44 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel.

Bajaj Finance declined over 3 per cent. Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Port and Asian Paints were the other laggards.

"The Indian markets continued their bullish trend, with Nifty reaching a new record high, driven primarily by foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and a strong market breadth. Investors remain cautiously optimistic ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting later this week, which could influence short-term trends. Investors are advised to stay aligned with the current trend, but watch for potential market reactions to the US

Fed's policy announcements," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.28 per cent while the midcap index ended marginally up by 0.01 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities jumped 1.97 per cent, power (1.93 per cent), metal (0.56 per cent), capital goods (0.56 per cent), consumer durables (0.49 per cent) and industrials (0.33 per cent). IT, telecommunication, tech, services and FMCG were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Hong Kong ended with gains. Markets in Japan, mainland China and South Korea were closed for holidays. European markets were trading mostly higher.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,364.82 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth Rs 2,532.18 crore.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.35 per cent to USD 71.90 a barrel.

# SEBI withdraws its press release on unprofessional work culture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday withdrew its press release issued in September 4, which addressed claims of unprofessional work culture, stating that these concerns are "misplaced" and reaffirmed that employee-related issues will be managed internally.

The withdrawal came days after a protest by a large number of Sebi employees outside the regulator's headquarters on September 5, a day after the press release. They had demanded the withdrawal of the statement and the resignation of Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch.

In a statement on Monday, Sebi acknowledged the critical role its employees have played over the past thirty-six years in shaping the Indian securities market into one of the most dynamic and well-regulated markets globally.

Sebi said it addresses employee-related matters through appropriate internal mechanisms.

"Following constructive discussions with representatives of all grades of officers, Sebi and its employees have reaffirmed that such issues are strictly internal and will be managed in accordance with the organization's high standards of governance and within a



time-bound framework," the regulator said.

Accordingly, the press release issued on September 4 has been withdrawn.

The decision to retract the press release came after employees strongly condemned the unauthorized dissemination of internal communications.

Sebi employees have reiterated their commitment to resolving concerns amicably through established internal channels, ensuring that such matters remain internal and managed within a time-bound framework.

"Employees have strongly condemned the unauthorized release of internal communication and have confirmed that all concerns shall be addressed amicably through established internal channels," the statement noted. For Puri, protests and internal issues have come at a time when she is probably facing the most challenging times in her stint. The career

# DGGI proposes global cooperation to curb GST evasion in OIDAR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST investigation arm DGGI has suggested reciprocal arrangements with foreign governments for information sharing and enforcement measures as well as blocking of websites to prevent tax evasion in OIDAR services like e-gaming, online education and advertisement.

The move has been necessitated as it has come to DGGI's notice that there are entities, including online casinos that are based out of tax havens and also those which operate through offshore VPNs and cloud-based platforms. These entities are non-cooperative and appear to intentionally avoid tax compliance, and hence an information exchange with global law enforcement agencies would help crack down on any evasion.

Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services are those which are delivered over the internet or electronic network and whose supply is essentially impossible without Information Technology. It includes a wide array of services viz cloud services, digital content, online gaming, online advertising etc. When such services are provided by an offshore entity to a non-taxable recipient, the supplier becomes liable for obtaining registration and discharging GST on the same.



Currently, as many as 574 offshore entities providing OIDAR Services have registered themselves with the GST department, and annual revenue from this sector has increased from Rs 80 crore for the FY 2017-18 to Rs 2,675 crore for 2023-24 fiscal. The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in its annual report noted that since the OIDAR service providers are located abroad it becomes a challenge in GST enforcement and hence the sector remains relatively untapped and holds tremendous revenue potential.

On dealing with such offshore suppliers, it has also dawned that several such suppliers are ignorant of the law, and upon conveying the legal position clearly, such suppliers agree to comply with the GST mandate, it said.

These include the likes of Udemay Inc (USA), Canva Pty (Australia), OVH group (France), Blackboard (Netherlands) etc who registered themselves following efforts of DGGI and discharged significant tax

# HCLTech top India company on TIME World's Best Companies list



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian IT firm HCLTech has been named the no.1 India-headquartered company in TIME magazine's World's Best Companies 2024 list.

The Noida-headquartered firm has also secured a place in the global top 10 list within the Professional Services category.

"This accolade underscores HCLTech's commitment to excellence and innovation. It reinforces our leadership in the industry and our status as a top employer.

"Aligned with our purpose of 'Supercharging Progress and Find Your Spark' employee value proposition, we are dedicated to maximizing employee potential, advancing community and social responsibility initiatives and achieving sustainability goals," said Rahul Singh,

Chief Operating Officer of Corporate Functions, HCLTech.

The World's Best Companies 2024 ranking identifies top-performing companies across the globe on the parameters of employee satisfaction, revenue growth, and sustainability.

HCLTech posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 4,257 crore in the June quarter of FY25, up 20.45 per cent from the year-ago period.

Revenue for the June-ended quarter came in at Rs 28,057 crore, 6.6 per cent higher year-on-year.

It gave a revenue growth guidance of 3-5 per cent for FY25 on GenAI diversification and strong operational execution.

As of June 2024, HCLTech has a global headcount of 219,000, across 60 countries.

# Mercedes expands electric vehicle lineup in India, launches EQS 580 4MATIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India on Monday expanded its Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) range in the country with the launch of the locally produced EQS 580 4MATIC.

India is the first country outside the US to start the local production of the seven-seater electric SUV.

EQS SUV 580 4MATIC is the second model, after the EQS sedan, to be locally produced at company's Pune-based manufacturing plant.

"This will be our sixth EV in India, and the second car to be locally produced in India. We are also proud that India becomes the first market out of the US to locally manufacture the EQS," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI in an interaction.

The move to manufacture the product locally outlines the company's commitment to electrification and increasing product portfolio offering choices to customers, he added.

"EQS SUV's localisation underpins our deep commitment to grow the



Indian luxury electric car market and reinforce our commitment to a greener and sustainable future," Iyer said.

The move also supports the government's vision of Make-in-India, he said.

Iyer said local production has led to a significant advantage in terms of pricing the electric SUV.

The introductory price of EQS SUV 580 4MATIC starts at Rs 1.41 crore which should also make a lot of customers shift to EVs much faster in terms of transition, he said.

When asked about the demand for green vehicles, Iyer said the sales of EVs were

growing in the country with even high-end products finding acceptance.

"The EQA sedan which was introduced in India around 18 months back, we have sold more than 500 cars. It's a car costing more than Rs 1.6 crore. Our total penetration of EVs is 5 per cent today, it's growing. For sure, customer acceptance is there," he stated.

Iyer noted that the company remains committed to offer top-end luxury EV products offering higher range in the market.

He noted that there may be more opportunities in the entry EV segment but the focus of the company firmly

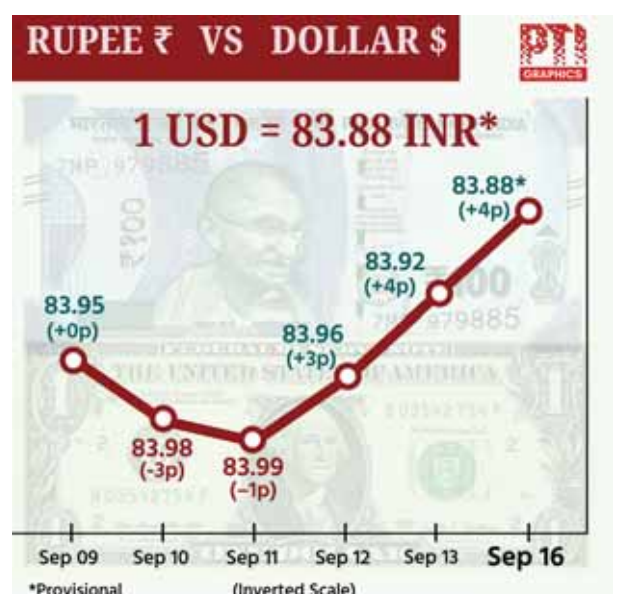
# Rupee rises four paise to close at 83.88 against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee witnessed range-bound trade and settled for the day higher by 4 paise at 83.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday supported by weak American currency and significant foreign fund inflows, while firm crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

Forex traders said market participants are eagerly awaiting cues from the US Fed policy on Wednesday, with a rate cut all but certain. However, the magnitude of the cut remains uncertain.

Moreover, the rupee continues to hold steady within a well-defined range on active intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.89 and witnessed an intraday high of 83.87 and a low of 83.90 against the American currency. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 83.88 (provisional), higher by 4 paise over its previous close, amid a positive trend in domestic equities. On Friday, the local unit settled higher by 4 paise at 83.92 against the US dollar.



"We expect Indian rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on continued weakness in the US dollar ahead of the FOMC meeting this week," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further said that "there are broad expectations of a 25 bps rate cut by the Fed following a 25 bps rate cut by ECB last week. Fresh foreign inflows and a positive tone in

# Odisha to emerge as Tata Steel single-largest investment destination

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tata Steel on Monday said Odisha would emerge as the company's single-largest investment destination after the phase-II expansion of its Kalinganagar plant from 3 million tonnes per annum to 8 mtpa. The steel major has invested Rs 27,000 in phase-II of the Kalinganagar plant expansion, and the company is on the verge of commissioning its expanded capacity at the unit, it said in a release.

The ongoing expansion in Kalinganagar will play an important role in Tata Steel's ambition to achieve its target of 40 mtpa capacity in India by 2030, the company said.

"The phase-II expansion of Tata Steel's Kalinganagar plant in Jajpur district of Odisha... Will also catapult the eastern state to an enviable position of becoming the single-largest investment destination for the country's oldest steel maker," the release said. Along with the Tata Steel Meramandali (formerly Bhushan Steel Ltd) plant in Dhenkanal district, the company's total investment in Odisha stands at over Rs 100,000 crore.

# INDIAN MEN CRUSH AZERBAIJAN, WOMEN BEAT KAZAKHSTAN

**PTI ■ BUDAPEST**

Backed by the two in-form stars in World Championship challenger D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, the Indian men scored a 3-1 victory over Azerbaijan in the fifth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

It seems like Gukesh and Arjun can do nothing wrong in this Olympiad as they overpowered Aydin Sulemanli and Rauf Mamedov respectively with their white pieces in quick time.

Praggnanandhaa played another draw on board two to only ensure an Indian victory while Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in a marathon game to complete the triumph.

After scoring the fifth victory on the trot, the Indian men maintained a clean slate on ten points and they were joined by Vietnam who continued with their impressive show and downed Poland 2.5-1.5.

The other two teams that joined the leaders' pack were China and Hungary who scored identical 2.5-1.5 victories over Spain and Ukraine respectively.

With six rounds still to come in the biggest chess event, Magnus Carlsen's Norway and Iran are the only two teams sharing the fifth spot on 9 points apiece. Norway defeated a talented Turkey team by a 3-1 margin while Iran made most of the opportunities to down Canada 3.5-0.5.

In the women's section, Grandmaster D Harika suffered a shock defeat to give Kazakhstan an early lead. Better for most of the game, Harika misplayed after many pundits believed her position to be winning against Bibisara Assaubayeva.

On the fourth board Vantika Agarwal yet again played the anchor and won a clean game with white pieces against Alua Nurman while Xeniya Balabayeva split the point with Divya Deshmukh.

With the scores tied at 2-2 it was Vaishali's turn to come up triumphs for the team and she outwitted Meruert Kamalidenova.

Team India joined Armenia and Mongolia in the lead on ten points. Armenia halted the Chinese party for now handing them a 2.5-1.5 defeat while Mongolia proved superior to United States with a similar score.

The three leaders have 10 points apiece and they are now followed by Georgia and Poland a half point behind.

Gukesh scored his fourth victory in a row at the expense of Sulemanli. The World championship challenger got a huge middle game advantage with scattered black pieces and a weak king and made no mistakes in converting that in to a full point.

Arjun is the only Indian who has played all five games thus far and the primary reason is his ability to complicate matters with either colour. Up against Mamedov, it was



CHESSE OLYMPIAD

Sicilian Dragon structure wherein Arjun converted to a complicated endgame and then his precise calculation helped him carve out his fifth win as many games.

For the records, Arjun is currently at 2888 ELO rating points in live ratings and just 12 short of attaining the magical 2800 mark - a summit captured by only Viswanathan Anand as an Indian.

The women section has seen some serious bouts wherein the tables were turned in quick time. In the next round now, the eves will take on Armenia.

**Results round 5 open:** India (10) beat Azerbaijan (8) 3-1 (D Gukesh beat Aydin Sulemanli; R Praggnanandhaa drew with Nijat Abasov; Arjun Erigaisi beat Rauf Mamedov; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov drew with Vidit Gujrathi); Ukraine (8) lost to Hungary (10) 1.5-2.5; Vietnam (10) beat Poland (8) 2.5-1.5; Spain (8) lost to China (10) 1.5-2.5; Turkey (7) lost to Norway (9) 1-3; Iran (9) beat Canada (7) 3.5-0.5.

**Women:** Kazakhstan (8) lost to India (10) 1.5-2.5 (Bibisara Assaubayeva beat D Harika; R Vaishali beat Meruert Kamalidenova; Xeniya Balabayeva drew with Divya Deshmukh; Vantika Agrawal beat Alua Nurman); China (8) lost to Armenia (10) 1.5-2.5; Mongolia (10) beat USA (8) 2.5-1.5; Uzbekistan (7) lost to Georgia (9) 1.5-2.5; Poland (9) beat Turkey (7) 3-1.



## Yamal scores twice as Barcelona beats Girona 4-1

**AP ■ MADRID**

With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Lamine Yamal led Barcelona to its fifth straight victory at the start of the Spanish league season.

The teenager's double, plus second-half goals from Dani Olmo and Pedri, gave Barcelona a commanding 4-1 win at Catalan rival Girona on Sunday, keeping a four-point lead at the top.

Atletico Madrid kept pace by beating last-place Valencia 3-0 with goals from Antoine Griezmann and newly signed players Julián Álvarez and Conor Gallagher, while Real Madrid had won 2-0 at Real Sociedad on Saturday with goals from Kylian Mbappé and Vinícius Júnior.

Along with Atletico and Madrid, Villarreal was the other team four points behind Barcelona after winning 2-1 at Mallorca on Saturday.

"To help the team it's important to score the goals and to do whatever is needed," Yamal said. "The first match after the international break is always complicated. Now we can start focusing on the match against Monaco (in the Champions League on Thursday)."

Yamal's goals on Sunday were his second and third of the

season. The 17-year-old Spain international opened the scoring after stealing the ball from a defender and sending a close-range shot into the net in the 30th minute. He scored again in the 37th after picking up a loose ball inside the area.

Olmo's third goal since joining Barcelona this season came from a tight angle in the 47th, and Pedri sealed the easy victory with a goal from inside the area in the 64th.

Olmo, who had to be replaced in the second half because of a right leg injury, became the first player to score in his first three league games for Barcelona since Cesc Fàbregas in 2011. Only Zlatan Ibrahimovic, in 2009, achieved the same feat this century.

Cristhian Stuani scored Girona's lone goal in the 80th. The hosts were initially awarded a penalty kick for a handball inside the area just before halftime, with Barcelona leading 2-0, but the call was reversed by video review. Barcelona played with 10 men from the 87th after Ferran Torres was sent off for a hard foul on an opponent.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski played his 100th match with Barcelona.

Girona, a surprise third-place finisher last season, won both league games against

## Britain fails to reach Davis Cup Finals

**AP ■ MANCHESTER**

Britain failed to qualify for the last eight of the Davis Cup Finals after losing to Canada 2-1 in its last group-stage tie, while Novak Djokovic helped Serbia secure a place in next year's qualifiers.

The British needed a 3-0 win against the Canadians in Manchester, but Dan Evans lost 6-0, 7-5 to Denis Shapovalov to end Britain's hopes in the opening match in front of a crowd of 15,700 at the AO Arena, the biggest for a Davis Cup tie on British soil, according to organizers.

Felix Auger-Aliassime then defeated Jack Draper 7-6 (8), 7-5 to seal Canada's victory and first place in Group D. England won the final doubles match. Evans hinted this may have been his last Davis Cup appearance.

"I've probably had my fair share now. It could be and probably will be (the end)," he said. "I need to have a think. If I don't feel capable of playing, I won't come back."

Canada and Argentina advanced from Group D. Finland was the other team eliminated.

Four groups have been playing in four cities to qualify for the eight-team Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group advance.

In Valencia, Spain defeated Australia 2-1 to win Group B with both having already qualified. France and the Czech Republic were eliminated.

In Bologna, the Netherlands won the closing doubles match to clinch its spot in the Finals



eliminated nations. The United States and Germany had advanced from the group.

**DJOKOVIC WINS AGAIN:** Djokovic led Serbia to a 3-1 win over Greece in a World Group 1 tie in Belgrade. The Olympic champion partnered Hamad Medjedovic to a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Aristotelis Thanos and Petros Tsitsipas. Djokovic beat Ioannis Xilas 6-0, 6-1 in the singles on Saturday.

**BERDÝCH TO CAPTAIN CZECHS:** Former world No. 4 and two-time Davis Cup champion Tomas Berdych will take over the captaincy from Jaroslav Navratil for the Czech Republic.

Navratil captained the Czechs for nearly two decades, including when it won the 2012 and 2013 titles with Berdych as a player.

## McLaren boss Zak Brown revels in best season

**AP ■ LEBANON (TENNESSEE, USA)**

After a thrilling Azerbaijan Grand Prix, it seems like nearly half the field is capable of winning races in Formula 1.

McLaren chief executive Zak Brown, whose driver Lando Norris is Max Verstappen's closest title challenger, says he's enjoying the best show he's seen in his eight years in F1.

There have been six different winners in the last eight races, representing four different teams. Verstappen, whose dominance in 2022 and 2023 broke records, still leads the standings but his last win was in June.

"I think this is the best season I can think of ever in Formula 1 since I've been here," Brown told The Associated Press from the IndyCar season finale at Nashville Superspeedway in Tennessee. Could it even be better than the 2021 fight between Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, which was decided on the final lap of the year and helped fuel F1's Netflix boom? Brown thinks it might be.

"That was mega exciting, but it's just two guys, two good guys. Now you've got four good teams in today's race," he said.



Even a change of tires can turn an also-ran into a contender, Russell said Sunday.

"Just in this one race, we had a car that could have won if you took the pace from half of the race and a car that should have been outside the top 10 from the other half," he said, adding: "So I hope we've got the faster version" for next week's race in Singapore.

The Singapore street track hosted one of the most competitive races of an otherwise Red Bull-dominated 2023 season. On worn tires, Sainz held off Norris' McLaren and the two Mercedes of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and Russell, who crashed from third on the last lap.

Piastri is F1's on-form driver with the most points of anyone in the last seven races. He knows just how many moving parts are involved in success this year, and how quickly it can all change.

"We've been in with a chance everywhere, and I think today was definitely one of those days where we weren't necessarily the quickest, but we had a car that could put us in the fight," the Australian said.

"We had a pit stop that could put us in the fight. We had some teamwork that put us in the fight."

## Manchester City hearing is the chance to clear the club name

**AP ■ MANCHESTER**

The biggest challenge to Manchester City's Premier League dominance was due to start on Monday. I know there will be more rumors," he said. "Everybody is innocent until guilt is proven."

The charges City was accused by the Premier League in February last year of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period between 2009-18 after it was bought by Abu Dhabi's ruling family in 2008. City was trying to establish itself as one of the leading clubs in Europe, signed some of the world's best players like Yaya Toure, Sergio Aguero and Kevin de Bruyne and won three league titles - in 2012, 2014 and 2018.

The league's financial fair play rules are designed to ensure clubs essentially spend what they earn and commercial



panel. The hearing will be held behind closed doors, and a verdict is not expected until next year.

The punishment Potential punishment for a "serious breach" of the league's rule book is wide-ranging.

Dependent on whether City is found guilty of any of the charges, possible sanctions include a fine, points deduction or in "extreme cases, expulsion from the competition" according to the league's rules.

City's response City said it was surprised by the charges when they were made last year.

"The Club welcomes the review of this matter by an independent Commission, to impartially consider the comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence that exists in support of its position," it said in a statement. "As such we look forward to this matter being put to rest once and for all."

Guardiola has repeatedly been critical of the treatment of City.

"My first thought is we are already being condemned," he said after the charges were made. "We are lucky we live in a marvellous country where everyone is innocent until proved guilty. We didn't have this opportunity. We are already sentenced."

The rules Known as Financial Fair Play, the regulations are aimed at preventing clubs from spending more than they earn. FFP was established in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, which deepened worries in European soccer that clubs could go out of business if the cost of player transfers and wages kept rising.

Previous cases City was fined 60 million euros (then \$82 million) spread over three years by UEFA in 2014 and forced to limit its Champions League squad to 21 instead of 25 senior players after violating FFP rules. Ultimately City only had to forfeit 20 million euros of prize money after complying with the governing body's measures.

In 2018 German magazine Der Spiegel published the "Football Leaks" series of articles supposedly based on City's internal documents and communications. They suggested City had broken FFP rules in financial relationships with "related-party" sponsors from Abu Dhabi.

In February 2020 City was banned from UEFA competition for two seasons for "serious breaches", including overstating sponsor revenue and failing to cooperate with investigators. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) overturned the ban in July 2020, ruling that some UEFA charges were not proven and other evidence was excluded as time-barred. The court "strongly condemned" Man City for obstructing UEFA's investigation, though a £10 million (\$10

# SKIPPER HARMANPREET TWIN STRIKE IN 4-1 VICTORY OVER KOREA

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here on Monday. India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd)'s penalty corner conversion.

India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final. Earlier in the day, China defeated Pakistan 2-0 via shoot-out in the first semifinal after the two teams finished 1-1 at the end of regulation 60 minutes.

In the previous league stage encounter between the two finalists, India prevailed 3-0.

Pakistan and Korea will face off in the third place classification match which will also be played on Tuesday.

Meanwhile in the fifth-sixth place classification match, Japan beat Malaysia 4-2 in shoot-out following a 4-4 stalemate in normal time.

In the second semifinal as expected, the Indians started on the offensive and tested the Korean defence with



## INDIA IN ACT FINAL

persistent attacks from the word go. The Koreans, on the other hand, were content to sit back and defend and rely on sporadic counter attacks.

Abhishek came tantalisingly close to handing India the lead in the fourth minute but his reverse hit was brilliantly saved by Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehan.

The Indian made promising build ups and penetrated the Korean circle on consistent basis in the first quarter.

India's attacking intent finally paid off in the 13th minute when Uttam positioned himself at the right place at the right time to tap in Arajjeet Singh Hundal's supply from the right.

A minute from the first break, Korea secured back-to-back penalty corners but failed to utilise the chances.

Four minutes into the second quarter, India secured their first penalty corner and Harmanpreet scored his sixth goal of the tournament to hand his side a 2-0 lead.

At the stroke of half-time, custodian Suraj Karkera came out of his line to save an effort from the opposition player.

India continued in the same vein after the change of ends and

extended their lead two minutes into the third quarter.

A brilliant scoop from Sumit from the right finds Jarmanpreet just outside the circle on the left flank and the latter neatly collected the ball and took a step or two to get inside the circle and slap the ball into the Korean goal to extend India's lead.

But Korea pulled one back a minute later from a penalty corner through the tournament's top-scorer Yang Jihun.

The goal hardly bothered the Indians as they continued their attacking game and dominated the share of exchanges.

With a second left for the third quarter, India secured another penalty corner when Korean goalkeeper Jaehan was shown the yellow card for handling the ball out side the circle, and Harmanpreet made no mistake to extend the lead.

Eight minutes from the final hooter, India's second goalkeeper Karkera made a fine double save to deny Park Cheoleon, but the Koreans secured a penalty corner which went in vain.

Thereafter, it was controlled show from the Indians as they defended their lead with consummate ease to march into their fifth final appearance in the tournament.



# Rohit, team sweat it out in third training session in Chennai

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk here on Monday.

After a day off, the India squad members took part in their third training session since their arrival here last week. The first Test begins on Thursday.

As it is often the case, Virat Kohli was among the first set of batters to hit the nets. In the adjacent net was southpaw Yashvi Jaiswal as both him and Kohli faced Jasprit Bumrah and home hero R Ashwin.

The next set of batters included skipper Rohit, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan, the last named player arriving here after taking part in the second round Duleep Trophy match in Anantapur. The captain focussed on playing spinners keeping Bangladesh's slow bowling attack in mind.

Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and pacer Mohammed Siraj too



faced local bowlers and significant amount of throwdowns.

The practise pitch at the main square offered a decent amount of bounce.

India will have two more practice sessions scheduled before the series opener against Bangladesh, who are riding on the confidence of their series sweep in Pakistan.

Most players in the playing eleven select themselves. The Chennai surface usually favour the spinners and there is likelihood of India going into the game with three spinners and two pacers.

The spinners expected to feature are Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav while Bumrah and Siraj will share workload in the pace department. Axar Patel, despite his impressive all-round returns across formats, may have to sit out.

On the batting front, Pant is expected to make his Test return after a gap of almost two years. Dhruv Jurel, who impressed his debut series against England, will be benched in that case.

## Sharma finishes T-42nd as Hojgaard pips McIlroy to Irish title

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma had a choppy back nine leading to a round of 1-over 72 as he finished a disappointing T-42nd at the Amgen Irish Open at Royal County Down.

Sharma, who was in the top-15 after the first two days, ended with a total of 4-over 288.

He parred through the front nine and two more holes before finding his first birdie on the 12th.

He bogeyed 13th and the 15th but birdied 16th only to drop a shot on 17th and close with a par.

Meanwhile, Rasmus Hojgaard holed out twice and produced a stunning finish with four birdies in last five holes as he beat local favourite Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy looked on course to claim his first professional win on home soil when he led by two shots with four holes to play at a venue just an hour from where he grew up.

However, Hojgaard's superb closing 65 saw him claim his fifth DP World Tour title and move to second in the Race to Dubai Rankings and to the top of the European Ryder Cup standings.

McIlroy had taken a one-shot lead into the final round and made the ideal start with birdies on the first and second. With playing partner Matteo

Manassero then dropping shots on the third and fourth, McIlroy briefly enjoyed a four-shot lead before making a bogey on the seventh after failing to get up and down from left of the green.

He then missed from inside ten feet for birdie on both the eighth and the ninth as Hojgaard kickstarted his challenge with an outrageous chip-in for birdie on the tenth. A birdie on the 11th edged McIlroy two in front again, but that advantage was wiped out as Hojgaard birdied the 16th and McIlroy bogeyed the 15th.

Hojgaard then dramatically holed out from a greenside bunker on the 17th and, although McIlroy drew level with a birdie on the 16th, he charged his birdie putt on the 17th past the hole and missed the return.

Hojgaard's third birdie in a row on the 18th meant McIlroy needed to make an eagle on the same hole to force a play-off and a towering approach from 191 yards gave him a chance from 15 feet, only for the eagle putt to slide just wide.

"I was nervous. I was shaking out there the last few holes. I obviously knew that Rory was going to be there because he's got the whole support on his back there. It was nerve-wracking going down the last few holes knowing that he was right behind me," Hojgaard said.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian players have been working on their mental strength for a "long time" which should help the team in overcoming hurdles, says skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ahead of the upcoming women's T20 World Cup next month.

India, who finished as runner-up in the 2020 edition of the tournament, are placed in Group A along with six-time winners and defending champions Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Kaur said on Monday that the Indian players have been working on the mental aspect to bring out their best in crucial moments.

"We have been working on mental strength for a long time. The last 3-4 overs are the most crucial. T20 cricket is not a small format; at the end of the day, you are playing 40 overs," Kaur told Star Sports.

"In the last 4-5 overs, the team that is mentally strong wins the match. We

## Indian players working on mental strength ahead of T20 World Cup: Harmanpreet

have been focusing on this for a while. If we can remain mentally stable in those final five overs, we can execute what's best for us."

India's performances in summit clashes have featured in discussions given the team lost in the 2020 final by 85 runs to Australia, while England had pipped them by a mere nine runs in the 2017 ODI World Cup final.

Even in the Commonwealth Games 2022, Australia eked out a nine-run win to clinch the gold medal despite a spirited show with the bat from India in the final, with Kaur's team settling for the silver.

"We are working on those aspects, and hopefully, we will overcome this hurdle in the tournament," she added.



India's campaign begins on October 4 against New Zealand followed by the clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 6.

India, who lost to Sri Lanka in the women's Asia Cup final earlier this year, will take on the team from the island nation on October 9 and each of their first three group stage matches will be played in Dubai.

India's final group match against Australia will be played at Sharjah on October 13.

Kaur said the team's combination of players from different states in the country gives an opportunity to learn further.

"All the players in our team come from different states. It feels good when you see so many different characters in the team. People from various states share the dressing room, and you get to learn about their cultures.

"I think you can only experience that in sports, not in any other career," Kaur added.

# Sakshi Malik, Aman Sehrawat and Geeta Phogat announce Wrestling Champions Super League

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Aman Sehrawat, along with former world championship bronze-winner Geeta Phogat, on Monday announced that they would soon launch a Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL) for the country's budding grapplers but the national federation has refused to sanction the initiative.

Sakshi, along with Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, had spearheaded the wrestlers' protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment.

She has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana

assembly elections. She won the 58kg bronze in 2016 Rio Olympics, and announced the project with Phogat, a 55kg bronze winner in 2012 World Championships through their social media handles. The two, while announcing that they had Paris Games bronze-winner Aman on board, did not provide any details.

Phogat told PTI that she is hopeful of support from the federation and the government.

"Sakshi and I have been planning this League for long. Soon it will take a final shape. We have not yet spoken to the WFI but it would be great if WFI and government support us. It will be the first league that will be operated only by the players," Phogat said.

"We are doing it for the players, for their benefit. That is the idea and vision, so no one



should have any problem with it. It's a proud moment for us. We won't stop anyone from getting involved in it, if WFI or government comes on board,

even better. We have not yet spoken to them. There will be international wrestlers, and coaches involved, so it should help our

junior wrestlers. They will get good exposure." The WFI said it would not give its sanction to the league. "We won't approve it. We are

reviving our pro wrestling league and hopefully we will have it soon. The wrestlers are free to do their own league, they can promote the game, but we won't be linked with that," WFI President Sanjay Singh said.

Asked if there will be prize money involved, and about the format and venue for the event, Phogat said, "You will have to wait a bit to know all this. We will share the details very soon."

Sakshi, who retired from wrestling after Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Singh became WFI head, said she hopes to give back to the sport through this initiative.

"The only way to repay your trust is to dedicate our sporting talent, experience, grit & success to the service of the sport. The 2 of us have therefore come together to

create the Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL)," she posted on X.

"The WCSL, a world class international league, will skill & strengthen our wrestlers to dominate the sport globally by taking on the world's best in a hyper competitive, expertly supervised environment with best-in-class support systems in place."

She also said that Sehrawat, who won bronze in 57kg in Paris Olympics, also "shares our vision and is joining us on this journey."

"This league is a very commendable initiative which will help Indian wrestling greatly and therefore I want to be a part of it and support it fully," Aman was quoted as saying by Sakshi.

Daughter of noted wrestling coach Mahavir, Geeta is a cousin of Vinesh, who will be

contesting from Julana constituency during the Haryana elections.

Sakshi said the aim of the league is to build a culture of sustained high performance in the sport in the country.

"While WCSL is focused on wrestling, it is inspired also by our overwhelming urge to build a culture of sustained high performance in Indian sport & motivate every Indian to experience the joy of playing.

"Although founded by the 2 of us, the WCSL is a national mission committed to respecting & working in close partnership with all stakeholders. Winning, after all, is a team sport. Our hearts beat only for India, for Indian wrestling & for Indian sport. Come, let's build the sporting India of our dreams mil ke, ek saath!"