OPINION 6

TRIUMPHS AND CHALLENGES

WORLD 8

FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

Late City Vol.34 Issue 262 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

Published From

ASHWIN-JADEJA TANGO SAVES

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4 the plone established 1864 the plone of the plane of the

www.dailypioneer.com

Cong, NC celebrated in Pak: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow for J and K Assembly elections, at Katra in Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir. Thursday

MOHIT KANDHARI KATRA

¬raining his guns on the alliance partners Congress and and the National Conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday launched a fiercest attack saying that Pakistan is doing 'balle-balle' over their manifesto for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an impressive poll rally after conducting a road show in the Katra township, base camp of Mata Vaishno

Devi Shrine, PM Modi said, restoration of Article 370. "Nobody is giving them (Congress and National Conference) any importance here. But in Pakistan, inki balle balle ho rahi hai (they are being celebrated)." Modi also accused the

alliance partners of aligning with Pakistan's interests. The Prime Minister's remarks follow Pakistan's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif's statement in an interview in which he said that Pakistan and the NC-Congress alliance were on the same page on the

"They (Congress-National Conference) are declaring that they will bring back Article 370. They want to return to the of bloodshed. The neighbouring country is asking questions about it. Pakistan seems to be happy with the Congress-National Conference's manifesto. The Defence Minister of Pakistan has openly supported it. The agenda of Congress and the National Conference aligns with Pakistan's agenda," PM Modi said at the rally in Katra. exposed the Congress and the National Conference. He went on to say that the BJP government will not allow the implementation of Pakistan's in Jammu and Kashmir. "Pakistan itself has exposed the

Congress and the National Conference. They wanted to implement Pakistan's agenda here... We will not allow the implementation of Pakistan's agenda in Jammu and Kashmir. No power in the world can bring back Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir". PM Modi also sounded a note of caution saying that a vote for Congress would lead to the reinstatement of Article 370, which he said would pave the way for violence to return to the Valley.

"Every vote given to Congress will implement the manifesto of PDP and NC.

PM Modi said that the upcoming elections will be a turning point for the region, framing the choice as one that will define the future of Jammu and Kashmir. This election is about choosing Jammu and Kashmir's future, " PM Modi said

Addressing another rally earlier inside the fortified Sheri-Kashmir stadium in Srinagar PM Modi praised the high voter turnout in the first phase stating that it represents a rejection of parties that 'sympathise with stone pelters and terrorists.

Continued on page 2



A Lebanese army bomb disposal specialist wearing a protective gear prepares, with his comrade, to detonate a walkie-talkie that was found at the parking of the American University Hospital, in Beirut, Lebanon AP/PTI

Hezbollah fires new barrage into northern Israel

Hezbollah fired a new barrage into northern Israel on Thursday, continuing its drumbeat of exchanges with the Israeli military as fears of a greater war rise after hundreds of electronic devices exploded in Lebanon, Tezbollah fired a new barrage into killing at least 32 people and wounding more than 3,000 others.

The device explosions appeared to be the culmination of a monthslong operation by Israel to target as many Hezbollah members as possible all at once. Over two days, pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah detonated, wounding and even crippling some fighters, but also maiming civilians connected to the group's social branches and killing at least two children. It was unclear how the attack fit into warnings by Israeli leaders in recent weeks that they could launch a stepped-up military operation against Hezbollah, Lebanon's strongest armed force. The Israeli government has called it a war aim to end the Iranian-backed group's crossborder fire in order to allow tens of thousands of Israelis to return to homes near the border.

Continued on page 2

India takes strong objection to US court's summons over Pannun's suit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Taking strong objection to a US court's summons to the Indian government over Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's civil suit alleging a plot to murder him, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday termed it as "unwarranted" and "unsubstantiated imputations."

DREAMII

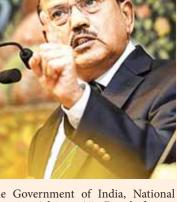
The US District Court for Southern District of New York named the Government of India, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval(NSA) and former R&AW chief Samant Goel, in the summons.

Foreign Secretary Misri said, "As we've said earlier, these are completely unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations. Now that this particular case has been lodged, it doesn't change our views about the underlying situation. I would only invite your attention to the person behind this particular case whose antecedents are well known." "I would also underline the fact that

the organisation so-called that this person represents is an unlawful organisation, has been declared as such under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act of 1967 and it has been done so on account of its involvement in anti-national and subversive activities aimed at disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India," he added. Pannun heads the radical Sikhs for

Justice and is known to put out incendiary speeches and threats against Indian leaders and institutions. New Delhi designated him a terrorist in 2020. Earlier, the US District Court for

Southern District of New York named



the Government of India, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, former R&AW chief Samant Goel, in the summons. The summons also named Indian businessman Nikhil Gupta and R&AW agent Vikram Yadav and seeks a reply within 21 days. In November, the UK newspaper

Financial Times reported that the US had thwarted a plot to kill Pannun, who holds dual citizenship in the US and Canada. Officials in the Joe Biden administration later confirmed this.

In its first response, the External Affairs Ministry had said it is a "matter of concern" and stressed that India has launched a high-level probe.

"As regards the case against an individual that has been filed in a US court, allegedly linking him to an Indian official, this is a matter of concern. We have said that this is also contrary to government policy," then MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said.

Continued on page 2

India 'effective' in terror, money laundering combat, says FATF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

anti-money Glaundering and terror financing body FATF on Thursday launched its muchreport on India, saying the county's systems were "major "effective" but improvements" were required to strengthen prosecution in these cases. The 368-page report was released after the assessment was adopted by the Paris-headquartered body at its June plenary meeting. The last such review of India's combating of money laundering and terror financing regi published in 2010. regime was

The report, which comes after an on-site visit of FATF experts to India last November, has placed the country in the 'regular follow up" category, a distinction shared by only four other G20 countries. India will undergo its next evaluation in

The report said India implemented such an antimoney laundering (AML) and combating financing of terror (CFT) system that was effective in many respects. It, however, said "major improvements" were required to strengthen the prosecution in money laundering and



terror financing cases. It said improvements in the system were also required to protect the non-profit sector from terror abuse.

"India's main sources of money laundering originate from within, from illegal activities committed within country," it said, adding the country faced "disparate" range of terror threats, most significantly from ISIL (Islamic State or ISIS) or AQ-linked groups (Al Qaeda) active in and around Jammu and Kashmir. The report analyses the level of compliance with the FATF 40 Recommendations and the level of effectiveness of India's AML/CFT system, and provides recommendations on how the system can be

Finance ministry Additional Secretary (Revenue) Vivek Agarwal said global crime

program.

strengthened.

watchdog FATF has given high rating to India on parameters, including financial intelligence, money laundering terror financing risks, as well as beneficial recommendations made by FATF, fast tracking trials in terror financing and money laundering cases is important. Rest of the recommendations are ancillary in nature, Agarwal said.
"We have passed the test with

distinction," Agarwal said, adding since India is in regular follow up as per FATF, the country may report risk assessment after three year. "But there is no compulsion on Agarwal said. On possibility of terror financing not-for-profit abuse by organisations (NPO), Agarwal said FATF has said that preventive measures should be taken to check terror financing.

The income tax department has used multiple data points to identify "at risk" NPOs and there is ongoing engagement with NPOs to sensitise them so that they are not used as a medium for financing terror, Agarwal said. "India has no low rating (by FATF) on any parameter... It is either high rating or medium rating," Agarwal added.



19, 2024. At least two people suffered injuries in the accident, according to officials PTI

Drunken college goers meet mishap

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Afirst year college student of Delhi University died, one was grievously injured while three received minor injuries when their speeding SÚV crashed into a guardrail that pierced through the middle of the vehicle near Rajghat in north Delhi on early Thursday. The deceased has been

identified as a 19 year old Aishwarya Pandey, who was sitting just behind the driver He is a first-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) student Delhi University's Deshbandhu College and hailed from Uttar Pradesh's Etawah. He had rented the car for a night to celebrate his According to police, the black coloured Hyundai Venue car had five occupants, all students of Delhi University colleges, who were returning from a birthday party at a pub in neighbouring Gurugram. Prima facie, it appears that the car was being driven at a high speed and the driver lost control leading to the crash, police said, adding that the

Van to Geeta Colony. "The car was going from Shanti Van Red light towards Geeta Colony, when it reached at ISBT Slip road at around 05.52 am where it collided with the divider," DCP North Manoj Kumar Meena said.

incident occurred on the stretch of road from Shanti

Continued on page 2

21 Dalit homes set ablaze in Bihar, probe underway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

wenty-one houses were **⊥** set on fire in Bihar's Nawada district near the suggested that a land dispute could be the cause behind the incident that happened in Manjhi Tola in Mufassil police station area on Wednesday late evening.

Nawada District Magistrate Ashutosh Kumar Verma said the district police has arrested 15 people for allegedly torching the houses. Verma said approximately 21 houses, some of which were semipucca, were burned by a group in Manjhi Tola. He added that senior administrative and police officials on-site will provide a report detailing the exact number of damaged houses. A police officer said shots were also fired in the air when the houses were being torched. Investigations have revealed that out of a total of 34 houses that were set on fire, 21 were completely destroyed and 13 were damaged partially.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to investigate further, and searches are ongoing to apprehend the remaining



Charred remains are seen after multiple houses were allegedly set on fire, in Nawada district, Bihar, Thursday

suspects. "We are providing relief materials, including food packets and drinking water, to those displaced. Temporary tents have been set up for the victims," he noted. The DM refuted claims that cattle were charred, saying, "No evidence has been found to support that." Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar condemned torching of 34 houses, mostly belonging to communities, in Nawada district and asked the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) to visit the site and oversee the probe. Former Deputy CM of Bihar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, said in a social media "Respected, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, houses of Dalits have been set on fire under your double

engine government in Bihar. The PM must say a few words this 'Mangalraj' as whatever is happening is all because of the will of almighty God and the NDA leaders have no control over this." BSP president Mayawati demanded strict action by the Bihar government. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also called for full

financial support by the

government for rehabilitation of the poor victims. Congress too slammed the NDA government in Bihar over the incident of setting ablaze of houses in Nawada saying it is another proof of the "jungle raj" prevailing in the state and shows the dispensation's "utter dispensation's "utter indifference" towards Dalits

and the deprived. Continued on page 2

Plans Underway for Incredible India's Vibrant Tribal Homestays

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tet ready to explore the Gstunning beauty and vibrant culture of India's tribal regions like never before! Exciting plans are underway to encourage tribal communities to welcome tourists into their homes, allowing them to share their unique heritage.

Supporting this remarkable initiative, the Union Tourism Ministry plans to promote, to begin with, 1,000 Homestays at tourismpotential villages across the tribal belts of the States like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu among others. The aim is to preserve rich traditions of the tribal communities as well as enhance their incomes, thus empowering them economically tribals and visitors rights are

fostering

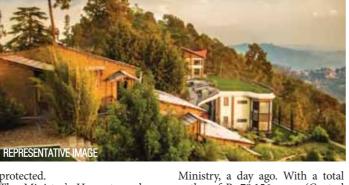
development. The Union Tourism Ministry plans to provide funding to tribal households and villages for the construction of 5 to 10 homestays in each tourism-potential tribal village under its Swadesh Darshan

Each household will be eligible for Rs 5 lakhs for the construction of two new rooms and upto Rs 3 lakhs for renovation of existing rooms and Rs 5 lakh for village community requirement," official of the Ministry shared the details.

He said that the plan is the nascent phase and nitty-gritty will be worked out to ensure there is no violation of the regulations and



rotected. The Ministry's Homestay scheme in tribal areas is part of the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan which was



outlay of Rs.79,156 crore (Central Share: Rs.56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore), the scheme aims to improve the sociocleared by the Union Cabinet economic condition of tribal

saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts. Around 5 crore tribals in the 63,000 villages are expected to benefit as 549 districts and 2,740 blocks spread across all tribal majority villages in 30 States/UTs will be covered. The Mission comprises 25 interventions/schemes which will

be implemented by 17-line ministries. Each Ministry/Department would be responsible for implementation of schemes related to it in a time

bound manner through funds allocated to them under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in the next 5 years, as per the official.

India has a scheduled tribes

population of 10.45 crore as per 2011 census and there are more than 705 tribal communities, spread across the country, living in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

As the Union Tourism Ministry advances plans for homestays in tribal regions, the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) is already leading the way. Many tribal families have opened their homes as homestays as a part of the homestay project of the MPTB, and are now ready to host visitors. According to the MPTB officials, rural tribal communities have established over 64 new homestays across 28 villages.

million in 2024 and is projected to Post-COVID, homestays have grow at a Compounded Annual become a favored option for travelers seeking unique and personal experiences. "They often

allow guests to immerse themselves in local culture, enjoy homemade meals, and access off-the-beatenpath attractions. For homeowners, turning a property into a homestay can be financially rewarding, providing a steady income stream while allowing them to share their space and hospitality with others. It's a win-win, creating memorable experiences for guests and fostering connections between visitors and local communities, said an official from the Ministry. According to Cognitive Market Research, India homestay market had a market share of USD 540.44

Growth Rate(CÂGR) of 11.0% during the forecast period. Continued on page 2

CPI(M) objects to one nation one election policy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Thursday condemned the Government's push for 'one nation, one election', urging all political parties that value democracy, pluralism, and federalism to unite against the move. The party issued a statement a day after the Union Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the Kovind Committee advocating simultaneous elections for Parliament, state assemblies, and local bodies.

CPI(M) Committee urged all political parties that value democracy, pluralism, and federalism to unite in opposition to the government's move, vowing to resist any constitutional amendments aimed at implementing this policy. The CPI(M) said that implementing this model would shorten the terms of some legislative assemblies to synchronize with Lok Sabha elections, which violates the people's constitu-tional right to elect represen-



Constitution for this purpose. Every party, which values democracy, pluralism and federalism, should come out firmly in opposition and unitedly thwart this pernicious move, the statement said. The party also criticised the proposal for mid-term elections that would only last until the next general elections, claiming it defeats the stated goal of reducing the frequency of elections. The CPÍ(M) said the one

nation, one election model, if implemented, will undermine the parliamentary democratic

system itself and the federal structure. "The attack on federalism is all the more insidious with the move to hold simultaneous election to all panchayats and municipal bodies. This is centralization to the extreme and goes against the very purpose of decentralized decision-making local bodies. Holding of panchayat and local body elections is under the purview of the state governments and this is sought to be denied," it said, adding that the RSS-BJP of attempting to establish a unitarian state structure with centralised control, driven by ideological

talks with newly appointed Ukrainian FM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held a phone conversation with newly-appointed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha with a focus on boosting bilateral ties and finding a solution to the conflict in Ukraine. The conversation came nearly a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile trip to Kyiv.

trip to Kyiv.
"I spoke with Subrahmanyam
Jaishankar to build on
Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kyiv and talks with Zelenskyy," Sybiha said.

"We agreed to take our bilateral relations forward in all promising areas of cooperation. We exchanged views ahead of UNGA and coordinated next steps in political dialogue," he said after the talks.

In a social media post, Jaishankar said he was looking forward to working with the Ukrainian foreign minister. 'Spoke with the new Ukrainian FM @andrii_sybiha today. Congratulated him on his appointment. Look forward to working with him," he said. It is learnt that the Russia-Ukraine conflict figured in the



In his talks with Zelenskyy, Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region.

The prime minister said India was on the side of peace since the beginning of the conflict and he would even like to contribute personally for a peaceful resolution of the cri-

Modi's nearly nine-hour visit to Ukraine, the first by an Indian prime minister since its independence in 1991, came six weeks after he held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. India has been maintaining that the conflict in Ukraine must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Jaishankar holds telephonic | ABVP, NSUI condemn DSGMC's move to cancel Khalsa College student polls



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Amid the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee's (DSGMC) decision to cancel Khalsa College student elections, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Thursday condemned the decision with the former asking the committee to withdraw the decision and the latter alleging pressure by ABVP to do so. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) backed ABVP said that, in protest against the administrative anarchy, their members are on an indefinite strike, demanding the reversal of this decision. They claimed that it has not been approved by the university administration. State Secretary of ABVP Delhi

Harsh Attri stated, "The reclassification of DUSU colleges as Non-DUSU by the Khalsa Governing Committee is unfortunate. ABVP condemns this autocratic and unilateral decision and demands for its withdrawal." He added that the student body has long been advocating for the inclusion of Non-DUSU colleges in the DUSU category. "However, instead of expanding the DUSU category, a DUSU college has been moved to Non-DUSU, which ABVP will oppose. We will ensure that these colleges are reinstated into the DUSU category," Attri said.

Meanwhile Congress' NSUI strongly condemned the DSGMC's decision to cancel

Khalsa College student elections without any prior notification. "The cancellation, done under pressure from ABVP, is viewed as a blatant attempt to favor them. NSUI has consistently held a strong position in Khalsa College elections," the student body said in a statement.

NSUI National President Varun Choudhary stated, "ABVP is clearly afraid of facing elections. They know they will lose. I openly challenge them that NSUI will win by 4-0 in these elections." He further criticized the undemocratic decision and demanded the immediate reinstatement of the elections.

"NSUI stands firm in defending the students' democratic rights and calls for a fair electoral process," he added.

India undertaking plan to establish interstate cheetah conservation complex

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is undertaking an ambitious plan to establish an inter-state cheetah conservation complex within the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscapes spanning Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, according to a 2023-24 progress report of Project Cheetah released recently.

Hence while authorities have been busy preparing the 368-square kilometre Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary for the next batch of cheetahs, the ones in Kuno National Park where felines were brought in phases in two years remain inside enclosures that are only 0.5 to 1.5 square kilometres in size, the new complex aims to create a sustainable habitat for 60-70 cheetahs over the next 25 years.

The report, released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on the completion of two years of Project Cheetah on September 17, said while a new batch of cheetaĥs was likely to be brought to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary by the end of the year, they would be released into free-ranging conditions over the next five years.

In the initial phase, 5 to 8 cheetahs will be released into a 64-square kilometer fenced area

designed to promote breeding.
The combined landscapes of both states include



several districts, such as Sheopur, Shivpuri, and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, and Baran, Kota, and Chittorgarh in Rajasthan. Additionally, neighboring districts like Bhind, Datia, and parts of Uttar Pradesh may be included depending on the cheetahs' movements.

"Both these landscapes, along the interstate border of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, are adjacent to each other, and the combined landscapes together can constitute the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar cheetah landscape for metapopulation management of 60-70 cheetahs after restorative measures, prey availability, and scientific management are effectively in place, as an interstate cheetah conservation complex within the next 25 years under the umbrella of Project Cheetah, the report read.

Two sharpshooters of Hashim Baba gang held after encounter

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

wo sharpshooters of the Hashim Baba gang, including an 18-year-old man who was allegedly involved in the firing incident at Delhi's GTB Hospital that left a patient dead, were held from Muzaffarnagar following an encounter early Thursday, officials said.

The Delhi and Uttar Pradesh Police forces launched a joint operation to catch the duo --Anas Khan, and Asad Ameem, 21, who suffered bullet injuries on their legs in the exchange of fire, they

Anas was allegedly involved in two murder cases including the killing of the patient at GTB hospital in a case of mistaken identity in July, police said. Hashim Baba, a northeast

Delhi-based gangster, who is



lodged in a jail in the national capital has also cropped up in the recent killing of a gym owner in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area.

According to the Delhi Police officials, information was received that Khan and Ameem were seen in the national capital and neighbouring Ghaziabad.

A team comprising personnel of the Delhi Police Special Cell and the Special Task Force of the Uttar Pradesh Police was formed to catch the

At around 4 am on Thursday, the team intercepted a car near Bhainsi village in Muzaffarnagar's Khatuali on the Delhi-Haridwar Highway. The car, stolen from central Delhi's Patel Nagar, had three occupants, including Khan and Ameem, police said. The occupants opened fire at

the police team in a bid to escape. In retaliatory firing, the two sharpshooters sustained bullet injuries and were taken to a hospital, a police officer said. A total of eight rounds were

fired -- four each by both sides, police said, adding three sophisticated firearms and nine cartridges were seized from the accused.

Police said, Khan and Ameem are residents of Chauhan Bangar in northeast Delhi and were involved in more than half a dozen cases of murder and attempt to mur-

Delhi Crime Branch arrests man for duping more than 50 women under pretense of marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Crime Branch's Anti Extortion and Kidnapping Cell (AEKC) arrested a 38 year old conman who allegedly duped over 50 women, including a Judicial Officer, under the pretense of marriage through matrimowebsites Jeevansathi.com Shadi.com, posing as a senior government official.

According to the police on Thursday, the accused has been identified as an interstate wanted criminal namely 38 year old Mukeem Ayyub Khan, who is a resident of Delhi's Shastri Park and is originally from Gujarat's Vadodra. He has five cases registered against him including two in Delhi and three in Uttar Pradesh's Raibareli, Rampur, and Lucknow.

DCP Crime Branch Sanjay Kumar Sain said, "During a confessed to his involvement in numerous crimes. He revealed that he created fake profiles on matrimonial websites like Jeevanshadi.com and Shadi.com, posing as a senior government official. He primarily targeted high-profile Muslim women, including widows and divorcees, as it was easier to gain their trust." He added that to gain their sympathy, Khan would engage the women in tales of personal tragedy, such as the death of his wife and his struggle to care for his daughter. "He would then meet the



ask for money under various pretexts, such as booking marriage venues," Sain stated. Khan also took expensive items, including mobile phones, jewelry, and even vehicles. Khan, a native of Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, is married with three children. "He started his con operations in 2020, meeting a divorcee in Vadodara through Shadi.com. After gaining her trust and marrying her, he took Rs. pretenses. In 2023, he employed the same tactics to marry another woman in Preet Vihar, Delhi," the DCP

Despite continuous raids in different states, Khan evaded arrest by frequently changing locations and continuing his crimes. However, using technical surveillance and human intelligence, the team received a credible lead that Khan was coming to Delhi from Vadodara where they laid a trap and apprehended him near Nizamuddin Railway

India takes

In May this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India is investigating the matter, but stressed that it would not impact the "upward trajectory" of India-UŜ ties. "The United States brought to

our attention certain information in good faith because we also believe some of it has implications for our own system," he said in an interview to news agency PTI. "We are investigating it. But I do not think the fundamental course of the upward trajectory of India-US is impacted by this at all," he

Nikhil Gupta was arrested last year in the Czech Republic at the request of the US government on charges of being involved in a plot to assassinate Pannun in New York. He was extradited to the US from the Czech Republic in June this year.

In April 2024, The Washington Post reported that Vikram Yadav, an officer with India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), was implicated as the official behind the plot. The report also mentioned that then R&AW chief Samant Goel approved the operation. India, however, dismissed the

report, saying it makes "unwarranted unsubstantiated imputations" to claim that Indian agents were involved in the plot to kill Pannun.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun holds dual citizenship of the US and Canada, and is wanted in India on terror charges. He has been designated a terrorist by the Union Home Minister under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful

(Prevention) Act.

Cong, NC celebrated in Pak...

Modi said that the three families want to deprive fundamental rights, and that "it is their agenda from the very start."The three families, Modi said, think they shouldn't be questioned, "but, J&K will not remain in the grab of these families," said Modi.

"They have only given violence to the people of J&K," he said as he continued his attack against them.

The youth of J&K, Modi said, is now challenging dynastic politics. "It is the same youth that these parties didn't allow to move forward," Modi said. "The three families considered J&K politics as their family property. They didn't let

anyone else take the stage". This is why, Modi said, these families stopped the Panchayat elections from happening as they thought new people would come and replace them. This resulted in youth losing hoisting tricolour in Lal trust in democracy, Modi said. Chowk was equal to playing

"They thought whether they would vote or not, power would remain with these three

Modi in his trademark style questioned the audience about the past, saying, "Do you remember how elections used to take place in the past"? Everything closed down after evening while door-to-door campaigning was not possible, said Modi."Your rights were snatched while they lived in luxury," Modi highlighted.

This is the first time, Modi said that the elections in J&K are not being held under the "shadow of terrorism."

Naming prominent religious places in the valley namely Hazratbal shrine, Chrar-i-Sharief, Khwaja Sahab's Shrine, Shankaracharya, and Kheer Bawani temple, Modi said that during the reign of three families, these places of sanctity weren't safe either.

"Film shooting was barred, cinemas were locked, while

with fire. However, the picture has changed now," Modi said. Before, going to Lal Chowk was scary, but today, there is a buzz till late evening. From shopkeepers to Shikara wala (boatman), everyone is earning his livelihood with ease now, claimed the Prime Minister.

"This environment, this silence, this peace, who brought it? You brought it, the people of J-K did this work," Modi said.

Modi said Kashmiri Hindus have played a pivotal role in strengthening 'Kashmiriyat'. However, the three families subjugated them. subjected our Hindu brothers to injustice," he said. These three families were hand

in glove over the injustices done to Kashmiri Sikhs and Hindus, Modi said. The Congress, JKNC, and the PDP divided people over the desire to rule, but the BJP is here to unite, Modi said. "They have always sold hate," Modi said. In the last 35 years, Modi said, Kashmir remained shut for 3000 days, "means in 35 years, Kashmir was shut for eight long years. But in the last five years, the valley hasn't been shut for even eight hours," claimed the Prime Minister.

'We had promised on the floor of the parliament that we will restore J&K's statehood, and only we are capable of doing that," Modi said.

Before winding up his speech, the Prime Minister urged the audience to "break all the voting records on 25th of September, when Srinagar among several other districts is going to polls.

"Would you break the records?
Would you write the history?
Would you give BJP a chance?" asked Modi. The candidates of BJP are coming to you for peace and prosperity, Modi said as he called all the candidates over to the stage. "You grow saffron here, Srinagar is also known for Tulip Garden, BJP's Lotus will

be the icing on the cake for it,"

Modi concluded.

Plans Underway for Incredible ...

India's homestay sales will increase due to the country's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and the rising popularity of experiential travel among domestic and international tourists, it said. In a study 'The Future of Homestays: A Study on Opportunities and Challenges in the State of Himachal Pradesh (India),' published in International Journal Of Research Culture Society, authors Dr. Mamta Joshi and Dr Pooja Joshi, both Assistant Professor at Kumaun University, Nainital have a cautionary note. "It is beneficial to create a homestay environment and facilitate the host community to carry out the business to the benefit of all stakeholders. There are nonetheless countless temporary challenges which can be resolved with appropriate strategies and careful planning."

21 Dalit homes set...

From page 1

Union Ministers Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi condemned the torching of houses in Nawada district of Bihar, and said the state government is investigating the matter and culprits will not be spared. "This is a sad incident. It is condemnable

and also shameful. I am in touch with the state government. First of all, it is necessary to ensure that those who have been affected should be rehabilitated and injured can be treated," Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan told reporters on the sidelines of World Food India

2024 event.

Drunken college...

From page 1

Mishra, Pandey, and Keshav, all residents of east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, along with 18 year old Krishna, who lives in Saket and 19 years old Ujjawal, a resident of Chhatarpur in south Delhi, drove to 'Zee Town, a pub in Gurugram on Wednesday night. On the way back, Mishra was at the wheel of the car, police said. Krishna is studying in Moti Lal College in second year and Ujjwal is studying in third year in Dayal Singh College.

They all were drunk while or personal safety of others) and 281 ("Rash driving or "After celebrating with drinks and partying, they left the club in the early hours of Thursday. On their way back, while

crossing the Geeta Colony flyover, Ashwani Mishra, who was driving the vehicle, attempted to change a song on his mobile phone and, in doing so, lost control of the vehicle. The car collided with the side railings, causing severe damage," the DCP added. Among the five admitted to

Delhi's Lok Nayak Hospital, the condition of Mishra is critical and all injured individuals are currently undergoing treatment. "As per facts a case under section 125(a) (Act endangering life riding on a public way) of BNS has been registered and investigation is taken up," centre of gravity is shifting to the north by diverting

Hezbollah fires new barrage...

From page 1

Speaking to Israeli troops on Wednesday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are at the start of a new phase in the war - it requires courage, determination and perseverance." He made no mention of the exploding devices but praised the work of Israel's army and security agencies, saying "the results are very impressive". Gallant said after months of

overnight. retaliation fighting Hamas in Gaza, "the

resources and forces." Hezbollah said early Thursday it had targeted positions in northern Israel, without specifying what weapons it used. Israeli hospitals reported that they treated at least eight patients injured in the attacks. The military said early Thursday that it had struck several militant sites in southern Lebanon The volley of strikes was a

signal by Hezbollah that it would continue its near daily fire, which it says is a show of support for Hamas amid Israel's 11-month-old campaign in Gaza in for Palestinian militants' Oct 7 attack on Israel. Israel has responded to

Hezbollah's fire with strikes

and dozens in Israel and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents on each side of the border. Israel and Hezbollah have repeatedly pulled back from an all-out war under heavy pressure from the United States, France and other

in southern Lebanon, and

has struck senior figures

from the group in the capital

Beirut. The exchanges have

killed hundreds in Lebanon

countries. But in their recent warnings,

Israeli leaders have said they are determined to change the status quo dramatically. Israeli began moving more troops to its border with Lebanon on Wednesday as a precautionary measure, Îsraeli officials said. Israel's army chief, Lt Gen Herzi Halevi, said plans have been

drawn up for additional action against Hezbollah, though media reported the government has not yet decided whether to launch a major offensive in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Lebanon was still reeling from the unprecedented mass bombings of Tuesday and Wednesday. The explosions have rattled

anxious Lebanese fearing a full-scale war. The Lebanese Army said it has been locating and detonating suspicious pagers and communication devices, while the country's civil aviation authorities banned pagers and walkie-talkies on all airplanes departing from

Beirut's international airport until further notice.
The attack was likely to severely disrupt Hezbollah's

it scrambles to determine safe means to talk to each other. Hezbollah announced the death of five combatants today, but didn't specify if they were killed in the explosions or on the front lines. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was scheduled to

internal communication as

speak later Thursday as the group vowed to retaliate against Israel. The blasts went off wherever

the holders of the pagers or walkie-talkies happened to be in multiple parts of Beirut and eastern and southern Lebanon - in homes and cars, grocery stores and cafes and on the street, even at a funeral for some killed in the bombings, often with family and other bystanders

ne pioneer NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

AAP MLA from Sultanpur to be inducted into Cabinet headed by Atishi

AP MLA from Sultanpur AMajra Mukesh Ahlawat will be inducted into the Delhi Cabinet headed by Atishi, who will be sworn in as chief minister on September 21. Ahlawat will take oath along with four ministers- Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain, who are part of outgoing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Council of Ministers as well. It is uncertain at the moment, whether or not the above said ministers will retain their portfolios.

The Delhi cabinet can have a maximum of seven ministers, including the Chief Minister, but the AAP has so far named only six ministers. The name of the seventh

announced. The AAP said Chief Minister-designate Atishi and her new Cabinet will take the oath of office on the same day. Initially, the ruling party in the national capital had decided that only Atishi would be sworn in, however, it was later said that her council of ministers would also take the oath.

The oath ceremony of the new chief minister is likely to be held at the Raj Niwas. It is expected to be a "low-key affair" given the circumstances of Kejriwal's resigna-

Ahlawat who belongs from dalit community, is a firsttime MLA has been inducted to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Social Welfare Minister Raaj Kumar Anand. Anand resigned from the Kejriwal government and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in April, subsequently joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Ahalawat is currently the co-incharge of the party's Rajasthan unit. In the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections, he led AAP to victory in the Sultanpur Majra constituency by defeating BJP's Ram Chander Chawriya with a margin of 48,042 votes. Ahlawat is known to be an important Dalit face of AAP from North West Delhi. Notably, Ahlawat's name was in discussion during the Lok

alliance seat-sharing formula, the seat went to Congress. By profession, Ahalawat identifies himself as a busi-

Sabha elections as AAP's can-

didate from North West Delhi

seat, however, due to the



nessman. Born on November 9, 1975, Ahalawat completed his education up to class 12 from Ravindra Public School, CBSE, in 1994.

Before joining AAP, he contested the 2013 elections from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) but lost to Congress' Jai Kishan. Sultanpur Majra, a suburban assembly seat, falls under the North West Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. Atishi and Bharadwaj were

inducted into the Kejriwal Cabinet after the AAP national convenor's trusted lieutenants Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain resigned in February last year.Kejriwal

resigned as Delhi chief minister earlier this week, after which Atishi, chosen by AAP as his successor, staked claim to form a new government. Managing 14 portfolios such as finance, education, and revenue, Atishi played a crucial role during Arvind Kejriwal's imprisonment. Atishi will become the third woman to serve as Delhi's chief minister following Congress's Sheila Dikshit and BJP's Sushma Swaraj. She will lead the government until the next assembly.

Atishi's elevation to the top post comes at a crucial juncture for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is looking to return to power in the Delhi Assembly polls early next year as well as for the government, which will have to fast-track pending policies

and schemes for public welfare. The senior leader will have her task cut out after assuming office and will be running against time to ensure implementation of schemes like Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 and doorstep delivery of services among others. However, Atishi is not new to rising to such situations. Her induction into the cabinet also happened when the government was going through testing times following the arrest of deputy chief minister and the then Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's trusted lieutenant, Manish Sisodia last year in excise policy case by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Rai is in charge of environment, development and gen-

eral administration, is a longtime associate of party convener Arvind Kejriwal and a founding member of the AAP while Bharadwaj helms the health, tourism and urban development departments among others.

Gahlot holds the portfolios of transport, home and women and child development, is part of the outgoing cabinet led by Arvind Kejriwal, enjoys the trust of the AAP supremo and was one of the contenders for the chief minister's post along with Atishi.The 50-year-old MLA comes from a rural background and is a prominent Jat leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), who twice won from the Najafgarh constituency in 2015 and 2020 while Hussain is the minister for food and

Government's neglect forced west Delhi residents to live life 'worse than hell': LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ieutenant Governor Vinai Thursday claimed the "neglect and apathy" of the Delhi gov-ernment forced residents of the city's western parts to live a life "worse than hell". In a post on X, the lieutenant governor, after an inspection of west Delhi, said in Hindi that the people of these areas had been expressing their pain and anger on social media for several years.

Saxena also said he wanted to draw the attention of the chief minister and requested them to pay attention to these problems."Due to government neglect and the associated administrative apathy, lakhs of people in west Delhi are forced to live a life worse than hell,' Saxena said in Hindi.

"Vanished roads submerged in two-feet deep potholes and sewer water, overflowing drains filled with silt due to





lack of cleaning for years, knee-deep stinking water mixed with sewer, rotting garbage, backflowing sewer lines, hundreds of helpless people expressing their emotions and anger amidst poisonous insects and mosquitoes," he added.

He said these conditions were seen during an inspection of Mundka, Nangloi, Ranikheda, Ranhola, Karala, Kanjhawala and Rohtak Road areas. The failure of transferred subjects such as the public works and the irrigation and flood control departments, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation is unforgivable, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the most affected sections of this mismanagement in the national capital were poor daily-wage labourers, street vendors, women, elderly and children. At various places during the

inspection, locals, children returning from school, and the elderly shared their helplessness. The roads in this area were mostly broken and there were no streetlights, he

Vehicles, including buses and two-wheelers, were facing severe difficulties even to travel some distance. As a result of years of neglect, the industrial areas of the vicinity have turned into dumping grounds for municipal waste and dangerous water-filled pits, Saxena alleged.

"These generally neglected areas and their people have been expressing their suffering and anger on social media for the past several years. Following repeated requests from residents of the area, civil organisations, MP and councillor, after inspection with officials of the departments concerned Wednesday, they were asked to provide immediate relief,"

BJP files three police complaints against Rahul Gandhi India's image abroad," he

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday filed three police complaints against Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his remarks over Sikhs and reservations made during his visit to America on September 10. In a press conference, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva alleged, "Despite holding an important position as Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's statements, whether in India or abroad, tend to incite social disharmony."

He claimed that Rahul Gandhi's statements in America have caused distress and anxiety not only among the Sikh community but also within the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in India. "Moreover, his remarks have tarnished

CVC takes cognizance of LoP's plaint alleging corruption

claimed

The Delhi BJP chief expressed regret and said that instead of apologizing to the country for his misleading statements, Gandhi is further inflaming tensions by having Congress leaders make more contro-versial comments. "Rahul Gandhi's statements have deeply offended the Sikh community and hurt their religious sentiments," Sachdeva claimed. Delhi BJP's Sikh Cell Sardar

Charanjeet Singh Lovely filed a police complaint under sections 152, 196(1), 197(1)(c), and 197(1)(d) of the Indian Penal Code, demanding legal action while Delhi BJP's Scheduled Tribe Morcha Convenor C.L. Meena filed a complaint at the Parliament Street Police Station. Meanwhile, Scheduled Caste Morcha President Mohanlal Gihara, lodged a separate complaint at the Punjabi Bagh Police Station.

Sachdeva stated that they demand an investigation by the Delhi Police based on their complaints and legal action against Rahul Gandhi. BJP leader Arvinder Singh Lovely claimed, "This is not the Congress he once knew, as the Congress used to claim that it rose above caste-based politics. However, now Rahul Gandhi's statement appears to be a conspiracy to divide the country, which is, in a way, an anti-national activity that the people of India will never for-

He also expressed his happiness at his decision to join the BJP, as he is not aligned with those who divide the country based on caste and emphasized that Gandhi should understand that the Sikhs are a fearless community.

स्वच्छता ही सेवा २०२४ स्वभाव स्वच्छता - संस्कार स्वच्छता Swachler a Hi Sey 2024 (17 Septe er - 2 Octob 024)

Union Minister of State (Independent) for Skill Development and Entrepreneur, Jayant Choudhary on Thursday released a newsletter titled "Swacchta hi Seva" by the Sulabh International in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs. Secretary MSDE Atul Tiwari lauded the efforts of Sulabh

STAFF REPORTER NEW

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on Thursday took cognizance of a complaint made by Leader of Opposition in Delhi assembly Vijender Gupta alleging corruption in the construction of 24 hospitals by the Delhi government.

the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the Delhi government to conduct an in-depth investigation into the matter. Gupta also conducted a surprise inspection at the construction site of a new block in the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital complex and claimed that the construction of the block has been stalled for a long time.



BJP MLA alleged, "In 2020, the Delhi government had planned to construct a 22story block with 1,570 beds at LNJP Hospital. Initially, the estimated cost for this project was set at Rs 710 crore. Construction was to begin in November 2020 and be completed within 30 months, by May 2023. However, when the tender was issued after com-

cedures, the construction cost was lowered to Rs 533 crore." He claimed that the tender was awarded to an agency at approximately 13 per cent below the estimated cost, for Rs 465 crore and accused the government of intentionally reducing the initial estimate of Rs 710 crore to Rs 533 crore, sowing the seeds of corrup-

"The number of required public transport systems, equipment was reduced, only to later increase them and engage in corruption. As a result, the construction cost has escalated from Rs 465 crore to Rs 1,135 crore over four years, and yet, only 50 per cent of the work has been

Currently, the construction is completely halted, and the project," Gupta said.

He added that there isn't a single department in the AAP-led Delhi government that isn't mired in corruption. "Whether it be educational institutions, hospitals, ration cards, waterlogging, the deteriorating condition of roads, or

large-scale corruption is evident everywhere," Gupta asserted. Meanwhile, AAP has accused

BJP of concocting new stories to save face and said that its government is a staunchly honest government dedicated to providing the best health care and education system in the country. "The BJP-led cenall sorts of investigations against us—CBI, ED, ACB, IT, and even constituted the 'Shungloo Committee'—since 2015. Yet, not a shred of corruption has been found against us. This time will be no different," a statement by AAP

VOIGS

completed.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP) Website: www.noidaauth

(A) 1. 15/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Two Year Repairing, Raising, P/F Manhole Cover Frame and Cleaning of sewer line Manholes in Network Sector-119 and 120 and Repairing of C.I./D.I. Sewer raising main line of SPS-66, 69, 117), Noida

3. 31/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (C/o Pump house for four TWs in Sector-70 & 90 and Electrical work in water supply network sector-90) Noida.(C/o Pump house, P/L PVC water

Which can be uploaded by date: - 03.10.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/downloaded on date: - 04.10.2024

Repairing of VT Motor, Starter, TPMO, Transformers etc. of Network-17, 18, 19, 27, 104, 105, 108 & Village-Atta & Hazipur),

2. 22/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two year Maintenance, Repairing of CI/DI, M.S. and PVC water line and R/o Sluice Valve,

Noida. Cost: Rs. 62.31 Lacs 3. 23/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year Repairing V.T. Motor, Sub. Motor, Transformer, Starter, TPMO etc. and Other allied

Electrical Work in Sector-62, 63, 64, 65 and Village-Chhajarsi and Bahlolpur), Noida. Cost: Rs. 99.59 Lacs

Noida. (For Two Years). Cost: Rs. 30.35 Lacs

6. 20/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Desilting of Deep

7. 24/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Searching, Raising, Cleaning of Sewer Manholes, P/F Manhole Cover Frames and P/L of Damaged Sewer Line in Sector- 86, 87, 88, 89, 136, 137, 138, 139,

140, 140A, 150 & 168), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost: Rs. 70.07 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date: - 26.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/downloaded on date: - 27.09.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: <u>www.noidaauthorityonline.in</u> 8

http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Cost: Rs. 48.53 Lacs 2. 30/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (P/L PVC Water Line from in front of Manas Hospital to Devta Chowk in Village-Gijhor), Noida. Cost: Rs. 30.87 Lacs

line & allied work) (Part-A&C). Cost: Rs. 94.55 Lacs.

(B) 1. 18/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two year annual

Noida. Cost: Rs. 90.11 Lacs

Reflex Valve Chamber in Network Sector-1 to 7 and Village-Harola)

4. 12/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (R/o Tube Shaft, Bowl Assly. & Column Pipe for T.Wells at Sector-150, 168 & Kondli)

5. 16/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Running operation work at T.W. in Sec. 145, 75 & UGR-75), Noida. (For Two Year). Cost : Rs.

Sewer Line By Super Sucker Machine in Sector-88 and Village-Yakubpur), Noida. Cost : Rs. 65.16 Lacs

at 11.00 AM.

General Manager (Jal) CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Former Gurugram police commissioner files ₹1 crore defamation suit against judge

 $F_{\text{commissioner Krishan}}^{\text{ormer Gurugram police}}$ Kumar Rao has filed a defamation suit against a judge for "adverse remarks" made against him in a judicial order and sought Rs 1 crore in damages. The suit was filed in the court of Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division) Vikramjit Singh on Monday and the hearing was held on the same day. The court decided to take up the matter again on November 21. "Suit seeking compensation

and damages from and against the defendant and also to restrain the defendants from maligning and defaming the plaintiff in any manner has been received. It be checked and registered. Now, matter stands adjourned for 21.11.2024 for consideration on the point of maintainability of the suit," read the order.

According to the senior IPS officer, Additional District and Sessions Judge Amit Sahrawat in an order passed in February 2022 had rejected former deputy commissioner of Gurugram police Dheeraj Setia's bail application in connection with a multi-crore heist, saying there was more to the story than meets the eye. The judge said that based on the admission made by Sachinder Jain Naval, a doctor

case, it seemed suspicious that Setia, who was accused of accepting a bribe to derail investigations in the case, could do so right under Rao, especially given that gangsters would visit him at the Gurugram Commissionerate. The court had also said that investigators could not determine if the entire exercise was done with the former police commissioner's consent without the suspect's custody, read

who is the chief suspect in the

the order. In the defamation suit, the senior officer argued that the judge's remarks were based on conjecture and had no judicial basis. He stated that the comments regarding his supposed lack of knowledge about the events were personal in nature and unrelated to the adjudica-

tion of the bail application. The petition also claimed that the comments were not protected under the Judges Protection Act since they did not pertain to the judge's official duties.

The incident dates back to August 4, 2021, when gangster Lagarpuriya's men broke into a flat of a private company used as office space and decamped with crores of rupees in cash. A Special Task Force investigating the case put this money at Rs 30-40 crore.

Naval had claimed that he bribed Setia with gold, cash, and currency in US dollars worth Rs 2.5 crore to hush up the case. However, he said Setia returned a large part of the money and gold but kept a few dollars, saying the case was not in his hands

inheritance to commence from Friday: Raj Niwas **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Process of mutation of agri land on basis of

Two days after Delhi Lt Governor(LG)Vinai Kumar Saxena announced allowing of mutation of agricultural land on the basis of inheritance, the process will commence from Friday, Raj Niwas said here on Thursday. Giving details, officials said 14 years after mutation of agricultural land in urbanised villages stopped, depriving lakhs of people of their natural inheritance rights, the process is set to start again. Saxena had, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 announced allowing of mutation on the basis of inheritance, in view of longpending demands of the peo-

The Revenue Department, GNCTD will be organizing 74 camps covering 166 villages in all 11 Revenue Districts of the Capital between 20.09.2024 to 05.10.2024 for the purpose of updation of land records on the basis of inheritance in the urbanized villages of Delhi (list enclosed).

Saxena had directed that officers / officials reach the doorsteps of the people and ensure required action instead of people running from pillar to post in DM / SR offices to get the mutation work done. After his directions, a detailed order has been issued of 18.09.2024 listing the Districts / villages and the number of camps to be organized for this purpose. The LG has also directed DMs/ SDMs to take rounds of

the camps to monitor the process and ensure smooth functioning so that the beneficiaries do not face any hassle / harassment. Saxena had earlier announced

recording of ownership rights of agricultural land in urbanised villages of the Capital, on the basis of inher-A historic decision that will Saxena, who has been frequently visiting villages of the Capital, was presented with this demand and related grievances in every single vil-

Apart from this, several civic

of people, who had been

denied their natural right of

inheritance since 2010.

society organizations have demanded the same. In the Samvaad organized at Raj Niwas with residents of

age that he visited.

villages in the Capital, lack of mutation had emerged as the primary grievance of the people and a delegation of all seven MPs from Delhi positively impact the lives of had met the LG and prelakhs of Delhi residents, it will sented representation for meet a long pending demand

BJP slams Congress-NC alliance over Article 370 remarks

The BJP on Thursday slammed the Congress-National Conference alliance for their remarks on restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir after the Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif backed the allies over their stance on Jammu &Kashmir's special status. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other BJP leaders posted Asif's remarks to a Pakistani channel that his country shared the view of the Congress-NC alliance that Article 370, which gave the union territory special powers and was scrapped in August 2019, should be

The controversy erupted after Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif during an interview with Geo News said that the Shehbaz Sharif government and Čongress - National Conference alliance are on the "same page" on the issue of restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.



Shah said the Pakistan defence minister's statement on the Congress and National Conference lending support to Article 370 and 35A has once "again exposed" the opposition party. Shah also claimed that the tune of opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's party and Pakistan has always been the same and the Congress has always been "hand in glove with the antinational forces".

said the statement of Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif proved that the neighbouring country and the Congress have the "same intentions and agenda".

"Pakistan defence minister's statement about the Congress and the JKNC's support on Article 370 and 35A has once again exposed the Congress. This statement has once again Congress and Pakistan have the same intentions and agenda. For the last few years, Rahul Gandhi has been standing with every anti-India force, hurting the sentiments of the countrymen," Shah

wrote on X in Hindi. The home minister said be it asking for proof of air strikes and surgical strikes against Pakistan or saying "objectionable things" about Pakistan the Indian Army, the tune of the Congress Party and

The Congress has always been "hand in glove with the antinational forces", he asserted. But, the Congress party and Pakistan forget that there is Modi government at the Centre, hence neither Article

Pakistan has always been the

come back in Kashmir," he

Amit Malviya also attacked Congress and Rahul Gandhi, sharing the video of the interview on social media. "Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif, on Hamid Mir's Capital Talk on Geo News says, 'Pakistan and National Conference-Congress alliance are on the same page in Jammu & Kashmir to restore Article 370 and 35A," he

Union Minister Former Rajeev Chandrasekar echoed similar sentiments, accusing Congress of aligning with Pakistan on various issues. He questioned what leverage Pakistan might have over Congress.

BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is in charge of the party's affairs in Jammu and claimed the opposition alliance is running Pakistani agenda in the ongoing polls. Ram Madhav, one of the two BJP election incharges for the polls, said on X while sharing Asif's reported

to people of J&K. NČ-Congress alliance is 'on same page with Pakistan, declares Pak Defence Minister Khwaja Asif. People will teach a big lesson to this treasonous alliance in the elections. J&K will stand with those who stand with Hindustan, not those 'on same page' with Pakistan." Chugh alleged that it is now clear that the Congress-NC alliance is working at the behest of Pakistani government and Pakistani government, and that the intention of Pakistan to interfere in the elections has been exposed as well.

It has been a key agenda of the Abdullah and Gandhi families to keep the situation unstable in Jammu and Kashmir, he charged.

Expressing confidence in the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Chugh said they would not succumb to Pakistan's agenda. "The Pakistan's agenda. nationalist people of Jammu and Kashmir will not allow implementation Pakistan's agenda through the Gandhis and Abdullahs.



JP Nadda hits back at Kharge, accuses Rahul **Gandhi of abusing PM Modi**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

B^{JP} National President J P Nadda on Thursday hit back at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling it an effort to "polish and re-launch" their "failed product" and accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of having a history of abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and OBCs, and of siding with anti-India forces.

Nadda also accused the grand old party of hurling abuses at PM Modi over 110 times in the past decade after Kharge asked the PM to school his party leaders regarding the use of "violent languages" against Rahul Gandhi. In a tit for tat response Nadda

wrote,

Respected Kharge ji, due to what compulsion are you trying to justify Rahul Gandhi, a person whose history is of abusing the entire OBC community including the Prime Minister of the country by calling them thieves, and using extremely indecent words for the Prime Minister of the country?"

He further criticized Kharge for allegedly overlooking or ignoring past actions of Congress leaders, including Gandhi. unfortunate that under the influence of its 'famous prince,' the oldest political party in the country has now become a 'copy-paste' party," Nadda's letter stated. "After reading that letter, I felt that the things said by you are far from reality. It seems that in the letter you have either forgotten the misdeeds of your leaders including Rahul Gandhi or have deliberately ignored them, so I felt that it is important to bring those things to your notice in detail. It is sad that the oldest political party of the country has now become a 'copy & paste' party under the pressure of its famous prince," Nadda responded in the letter.

Further intensifying his attacks, the BJP chief said, "It is very sad that the oldest political party of the country has now become a 'copy and paste' party under the pressure of its famous 'yuvraaj' (prince)." Listing over a series

of abuses, Nadda alleged,
"In the last 10 years, the
leaders of Congress and
Company have abused the
country's illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji more than 110 times and the unfortunate thing is that the top leadership of Congress is also involved in this."

"Sometimes it was said 'Modi will dig your grave', sometimes it was said 'neech', sometimes 'bastard', 'merchant sometimes 'poisonous snake', sometimes 'scorpion', sometimes 'rat', sometimes 'Ravan', Sometimes 'Bhasmasur," he said as he went on to mention a series of

inappropriate words.He said that the Congress' letter exposed the "double exposed standards" of the party adding

Def Min urges navy commanders to strengthen Indo-Pacific presence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the Indian Navy's growing strength in the Indo-Pacific region should not be taken for granted and called upon the naval commanders to continue introspection from time to time, and be prepared for every situation in today's volatile global scenario. This note of caution was in apparent reference to China flexing its muscle in the region.

Making these observations here while addressing the Commanders Conference, he also emphasised on the need of a strong naval capability to protect the economic, trade, transport and overall national

He commended the Indian Navy for playing a crucial role in promoting peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean, terming the region as valuable and sensitive in view of the economic, geopolitical, trade and security aspects.

Pointing out that India was once a landlocked country with sea shores, but now it can be seen as an island country with land borders, Rajnath Singh lauded the Indian Navy's readiness towards safeguarding the maritime interests of the country, which has resulted in establishing its credibility as the first responder in the region.

"A large part of the world's trade passes through the

region, which makes it valuable. At the same time, incidents like hijacking, drone attacks, missile attacks and disruption of sea cable connections in the make it extremely seas sensitive.

Our Navy has made a significant contribution in protecting the economic interests of all stakeholder nations of Indo-Pacific and in smooth movement of goods in the Indian Ocean region. Its anti-piracy operations are garnering appreciation not only in India but also globally. India is now seen as a this entire region. Whenever need be, we will ensure security in the region," Rajnath Singh said.

defence minister reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's endeavour to make the Indian Navy more potent by inducting state-ofthe-art ships, submarines etc. for its capability development, with focus on being Aatmanirbhar. He highlighted that 64 ships and submarines currently under Indian construction in shipyards, and orders have been placed for 24 additional

platforms. He added that, in the last five years, more than two-third of the Navy's modernisation budget has been spent on indigenous procurement, resulting in accelerated development of the domestic defence ecosystem.

Delhi High Court seeks dismissed IAS response to UPSC perjury charges conclusion that the conduct of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the stand of Puja Khedkar on the UPSC's charges that the former IAS probationer committed perjury by making a false statement in relation to her anticipatory bail plea. Justice Subramaniam Prasad asked Khedkar to file her reply to the Commission's application, which is filed in the proceedings on her pre-arrest

"I will issue notice. File your reply," Justice Prasad told Khedkar's counsel, and listed the matter for hearing on September 26. Khedkar has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing Other Backward Classes (OBC) and disability quota benefits in civil services examination.

The UPSC submitted that Khedkar, in her rejoinder, made an "absolutely false" statement on affidavit that the Commission had collected her biometrics during personality Seeking initiation of inquiry

and appropriate proceedings against her for the violation, the application alleged that even in another proceedings pending in the high court, Khedkar has committed "perjury", which is an offence under the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita. Senior advocate Naresh Kaushik, appearing for the UPSC, said her conduct was "dangerously wrong".

"The claim that Commission collected her biometrics is absolutely false made with the sole aim and purpose of deceiving this Hon'ble Court for obtaining



favourable orders. The said claim is denied since the Commission did not collect any biometric (eyes and fingerprints) during her Personality Test or carried out any attempts verification on the basis of the same. The Commission has not collected any biometric information from any candidate during the Personality Test of the Civil Services Examinations held so far," the application said. "There is little doubt in the

Ms. Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar amounts to perjury," it asserted. Khedkar's counsel, on the

other hand, termed the application a "pressure tactic". Khedkar allegedly misrepresented information in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022 to get reservation benefits. The High Court has earlier granted her interim protection from arrest

Both the UPSC and the Delhi Police have sought dismissal of her plea for pre-arrest bail. The UPSC initiated a series of actions against Khedkar in July, including lodging a criminal case against her for availing attempts in the civil services exam by faking her

Jawhar Sircar resigns from The foreign secretary said there will be an opportunity for both sides to exchange a RS, after few agreements, including criticising TMC The pact on the IPEF is

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

awhar Sircar, who had questioned the TMC government in West Bengal over steps taken after the Kolkata rape-murder incident, on Thursday resigned from his Rajya Sabha membership. According to official sources, Rajya Sabha chairperson

Jagdeep Dhankhar has accepted his resignation as Rajya Sabha member with

Sircar had recently written to his party head and state chief minister Mamata Banerjee describing the steps taken by her government in handling the rape and murder of the doctor at RG Kar hospital "too little and quite late". He

had also announced that he altogether.

PM Modi urges public to bid on auctioned mementoes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged people to bid for the mementoes he has received and which are now being auctioned, noting that their proceeds will be used for the 'Namami Gange' initiative. He said in social media post,

"Every year, I auction the various mementoes I receive during the programmes.

The proceeds of the auction go to the Namami Gange initiative. I'm delighted to share that this year's auction has opened. Do bid for the mementoes you find interesting!" Namami Gange is a government's initiative for conservation rejuvenation of the Ganga

Modi and Biden to sign agreements at Quad Summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden will have a substantive the Quad summit on Saturday, and the two sides will sign at least two agreements following the talks.

One pact will be related to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the other memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be on the India-US drug framework, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said here on Thursday.

Modi will pay a three-day visit to the United States beginning September 21 to attend the annual Quad summit and address the "Summit of the Future" at the United Nations General Assembly.

Modi will hold separate bilateral talks with Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Wilmington, Delaware on September 21.



At the meeting with Biden, Modi is also expected to apprise US President of his recent talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on finding a peaceful solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"There will be an opportunity to have a substantive engagement between the prime minister and President Biden, where they will have the opportunity to review the comprehensive global strategic partnership between

like PM2.5 can directly

damage arterial cells,

increasing the risk of

Prof. Kalpana Balakrishnan

from Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education

and Research, Chennai, and Dr. K. Srinath Reddy from

India and the US, which today covers almost every aspect of human endeavour through the 50-plus engagements and bilateral dialogue mechanisms," Misri said. He was briefing the media on

Modi's trip to the US.
"It will also give an opportunity to thank opportunity to thank President Biden for his pioneering role in strengthening the India-US relationship and several new initiatives, such as the initiative on critical and emerging technologies," Misri

digital trade. Besides India, Japan and Australia, the other member countries of the IPEF are Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

one on the IPEF.

and fair economy pillars. In line with Washington's

long-term vision for the Indo-

Pacific, Biden launched the

Economic Framework for

Prosperity (IPEF) in May

2022. It is an initiative aimed

at deeper cooperation among

like-minded countries in

areas like clean energy,

supply-chain resilience and

Indo-Pacific

The IPEF has four pillars -trade, supply-chain resilience, clean economy and fair economy. India is yet to join the trade pillar discussions between the two sides on it are underway.

immediate effect.

PM 2.5 pollution linked to increased brain stroke risk surpassing smoking: Study

PNS NEW DELHI

s winter approaches and Asmog becomes a concern, a study published in The Lancet has sounded alarm that fine ambient particles like PM2.5 in the environment can directly damage arterial cells, the risk of subarachnoid hemorrhage, a serious type of brain stroke. surpassing the impact of smoking

The research, led by an international team from India, the US, New Zealand, Brazil, highlighted how PM air pollution was responsible for the loss of 2.6 million healthy life years due to subarachnoid hemorrhage in 2021, surpassing the impact of smoking.

It has called for urgent need for public health measures to improve air quality and vulnerable populations like kids, elders and those with

The authors said that air pollution contributed to 14% of deaths and disabilities caused by this severe stroke subtype, the same level as smoking.

Data speaks: As pollution has been on rise, in 2021, 11.9 million people experienced new strokes—an increase of since 1990—while stroke-related deaths reached 7.3 million, a 44% rise since

The study has identified 23 modifiable risk factors responsible for 84% of the global stroke burden in 2021. The top five were high systolic blood pressure, particulate matter air pollution, smoking, high LDL particulate cholesterol, and household pollution. Despite these risk factors, more work caused



environmental pollutants and unhealthy lifestyles, said the

Dr Ćatherine O Johnson, coauthor and lead research scientist at the University of Metrics

Washington's Institute for Health and (IHME), Evaluation significant efforts to reduce emphasised on the urgent need for climate actions and is needed to mitigate the air pollution reduction strategies, particularly as air pollution is intricately linked to climate change.

The findings, based on the Global Burden of Disease Study, revealed that more than three-quarters of those affected by strokes live in low- and middle-income countries. Professor Valery Feigin from

Auckland University of

Technology, New Zealand,

explained that fine particles

the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) echoed these concerns. "Masking is not a solution because it is impossible to

reduce exposure for large populations with them. Emission reductions at source and use of cleaner technologies are proven ways. We just need to allocate sufficient resources to make green development possible," Prof Balakrishnan said.

According to Dr Reddy, wellventilated indoor spaces and an outdoor environment with good airflow and greenery pollution-related

Shashi Tharoor to head parliamentary standing committee on external affairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will head the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs and veteran leader Digvijaya Singh will head the panel on education, party sources said on Thursday.

Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi will lead the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture and Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka will head the panel on rural development. Channi, who is a Dalit, and Ulaka, who hails from a tribal community, were chosen by the party with social justice being the centrepiece of all

recent appointments. The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

been stressing the participation of the deprived sections in governance and calling for the party organisation to be more inclusive.

The sources said the Congress has forwarded the names of the four leaders to head the four department-related parliamentary standing committees it has been standing assigned to lead. While there has been no

official notification on the

chairship

Affairs; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Processing; Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the Lok Sabha; and Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in the Rajya Sabha. This was decided after hectic

committees, it is expected to

The Congress will chair the

Department Related Standing

Committee on External

parliamentary

come out soon.

between parleys government and opposition over the panels' chairship. Congress' chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh and the party's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi were involved in the negotiations with the government to arrive

BJP releases Sankalp Patra ahead of Haryana Assembly polls

Promises 2 lakh Government jobs, ₹ 2,100 monthly for women, job guarantee for Agniveers, 10 new industrial towns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

BJP national president JP Nadda on Thursday released the party's 20-point manifesto, "Sankalp Patra", for Haryana ahead of the Assembly poll, promising two lakh government jobs, Rs 2,100 monthly assistance to women and government job guarantee to Agniveers hailing from the State. The party also promised creation of 10 industrial towns and full scholarship to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Class (OBC) students of government medical and engineering colleges, among other things. Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini, Union Ministers M⁻L Khattar, Rao Inderjit Singh, Krishan Pal Gurjar and head of the party's poll manifesto

BJP in Haryana, which is eyeing to ride to power for a third consecutive term after the polls next month, also promised to purchase 24 crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The BJP government in Haryana was already buying 14 crops at MSP. Last month after Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's announcement, the state cabinet gave approval to a proposal of buying 10 more crops at MSP.Facing flak from opposition parties over the Agnipath scheme, which is short-term military recruitment, Nadda said there will be a guarantee of government job for every Agniveer Haryana. hailing

committee were present at Rohtak during the release of the Sankalp Patra.The ruling Rs 2,100 per month for all women under the Lado Lakshmi Yojna. The ruling party said two lakh government jobs will be given to the youth without 'kharchiparchi, a reference to the alleged corruption prevailing earlier under the Congress

regime.
The ruling BJP also announced to give cooking gas cylinder at Rs 500 under the Har Ghar Grihni Yojna.Notably, the state government is already giving cooking gas cylinder at Rs 500 under the Har Ghar Grihini scheme to BPL and antyodaya scheme to BPL and antyodaya families in the state. The BJP also promised 5 lakh houses in urban and rural areas if it is voted to power after the assembly elections besides a scooter for every college-



going female student in a rural area under the Avwal Balika Yojna. Scholarships for Haryana students belonging to the OBC and SC communities government medical and engineering colleges in the country will be given, the BJP

Among the other promises made by the BJP are starting new Vande Bharat trains and setting up of KMP Orbital Rail corridor with the assistance of the Centre.The party further promised the start of inter-city express metro service between Faridabad and Gurugram. The BJP also promised setting up of 10 industrial cities on the line of Industrial Model Township Kharkhoda, and said industrialists will be given special incentive for giving 50,000 jobs to local giving 50,000 , youths in every city. the Chirayu-

Ayushman scheme, each family will be given free medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh and an elderly person above 70 years of age in each family will be provided free medical treatment of up to Rs

The party also promised employment opportunities for 5 lakh youths and monthly stipend through the National Apprenticeship Promotion scheme.According to the manifesto, the party will set welfare boards for backward classes and a welfare.Sports nurseries will come up in every district for the Olympic Games, the manifesto stated. Tourism was also the focus in the manifesto with the party promising an Aravalli Jungle Safari of international level in South Harvana.

Unveiling the manifesto at the party's Rohtak media centre, Nadda said the Congress had made manifesto a "diluted document" and "ended its relevance", but the BJP had started the "culture of report cards" and was committed to fulfil the promises made in its manifesto.

Haryana has changed under BJP's leadership. In 2014, the state's per capita income was which has increased to 3 lakh rupees. In terms of export, Haryana export was only Rs 68,000 sufficient budget for their crore, which has gone up to

2.5 lakh crore," said Nadda. "What was the image of Haryana 10 years back? Jobs used to be given on paper. Actions were taken against people. Haryana used to be known for land scams, so while discussing their manifesto, then we should look into these facts.

Hence, when we talk manifesto, I want to say that we are doing non-stop work, said Nadda.

Attacking the Opposition, Nadda said 10 years ago Haryana was known for corruption in jobs and land scams, but during the BJP's rule over the past decade the per Capita income of the State had doubled, exports had grown three times and 5,800 villages were getting roundthe-clock electricity compared with only 538 such

BJP faces electoral challenge in Gurgaon amid internal strife

Gurgaon, a long-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stronghold, may prove to be an electoral challenge for the BJP as Haryana prepares for the October 5 Assembly

The party, thanks to six-time parliamentarian and senior leader Rao Inderjit Singh, has successfully maintained a strong grip on the Gurgaon Lok Sabha seat, winning three consecutive terms since 2014 and successfully defeating the Congress and the regional party, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in prior Assembly

However, the upcoming assembly elections in Gurgaon are interesting due to the internal rifts within the following candidate selections.

The Gurgaon parliamentary constituency, which covers nine Assembly seats across three districts, four in Gurgaon, three in Mewat, and two in Rewari, has always been a critical political battleground. Historically, the BJP has achieved remarkable strength in the urban segments of this region. This time, internal clashes and members threatened the BJP's performance in this segment. The dissatisfaction among the party workers arises after the allocation of tickets, sidelining experienced party and workers igniting rebellion. The impact of this discord could be affecting

voter turnout and lovalty. The selection of candidates may affect party dominance in Gurgaon, which further weakens the party's voter

The Gurgaon includes four seats from the district: Gurgaon, Badshahpur, Sohna, and Pataudi. In the 2019 state assembly elections, the BJP secured three of these four



seats, except for Badshahpur, which elected independent candidate Rakesh Janghu alias Daultabad. Rakesh had beaten BJP's Manish Yadav by a margin of 10,000 votes.

Gurgaon seat has historically been an urban seat and a mixture of Punjabi, Brahmin and Vaishya (Baniya) castes. In the last election, BJP's Sudhir Singla won comfortably, defeating his closest rival by more than 32,000 votes, while the Congress candidate Sukhbir Kataria finished third.

This time the has denied sitting MLA Sudhir Singla a ticket for the upcoming election, opting instead for Mukesh Sharma, a wrestler turned politician and a close associate of Rao Inderjit Singh, the party's MP from the area from Gurgaon seat.

The party's decision has internal dissatisfaction, leading to the resignation of senior leaders like G L Sharma, a former vice BJP unit, and Navin Goel. Their resignation is likely to affect party voter sentiment significantly. Meanwhile, the Congress party, which has fielded Mohit Grover, a young Punjabi leader, who recently joined the Congress, had secured second position as an independent candidate in the previous assembly election. The BJP's new candidate,

Mukesh Sharma, 's success in this election may not be easy because Gurgaon is currently facing numerous civic issues,s, failures, waterlogging, poor road conditions, pollution, shortages, inconsistent electricity supply.

Kejriwal to launch AAP campaign in Haryana ahead of Assembly elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP supremo Arvind Kejriwal will join the party's campaign in poll-bound Haryana with a roadshow in the Jagadhri constituency on September 20, AAP national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said on Thursday.

He will also participate in 13 events across 11 districts, covering the Dabwali, Rania, Bhiwani, Meham, Kalayat, Assandh and Ballabhgarh constituencies, among others, in the coming days, Pathak said at a press conference. 'AAP national convenor

Kejriwal has come out of jail after defeating the BJP's conspiracy. Now he is fully prepared for the election campaign in Haryana and will start on September 20," he further campaign

schedule will be announced later, he added. Kejriwal resigned as Delhi

chief minister after being released from Tihar jail last week in the excise policy case. to bring in a new chief He will have a hectic minister in the last year (of its



schedule campaign Haryana, which goes to the polls on October 5.

The AAP is contesting all 90 seats in Haryana after talks with the Congress over a seatshare agreement broke down. It is clear that "the BJP is going to be completely wiped out from Haryana", Pathak claimed.

The BJP has governed Haryana since 2014.
"The BJP itself did not trust

its chief minister, so they removed Manohar Lal Khattar and made Nayab Singh Saini the new chief minister. The question that arises is why did the BJP need

Alleging that unemployment was at its peak in Haryana and inflation was record-breaking, he stressed that was rampant "misgovernance" in the state. "Haryana first gave a chance to one party for five years, then to another for 10 years and then 10 years to a third party. Haryana gave a chance to all the parties, there is no party in Haryana that can say party in Haryana that can say they have not got a chance. No one can complain," Pathak

Claiming that the other parties failed to serve the people, he said the voters were fed up with all the

This time, for the first time, Arvind Kejriwal has come to Haryana with AAP. So, a new and great option for change is in front of the people of Haryana. They have seen the work done by AAP in Punjab, and have seen the government of Delhi. After seeing everything, the people will go for a change and vote for Arvind Kejriwal's new and honest politics and AAP," he

Flood situation in WB worsens as Didi blames Centre

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Even as the flood situation larger Bengal worsened with large swathes of lands in Hooghly, Burdwan, Howrah, East and West Midnapore going under water following the release of lakhs of cusecs of water by the dams controlled by the Damodar Valley Corporation, Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee once lambasted the Centre for "planning to inundate Bengal." Vowing to snap all the ties with the DVC of which Bengal too is a part Banerjee said, "this is a centrally controlled authority which does not listen to our prayers ... instead of dredging the rivers they release waters and inundate Bengal every year ... so I will go back and snap all the ties with the DVC if they continue to flood Bengal like this."

Banerjee who visited parts of West Midnapore and the Pursura block of Hooghly district said she would go to Howrah to inspect the flood affected areas too.

"For years there is a talk of Ghatal Master Plan but that



has not taken place as yet as a result of which the Ghatal town and the remaining areas sink every year ... will this continue year after year," she

Banerjee alleged how North Bengal gets flooded when there is heavy rains in Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim alleging nothing is done in that respect. She also alleged that the Centre was not dredging the Ganges at Farakka causing floods in lower regions of Malda and Murshidabad.

"Similar is the case here as in a bid to save Jharkhand they are inundating Bengal ... it is good to save others but why should we bear brunt of that ... why should Bengal be

more than 4 lakh cusecs of water ... thousands of houses have been destroyed and thousands of acres of lands have been flooded with crops worth crores finished ... who is responsible for this," Banerjee said. "This is a manmade flood ... we are facing this problem because of the irresponsible behavior of the Centre," she said. Reacting to the charges

leveled by her Bengal BJP president and junior Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar said that instead of blaming the Centre Baneriee should send her local MPs to the appropriate ministers to sort

Doctors refuse to end cease work, allege arm-twisting by Government

The West Bengal Medical Council, the umbrella body of the doctors in the State on Thursday removed the name of former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh --- who is presently in the custody of the Central Bureau Investigation in connection

with the rape- murder case of a woman doctor at the hospital --- from the list of registered practitioners. The practicing license of Ghosh was cancelled after he failed to infrastructure respond to a show cause and notice issued to him by the Council on September 7,

was taken under various provisions of the Medical Act 1914.

Ghosh has been arrested by the on charges of corruption and destruction of evidence in the rape and murder case. The Enforcement Directorate too has lodged cases against him under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The development amid a new twist in the junior doctors' movement vis a vis the RGKMCH case

after the tent house owners who had provided them with facilities like tents, bio-toilets, fans power connections at their sit-in site in front of the Swasthya Bhavan on Thursday



withdrew their services amid allegations that they were asked to do so by the State

They came and forcibly took away the tents, bio-toilets, fans, camp cots and other

things that were being used at the demonstration site," said Dr. Ankush one of the

"though they would not say anything in public we were told that they had pressure after failing them in exams ... or selling honours courses for

agitators alleging,

Government to do so. Though a major portion of the doctors' demands had been

accepted by the Government during a meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee they had still been insisting on the fulfillment of the "fourth and fifth demand that entails the removal of State Health Secretary NS Nigam and ensuring of safety and security inside the medical colleges and hospitals where some vested interests with high political perpetrate a syndicate raj and

connection threat culture extorting lakhs of rupees from the students

"We had even told the State Chief Secretary Manoj Pant in our Wednesday's meetings to ensure these things at the earliest so that we can return to work ... but instead of taking any measure they are now arm-twisting us to withdraw the movement," the doctors said adding they were holding a general body meeting to decide on their new course of action.

Meanwhile, development the senior Thursday doctors gheraoed the West Bengal Medical Council "with a mission to cleanse it." Scores of senior doctors held a demonstration

Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders begin final round of seat-sharing talks

medical

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

With more than a fortnight to go for the announcement schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders – belonging to the Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Shiv Sena (Udday Thackeray) – have begun their final round of seat-sharing talks for the polls.

Given that the Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to announce the Assembly poll schedule for Maharashtra and Jharkhand in mid October after the completion of the ongoing Assembly polls in J & K and Karnataka, the political parties in the state are gearing themselves for 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in the end of November or early December. Not wanting to delay further the seat-sharing tie-up among them, the MVA leaders got down to three-day seatsharing negotiations which

will continue till September The leaders of the Congress,



already held several rounds of seat-sharing preliminary

In the final round of seatsharing talks that began on the Wednesday, three constituents of the MVA will decide on the number of seats to be contested by each party and the identification of the constituencies from which each party will field their

Having emerged as the number-one party in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Congress has staked claim for a maximum of 120 to 130 seats out of the total 288 seats. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) is rooting for 90 to 100 seats while the

three All the constituents have expressed their readiness to adopt a "give and take" approach in the

seat-sharing talks. The criteria being adopted for the seat-sharing arrangement are the performances of the three parties in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the base of the three parties in the respective constituencies and

winnability" factor. On its part, the Shiv Sena (UBT) is insisting that it be allotted maximum number of that seats and "winnability" factor should be only criterion for the seatsharing tie-up. Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson has gone on record saying that his Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) is party's votes were transferred

in a big way to the candidates belonging to the Congress and NCP(SP).

In an effort to avoid differences over the leadership during the seat-sharing talks, the three MVA constituents have decided to go to the Assembly polls under the joint

leadership of three parties. It may be recalled that on September 4, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar – who is considered the architect of the MVA - had said that the Opposition's grand alliance would declare its nominee for the chief minister's post based on which constituent party wins the maximum seats in the State Assembly polls.

Pawar's announcement came in the backdrop of the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders' insistence that their president Uddhav Thackeray be declared as the MVA's chief ministerial candidate ahead of the State Assembly. However, after Pawar's announcement, the Sena (UBT) has agreed to accept Pawar's suggestion that the MVA's chief ministerial nominee be announced after the State Assembly polls.

The Congress team that is

talks comprises among AICČ general secretary Ramesh Chennithala, state Congress president Nana Patole, Congress legislature party leader Balasaheb Thorat, while Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his aide Sanjay Raut are representing the Shiv Sena Sharad Pawar and his party's

taking part in the seat-sharing

state unit president Jayant Patil are involved in the talks. Since there were serious differences in the sharing of seats like Kolhapur, Sangli, Bhiwandi and seats of Mumbai in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the leaders are trying their best to paper over their differences. Of the total 288 seats in the

state, Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) account for 36 and 65 seats respectively. Naturally, the two regions play a crucial role in the seat-sharing talks. Given its strong base in Mumbai and surrounding areas, the Shiv Sena (UBT) are staking a claim for a larger number of seats from Mumbai and MMR.

PIL against Manoj Saunik appointment as MahaRera Chairman to be heard on September 23

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Apublic interest litigation the appointment of Manoj Saunik, a retired IAS officer and husband of current State Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, as the chairman of the Maharashtra Regulatory Estate Authority(MahaRera), will come up for hearing in the Bombay High Court on September 23.
In his PIL filed in the high

court, noted RTI activist and lawyer Pravin Wategaonkar has urged the court to issue writ of quo warran to against Manoj Saunik and stay the Government resolution (GR) dated July 16, 2024 appointing him as the MahaRera chief. The petitioner also urged the to direct the Maharashtra government to produce

constituted to protect the

relevant documents before it and examine the procedure adopted and the material considered in PIL. appointment, "The MahaRera authority is State Housing The department, issued a GR on

16.07.2024,



the real estate sector, and is expected to adjudicate the disputes between consumers and developers. The record of Mr. Saunik while in administration is tainted with mala fides and corruption, is certainly not from blemish, Wategaonkar alleged. Additional

Secretary (Housing) and convenor of the Selection committee has failed to respond to the notice issued to him," the petition stated in his

announced

Saunik's appointment as the MahaRera chairman. "The act lays down that the chairperson shall be appointed by the government on the recommendations of 3-member selection committee, consisting of the Chief Justice of the High Court or his promise Lydra the Secretary. nominee Judge, the Secretary, Housing Dept., and the Law secretary," Wategaonkar said "The law provides eligibility for Chairman of a person as who is or has been in the service of the Government and has held the post of Additional Secretary. The words `who is or has been have been authoritatively construed as meaning one who is or has been' in service `without any blemish whatsoever," the petitioner Wategaonkar said that he had issued a notice on August 19,

2024, to the convener of the Selection Committee and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Housing alleging "illustrative instances of misconduct of Shri Manoj www.dailypioneer.com

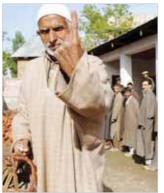
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

India wins in J and K

The large turnout and peaceful voting in phase I of the elections marks a significant victory for the nation

he first phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir, held on September 18 was not only peaceful but also a thumbs up for democracy as 58 per cent voters cast their vote. Approximately 23.27 lakh voters, including 5.66 lakh youths, were eligible to cast their votes to determine the fate of 219 candidates in Phase 1. Though two more phases are left but morning shows the day. Widespread apprehensions arose following a series of attacks in Jammu, raising serious concerns about the high likelihood of disruption. The successful democratic exercise in itself is a victory for the country. Indeed, it marks a crucial moment in the political landscape of the region. For the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Union Territory is witnessing elections that hold significant weight for both the state and the country at large. This election is not merely a democratic exercise; it is a test of the stability, governance, and the long-term vision for integrating the region more firmly with the rest of India. The elections are being



closely watched, particularly after the transition of Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a Union Territory. For the people of the region, the act of voting is more than just a participation in democracy. The return of democratic process after years of instability, militancy and unrest is expected to reassure the local population that their voices matter in shaping their future. The turnout, especially in rural areas, is a clear indications that people feel secure enough to participate in democratic process.

The election campaign has brought a range of issues to the forefront, which will determine how the political winds blow in the region. Development, unemploy-

ment, and security are the most pressing concerns, with local leaders attempting to address the economic stagnation that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir for years. Tourism, once the backbone of the state's economy, has taken a severe hit, and while efforts have been made to revitalise the sector, it remains a sensitive issue in the polls. At the same time, political parties have taken contrasting stances on the abrogation of Article 370. While some align with the central government's move, touting it as a path to progress, others continue to advocate for the restoration of special status. This dichotomy underscores the ongoing divide between different regions of Jammu and Kashmir, which will likely influence the outcome of the elections. A high voter turnout and peaceful elections emboldens the government's stance on its Kashmir policy, reinforcing the narrative that the decision to revoke Article 370 was justified and has led to positive outcomes for the region. For opposition parties, the elections offer an opportunity to challenge the ruling government's narrative and build alliances with local players. As the first phase of polling concludes, Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crossroads. The region's political future hinges on how the rest of the election unfolds and what messages the electorate sends through their vote.



Modi@74: A journey of triumphs and challenges



Narendra Modi, a man who rose through the ranks, from RSS worker to become a global leader, has undergone a remarkable transformation

s Narendra Modi turns 74, the Prime Minister of India stands at a pivotal point in his political career. Having transformed from a grassroots worker in the RSS to a global leader, Modi's leadership has been marked by several triumphs, while also weathering significant criticism. A closer look at his governance reveals a complex blend of successes and shortcomings, reflecting his unique vision for India and the challenges of implementing sweeping reforms in a diverse, evolving democracy. Successes; Economic Reforms: Modi's tenure has been defined by key economic reforms aimed at spurring growth and investment. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 stands as one of India's most transformative reforms, simplifying the tax system and promoting ease of business.

Another flagship initiative is the "Make in India" program, which sought to position India as a manufacturing hub, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in sectors such as defence, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

Digital India:Modi's push for a digital revolution has reshaped India's financial and technological landscape. The Digital India campaign significantly expanded internet connectivity, especially in rural areas. Innovations like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have revolutionized digital transactions, while the Aadhaar system has streamlined welfare distribution, reducing inefficiencies in benefit transfers.

Foreign Policy: On the global stage, Modi has strengthened India's relationships with key nations like the U.S., Japan, and Israel. Under his leadership, India has played a more prominent role in global forums such as G20 and BRICS. A major achievement has been the International Solar Alliance (ISA), promoting global cooperation on renewable energy and showcasing India's leadership in sustainable develop-

Nationalism and Identity Politics: Modi has adeptly tapped into nationalist sentiments, reinforcing the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) as a champion of Hindu pride and Indian sovereignty. His government's initiatives, such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, reflect a blend of cultural and political assertiveness, though the latter move drew international criticism. **Infrastructure Development:** Under Modi's leadership, infrastructure has seen significant growth. Projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala have expanded transportation networks, while initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

households. **Challenges Before Modi:** As Narendra Modi enters the later stages of his political journey, he faces a series of challenges that will shape his legacy and influence India's future. While his tenure has seen significant achievements, Modi's leadership must now address pressing concerns across various sectors that

demand urgent attention and

innovative solutions.

and Ujjwala Yojana have

improved housing and provid-

ed cooking gas to millions of

Economic Recovery and Job Creation: India's economic recovery post-COVID-19 remains fragile. Despite some growth, inflation continues to be a persistent challenge, ari ven by rising global oil prices and domestic supply chain disruptions. For the average citizen, higher living costs are

Madam — The Cabinet nod for 'One



ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, MODI HAS **STRENGTHENED** INDIA'S

RELATIONSHIPS

WITH KEY NATIONS LIKE THE US, JAPAN, AND ISRAEL. **UNDER HIS** LEADERSHIP, INDIA HAS PLAYED A MORE **PROMINENT** ROLE IN GLOBAL FORUMS SUCH AS G20 AND BRICS

squeezing household budgets, particularly for the poor and middle class. Modi's government must balance inflation control with promoting sustained economic growth.

The issue of unemployment, especially among the youth, looms large. Urban and rural areas continue to experience high joblessness, and despite various reforms, the informal sector, which provides most jobs, is still recovering from the effects of demonetization, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the pandemic. Modi will need to focus on bolstering labour-intensive industries, strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and encouraging

entrepreneurship.
Agriculture and Farmers' Discontent: Even after repealing the controversial farm laws following large-scale protests, rural distress persists. Indian farmers continue to face challenges such as low productivity, insufficient infrastructure, and limited access to credit. To address these prob-lems, Modi will need to prioritize rural development and improve agricultural infrastructure. However, he must tread cautiously with new reforms to avoid reigniting protests. Farmers will require sustained support through initiatives like improving Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and introducing technological innovations to

enhance productivity. India-China Relations and **Regional Security:**

India's strained relations with China, particularly after the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, remain a significant foreign policy challenge.

The border standoff continues,

and while diplomatic negotiations have curbed escalation, the potential for conflict still exists. Managing the delicate balance between regional security and diplomatic efforts with China is critical. Despite these successes, Modi's tenure has not been without shortcomings. The "Make in India" initiative has struggled to create enough manufacturing jobs, and his government's 2016 demonetization policy disrupted the informal economy without yielding longterm benefits. Modi also faced one of the largest protests in Indian history over controversial farm laws, which he ultimately had to repeal. Additionally, his leadership has been criticized for deepening communal divisions, with incidents of religious violence and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sparking social tensions. As Modi continues to lead, his legacy will depend on balancing development with social

(The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and political analyst; views are personal)

narmony and democratic gov

ernance.

THE EDITOR

Kolkata's protests and the culture of rape: A call for societal change



The tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata underscores the urgent need for a profound societal shift in attitudes toward women

¬he recent public outcry in Kolkata, sparked by the tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, has

transformed into a significant and sustained protest. Junior doctors gathering in front of the Health Department, alongside widespread public engagement, underscores a profound frustration with the pervasive violence against women in India. Reflecting on the August 9 incident, it's evident that the protest is not merely about the individual responsible. Despite the apprehension of the perpetrator, the continuing movement raises crucial questions about why such intense outrage persists

The root problem, as I see it, lies in the cultural context that enables such violence. It's not just about one person's actions but about a broader cultural environment. The protests highlight a growing recognition that the issue is embedded within a culture that normalizes and perpetuates violence against women.

The Kolkata demonstrations have brought to light a critical aspect of this cultural problem: the normalization of rape and the way women are effectively, we need to funda-

perceived and treated. In Indian culture, women are often valued primarily for their reproductive roles, linking respect to their capacity as mothers. This perspective reduces women to their biological functions, overlooking their full humanity.

The "culture of rape" is evident in societal behaviors and attitudes that tolerate and perpetuate violence against women. This deeply ingrained culture is reflected in everyday interactions and institutional practices, indicating that the issue goes beyond individual acts.

The ongoing protests signify a crucial desire for a profound cultural shift. The movement in Bengal represents a broader call for cultural transformation. To address the problem

mentally change societal norms and practices that contribute to a pervasive culture of violence and exploitation. As long as these cultural attitudes persist, incidents of rape will continue.

The troubling normalization of sexual violence in Indian society is evident in various ways. For instance, the fact that the name of the doctor murdered and raped in Bengal was trending on porn websites for an extended period reflects a serious cultural issue. It shows how sexual violence is often sensationalized and dehumanized rather than addressed with the seriousness it deserves.

This critique extends to societal behaviors and attitudes, illustrated by the public reaction to the Ujjain incident. The fact that such a violent act occurred in a busy area, with onlookers observing and recording it, underscores the disturbing normalization of sexual violence. Such incidents are met with alarming indifference.

Examining the cultural foundations of this issue reveals how cultural norms perpetuate gender inequality and violence. There are many subtle signs of rape culture that are often overlooked, such as the objectification of women and the normalization of harmful attitudes and

practices. Addressing this issue requires a profound cultural transformation. It's not just about legal measures or punishing offenders; it's about transforming the norms and values instilled from a young age. Culture is nurtured in our homes, and changing how we educate and raise our children is crucial to addressing rape

In conclusion, the protests in Kolkata and similar movements across India are not just reactions to individual cases of violence but a critical response to a deep-seated cultural issue that normalizes and perpetuates sexual violence. This situation underscores the urgent need for a fundamental cultural shift. Until we address the broader culture of rape, incidents of sexual violence will continue to plague our society.

(Acharya Prashant is a Vedanta teacher and an advocate of women rights; views expressed are personal)

ONE NATION ONE POLL

nation - One election' (19-9-24) displays the misplaced priority of the Union government. Except the cost factor there is no other point worth considering to support the decision of the Cabinet. Election is an opportunity for the people to demonstrate their democratic sanction or resentment over the policies and programmes of a government. People exercising this right to ventilate their agreement or disagreement over the governments in the Center or the States should not be curtailed just to avoid expense. The expectations of the people being state specific in assembly elections and nation specific in the Parliament elections there is possibility of either of them getting swayed by the general mood. Possibility of holding elections in a massive way is not practically feasible. We are seeing the inability of the Election Commission to hold elections to a few States at one stroke. The Commission is not able to hold elections to Maharashtra Assembly along with elections in J&K and HP. Even elections to the state assembly are held in multiple slots. We have also seen the Commission rendered helpless to deal properly with the violations reported during the last General elections. The very idea of mandating holding elections to assemblies along with election to the Parliament is against the very Federal structure of the constitution. Proposal to hold elections to local bodies in 100 days after the General elections is also expensive and it is aimed at swaying the polls taking advantage of the outcome of national level elections. The arbitrary decision is undemocratic, antifederal and strangulates the right of the people to decide their choice on local, state and nation specific needs and demands. Above all, the move of government is, as usual, to divert the attention of the people from the basic and burning issues of the nation in many of which the performance of the government is definitely not

upto the mark A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Hundred days of achievements



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first 100 days of his third term have demonstrated a clear focus on development and global leadership. The government's investments of ?3 lakh crore in infrastructure projects like roads. railways, and ports are vital steps toward boosting the economy and creating jobs. Raising capital expenditure to Rs11.11 lakh crore reflects

WORLD BAMBOO DAY

Madam—Bamboo is one of the largest members of the grass family and is the fastest growing woody plant on the planet. Its growth rate varies according to the soil and climate, and is best known as a major food source for pandas. Bamboo is also used for culinary and medicinal purposes in many parts of the world, as well for construction materials, furniture, textiles, musical instruments, bicycles, clothing and more.

As a packaging material, bamboo is strong, durable and sustainable. It is one of the more remarkable natural materials available to us. The Economist recently quoted that bamboo is literally, the green equivalent of plastics. This is because it is renewable and low-carbon. It also said bamboo is now part and parcel of our packaging material. Furthermore, bamboo produces up to 35% more oxygen than trees, thus helping to offset carbon-dioxide emissions. It's easy to see why bamboo is a favorite when it comes to sustainable materials

C.K. Subramani Iyer | Coimbatore

health of the State exchequer and present the detailed outline of available revenue which would bear the brunt of the free-The poll regulator Election Commission of India should also draft strict rules for manifestos and promises which are not

In his first 100 days of a third term, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has focused on devel-

opment and global leadership, with significant

investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and

foreign relations. While progress is evident, chal-

lenges like inflation and political tensions con-

tinue to test his government's future agenda.

Madam — The Congress election mani-

festo in Haryana is a bundle of high cost

freebies not at all feasible financially for

the State to implement. While the politi-

cal parties must examine the impact of their pre poll announcements over the

CONGRESS PROMISING THE MOON

Vishesh Shukla | Lucknow

The cult of freebies must stop if we really wish to progress morally, economicaland socially and if Election Commission fails, the Supreme Court of India must take cognizance of the matter and direct the Election Commission to stop this nonsense. The freebies can become a real liability for the exchequere.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

APPLY SPORTS ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

The lessons learned through sports cultivate a healthier and productive work environment



ports have since long been a crucial element of human culture, teaching participants important life skills and values. The discipline, teamwork and perseverance developed in sports can easily be translated into a professional setting, where these qualities often lead to success. Applying sports values to the workplace creates a healthier and more productive environment that benefits individuals and teams

The term 'resilience' is one of the core values in sports, where athletes regularly face challenges, setbacks and failures. Whether it's losing a game, dealing with injuries or facing tough competition, athletes learn to recover, adapt and continue working toward their goals. The similar value is crucial in the workplace, where employees encounter stress, failed projects and unexpected obstacles. Resilience helps employees bounce back from difficulties and maintain a positive attitude despite setbacks. It encourages them to see failure as an opportunity for growth rather than a reason to give up.

There is no denying the fact that athletes exhibit tremendous commitment and passion for their sport, dedicating hours of practice, maintaining a strong mental focus and striving to overcome challenges. At the workplace, too, similar commitment is essential for both personal as well as organizational success. Employees who are passionate about their work are more engaged, motivated and willing to go the extra mile. Just as athletes work toward improving their performance, committed employees consistently seek opportunities to learn, grow and contribute

When talked about the Paralympics, these athletes provide a powerful



source of inspiration when it comes to work ethics. They demonstrate exceptional dedication, resilience and perseverance—qualities that can directly inspire and shape one's approach to professional life. The lessons learned from their incredible journeys highlight the importance of maintaining a strong work ethic, overcoming adversity and striving for excellence in any field. Passion fuels innovation and creativity, leading to breakthroughs and a sense of fulfilment in one's job encouraging professionals to remain committed to their goals even when facing challenges at the workplace. It teaches us that obstacles, whether personal or professional, can be overcome with time, effort and persistence.

The values learned through sports are not only essential for athletic success but also for professional growth and productivity in the workplace. By embracing these values, individuals and teams can foster a work culture that promotes collaboration, perseverance and a drive for excellence. Recognizing progress, no matter how small reinforces one's belief that effort pays off and celebrating these victories along the way keeps the individual motivated and energized to continue. Instead of shving away from difficulties, one must see them as opportunities to learn and grow. When an individual approaches obstacles with the belief that effort leads to improvement, they build resilience and perseverance.

As stated above, undoubtedly, Paralympians have to cope with significant adversity, whether it's learning to use a prosthetic limb or recovering from a life-altering injury. In the workplace, this means that failures, mistakes or even unexpected challenges are not the end but an opportunity to bounce back stronger. In the workplace, adopting a mindset that welcomes challenges rather than avoiding them is a key part of developing a strong work ethic. It pushes professionals to take on difficult tasks, expand their capabilities and evolve in their careers. Sports values do provide excellent lessons that can be transferred to the workplace, promoting personal growth, team cohesion and overall success. (The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)

Sri Lanka's pivotal presidential election



With traditional parties in decline and new alliances emerging, this election may spring surprises. The outcome will determine Sri Lanka's capacity to address its urgent challenges

ri Lanka faces a pivotal moment in its political history as it prepares for the presidential election this Saturday, 21 September. This election, the ninth for the executive presidency, unfolds amid severe political polarisation, sharply contrasting with the last election in November 2019. The decline of traditional political parties and the rise of various political alliances are prominent features of this election, with three main candidates competing in a manner distinct from the two-horse races of previous presidential contests. The fragmentation of political parties, the absence of anti-defection laws, and the formation of new alliances driven more by personal interests than by cohesive agendas pose significant risks to democratic stability and governance.The 2019 presidential race featured two main candidates and a notable but relatively minor third-party candidate. It saw a record voter registration of 15,992,096 and a turnout of 83.72% (13,387,951), surpassing previous highs of 81.52% in 2015 and 81.06% in 1982. Despite this high turnout, 135,452 votes were invalid, leaving 13,252,499 votes as valid. Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won with 52.25% of the valid votes (6,924,255), while his main opponent, Sajith Premadasa of the National Democratic Front, received 41.99% (5,564,239). Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People's Power secured a mere 3.16% (418,553 votes). In the subsequent general election on 5 August 2020, Premadasa and Dissanayake faced off again for parliamentary seats. Premadasa won 305,744 votes, while Dissanayake received 49,814 votes.

In the 2015 parliamentary elections, Premadasa garnered 112,645 votes from Hambantota, whereas Dissanayake, contesting from Colombo, secured 65,966 votes.Ranil Wickremesinghe, one of main three main contenders, in this year's race but absent from the 2019 presidential election, leads the United National Party. His party received 249,435 votes (2.25%) in the general elections, including 30,875 from Colombo and 28,282 from Gampaha. Although his party did not win a parliamentary seat, Wickremesinghe was appointed to a national list position. Amid severe social upheaval caused by economic mismanagement, which resulted in the resignation of both the President and Prime Minister, Wickremesinghe, a seasoned politician and six-time Prime Minister, capitalised on the moment to make his comeback. After Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign, Wickremesinghe was appointed as Prime Minister.

However, protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa led to his dramatic escape, first to Trincomalee by navy ship, then back to Colombo by air force chopper, and finally to the Maldives by air force cargo flight. Rajapaksa officially resigned on 14 July 2022. Subsequently, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe was appointed as President by the constitutional process. Wickremesinghe's appointment highlights the complexities of Sri Lanka's

political system. According to the constitution, the President must appoint a Prime Minister who commands the majority's confidence in Parliament, illustrating the considerable unchecked powers inherent in the executive role. Rajapaksa's assumption that Wickremesinghe, who came to Parliament through the national list, was the candidate who earned the majority's confidence reflects the intricate dynamics of Sri Lankan



FRAGMENTATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE ABSENCE OF ANTI-**DEFECTION** LAWS, AND THE FORMATION OF **NEW ALLIANCES** DRIVEN MORE BY PERSONAL **INTERESTS** THAN BY **COHESIVE AGENDAS POSE** SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO **DEMOCRATIC STABILITY** GOVERNANCE

politics. However, Wickremesinghe has effectively stabilised the situation after the social upheaval. In this context, Wickremesinghe has emerged as a major candidate, yet the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna has nominated its candidate, Namal Rajapaksa.

Reports suggest that Rajapaksa's ambitions to secure the prime ministership were opposed, leading a faction of his party to break away from Wickremesinghe. Rajapaksas candidacy appears more focused on maintaining his family's political lineage rather than presenting a genuine bid for leadership. Nonetheless, his endorsement of supporting Sajith Premadasa, where he appeals to supporters to cast their second vote for Premadasa, could be a decisive factor in the election outcome. Meanwhile, the NPP, initially opposed to the public uprising that led to Rajapaksa's removal, has become a significant

political entity Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who ironically led his political party into alliances with traditional parties to secure ministerial positions over the past few decades, has skilfully capitalised on widespread dissatisfaction with corruption and the growing anger towards conventional politicians to bolster his standing. His alliance's emotionally charged propaganda has infiltrated every corner of society, despite its lack of deep ideological substance. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), his original party, has skilfully harnessed this discontent to challenge

the status quo. However, Dissanayake's path to victory remains uncertain, especially with three major candidates in the race. Voter statistics reveal additional obstacles: with 17.1 million registered voters and an anticipated 80% turnout (13.7 million), a candidate would need approximately 7 million votes to secure the presidency in the first count. The NPP's past performance shows limited success, receiving 418,553 votes (3.16%) in 2019 and 445,950

votes (3.84%) in parliamentary

elections in 2020. The party faces challenges in Tamil-majority districts like Nuwara-Eliya, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Wanni, Trincomalee, and in areas with lower voter counts, such as Polonnaruwa and Matale. To succeed, the NPP must secure substantial votes from Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, and Kurunegala, requiring an estimated 700,000 to

800,000 additional votes. Given these dynamics and the competition among three candidates, the NPP or JVP may struggle to achieve significant success in this election. However, the election remains crucial in determining the country's social and governance structure.

Conversely, Sajith Premadasa

appears to have significant potential to garner a majority of the votes, while Wickremesinghe has also gained substantial ground. Therefore, it is unlikely that any candidate will secure over 50% of the vote in the first round of counting, which may necessitate counting the second votes.

This uncertainty could trigger a new wave of political instability if major alliances and key candidates fail to manage the results effectively and refuse to accept the people's verdict. Despite flashy manifestos and hefty campaign budgets, none of the candidates have provided a clear plan to tackle the staggering \$100 billion national debt. They all parrot the same old IMF rhetoric, yet almost none offer a concrete strategy beyond this wornout solution.

The situation in the island nation is dire, and there's no straightforward path for the incoming leader to steer the country out of its deepening crisis. As of 1 July 2024, about 24.8% of Sri Lanka's population lives in poverty, with rates varying dramatically between districts—3.5% in Colombo versus 44.2% in Nuwara-Eliya.

Poverty in rural areas has surged from 15% to 32%, while urban poverty has tripled from 6% to 18%. A recent survey revealed that 31% of the population is impoverished, with 33% skipping meals and 47% cutting back on meal sizes. Malnutrition affects nearly onethird of children under five, and over 40% of women aged 18-60 are overweight or obese, reflecting severe economic and health issues. Regardless of the election's outcome, Sri Lanka's entrenched political divisions threaten to entrench a fragmented legislative body, where effective governance and decisive action may become increasingly

Such divisions risk entrenching a cycle of delays and inefficiencies, potentially leading to a state of perpetual gridlock that hampers national progress. Antonio Gramsci's notion of passive revolution becomes pertinent here, warning of significant changes that merely preserve existing power structures. Hannah Arendt's insight that "The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative the day after the revolution" cautions against decisions driven by emotion over reason.

Thus, the question looms: can this election transcend emotional politics to instigate genuine reform, or will it simply entrench the status quo? Regrettably, the candidates' manifestos seem to hint at the lat-

> (The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed

Chronicles of compliance: The missing case diaries in money laundering probes

Money laundering poses a significant threat to society, undermines democratic institutions, and fosters criminal activities and corruption

¬he international community established the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through international standards. The FATF's 40 Recommendations provide a comprehensive framework for countries to prevent and address these financial crimes. India enacted the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002, effective from July 1, 2005, in alignment with its international obligations. The PMLA aims to combat the laundering of illicit funds, including those from activities such as drug trafficking, thereby safeguarding the country's financial integrity. The Role and Importance of the Case Diary: The case diary, as mandated under sec-



tion 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), maintains a chronological record of the investigation process conducted by the police officer. This detailed documentation includes every step taken during the investigation, such as the date and time of receiving information about the crime, the start and finish times of the investigation, locations visited, witness This comprehensive record ensures continuity and transparency in the investigation, serving as a crucial handover document when different offi-

dence collected.

cers handle the case at various stages. The case diary is essential for maintaining continuity and transparency in the investigation process, offering a comprehensive overview of progress to courts and defence lawyers. This transparency is indispensable for maintaining procedural integrity and accountability in the investigative process

Concerns Regarding the Absence of a Case Diary under PMLA: In contrast, the PMLA mandates thorough investigations into money laundering but does statements recorded, and evi- not specify the need for a

detailed case diary as in the CrPC. This absence raises concerns about potential misuse by the Enforcement Directorate. Without a mandated case diary, there is no obligation for investigators to maintain a comprehensive, chronological record of their actions. This lack of documentation could reduce accountability and allow for the manipulation or selective presentation of evidence without a transparent trail of how and when it was obtained, compromising the investigation's integrity. This can lead to biased or

unjust conclusions, undermining the integrity of the investigation and in cases where multiple officers are involved in different stages of the investigation, the absence



result in inconsistent handovers. Critical information might be lost or altered, impacting the continuity and coherence of the investigation. This ultimately leads to violations of individual rights and compromise on due process of law.

Case Diary Maintenance: It is important to understand that the accused under CrPC does not have an automatic right to defeats the very purpose for

view the case diary. Access to the case diary is at the discretion of the Court or the police officer. However, the significance of maintaining a case diary as noted above lies in its ability to keep investigating agencies diligent and accountable throughout the investigation process.

Furthermore, under the criminal law procedure, it is considered a dereliction of duty if the Magistrate does not request and review the case diary before authorizing any form of custody to the accused which means the perusal of the case diary by the magistrate is essential before any remand, whether judicial or police custody and haphazard maintenance of a case diary discredits those responsible and

which it is required. Therefore, it is suggested that similar practice needs to be followed under the PMLA cases as well. Mandating ED to maintain a case diary ensures that it adheres to the due process of law during investigations and thereafter, the court will become entitled to use the case diary during trials or inquiries as an aid in the inquiry or trial, thereby holding the ED accountable for its investigative procedures, doing this the magistrate will be getting aid and true picture of the detailed record of the investigation proceedings conducted by ED till date in a narrative form, recorded promptly, with sufficient detail, and in chronological order and thus,

will be able to objectivity

decide whether to remand the

The Supreme Court is set to review 2 aspects of PMLA in July 2024, firstly, the FIR which is akin to ECIR under PMLA should be supplied to the accused or not. Secondly, the reversal of the presumption of innocence. It is to be noted that giving a case diary a statutory requirement under PMLA and thereby, mandating the ED to maintain one will be crucial in shaping the final judgement, which could fundamentally impact the legal framework for money laundering investiga-tions in India. A ruling in favour of maintaining a case diary would enhance the fairness and transparency of PMLA proceedings, ensuring the accused's right to a fair trial.

(The writer is a law student; views expressed are personal)

Exploding devices dealt a major but not crippling blow to Hezbollah, analysts say

¬he waves of remotely triggered explosions that ■ hit pagers and walkietalkies carried by Hezbollah members in grocery stores, on streets and at a funeral procession this week made for an eerie and shocking spectacle. Analysts said Hezbollah will be able to regroup militarily and communications workarounds after the attack, but the psychological effects will likely run deep.

The explosions blamed on Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied involvement — killed at least 37 people, including two children, wounded more than 3,000 and deeply unsettled even Lebanese who have no Hezbollah affiliation.

The detonating devices hit workers in Hezbollah's civilian institutions, including its health care and media operations, as well as fighters, dealing a blow to the militant group's operations beyond the battlefield. It is not clear how many civilians with no link to Hezbollah were injured.

The attacks also exposed the weaknesses in the low-tech communications system the group had turned to in an attempt to avoid Israeli surveillance of cellphones.

Retired Lebanese army Gen. Elias Hanna described the attacks as the "Pearl Harbor or 9/11 of Hezbollah.

Mohanad Hage Ali, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center think tank who researches Hezbollah, said that because the blasts hit people across the group's institutions, the attack was "like a sword in the guts of the organization." Hundreds of people were severely wounded, including many who lost eyes or hands. "It will require time to heal and replace those who were target-ed," he said.

But Hage Ali and other analysts agreed that the loss of manpower is not a crippling blow. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has said the group's fighting force numbers more than 100,000, meaning that the attack — as dramatic as it was — would have put only a small percentage of its militants out of commission even if all those wounded and killed were fighters.

Qassim Qassir, a Lebanese analyst close to Hezbollah, said the detonating devices actually struck mostly civilian workers within the group and not military or security officials, which

Lebanon bans pagers, walkie-talkies on flights from Beirut

 ${f L}$ ebanon's civil aviation authorities have banned pagers and walkie-talkies on all airplanes departing from Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport. The measure announced Thursday comes after such devices,

mainly used by members of the militant Hezbollah group, exploded in different parts of Lebanon, killing dozens and wounding 3,000 people over the past two days.

The authorities called on all airline companies to inform passengers using the airport that carrying pagers and walkie-talkies onto jets is banned "until further notice

It added that authorities will confiscate such devices found with passengers

has allowed it to contain the impacts on its war effort. Hezbollah, which is Lebanon's strongest armed force, has exchanged fire with Israel's military almost daily since Oct. 8, the day after a deadly Hamas-led assault in southern Israel triggered a massive Israeli counteroffensive and the ongo-

ing war in Gaza. Since then, hundreds have been killed in strikes in Lebanon and dozens in Israel, while tens of thousands on each side of the border have been displaced.

Hezbollah said its strikes are in support of its ally, Hamas, and that it will halt its attacks if a cease-fire is implemented in Gaza. Hezbollah continued to launch rockets over the border Wednesday and Thursday after the pager and walkie-talkie attacks, though at a slower pace than usual.

The impacts on Hezbollah's communications network are likely to be more disruptive than the human loss.

"Telecommunications is the nerve of military operations

and communications," said retired Lebanese army Gen. Naji Malaeb, an expert on security affairs. A delay in communication could spell disaster, he said.

During a speech in February, Hezbollah's leader, Nasrallah, warned members against carrying cellphones, which he said could be used to track them and monitor their communications.

But long before that, Hezbollah relied on pagers and its own private fiber-optic landline network to avoid the monitoring of its communications.

The pagers that detonated Tuesday were a new model the group recently began using. It appears that small quantities of explosives had been implanted in the devices at some stage in the manufacturing or shipping process and then remotev detonated.

Hanna said the group might rely more heavily on its landline network — which Israel has attempted to tap into on multiple occasions — going forward, or on even lower-tech solutions such as hand-delivered letters.

"Maybe you have to go back to human communication, the postman," he said. "This is what is really helping (Hamas

leader) Yahya Sinwar not to be targeted" in his hiding spot in

Orna Mizrahi, a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv-based think tank Institute for National Security Studies and former intelligence analyst for the Israeli military and prime minister's office, said losing the ability to communicate through pagers is a "dramatic blow," but the militant group has other communication methods and will rebuild their communication network. The bigger damage to Hezbollah was psychological, she said.

"It's the humiliation of having such an operation, it shows how much the organization is exposed to the Israeli intelligence," she said.

Amal Saad, a lecturer in politics and international relations at Cardiff University in Wales who researches Hezbollah, said much of the attack's impact was the "demoralization and the fear" it sowed. "It's not just a security breach

against the military," she said. 'Hezbollah's entire society is going to be extremely concerned because everything is liable now to being hacked and rigged." The group will "be rethinking many things now, not just the pagers," Saad said.

'Israeli indicted for role in Iranian assassination plot'

rsraeli security officials on Thursday said an Israeli citizen has been indicted for involvement in an Iranian assassination plot against top Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A statement from the Shin Bet internal security agency said that the citizen was recruited by Iranian intelligence to "carry out terrorist activities" on Israeli soil and "promote assassination attacks" on Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar.

It was unclear how far the alleged plot had advanced. The statement did not say whether the Israeli had obtained a

weapon or developed a concrete plan. The statement said the Israeli had traveled to Iran twice — once

in August following the assassination of top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in an explosion in Iran's capital that was widely blamed on Israel. Israel has not said whether it was involved.

The Shin Bet said the assassination plot was an attempt by Iran to follow through on its pledge to avenge his death.

The statement said the Israeli was paid 5,000 Euros (USD 5,575.60) but had demanded a million dollars before doing anything. The Iranians refused the demand but said they would be in touch, according to the Shin Bet. Earlier this week, the Shin Bet said an explosion in a Tel Aviv park last September was linked to an attempt by Hezbollah to assassinate Moshe Yaalon, a former military chief of staff and defense minister.

The Lebanese militant group is closely allied with Iran.

Starmer faces backlash over freebies; insists he's done nothing wrong

ess than three months after Less than unce monesche was elected on a promise to restore trust in politics, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is trying to shake off criticism over donations from a wealthy businessman and the hefty salary of his most senior aide. The Labour Party leader, who

won power in a landslide victory on July 4, denies impropri ety over thousands of pounds (dollars) worth of clothes and eyeglasses paid for by Waheed Alli, a media entrepreneur and longtime Labour donor. Starmer is also facing grumbling among his own employees over the salary of chief of staff Sue Gray. The BBC disclosed that she is paid 170.000 pounds (\$225,000) a year about 3,000 pounds more than the prime minister's salary. Gray's salary is at the top of a set of pay bands for political advisers, which have been



raised since the election. The government said it did not interfere in setting the pay scale. "The pay bands for any official, any adviser, are not set by politicians. There's an official process that does that," Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said Thursday. In recent days British media have been full of largely anonymous grumbling from government officials about Gray, a former senior civil servant best known for leading an investigation into lockdown-breaching parties in government buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gray's findings helped topple Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and her subsequent move to work Starmer led the Conservatives to claim the "partygate" probe was politically biased, something Gray denies. Labour claims the leak of Gray's salary and the donation revelations -- branded 'frockgate" in the press after dresses bought for the prime minister's wife, Victoria Starmer — is being whipped up by the Conservatives and their media supporters to tarnish the government.

Lawmakers are allowed to accept gifts but have to declare donations and extra-parliamentary income within 28 days. Starmer missed the fourweek deadline to declare the donations of clothes and a personal shopper for his wife from Alli. He says the delay was due to his staff seeking advice on

exactly what needed to be declared. "I'm very consistent with following the rules," Starmer said this week. He rejected suggestions that prime ministers should get a wardrobe budget, saying taxpayers should not have to pay for politicians' clothes. The scale of the freebies accepted by Starmer has raised eyebrows even among supporters. Sky News reported that Starmer has declared "gifts, benefits and hospitality" worth more than 100,000 pounds since December 2019, more than any other lawmaker.

The donations include thousands of pounds' worth of tickets for Premier League games involving Starmer's beloved team Arsenal. "I'm a massive Arsenal fan," Starmer told reporters during a trip to Rome this week. "I can't go into the stands because of security reasons. Therefore, if I don't accept a gift of hospitality I can't go to

Voters view Harris more favourably as she leads Democratic ticket, poll says

AP WASHINGTON

Until recently, Lillian Dunsmuir of Bullhead City, Arizona, "didn't really think about" Kamala Harris and had no opinion of the vice president. But now she likes what she's seeing.
"She's funny. I think she's very

smart. She can speak well," said Dunsmuir, a 58-year-old real estate agent. "I would feel safe with her because I think she can handle herself with foreign leaders. I like her because she's for pro-choice, and so am

Voters view Harris slightly more favorably than they did in July, just after President Joe Biden dropped out of the race, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The Democratic presidential nominee is now seen more positively than negatively. Former President Donald Trump's favorability ratings remained steady,

although the poll was conducted prior to the apparent assassination attempt of the Republican nominee on his golf course in Florida on Sunday. According to the survey, about half of voters have a somewhat or very positive view of Harris, and 44% have a somewhat or very negative view. That's a small shift since late July, just after Biden dropped out of the race, when views of Harris were slightly more unfavorable than favorable. Six in 10 voters, meanwhile, have a somewhat or very unfavorable view of Trump, while about 4 in 10 have a somewhat or very favorable view of him. Changes in views of national figures like Biden, Trump or Harris have been rare over the past few years. Trump's favorability rating didn't budge over the course of the summer, despite a felony conviction, a close call with a would-be assassin in Pennsylvania, and

a new opponent in the presi-

dential contest. But Trump has prevailed in the past with similarly low favorability ratings. He won the 2016 election despite being broadly unpopular, and came close to winning in 2020 under similar conditions.

The survey also found that relatively small shares of voters — around one-third — say the phrase "would change the country for the better" describes Trump or Harris extremely or very well, suggesting that voters retain some gloom about their options in the race. "Everyone talks about how polarized we are. I don't see the election solving that," said Sean Luebbers, a 55-yearold high school history teacher in Upland, California, who supports Harris. "I don't see Harris solving that. I think a lot of the damage has already been done, so I'm not hopeful that the election will solve that Right now, you might call it triage. We can't make things

Pak-origin man jailed for stirring up racial hate during UK riots

London (PTI): A Pakistani-origin man who used a fake identity to stir up racial hatred online during last month's riots in different parts of the UK has been sentenced to two years and four months imprisonment after admitting to disseminating offensive messages on social media. Ehsan Hussain, 25, was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on Wednesday after a West Midlands Police investigation revealed he had used a fake name belonging to an innocent member of the public. He is said to have posted "numerous and vile messages" through the app Telegram in a chat group containing over 12,000 members during far-right and anti-immigrant violent disorder in August. The police presented screenshots captured of the posts, which called for disorder in Alum Rock and Bordesley Green in Birmingham and incited racial violence.

Canada cuts study permits for foreign students

Ottawa (PTI): Canada has announced to reduce study permits for international students, a move that is likely to affect many Indian nationals.In a post on X late Wednesday night, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "We're granting 35% fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number's going down by another 10%. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy - but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down," he said. The move comes as the Canadian government is look-

ing to reduce the number of temporary residents. Canada is one of the most sought-after destinations for Indian students. Trudeau's announcement is likely to impact many Indian students who wish to study in Canada.

Floods spread in central Europe; heavy rains hit Italy

AP WARSAW

massive flood wave moving Amassive mood many and raise threatening new areas and raising concerns among residents and leaders. It also prompted European Union head Ursula von der Leyen to plan a visit to the region on Thursday. Heavy rains also caused flooding and evacuation of some 1,000 residents in the northern Italian region of Emilia-Romagna. The death toll was rising in

Central Europe, as receding waters were revealing the huge scale of the destruction caused by exceptionally heavy rains that began a week ago. Czech Interior Minister Vit Rakusan said the death toll had risen to five in the hard-hit northeast Czech Republic, and that eight were still missing. That brings the death toll so far to 24 in the

Authorities have also reported seven deaths each in Poland and Romania, and five in Austria. Authorities across the



affected region have deployed their militaries. In the two hardest-hit regions in the northeast Czech Republic, troops joined firefighters and other emergency officials to help residents with cleanup and recovery efforts. Army helicopters have been used to distribute humanitarian help while soldiers are building temporary bridges after many were destroyed in the flooding.

proportionately affected chil-

Some 400 people remain in evacuation centres in the regional capital of Ostrava and are not able yet to return home. In the country's southwest near the border with Austria, the water level of the Luznice River has reached an extreme level but the evacuation of 1,000 people in the town of Veseli nad Luznici was not necessary for the moment, officials said. Further to the south, in

Hungary, flood waters continued to rise on Thursday as authorities shut down roadways, rail stations and ferries along the Danube River. In the capital, Budapest, water spilled over the city's lower quays and threatened to reach transport infrastructure like trams and metro lines. Some transport services were suspended. Further upriver, in a region known as the Danube Bend, homes and restaurants near the riverbanks were inundated as officials and volunteers continued to place sandbags to reinforce levees. Nearly 6,000 professionals, including members of Hungary's water authority and military, have been mobilised to assist in flood preparations, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in a news conference Thursday morning. Inmates from prisons had also been mobilised to help fill sandbags, Orbán said.

The Danube rose nearly one metre (3.3 feet) in 24 hours, and by Thursday morning stood at

771 cm, approaching the 891-cm record set during major flooding in 2013. In southwestern Poland, the high water reached the city of Wroclaw and a stretched-out wave was expected to take many hours, even days to pass, exerting pressure on the embankments. Concerned by the scope of the destruction and the need for immediate aid, Prime Minister Donald Tusk invited von der Leven to Wroclaw to see the situation with her own eyes. Government leaders from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria are also to be present. To the south in Italy, about a thousand residents were evacuated in the northern region of Emilia-Romagna after it was hit by torrential rains and severe flooding overnight, local media reported Thursday Rivers flooded in three of the

region's provinces - Ravenna, Bologna and Faenza - as local mayors asked people to stay on the upper floors or leave their

door describing how to detect

mpox — looking for fevers,

US lawmakers express outrage over vandalism of temple in New York

PTI WASHINGTON

More than two dozen top American lawmakers have expressed outrage over the recent vandalism of a Hindu temple in New York, which came days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US. The road and the signage outside the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Melville, New York, were sprayed with expletives on Monday. Melville is located in Suffolk County, on Long Island and is about 28 kilometres from the 16,000-seater Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to address a mega community event on September 22. "The desecration of this Hindu house of worship is vile. Hate has no place on Long Island or anywhere else in New York or across America," Senate Majority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer said. "I am deeply saddened by the desecration of the BAPS Mandir in Melville, NY. This act of vandalism is a clear attempt to incite hatred against Hindus and has no place in our country. We must come together to show that love and understanding will always triumph over intolerance and division," Congressman Rich McCormick said.

ful vandalism of the BAPS Hindu Temple in Melville, New York. I'm wishing our Hindu community strength and peace in the face of this unacceptable display of intolerance. Standing together, we can remain stronger than hate," said lawmaker Andy Congressman Brad Sherman said the vandalism of the tem-ple is not only a "vile act of hate" against the Hindu com-munity but also an "unjust attack on our shared value of

religious pluralism". "I stand with Hindu Americans. Those responsible must be prosecuted to the law's fullest extent," he said. "Hate has no home in our community. That was the unified message from more than a dozen of my fellow elected officials and me in response to the hateful, intolerant graffiti and vandalism at the BAPS Hindu Temple in Melville,' said Congressman Nick LaLota. "Our great nation was founded on the principles of religious and political freedom, and I'm proud to see leaders from both parties swiftly come together to support the BAPS community during this difficult time," he said. Congresswoman Michelle Steel strongly condemned the "hateful act of vandalism" targeting the Hindu community in New York.
"Now more than ever,

Americans must unify behind the values of decency and respect for one another," she said. "No one should face fear due to their faith. I strongly condemn the recent attacks on BAPS Mandir in New York Standing in solidarity with our BAPS community and united against all forms of hate," lawmaker Glenn Grothman said Congressman Buddy Carter said that religious prejudice is "not welcome" in Âmerica. Congresswoman Young Kim said no one should live in fear

because of their faith.

"I fully condemn the hateful acts targeting at BAPS Mandir in New York & join my bipartisan colleagues in standing in solidarity with our BAPS friends and united against hate. Love triumphs hate always," she said. Congressman Jonathan L Jackson said he was deeply saddened by the desecration of the "magnificent temple and all threats of hatred against the Hindu community".

Congo gold mining town emerges as mpox hot spot

AP KAMITUGA

 S_{a}^{lumped} on the ground over a mound of dirt, Divine Wisoba pulled weeds from her daughter's grave. The 1-monthold died from mpox in eastern Congo in August, but Wisoba, 21, was too traumatized to attend the funeral

In her first visit to the cemetery, she wept into her shirt for the child she lost and worried about the rest of her family. "When she was born, it was as if God had answered our prayers — we wanted a girl," Wisoba said of little Maombi Katengey. "But our biggest joy was transformed into devastation." Her daughter is one of more than 6,000 people officials suspect have contracted the disease in South Kivu province, the epicentre of the world's lat-

est mpox outbreak, in what the World Health Organisation has labeled a global health emergency. A new strain of the virus is spreading, largely through skin-to-skin contact, including but not limited to sex. A lack of funds, vaccines and information is making it difficult to stem the spread, according to alarmed disease experts. Mpox — which causes mostly mild symptoms like fever and body aches, but can trigger serious cases with prominent blisters on the face, hands, chest and genitals — had been spreading mostly undetected for years in Africa, until a 2022 outbreak reached more than 70

Globally, gay and bisexual men made up the vast majority of cases in that outbreak. But officials note mpox has long dis- Organisation said mpox out-

dren in Africa, and they say cases are now rising sharply among kids, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups, children.

with many types of close contact responsible for the spread. Health officials have zeroed in on Kamituga, a remote yet bustling gold mining town of some 3,00,000 people that attracts miners, sex workers and traders who are constantly on the move. Cases from other parts of eastern Congo can be traced back here, officials say, with the first originating in the nightclub scene. Since this outbreak began, one year ago, nearly 1,000 people in Kamituga have been infected. Eight have died, half of them Last month, the World Health

ation. But in Kamituga, people say they face a starkly different reality. There's a daily average of five new cases at the general hospital, which is regularly near capacity. Overall in South Kivu, weekly new suspected cases have skyrocketed from about 12 in January to 600 in August, according to province health officials. Even that's likely an underestimate, they say, because of a lack of access to rural areas, the inability of many residents to seek care, and Kamituga's transient nature. Locals say they simply don't have enough information about mpox. Before her daughter got sick, Wisoba said, she was infected herself but didn't know it. Painful lesions emerged

breaks might be stopped in the next six months, with govern-

ments' leadership and cooper-

around her genitals, making walking difficult. She thought she had a common sexually transmitted infection and sought medicine at a pharmacy. Days later, she went to the hospital with her newborn and was diagnosed with mpox. She recovered, but her daughter developed lesions on her foot. Nearly a week later, Maombi died at the same hospital that treated her mother. Wisoba said she didn't know about mpox until she got it. She wants the government to invest more in teaching people protective measures. Local officials can't reach areas more than a few miles outside Kamituga to track suspected cases or inform residents. They broadcast radio messages but say that doesn't reach far enough. Kasindi Mwenyelwata goes door to pie will stop coming to the area as the epidemic takes its toll. ... And as the disease grows, will resources follow?"

aches or lesions. But the 42year-old community leader said lack of money means he doesn't have the right materials, such as posters showing images of patients, which he finds more powerful than words. ALIMA, one of the few aid groups working on mpox in Kamituga, lacks funds to set up programmes or clinics that would reach some 1,50,000 people, with its budget set to run out at year's end, according to programme coordinator Dr Dally Muamba. If support keeps waning and mpox spreads, he said, "there will be an impact on the economy, people will stop coming to the area

Kim bolstering nuclear, conventional weapons

North Korea said Thursday that leader Kim Jong Un supervised successful tests of two types of missiles — one designed to carry a "super-large conventional warhead" and the other likely for a nuclear warhead, as he ordered officials to bolster up his country's military capabilities to repel United States-led threats.

The tests appear to be the same as the multiple missile launches that neighbouring countries said North Korea performed Wednesday, extending its run of weapons displays as confrontations with the US and South Korea escalate.

The official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim oversaw the launch of the country's newly built Hwasongpho-11-Da-4.5 ballistic missile tipped with a dummy "4.5tonne super-large conventional warhead." It said the test-firing was meant to verify an ability to accurately hit a 320 kilometre-range target, suggesting it's a weapon aimed at striking sites in South Korea. KCNA said Kim also guided the launch of an improved "strategic" cruise missile, a word implying the weapon was developed to carry a nuclear warhead.

After the tests, Kim stressed the

need to continue to "bolster up the nuclear force" and acquire "overwhelming offensive capability in the field of conventional weapons, too," according to KCNA. It cited Kim as saying that North Korea can thwart its enemies' intentions to invade only when it has strong military power.

KCNA released photos of a missile hitting a ground target. South Korea's military said later Thursday it assessed that both ballistic and

cruise missiles fired by North Korea the previous day landed in the North's mountainous northeastern

region. North Korea typically test-launches missiles off its east coast, and it's highly unusual for the country to fire missiles at land targets likely because of concerns about potential damages on the ground if the weapons land in unintended areas.

Jung Chang Wook, head of the Korea Defence Study Forum think

tank in Seoul, said North Korea likely aims to show it's confident about the the accuracy of its new ballistic missile. Jung said the missile's highpowered warhead is meant to attack ground targets, but North Korea hasn't acquired weapons that can penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground structures. The Hwasongpho-11-Da-4.5 missile's first known test occurred in early July. North Korea said the July test was successful as well, but South Korea's military disputed the claim saying one of the two missiles fired by North Korea travelled abnormally during the initial stage of its flight before falling at an uninhabited area near Pyongyang, the capital. North Korea hasn't released photos on the July launches.

North Korea has been pushing to introduce a variety of sophisticated weapons systems designed to attack both South Korea and the mainland US to deal with what it calls its rivals intensifying security threats. Many foreign experts say North Korea would ultimately want to use its enlarged arsenal as leverage to win greater concessions in future dealings with the US. Worries about North Korea deepened last week as it disclosed photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. KCNA said that Kim, during a visit to the facility, called for stronger efforts to "exponentially" produce more nuclear weapons.

It was unclear whether the facility is at North Korea's main Yongbyon nuclear complex. But it was the North's first unveiling of a uraniumenrichment facility since it showed one at the country's main Yongbyon nuclear complex to visiting American scholars led by nuclear physicist Siegfried Hecker in 2010. In an analytical piece jointly written with another expert, Robert Carlin, that was posted Wednesday on North Korea-focused website 38 North, Hecker said the centrifuge hall shown in the recent North Korean photos was not the same one that he saw in November 2010. Hecker and Carlin said they believe the new centrifuges provide "only a modest increased capacity," though North Korea could increase enrichment capacity just by building more centrifuge plants. In another joint analysis also posted Friday on 38 North, other experts said that the centrifuges shown in the photos are not the ones observed by Hecker but a more advanced design. They said the images send "a strong message that the country has ample capacity and continued will to expand its nuclear program.

Sri Lanka announces preliminary pacts on debt restructuring

PTI COLOMBO

ash-strapped Sri Lanka on Thursday announced that it has reached an in principle agreement with external commercial creditors the restructuring of approximately USD 17.5 billion of external commercial debts. The agreements have been reached with holders of its International Sovereign Bonds, following negotiations with the Ad Hoc Group of Bondholders (AHGB), a representative group of international investors, and the Local Consortium of Sri Lanka (LCSL), a representative group of domestic financial institutions. A statement from the President's Media Division (PMD) said, collectively, the two groups hold in excess of 50 per cent of the Bonds.

Sri Lanka declared its first-ever sovereign default in mid-April 2022, having run out of its foreign exchange reserves. The halt to the debt services meant that the multilateral creditor nations and commercial lenders could not extend fresh financing

to the country. In July, the Sri Lankan government reached a debt restructuring deal with international sovereign bondholders after protracted negotiations with countries such as China, India, France and Japan. President

Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said that the island nation's bankruptcy is officially due to end on Thursday, remarks aimed at boosting his re-election chances on the last day of the presidential election campaign ahead of the September 21 elec-

The PMD statement said, the agreements provide Sri Lanka with enhanced debt relief compared to the Joint Working Framework agreed in July 2024, including a further reduction in interest payments provided in the new agreement. "Sri Lanka also announced that it has finalised agreement in principle with China Development Bank (CDB) on the key financial terms of the restructuring of approximately USD 3.3 billion of sovereign debt," the PMD added.

Imran's party claims police held members before rally in Lahore

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Thursday claimed that Puniab Police have launched a crackdown on the outfit, arrest ing dozens of its workers ahead of its planned power show in Lahore on Saturday.

"Police have detained Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Ali Imtiaz Warraich senior leader Afzal Phat and dozens of other party workers ahead of its power show at the ground of Minar-i-Pakistan, Lahore on Saturday (Sept 21), PTI leader Ali Ijaz Butter said. He said despite "fascist tactics" ernment, the PTI would hold a historic rally in Lahore. PTI founder Khan has asked the masses to come out of their homes and participate in the Sept 21 rally. Quoting the jailed former premier, his official X handle on late Wednesday night posted, "I urge my nation to come out for the Lahore jalsa (rally) on Saturday with unwavering resolve and commitment. Resistance against this responsibility that every conscientious citizen must undertake This is a battle for the survival of our future generations!" At a post at opportunity for the

Vatican approves devotion at Medjugorje

AP VATICAN CITY

The Vatican on Thursday gave the green light for Catholics to continue flocking to a southern Bosnian village where children reported seeing visions of the Virgin Mary, offering its approval for devotion in one of the most contested aspects of Roman Catholic practice in recent years. In a detailed analysis after nearly 15 years of study the Vatican's doctrine office didn't declare that the reported apparitions in Medjugorje were authentic or of supernatural origin. And it flagged concerns about contradictions in some of the "messages" the alleged visionaries say they have received over the years. But in line with new Vatican criteria in place this year, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith ruled that the "spiritual fruits" stemming from the Medjugorje experience more than justified allowing the faithful to organise pilgrimages there and permit public acts of devotion. The decision essential ly overrules the original doubts about the alleged apparitions at Medjugorje by the region's past diocesan bishops. And it ignores current concerns about the economic interests that have turned Medjugorje into a thriving destination for religious tourists But with Pope Francis' approval, the doctrine office decided that "the abundant and widespread fruits, which are so beautiful and positive," justified its decision.

people of Punjab, especially Lahore, to support Khan "like they came out in droves on Feb 8 and voted for the candidates

chosen by him". It is high time that people should raise their voice for taking back their stolen mandate and the future of the younger generations, he PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.EM/WS-25/2024 File No.EM/WS/TECH-05/2024/1298

Name of the Work "Grant of license for Supply Installation, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of 02 nos. 100 Ton Capacity HMC's for a period of 05 years" Last date and time of submission of bid: 21/10/2024 by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) gov-https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

> Workshon Division-II Paradip Port Authority dtd 18 N9 2024 PPA/PR/37/2024-2025



• CHANGE OF NAME

Yashpal Sachdeva, A-6, Majlis Park Adarsh Nagar Delhi-33 have changed my name to Anita Sachdeva, for all purposes.

PD(767)C I, Shelly, Shelly Bansal, Shally Bansal, Shaily Bansal, W/o

Jalaj Gupta, D/o Sandeep Kumar Bansal, R/o B-347, Third Floor, Street No 04, Majlis Park, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Shaily Gupta for all purposes PD(768)C

I, Vidhya Sagar S/o Shri Mataru Ram R/o Khalispur Kalan, Trilochan Mahadev, Chhatari, Jaunpur, U.P.-222136 hereby declare that my wife's name is Raj Kumari and my son's name is mentioned in his school certificate as Suryakant Pal and I want his name Suryakant to be registered for the board registration of 10th class.

PD(769)C I, Bharat Kumar S/o Sh sanjay kumar R/o H-44 Adhyapak Nagar Nangloi Delhi-110041 declare that name of minehas been wrongly written in 10th and 12th marksheet is Bharat, it is notify that my actual name is Bharat Kumar which may be amended accordingly

I, Meenakshi Puri W/o Late Shri Sanjeev Puri, R/o A-701, Hindon CGHS Ltd, Plot No.25,

LOST & FOUND

Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, have lost the Share Certificate, Membership No.98, Issued in the name of Smt. Sheila Bhargava Original allottee of Flat No.A-701, Hindon CGHS Ltd, Plot No.25, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096. Any person finds

please contact: 8588833840. PD(766)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Deepak Datta owner of the FLAT NO. 19AGF, POCKET-B, SECTOR-26 DWARKA, NEW DELHI and Deepak Datta have not Original 1. Allotment letter dt. 30.09.2011, issued by DDA in favour of Smt. Joney. And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication. AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Dr
Mobile :- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Sunil Kumar Lohia S/o Sh. Ram Karan Owner of Built-up Property, area measuring 80 yards, comprised in Khasra no. 298/33/2, 298/64, 298/36, situated in the abadi of Lal Dora of Village Ghitorni, Tehsil Vasant Villar, New Delhi through Registered Sale Deed dated 31.08.2023 executed by Sh. Ram Karan S/o Sh. Harryant in favour of Sh. Sunil Kumar Lohia S/o Sh. Ram Karan Wide Reg. no. 5026 at SR-VIII-A Delhi the above-mentioned property is going be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. Hany person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever Limited. Hany person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever 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 Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public that the Mutation/Substitution letter no. SC (GP)/A-199/Kilo/844 dated 02.07.1959 in the name of Smt. Kuldip Kaur pertaining to property No. "A 199, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024' admeasuring 282 Square Yards has been lost An Information Report has been registered dated 27/08/2024 with LR no. 2061936/2024 with SO No. 430/2014 Delhi Police.

All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly informed the undersigned in writing on below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice at the address given

Mr Paramjeet Singh A-199 Defence Colony, New Delh Mob: +91 93110 73666

SUPPLYING, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TRAIN PROTECTIVE WARNING SYSTEM

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. GMW 032024-MLG; Date: 13-09-2024. E tenders are invited by the undersigne for the following works: **Tender No** GMW-032024-MLG. Name of work Supplying, installation and commissioning of Train Protective Warning System (RAKSHAK) including maintenance for a period of four year after free maintenance of one year of N.I Railway, Tender Value: ₹2,86,40,000.00 Bid Security: ₹2,93,200.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 14-10-2024

10-2024. For details please visi www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Engineer/Track MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

and will be opened at 15:05 hrs. on 14

LOST DOCUMENT
Notice is hereby given to public in genera
that the Original Builder Buyer Agreemen with respect to property bearing Flat No.-F 704, situated at Amrapali Zodiac, Sec-120 NOIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Utta Pradesh has been lost and regarding which one Police Complaint vide LR No 206837/2021 dated 07/03/2021 has been lodged with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, In cas anybody has found the abovementione Original Document relating to the said property they are requested to kindly hand over the same at the Below Address:

C/o SRI SATYENDRA KUMAR, 301/1C, CHELMSFORD ROAD RAILWAYCOLONY, CANNAUGHT PLACE NEW DELHI-110055.

P.S. CRIME BRANCH, DELHI

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Tender Notice Reference

No.GNDU/Gen/70/2024 he Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsa rites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.1 Item: Printing of 32 pages answe Book, 16 pages answer book and 08

pages practical answer book

Quantity: 06 Lac Closing date & time: 04-10-2024 a

details log www.eproc.punjab.gov.in Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published or

the above website only. Assistant Registrar (General Guru Nanak Dev University

NA/12/25516/2023/37811 Dated CHD :- 9/19/2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेरे मुवकिल सुरतराम पुत्र जैसीराम व उनकी पत्नी पार्वती देवी निवासीगण म.न.-753, गली न.-22, ई-ब्लॉक मीतनगर, शाहदरा, नार्थ ईस्ट दिल्ली-110094 ने अपने पुत्र धमेन्द्र को उसके गलत-आचरण व दर्व्यवहार के कारण अपनी चल-अचल . गम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर संबंध-विच्छेद कर लिये है। उसके किसी भी कृत्य हेतु मेरे मुवक्किल जिम्मेदार नहीं होंगे। निर्मल तिवारी अधिवक्ता

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the affidavit: Mr. Officer. Yogesh Bhatnagar S/o Late Shri R.D Bhatnagar R/o B-48, Ashoknagar, Ghaziabad. I hereby evict my son Ankit Bhatnagar and daughter-in-law Smt. Vrinda Bhatnagar from my relations and all my movable and immovable properties on account of their disgraceful conduct. I will not be responsible for any such actions

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mrs. Pinki Kumari who is purchasing Second Floor, LHS, built on Plot no. 07, area measuring 75 Sq. Yards, out of khasra no. 844 & 845, situated in the abadi of Extended Lal Dora Village Burari, Delhi-110084 from **Ajay Sons HUF** through it Karta Mr. Ajay Kumar Jain who is the owner of the abovementioned property vide Sale Deed dated 21.04.2022 and intend to get the financial assistance from Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. That the Original Sale Deed dated 07.01.2009 as doc no. 113 is lost/missplaced & Death Certificate and SMC of Late Mr. Vijay Goel & Probate Order of Regd. Will date 13.12.2019 is not available. If any person(s) /Institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned the date of this hollice of the access mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaitan

A-38 Kailash Colony,
New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, UPENDRA TIWARI S/O VIRENDRA TIWARI R/O 4264, GALI NO-9, AJIT NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR S O EAST DELHI, DELHI-110031 declare that name of my minor son nas been wrongly written as SACHIN in my minor son namely SACHIN TIWARI aged 17 year in his 10th class educational documents and school record. The actual name of my minor son is SACHIN TIWARI which may be amended accordingly.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Centre For Sight - Group of Eye Hospitals, through this notice informs all public that the old medical records from 1st April 2018 to March 31st 2019 (except MLC, court cases & Paediatrics cases) are to be discarded at the following locations Delhi/NCR: Dwarka, Safdarjung Enclave, Preet Vihar, Vikaspuri, Rohini, Rajouri Garden, Ashok Vihar, Gurugram (sector 29 & NRR), Faridabad. Any patient who wants to collect their medical documents, may contact the MRD Dept. at centre for Sight, Dwarka, sector 9. After one month of publication of this notice, we will destroy all medical records from 1st April 2018 to March 31st 2019 (except MLC, court cases & Paediatrics cases) and will not be responsible for same

Medical Superintendent - Centre For Sight

PPGCL

Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 Plant Adress: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107 Phone: +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for "HPBP, LPBP & High-Pressure Valves Overhauling" for 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL-https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid ocument latest by 30th Sept' 2024

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER/2024

Dy.CMM/NFR/New Jalpaiguri for the month o October/2024 unit wise, is hereby fixed as under: FOR GSD-New Jalpaiguri

1	OCTOBER/2024	22-10-2024 & 28-10-2024						
FOR Alipurduar Division								
SN	Month	Date Fixed						
1	OCTOBER/2024	22-10-2024 & 28-10-2024						
FOR Katihar Division								
SN	Month	Date Fixed						
1	OCTOBER/2024	22-10-2024 & 28-10-2024						

interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in) for registration, training, participation in e-auction



CORRIGENDUM

CORRIGENDUM TO PUBLICATION OF APPENDIX IV-A DATED 10.09.2024 ISSUED UNDER RULE 8(6) AND RULE 9(1) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ('The Act').

This Corrigendum is issued in relation to the publication of Appendix IV-A date 10.09.2024 in THE PIONEER - DELHI COVERS GHAZIABAD - ENGLISH and RASHTRIYA SAHARA - DELHI COVERS GHAZIABAD - HINDI, both dated 14th September, 2024, issued by the Authorised Officer of Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) and Proviso Thereto of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for the ollowing correction(s)

IN THE APPENDIX IV-A DATED 10,09,2024:

"The Property bearing FLAT NO. UGF - 4, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, REAR LHS, PLOT NO. C - 1/16, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, VILLAGE - LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201012, UTTAR PRADESH'

To be read as:

Place : GHAZIABAD

The Property bearing FLAT NO. UGF - 4, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, REAR LHS, PLOT NO. C - 1/6, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, VILLAGE - LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201012 UTTAR PRADESH" Kindly note that the rest of the contents of Appendix IV-A dated 10.09.2024 published

in the afore - dated Newspapers shall remain the same, and the above corrections shall be read as a part and parcel of the publication of Appendix IV-A dated

Authorized office Sammaan Capital Limited (Formerly known a Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lal Gupta owner o'flesidential Right-Side Portion of Second Floor without terrace roof rights, Property bearing No.16/478-I, area measuring 65 sq. yards, Situated at Military Road, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 purchased the property from Smt. Phoolwati W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar through Sale Deed dated 14.09.2022. The said floor was originally purchased by Sh. Harvinder Pal Singh from (1). S. Charanjit Singh, (2), Sh. Tarvinder Pal Singh Chalaval, (3). Sh. Inderjit Singh, (4). Sh. Mahender Pal Singh (5). Smt. Suirinder Kaur Lamba through General Power of Attorney (Bood Relation), Agreement to Sell and Will dated 20.03.2015. Subsequently, Sh. Harvinder Pal Singh sold the said floor to Smt. Phoolwati through General Power of Attorney, Special Power of Att PUBLIC NOTICE eneral Power of Attorney, Special Power of Attorney, preement to Sell & Will dated 06.12.2019. The same Agreement to Sell & Will dated 06.12.2019. The same property is being financed by Hero Housing Finance Limitad, Branch NSP New Delhi.lt is noted that the following documents are not available, lost, or insiplaced:Original notarized General Power of Attorney dated 20.03.2015 & Original notarized Mutual Agreement dated 20.03.2015 & Original notarized WILL dated 20.03.2015 in favour of Mr. Harvinder Pal Singh, who executed the aforementioned POA documents on 06.02.2019. This statement is provided to comply with the requirements of BACK/NBFC. If any person(s) objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail.falling which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. ASHWANI KUMAR (Advocate

Notice is hereby given to the Public that (a) Joint Development Agreement dated 23.05.2022, bearing registration No. 1963, executed between Hasta Infrastructure Private Limited and ATS Realworth Private Limited, and duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar- Harsaru on 23.05.2022, and (b) General Power of Attorney dated 23.05.2022, bearing registration No. 30, executed by Hasta Infrastructure Private Limited in favour of ATS Realworth Private Limited, and duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar- Harsaru on 23.05.2022 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Property Documents"), entered in relation to transfer of development rights of land admeasuring approx. 1.08125 Acres, situated in Village Gopalpur, Sector 99A, Gurugram, Haryana ("Said Property"), has been lost/misplaced. Accordingly, a complaint has been lodged at Sector 10, Gurugram Police Station, bearing Lost Property Report No. 132270852401576 dated 06/08/2024. Any person including but not limited to a body corporate, partnership firm, authority, who has found the said Property Documents or knows its whereabouts, is requested to contact the undersigned. If no information is

received within 14 days, we will regard the Property Documents to be lost and will apply for the issuance of a certified true copy of the Property Documents. The said certified true copy shall then be regarded as the original documents of the Said Property General public is also hereby informed that we have a valid, exclusive and subsisting development rights on the Said Property and all persons are hereby

informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of said missing/lost Property Document Sd/- ATS Realworth Private Limited

711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110019. Telephone: 0120-7111500

Office of the Superintending Engineer

3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh

Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Dated: 19/09/2024 **National Competitive E-Tender Notice** The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh invites

tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following works. All other information will be available online from date 23-09-2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.		Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Reconstruction and asphalting work of the motor road from Km 25.00 to Torathal of Thal-Pakhu Dharamghar motor road in Gangolihat constituency of Pithoragarh District under TSP.	3.90	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'B' and Above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India /Govt. undertaking.

KASHSIH DEVELOPERS LTD (CIN NO. U74300JH200IPLC12131, Email: - www.kashishgroup.com) Regd. Address: 87, Old A.G Colony, Kadru Ranchi-834002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Kashish Developers Ltd. is in the process of undertaking development of a Group Housing Colony, in Sector 111, Dwarka Expressway, Village Chouma, Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 14.843 acres in parts/phases, in accordance with the provisions of Licence No. 110 of 2011 dated 14.12.2011 in Sector-111, Gurugram by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh ('DTCP').

And whereas, building plans of the said group housing colony (hereinafter referred to as "Project"), earlier approved vide DTCP Memo No. ZP-775/AD(RA)/2013/42150 dated 08.06.2013 (Approved Building Plans) is now proposed to be revised for which in - principle approval has been granted by DTCP vide Memo No. ZP-775/JD(RD)/2024/29437dated 18.09.2024(Revised Building Plans). And whereas, vide above referred Memo dated. 18.09.2024, the office of the DTCP has required seeking of

objections/suggestions(if any) against the said revision of the earlier approved building plans as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the earlier approved building plans. Accordingly, vide this Public Notice, objections / suggestions, if any, are hereby invited from the existing allottees (if

any) on the revised building plans. The approved building plans & revised building plans are available for perusal/reference of the existing allotteeson: -a) our website- www .kashishgroup.com: b) in the office of the undersigned at "Kashish Developers Ltd" office at 87, Old A.G Colony, Kadru Ranchi-834002c) At the

project site office in Manor One, Sector-111, Dwarka Expressway, Gurugram 122017 &d) in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram, Town & Country Planning Haryana, HSVP Complex, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana.

Any of the existing allotteehaving any objections/suggestions on these revised building plan(s), may file his/her/their/its objection/suggestion in the office of the Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, HSVP Complex, Sector-14, Gurugram and in the office of the undersigned within Thirty (30) days of publication of this Public Notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the building plan(s) and the consent is considered as deemed approved.

Place: Gurugram Date: 19.09.2024 For Kashish Developers Ltd Authorized Signatory

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

S	r. Name of the D. Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1	Mandeep Kaur/	House Measuring 3.10 Marla (With 5.5 Ft. Karam), Comprised In Khewat No. 631, Khatoni No. 845, Khasra No Murabba No. 161 Killa No. 23/1/1(0-9), Murabba No. 178 Killa No. 7(8-0) 13/2(3-16) 14(7-10) 15/1(4-7) 27(0-12), and Khewat No. 632 Khatoni No. 846 Murabba No. 178 Killa No. 6/2(5-0), and Khewat No. 633 Khatoni No. 847 Murabba No. 161 Kila No. 24(8-0) 25(6-6), Murabba No.178 Kila No. 4(8-0) 5(5-14), Situated At Shanti Nagar, Near Basti Bhatia Wali, Ferozepur City, Hadbast No. 108, Tehsil and District Ferozepur, Punjab-152004 / September 17, 2024	April 19, 2024 Rs. 30,01,192/-	Ferozepur/ Gurugram

else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: September 20, 2024

For ICICI Bank Ltd.

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/quarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount

SC rejects telecom companies curative pleas on AGR computation

In a jolt to telecom firms, the Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas filed by companies, including Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, seeking correction of alleged errors in the Adjusted Gross Revenue.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai also rejected the plea of telcos seeking to list the curative petitions for open court hearing.

A curative petition is the last legal recourse in the apex court and is generally considered in-chamber unless a prima facie case is made out for reconsideration of the verdict.

"Application for listing the Curative Petitions in open Court is rejected. We have



gone through the Curative Petitions and the connected

documents. In our opinion, no case is made out within

the decision of this court in Rupa Ashok Hurra v Ashok Hurra. The Curative Petitions are dismissed," the bench observed in an order dated August 30, which uploaded on Thursday.

On October 9 last year, the

top court had taken note of t e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n companies seeking listing of their pleas on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) due issue. The telcos had referred to alleged errors in the arithmetic calculation for arriving at the AGR-related dues by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). In July 2021, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea seeking correction of errors in the demand of AGR dues.

The telecom companies had

moved the top court claiming

there were several errors in arriving at the AGR dues which totalled over Rs 1 lakh

Vodafone-Idea's total liability was Rs 58,254 crore and Bharti Airtel's Rs 43,980

Earlier, the top court had given the telecom companies years to clear their outstanding dues to the government. The top court held that the demand raised by the DoT witha respect to AGR dues would be final. It also said that telecom companies shall not raise any dispute and there shall not be any re-assessment.

It had said telecom operators shall pay 10 per cent of the total dues as demanded by DoT by March 31, 2021, and the rest in yearly instalments commencing from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2031

India-US trade potential worth 500 billion USD: Hardeep Puri

The United States is India's sixth largest energy trade partner and the growing bilateral trade has the potential to cross the USD 500 billion-mark from USD 200 billion at present, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said.

The hydrocarbon trade between the two countries has reached USD 13.6 billion in 2023-24 nearly double the figure from 2018-19, Puri said at a roundtable with energy companies. The roundtable, held on the sidelines of the global energy conference Gastech 2024, here was attended by Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO of USISPF, and Consul General of India in Houston, D C Manjunath, among others.

Puri said that the US is now India's sixthlargest energy trade partner, with hydrocarbon trade valued at USD 2.43 billion in the first two months of FY 2024-25.

This momentum indicates the potential for

total bilateral trade to soar from around USD 200 billion to over USD 500 billion, he said. During his visit the minister also engaged with stakeholders from the US-India Business Council (USIBC), the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), and industry leaders to underscore the significance of the US-India energy partnership.

The conference was organised by USISPF, an advocacy group dedicated to strengthening



the strategic partnership between the US and India. Puri highlighted India's leadership during its G20 Presidency, where it launched the Global Biofuels Alliance in collaboration with the US and other like-minded countries. This initiative aims to develop and deploy lowcarbon solutions, further reinforcing the commitment to sustainable energy practices. In a meeting with Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management at the US Department of Energy, Puri discussed the unique challenges India faces as the third-largest hydrocarbon consumer while aiming for net zero emissions

The discussion covered issues such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) as a vital solution for enhancing energy security and emissions reduction, alongside advancements in CO2 removal and innovative

Banking sector to play major role in India's development: Sitharaman

 $F_{\text{Sitharaman on Thursday}}^{\text{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ said the banking sector will have to play a crucial role in driving the agenda of making India a developed nation or Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Finance Minister was

speaking at an event here to mark the 90th Foundation of the Bank of Maharashtra, a public sector

"Banks will have to play a crucial role in driving the agenda set by the Prime Minister and by your role, we are going to give greater momentum to achieving this dream," she said.

Sitharaman said banks will be required to give strong momentum infrastructure sector, ensure the availability of need-based



funding to MSMEs, bring unbanked population under the ambit of formal banking channels, and help increase insurance penetration.

She noted that technology is changing the banking landscape as it provides a secure and easy-to-navigate digital banking experience to all customers.

However, she added that "you (banks) cannot have a digital system which somewhere gets hacked, and the entire system and the trust which is laid on it getting compromised. So

you need to have a robust and resilient system for which every now and then you need to make sure that the firewalls are adequate, any emergency drill which you need to do. what if situation so you know to handle if there is an emergency in terms of digital insecure incidents".

The minister also highlighted the rising popularity of the UPI in driving digital payments, saying 45 per cent of all real-time payments globally take place in India.

Government to soon release committee report on MSP of crops: Shivraj make suggestions so as to

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday announced that the government will soon release the report of the committee on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, which was established following the withdrawal of the three controversial farm

The minister also unveiled new initiatives aimed at modernizing agriculture and improving engagement during a press

briefing on the achievements of the Modi 3.0 government's first 100 days. 'Adhunik Krishi Choupal', a new programme featuring scientists sharing agricultural innovations with farmers, will be aired on Doordarshan and All India Radio from October.

The minister will hold weekly interactions with farmers and agricultural leaders at the



Shivraj Singh Chouhan at a press conference on 100 days achievements of the ministry at National Media Centre, in New Delhi on Thursday.

agriculture ministry, in an initiative dubbed "Kisan initiative

On genetically modified (GM) cotton technology awaiting regulatory approval, Chouhan said, "This is a sensitive topic for us. The approval will be given after wider consultations."

"The report has not been prepared yet. The committee is working continuously," Chouhan told reporters when

Photo By: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer The committee on MSP, headed by former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal, has held more than two dozen meetings and workshops so far."The committee members are in touch with me. We will make the report public soon," he added. The committee was established in July 2022, eight months after the government

promised to set up such a

panel while withdrawing the

The committee was tasked to

three contentious farm laws.

transparent; to promote natural farming; and to change crop patterns keeping in mind the changing needs of the country. Asserting that the government is pursuing a three-pronged strategy to boost farm output, the minister said the focus is on ensuring timely supply of affordable crop inputs, enhancing farmers' income and ensuring fair prices for produce.To combat impact of climate change, 109 highyielding, climate-resilient crop varieties have been released, Chouhan said. The government has asked

make MSP more effective and

states to submit their seed requirements early, particularly for new crop varieties for the upcoming rabi season in order to prevent the delays. Fertiliser affordability is another key focus. The Cabinet recently approved subsidies for nonurea fertilisers, a decision

expected to provide significant relief to farmers preparing for rabi sowing, he Risk mitigation remains a

cornerstone government's agricultural policy. "The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana continues to be our primary tool for crop insurance," Chouhan explained. He also highlighted the ongoing financial support through PM-KISAN, which provides Rs 6,000 annually to eligible farmers. Addressing the perennial issue of fair pricing, Chouhan said government has increased the MSP for kharif crops. Additionally, it has recommitted to the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-

The Cabinet has approved the continuation of price support scheme under PM-AASHA to stabilize crop prices and increase farmers' income.

AASHA) scheme.

SEBI eases rules for public issuance of debt securities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi streamline the process for public issuance of debt securities aimed at providing faster access to funds for such issuers.

Under the amended rules, Sebi has reduced the period for seeking public comments on the draft offer documents from 7 working days to 1 day for issuers whose specified securities are already listed and 5 days for other issuers. "The issuers whose specified securities are listed on a recognised stock exchange having nationwide trading terminals shall post the draft



offer document filed with stock exchange(s) for one day immediately after the date of said in a notification. Also, draft offer the minimum subscription the

document with stock exchange(s)," the regulator

period has been cut from 3 to advertisement) 2 working days.

bidding period disclosed in the offer documents, can be extended by one working day instead of three working

The new rules are aimed at facilitating ease of doing business and providing flexibility to issuers.

Additionally, Sebi provided flexibility to issuers by providing discretion to them with regard to advertisement of public issues through electronic modes subject to a window advertisement (containing a QR Code and Link to full

newspapers. Further, in case of revision in Further, Sebi has simplified non-convertible securities in the offer documents.

> has removed requirement for PAN and personal address disclosure of promoters in offer documents.

The regulator clarified the key operational and financial parameters will be disclosed in line with financial information requirements. To give this effect, Sebi's issue

and listing of nonconvertible securities rules have been amended on September 17 that became effective from the same day.

India to become third largest economy by FY31: S&P Report

India is on track to becoming the third-largest economy by 2030-31, driven by a projected annual growth rate of 6.7 per cent this fiscal, S&P Global said in a report on Thursday.

The report also said that with 8.2 per cent growth rate in FY2024, continued reforms are crucial to improving business transactions and logistics, boosting private sector investment, and reducing reliance on public capital.

joined growth anticipated. To maximize trade benefits, India

It said equity markets are

expected to stay dynamic and Nearly 90 per cent of India's competitive due to strong growth prospects and better regulation, and foreign inflows into Indian government bonds have surged since the country major emerging market indexes, with further

must develop infrastructure and strategies, geopolitical particularly regarding its extensive coastline, said the ʻIndia first edition of Emerging Forward: Perspectives' report.

trade seaborne necessitating robust port infrastructure to manage increasing exports and bulk commodity imports, it added. Noting that India faces rising domestic energy demands and can look to sustainable technologies, including renewable and low-emission fuels, balancing energy security with its energy transition plans, the report stated that agriculture will rely on advanced technologies and new policies to improve infrastructure productivity.

Centre announces steps to resolve shipping related woes of traders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

government on The gov Thursday announced steps, including reducing certain charges at ports and purchase of five additional second-hand container vessels by SCI, to resolve shipping sector-related problems of exporters and importers.

measures announced after a meeting of all the concerned stakeholders of the international trade segment, including senior officials of ministries like commerce and industry, shipping, ports, finance, civil aviation and railways; apex exporters (federation of Indian export organisations), customs officials, freight forwarders, transport operators and shipping companies.

Exporting community and experts have flagged shipping sector issues which are hurting the country's exports, which has contracted by 9.3 per cent in August.

The issues figured in the discussions include container shortage, surge in ocean freight rate and shipping cost,

Briefing media after the deliberations, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval said that several issues were discussed to look at addressing the challenges that exporters and importers are facing in the shipping area.

"I am confident that it (decisions taken today) will result in significantly bringing down the shipping cost, improve the availability of empty containers, help faster evacuation of export consignments, and

significantly reduce the congestion at ports," he said. It was announced that the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) will "purchase five additional second-hand container vessels to further additional boost cargo handling capacity. The SCI also announced that they are chartering container ships to significantly increase the container capacities, on an immediate basis capacity will be enhanced by 9,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit).

The Railway board and

Container

shipping delays at the Indian announced that empty ports, and turnaround time at containers can now be stored containers can now be stored at the vard at zero cost for 90

> The charges of Rs 3,000, that is being levied beyond 90 days, are now halved to Rs 1,500. Further, the storage and handling rates will be reduced for containers from Rs 9,000 to Rs 2,000 (for a 40 ft container) and from Rs 6,000 to Rs 1,000 (for a 20 ft

> container). The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) announced that custom clearances at the ports will be expedited by simultaneous screening of two twenty feet containers.

> Further, the shipping ministry said that the port capacities have already been enhanced by 2.3 million TEUs.

> Furthermore, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) assured to eliminate any congestion and bottleneck at NhavaSheva port.

The shipping lines assured that all charges like container transportation and Lift-on-Lift-off at yards would be embedded in the delivery Corporation order given to shippers.

India, South Korea begin to share electronic bill of lading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and South Korea have started sharing the bill of lading in an electronic transfer mode between the customs of both sides, a move that will help promote ease of doing business, a senior

official said on Thursday.

A bill of lading is a legal document that serves as a receipt, contract, and proof of ownership for shipped goods. Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said as and when the system becomes a norm for all the countries, there will be no requirement for physical submission of records.

"India in collaboration with South Korea has now started this concept of sharing the bill of lading in an electronic transfer mode between the customs of both sides," he said while addressing a session in the 'Deloitte Government Summit' here.

South Korea is a key trading partner of India and both countries have implemented a comprehensive free trade agreement in 2010. India's exports to the country stood at USD 6.41 billion in

2023-23, while imports aggregated at USD 21.13



Sarangi added that doing with physical submissions may happen in the next 1-1.5 years. Nations United

Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has taken this initiative to ensure that all trade documentations happen through electronic transfer mode and that work is under progress as various countries participating. UNCITRAL is the core legal

body of the UN system in the field of international trade law. Its business is the modernisation and harmonisation of rules on international business. Sarangi also said a lot of startups are working in the direction of ensuring and containers on real-time

"Each of the containers coming into our country is RFID tagged and the movement is tracked on real time basis and going forward enabling IoT (internet of things) and ensuring that these containers movement is tracked from origin till it is shipped and beyond outside our shores also is something which is a work in progress, he said.

The DGFT has taken a series of measures to ensure ease of doing business for exporters and importers.

It has recently launched the Trade Connect e-Platform, which is a one-stop shop for traders to get information related to all areas such as duties, markets, and free tracking and tracing of goods trade agreements.

INBRIEF

KENYA HIGH COMMISSION VISITS GNDU

AMRITSAR: Esther Karema Mutua from the Kenya High Commission visited Guru Nanak Dev University. During her visit, Ms. Mutua met with Kenvan students and the Chairman of the International Student Cell at the Jubilee Centre Entrepreneurship and Innovation of the Guru Nanak Dev University.



REC SIGNS MOU WITH RE DEVELOPERS



GANDHINAGAR: REC Limited has signed an MoU during the 4th Global (RE-INVEST 2024) in Expo Gandhinagar with RE develope aggregating about Rs 1.12 lakh crore. Gandhinagar with RE developers

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN CONFERENCE ON ANATOMY, AI & AMP

KATTANKULATHUR: The 45th National Conference of the Association of Anatomists-Tamil Nadu at the SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, drawing participation from over



VIT-AP UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



AMRAVATI: Global South as a region signifying economic growth questions of inequality, development, sustainability take precedence in scholarly debate as witnessed in the efforts of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (VISH), VIT-AP to highlight these issues.

A DIVINE JUURNEY

SHARANYA CHANDRAN'S Hymns to Hara was more than a performance, it was a profound tribute to Lord Shiva, blending tradition, personal devotion and artistic grace in a moving return to the stage, says SAKSHI PRIYA

he stage was set, the lights dimmed and the air filled with anticipation as Sharanya Chandran stepped gracefully onto the Stein Auditorium stage. What followed was not merely a dance performance but a spiritual journey, an exquisite expression of devotion, emotion and divine energy.

In her solo Bharatanatyam presentation, Hymns to Hara, Sharanya Chandran paid tribute to Lord Shiva. The term *Hymns to Hara* refers to devotional songs or praises dedicated to Lord Shiva, who is often called "Hara," meaning "the remover" or "destroyer of evil" in Sanskrit. This title perfectly encapsulated the performance, as it was a spiritual offering through dance, celebrating the multifaceted aspects of Lord Shiva, his power, love and divine qualities. From the very first moment, it became evident that this was much more than a dance, it was a deep exploration of the divine, a celebration of devotion and a portrayal of the complex emotions evoked by Lord Shiva. Sharanya's depiction was powerful and moving, capturing the essence of Shiva's multifaceted nature.

As the daughter of the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Geeta Chandran, Sharanya has long been admired for her ability to infuse



performances. In Hymns to Hara, she explored the many dimensions of Shiva, his compassion, his wrath, his fearlessness and even his more unsettling aspects. Each emotion particularly meaningful was the

depth and emotion into her Sharanya's precise movements, her expressive face and her profound understanding of the Bharatanatyam

What made this performance

brought to it. After a hiatus from the stage, Hymns to Hara marked her return to performing and it was clear how much the experience meant to her. The performance was a tribute to her grandparents, both devout followers of Lord Shiva, making it a poignant expression of familial love and devotion. Additionally, the evening carried personal significance for Sharanya as it coincided with her ten-year anniversary at J-PAL South Asia, where she successfully balances

The beauty of *Hymns to Hara* lay in Sharanya's ability to work together with various elements of Indian culture. Drawing inspiration from poems and verses in Tamil, Maithili and other languages, she crafted a vivid portrayal of Shiva's complex The character. traditional Bharatanatyam pieces were carefully selected, creating a cohesive and visually captivating performance.

a career in development alongside

her passion for dance.

Throughout the evening, Sharanya was accompanied by her mother and guru, Geeta Chandran, who provided the rhythmic beats of the Nattuvangam. The live music, featuring K Venkateshwaran on vocals, Manohar Balatchandirane on Mridangam, Varun was brought vividly to life through personal connection Sharanya Rajasekharan on the ghatam and G

Raghavendra Prasath on the violin, enhanced the emotional depth of the performance, adding an even greater spiritual resonance evening.What Sharanya's performance apart was not just her technical prowess as a dancer but her ability to connect with audience on a deeper level. Her dual life as a policy professional and a dancer gave her work a unique perspective, adding richness to her portrayal of themes such as duty, devotion and the search for meaning. In Hymns to Hara, Sharanya Chandran did more than just perform Bharatanatyam, she invited the audience into her world, a world

shaped by family, faith and art, where tradition and personal history beautifully intertwined. It was a performance that touched the heart, leaving the audience not only in wonder of her talent but deeply moved by the sincerity and emotion she poured into every step.



EXPLORING THE ARTISTIC SPIRIT

The Capital Art Show in Delhi is a vibrant celebration of artistic expression, showcasing the rich diversity and creativity of Indian artists through over 80 stunning artworks and sculptures, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Delhi, a city full of cultural richness, has become a vibrant place of artistic energy, blending its historic heritage with modern creativity. As visitors entered The Claridges for "The Capital Art Show," they were immediately immersed in Delhi's vibrant artistic spirit. The exhibition unfolds as a space of mesmerising beauty, where every artwork tells a unique story that goes beyond language.This collection stands as a tribute to the artist's mastery, each piece reflecting their inner world with precision and passion. The exhibition celebrates the artist's world, where every piece is a masterpiece that touches the soul. It's a space where everyone wants to be included, as artists have a special way of expressing what words cannot, painting straight from the heart. The Capital Art Show is more

than an exhibition, it's a compelling display of human creativity and expression. Each piece offers a distinct appeal, drawing visitors into a space where emotions, memories and nature blend seamlessly. The gallery's peaceful yet atmosphere makes it feel as though the artworks are alive, quietly engaging with those who appreciate them. This collection, rich in diverse styles and mediums, invites deep reflection and enriches a profound connection. It pulls you into the artist's world, much like M.F. Hussain's bold acrylic strokes, which capture the energy and complexity of Indian life in a single painting. The show, curated by the renowned Rahul Kumar and featuring the debut of Sameera Anand, offers a fresh perspective on Delhi's evolving art scene. Her collection masterfully blends works from past legends with emerging talents, showcasing



masterpieces by iconic artists included. like F.N. Souza, S.H. Raza, B. universal language of visual Prabha and Krishen Khanna, along with dynamic pieces from contemporary artists such as *Jeram Patel*. With over 80 stunning artworks and the sculptures, the exhibition experiencing the profound celebrated the rich diversity beauty of human creativity. It and creativity of India's artistic landscape.

The exhibition left no doubt artistic expression. both legacy and innovation. that in the world of art, Attendees were treated to everyone yearns to be arranged into thematic

expression, The Capital Art indescribable and

Show had created a space where attendees could feel truly alive, connecting with was, in every sense, a masterpiece of curation and The gallery was thoughtfully

unique yet interconnected view of artistic expression. "Post-Modernism & The Indian Approach" challenged Western conventions with abstract and figurative works rooted in Indian identity. "Memory as a Tool," featuring Viswanath Kuttum's evocative pieces such as What Do We Want to See in the World -(2024) and Ellora Caves Series (Set of 6) (2024), explored

recollection through materials like paraffin, beeswax, resin brown powder on aperboard, creating dreamlike experience. In "The Self," N. Ramachandran's mixed media boxes captured memories, childhood revealing different stories when opened or closed, with nostalgic engravings. "In Celebration of Nature," highlighted by KP Pradeepkumar's Flower Seasons (2020), used mixed media including watercolours, gouache, tempera and pastels to honour the beauty and fragility of the natural world. In "Ecology & Environment" showcased Pankaj Chouhan's compelling watercolour on addressing paper, environmental degradation and human impact. "Changing Architecture," represented by Sunil Yadav's Geometric Paradox (2024) in pastels on paper, blended geometric and organic forms to explore how spaces shape emotions. "Abstracted Forms" featured deep sentiments manifested in non-representational works, with notable pieces like Kumaresan Selvaraj and Yuvan Bothisathuvar's Nothing From (2022) on Canson paper and plywood, evocative art. Finally, Progressives & Associates' paid tribute to the pioneers of Indian modernism, celebrating their bold innovation and Indian art.

influence on the future of The Capital Art Show was a deeply moving experience. It felt as though each artwork was speaking directly to us, creating a dialogue that spanned across time and personal boundaries. The art didn't just hang on the walls, it seemed to breathe and interact, inviting us to see our own reflections in its depths. The show made the beauty of human creativity feel continues to uphold the family's musical legacy. As the personal, reminding us that in the world of art, we all have a co-founder and secretary of the Trust, *Dr. Pandey* is committed place. It was truly an immersive journey that left a to sharing the timeless beauty of Dhrupad with a wider lasting impression.

A RICH TRIBUTE TO THE DHRUPAD MAESTRO

18th Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Music Festival Celebrates the Legacy of Dhrupad

By **Gyaneshwar Dayal**

The 18th edition of the Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Music Festival paid a grand tribute to one of the most revered figures in Indian classical music.

The festival honoured the life and legacy of Pandit Siyaram Tiwari, a maestro of the ancient Dhrupad tradition. Dhrupad, the oldest form of North Indian classical vocal music, has roots in the chanting style of the Samaveda, a sacred Sanskrit text dating back over

3,000 years. meditative This contemplative genre, once confined to Hindu temples and royal courts, has evolved into a sophisticated art form over the centuries. A key feature of *Dhrupad* is its deep connection to nada yoga, the practice of exploring the inner sounds and vibrations of the body, believed to be the fundamental building blocks of the universe. Dhrupad vocalists cultivate an extraordinary resonance, enabling them to express a wide range of tones and microtones.

It is this ancient tradition that Pandit Siyaram Tiwari, a leading exponent of the Darbhanga gharana, championed throughout his life until his passing in 1998. Born on March 10, 1919, Pandit Siyaram Tiwari was celebrated for his mastery of Dhrupad and was particularly known for introducing fastpaced laykari (rhythmic play) within the genre. His contributions were recognised with prestigious awards such as the Padma Shri in 1971 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1984, India's highest honor for musicians. The Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Memorial Sangeet Trust, under the curatorship of Dr. Sumeet Anand Pandey, organised this festival to preserve and promote the rich tradition of Dhrupad. Dr. Pandey, Tiwari's maternal grandson and an acclaimed Dhrupad vocalist,



audience.

This year's festival featured captivating performances, beginning with Shashi Kant Pathak, who delivered a mesmerising solo on the Pakhawaj, a classical Indian drum. Pathak's performance earned him the "Navodit Kalakar Samman" award. He was accompanied by Rajesh Mishra on the Sarangi and Dr. Pandey himself on vocals.

The evening concluded with a masterful Sarod recital by Pandit Biswajit Chowdhury, who performed ragas from the Malhar family, accompanied by Pandit Durjay Bhaumik on Tabla. The noted music critic Pandit Vijay Shankar Mishra served as the compère for the event, guiding the audience through the evening's rich offerings. Speaking at the event, Dr. Pandey said, "It's a great honor to continue the legacy of my grandfather, Pandit Siyaram Tiwari, through this annual festival

Dhrupad is a timeless tradition that deserves to be celebrated and shared with the world. We hope that this festival will inspire new generations to appreciate and learn this beautiful art form." This year's festival held particular significance as the Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Memorial Sangeet Trust marked its 10th anniversary. Over the past year, the Trust organised 10 festivals

across India, showcasing the beauty of Indian classical music. Two notable initiatives, Geetam Vadyam Nrityam and Vani Veena Venu, received widespread acclaim. Additionally, Dr. Pandev launched the "Naya Swar" series in Delhi, featuring performances by young maestros, with plans to expand to cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, and Bengaluru in the coming year. The Darbhanga school, to which Pandit Siyaram Tiwari belonged, is known for producing versatile vocalists skilled in *Dhrupad, Khayal,* Thumri and Bhajans. Pandit Tiwari's exemplary mastery in these forms continues to serve as a guiding light for future generations of musicians.

Dr. Pandey's dedication to his craft extends beyond India. He has been invited as a Fulbright visiting fellow for 2024-25 at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he will engage in teaching, research, and concerts. His recent tour of seven European countries, where he presented Dhrupad on prestigious stages, further solidifies his role in taking Indian classical music to a global audience. As the 18th Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Music Festival concluded, it not only celebrated the enduring legacy of the *Dhrupad* maestro but also reaffirmed the vibrant future of this ancient musical

ASHWIN, JADEJA TANGO SAVES INDIA AFTER HASAN MAHMUD'S EARLY STRIKES

off-spinner easoned Ravichandran Ashwin sparkled on home turf with his sixth Test hundred as he combined with Ravindra Jadeja to steer India out of trouble and post a formidable 339 for six on day one of the first Test against Bangladesh

here on Thursday.
Ashwin (102 batting) and Jadeja (86 batting) added 195 runs (174 minutes, 225 balls) for a riveting unbroken seventh wicket stand after young pacer Hasan Mahmud (4/58) reduced India to 144 for six, despite Yashasvi Jaiswal making a solid 56.

The ebb and flow of the day's proceedings was quite and remarkable mostly around revolved Ashwin, Jadeja and Mahmud, who made his Test debut in March this year and was just three games old in the format before this match.

In a stunning first spell of 5-2-6-3, the 24-year-old Mahmud accounted for the cream of Indian top-order -- Rohit Sharma (6), Shubman Gill (0) and Virat Kohli (6) -- before snapping Rishabh Pant's return to Test cricket (39 off 52 balls) in the initial moments of the

KL Rahul, another Indian batter who is re-entering the Indian Test establishment, fell for 16 to off-spinner Mehidy

second session

pendulum stayed firmly in Bangladesh's quarter.

But then came the two gladiators who know Chepauk like the back of their hand --Ashwin by birth and Jadeja through his long association with the Chennai Super Kings. One more wicket at that stage would have extended the dominance of Bangladesh, but such thoughts hardly disturbed Ashwin and Jadeja. Ashwin went off the blocks

with a flurry of boundaries, a firm validation of his oh-sosmooth timing born out of hand movement through shots and precise footwork

There was this ramp shot off Mahmud, who tried to rattle Ashwin with a short-pitched delivery that climbed onto his

But the veteran player arched himself back ever so slightly to gain space to execute the ramp over the slip -- fabulous in conceptualisation

At times, he scored at a strike rate in excess of 100 and was not hesitant to travel the more uncultured way. A slog sweep that went for six over midwicket off left-arm spinner Shakib Al-Hasan testified that. Jadeja was a tad different in his approach. Sensing that Ashwin was in good touch, the lefthander had the simple job of keeping his end going and he



A past master in operating from behind the giant shadows of superstars, Jadeja looked extremely comfortable doing that once more, providing the assurance Ashwin needed.

But there were moments, the showman in Jadeja came forth and Shakib was the aggrieved party, getting hammered for three fours.

Bangladesh's star of the day Mahmud, too was not spared as Jadeja, who raised his fifty off 73 balls, played a drag-pull off the pacer to send him for a

Other times, he wing-heeled across the pitch for those ones and twos to keep the Bangladesh bowlers frustrated. The spectators eventually witnessed the moment that they had been waiting for when Ashwin reached the hundred with a single off Shakib, and they welcomed it with applause cheers and loud with applause, cheers and loud bugling. It was his second consecutive hundred at his home ground after going past the three-figure mark here against England in 2021. And it could not have come at a better time as well.

But before the epic fightback, the Indian innings resembled a crumbling rampart. It's not often that a team winning the toss would elect to bowl first here as that translates into a fourth-innings chase.

bullet while going against the trend, and was rewarded for it

too. Rohit, who was saved by DRS when he was on 1, was the first to depart. The Indian skipper had little choice other than playing a wobble seam delivery that came at him on a tight angle as

he edged to Shanto at second Gill lasted just eight balls but he would count himself unlucky, feathering Mahumd's down the leg side delivery to

stumper Litton Das Kohli walked into the Chepauk amid loud cheers and looked confident. But an old failing resurfaced to haunt him.

Mahmud pitched one just short of the length outside the off-stump, and the length was not suitable for a drive.

But the star batter chose to play an expansive one with the ball nestling in Litton's gloves after taking a healthy edge off his

Jaiswal and Pant added 62 runs for the fourth wicket to temporarily check the free fall before both perished in close succession in the middle session.

Bangladesh might have thought the effort was good enough to keep the home side flat on the ropes, but Ashwin and Jadeja made them wiser as to why it is so tough to keep India on the back-foot at home



Indian women crush Georgia; Gukesh leads men to victory over China

randmaster R Vaishali and Vantika Agrawal put up impressive performances as women defeated while World Championship challenger D Gukesh led the men to victory over China in the seventh round as both teams continued

Chess Olympiad here. Vaishali and Vantika notched wins against Lela Javakhishvili and Bella Khotenashvili as Indian women thumped second seeds Georgia 3-1, while the men eked out a 2.5-1.5 over China.

On a day that saw D Harika settling for a draw with Nana Dzagnidze and Divya Deshmukh being held by Nino Batsiashvili from a better position, it was Vantika who handled her time pressure extremely well to play almost 20 moves with just about a minute on her clock to win her game and seal India's seventh straight victory.

The Indian women took their tally to an impressive 14 points out of a possible 14 and stretched their lead to two points over nearest rivals Poland, Kazakhstan and France who all have 12 points

apiece. In a surprising turn of events a blunder by Olivia Kiolbasa of Poland against Nataliya Buksa of Ukraine cost the Polish team dearly in the sixth hour of play as what looked like a certain victory became a 2-2 draw.

In the open section, Indian Grandmaster Gukesh showed the way

Playing the white side of a Closed Sicilian Gukesh Sicilian Gukesh reached a drawn endgame after nearly five hours of play but he remained focus to find one mistake that was made by Chinese top board Wei Yi.

Speculation were rife about a possible clash between D Gukesh and Ding Liren - the two contestants in the next World Championship for a final showdown ahead of their match in Singapore

November. However, the Chinese think tank decided to rest the

reigning world champion. That was already a shock for the pundits of the game. R Praggnanandhaa played out

a quick draw as black against Yangyi Yu of China while P Harikrishna pressed for some time before the position petered out to be equal in the ensuing rook and pawns endgame against Wang Yue of e fourth b Earlier Arjun Erigaise went for the kill against an alert Bu Xiangzhi and the latter found a

nice piece sacrifice to force a draw through repetition. With just four rounds to come.

the Indian men have done everything correct thus far and are sitting pretty with a 100 percent score like their female counterparts.

Iran is the only team in close pursuit of the leaders on 13 points while a pack of four teams - Serbia, Hungary, Armenia and defending champions Uzbekistan share the third spot on 12 points each.

In the next round now, the Indian men will take on Iran while the women are pitted against Poland.

RESULTS ROUND 7 OPEN: India (14) beat China (11) 2.5-1.5 (D Gukesh beat Wei Yi; Yu Yangyi drew with Praggnanandhaa; Arjun Erigaise drew with Bu Xiangzhi; Wang Yue drew with P Harikrishna); Iran (13) beat Vietnam (11) 2.5-1.5; Lithuania (10) lost to Hungary (12) 1.5-2.5; Uzbekistan (12) beat Ukraine (10) 3-1; Serbia (12) beat Netherlands (10) 3-1; Armenia (12) beat England (10) 2.5-1.5; France (11) drew

with Georgia (11) 2-2. Women: India (14) beat Georgia (11) 3-1 (D Harika drew with Nana Dzagnidze; Lela Javakhishvili lost to R Vaishali; Divya Deshmukh drew with Nino Batsiashvili; Bella Khotenashvili lost to Vantika Agrawal); Ukraine (11) drew with Poland (12) 2-2; Azerbaijan (10) lost to Kazakhstan (12) 1-3; Armenia (11) drew with United States of America (11) 2-2; Mongolia (11) drew with Germany (11) 2-2; Spain (10) lost to France (12) 1.5-2.5.

Kevin de Bruyne injury scare as Man City is held 0-0 by Inter Milan in the Champions League

AP MANCHESTER

anchester City faces a Kevin de Bruyne ahead of a showdown with Premier League title rival Arsenal after the playmaker was substituted at halftime of Champions League match against Inter

The Belgium international looked in discomfort after making a run late in the first half. After receiving treatment, De Bruyne didn't return for the second half and was replaced by Ilkay Gundogan. The game ended 0-0.

City hosts title rival Arsenal at Etihad Stadium on Sunday. City manager Pep Guardiola said he didn't know the extent of De Bruyne's injury, but was informed by the club doctor the playmaker could not carry

on in the second half. "I didn't speak with the doctors yet," Guardiola said about De availability for the weekend. "(He will be) Assessed tonight, maybe tomorrow. We will have more

info tomorrow." De Bruyne endured an injurydisrupted campaign last season when he was sidelined from August to January with a hamstring problem. He returned to help the club secure a record fourth straight English title.

He has started every game this season and scored in City's 4-1 win against Ipswich last month.

City held off challenges from Arsenal in each of the last two seasons to lift the title. The north London club is expected to be City's main rival again this term. Arsenal has its own injury

ligament damage. Without De Bruyne, City failed

to find a breakthrough against Inter and was shut out at home in the Champions League for the first time since a 0-0 draw with Sporting Lisbon in March It was only the second time in

after captain Martin Odegaard

all competitions since then that Guardiola's team failed to score at home - the other coming in a 0-0 with Arsenal in the league in March.

City extended its unbeaten home run in European games to 32, dating back to a 2-1 loss to Lyon in 2018. Haaland locked on 99

Erling Haaland has looked unstoppable this season with nine goals in his first four games of the campaign before

problems ahead of the game Wednesday match. But that run was snapped by Inter with goals for City.

Haaland also failed to score against the Italians when the teams met in the Champions League final in 2023, which City won 1-0 to lift the trophy for the first time in its history. They are masters defending," Guardiola said.

With his contract expiring at with his contract exprining at the end of the season, Guardiola sounds like he's still loving life at City. Asked by an Italian journalist if

Guardiola's future

he could see himself working in Italy in the future, Guardiola said: "I really enjoy being here. I love English football, it is fantastic, really enjoyable. They leave you alone to get on with the job. That doesn't happen anywhere else.



PSG's post-galactico era begins with a last-gasp win

THANKS TO GIRONA GOALKEEPER'S BLUNDER

 $I^{
m t}$ took a huge blunder to gift Paris Saint-Germain victory in the first Champions League match of its post-galactico era. over tournament newcomer Girona on Wednesday with a stoppage-time goal, which came when goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga let a left-wing cross from Nuno Mendes trickle under his hands and through his legs.

For the first time in more than a decade, PSG began its Champions League campaign without at least one star player, known in soccer as a 'galactico.'

But after the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Edinson Cavani, Neymar, Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi came and went without winning Europe's elite club competition, PSG started this campaign with a new identity based on more French players and greater teamwork.

was also PSG's first Champions League game without Mbappé for seven years after France's star joined Real Madrid, scoring for his new club on Tuesday.

his critics for not tracking back or closing down enough when he played up front for PSG. Yet PSG coach Luis Enrique

could he heard shouting $w\bar{h}en$ his players failed to close down properly and, at one point, Girona kept the ball for 2 1/2 minutes with PSG's ballwatching players chasing aimlessly

"They defended well and we struggled to create clear-cut chances," Enrique said.

After 34 minutes, whistles could be heard from the crowd at a subdued Parc des Princes. Aside from half-chances from midfielder Warren Zaïre-Emery and Marco Asensio, who went off injured late in the first half with an apparent

hamstring injury, there was scant attacking play. "All the teams have things to improve," Zaïre-Emery said.

'We have new players coming into the team who need to Yet this was even more the case for a Girona team that lost several key players from

last season, including striker Artem Dovbyk, winger Savinho and right back Yan Couto. Girona defender Ladislav Krejcí made a brilliant tackle on Ousmane Dembélé after

the PSG attacker went clean through on goal in the first

But with moments left, Gazzaniga's howler spared PSG.

"We didn't play very well, and we have to say it," PSG midfielder Vitinha said. "We had trouble keeping the ball. You have to give Girona credit, but we need to look at what we didn't do well.

Malvika beats Kristy Gilmour to enter China Open quarterfinals

PTI CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

 $Y^{
m oung}_{
m Malvika}$ Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod continued her fine form as she cruised to her maiden Super 1000 quarterfinal after eking out a hard-fought victory against higher-ranked Kristy Gilmour in the China Open here on Thursday.

Malvika, ranked 43rd, toiled hard for one hour and five minutes before pulling off a 21-17 19-21 21-16 win over the the two-time Commonwealth Games medallist and world number

25 from Scotland in a women's

singles round-of-16 contest. "This is the first time I will play a quarterfinal of a Super 1000 tournament so it is a dream come true and the biggest achievement of my life so far," Malvika said after the

match.

"I dreamt about this before the tournament that how would it be if I reached the quarters and now I'm top 8, so it's a great feeling," she added. Talking about the match, the

Indian, who now leads headto-head against Gilmour 3-2 said "There is a lot of drift from this part so I found it difficult to control in the last parts of the last game and second game as well. But I'm glad god helped me."

The win comes a day after the 22-year-old defeated Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia. The Nagpur shuttler feels she has been able to control the

"My retrieving is working well, I am able to control the shuttle better than the others. The conditions are a bit tricky for



handle it better," she said.

both players but I'm able to She added that she has focused and it is yielding positive on enhancing her strength,

This circuit is very tough because if you are entering a Super 500 or 1000 you end up playing a top 10 in the first round as I'm not seeded yet. So, I need to be physically strong from the beginning itself. I have been working on that."

However Malvika, who is the lone Indian shuttler remaining in the competition, has a tough challenge ahead of her as she will be up against fourth seed and two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the last eight stage. Although the Japanese shuttler has won both the outings against Malvika, the Indian had come close to defeating Yamaguchi and hopes she can cross the line this time round. "Hope for the best. I am in good form let's see how it goes tomorrow. I will give my best," she said.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement befor responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Printed and published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Regd Office:-100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Corporate Office:- 201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500 and printed at The Indian Express Ltd., A-8, Sector 7, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) Noida-201 301, Ph: 01202470700 Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.