**OPINION 6** 

OF THE HUMAN MIND

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## **Police altered documents** in RG Kar case, claims CBI



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

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA

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

to "create" and "alter" certain documents that could change the direction of the case.

Hearing a writ petition the Calcutta High Court had transferred the case to the CBI following allegations that the Kolkata Police was trying to suppress facts.

While seeking an extended remand for former Officer incharge of Tala Police Station Abhiiit Mondal and arrested former RGKMCH Principal Sandip Ghosh the CBI has told the Court that some additional facts had surfaced during the investigation of the two accused persons.

"During custodial

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

The parents of the victim had also alleged similar things before the media. "We had told repeatedly how we were

sudden illness, suicide and then death over telephone before we rushed to the hospital ... then in the hospital we were made to sit for three hours while her mother literally held their feet to let her see her daughter's face once," said the father of the victim.

The ordeal did not end there as the old parents were made to sit in the Tala Police Station for more than an hour and were repeatedly monitored while they wrote the FIR. "They also forcefully cremated my daughter without our wishes ... as we wanted to get a second postmortem conducted" as the autopsy was done post sundown defying the general protocol in the Kolkata Police manual, they alleged.

Incidentally, the postmortem was done not on the request of a DCP but that of a subinspector, a letter recovered by the CBI showed. The CBI has been trying to find out who was instructing Mondal and also who was instructing the person and who was instructing the arrested police officer and for what reason, sources said adding "everything will become clear adding sources in the coming weeks when the call details and forensic reports come up.

Continued on page 2

## **Domestic Violence Act** applicable to all women: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a civil code that is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation irrespective of her religious affiliation or social background. A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said the 2005 legislation was applicable to all women for more effective protection of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

"The Act is a piece of civil code which is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation and/or social background for a more effective protection of her rights guaranteed under the Constitution and in order to protect women victims of domestic violence occurring in a domestic relationship," the bench said. The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman challenging an order of the Karnataka High Court in a matter related to the grant of maintenance and compensation.

The woman had earlier filed a petition

under section 12 of the Act which was allowed by a Magistrate in February 2015 granting Rs 12,000 as monthly maintenance and Rs 1 lakh towards compensation to her.

The top court noted that the husband had filed an appeal against the order which was dismissed by the appellate court on the ground of delay. The court noted that later, he filed another application under section 25 of the Act, which deals with duration and alteration of orders, before a magistrate but the same was dismissed. The bench said thereafter, he filed an

appeal before the appellate court,



which allowed it and remanded the matter to the magistrate with a direction to consider his application by giving an opportunity to both parties to adduce their evidence. The judges noted that aggrieved by the order, the woman approached the High Court which dismissed her plea in April last year and directed the magistrate to consider the application filed by the man under section 25 of the Act.

In its verdict, the Supreme Court referred to section 25 and said it was evident that an aggrieved person or a respondent as defined under the Act can seek for alteration, modification or revocation of an order made under the provisions of the Act if there was a change in the circumstances as per sub-section (2) of section 25. The bench said a Magistrate, while exercising discretion under section 25(2) of the Act, has to be satisfied that a change in the circumstances has occurred, requiring to pass an order of alteration, modification or revocation.

Continued on page 2



### **Hindu Temple** vandalised in US

**PTI** WASHINGTON

Unknown miscreants have vandalised the BAPS Hindu temple in California's Sacramento, miscreants desecrating it with expletive-laden graffiti saying "Hindus go back!", the BAPS Public Affairs said.
"Less than 10 days after the desecration

of the @BAPS Mandir in New York, our Mandir in the Sacramento, CA area was desecrated last night with anti-Hindu hate: "Hindus go back!" We stand united against hate with prayers for peace," the BAPS Public Affairs said

in a post on X.
Wednesday night's incident comes after
the desecration of the BAPS Shri
Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, on September 17.

"Our condemnation of hate remains resolute; our sadness has only deepened; and our prayers for all, including those with hate in their heart, have grown stronger," the organisation said in a statement. "BAPS is working with law enforcement authorities on this hate crime," the statement said.

"The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Sacramento is home to a vibrant Hindu community engaged in numerous activities and projects to support the larger community. We are and shall remain an integral part of this community's fabric," the statement

Continued on page 2

### SC to hear Godhra incident appeals on 15 January

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear on January 15 the appeals filed by the Gujarat Government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. bench of Justices IK Mahes Rajesh Bindal made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter

on the next date of hearing. On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed when the S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express was burnt at Gujarat's Godhra, triggering riots in the State. Several appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the October 2017 verdict of the Gujarat High Court which had upheld conviction of several convicts and commuted the death penalties of 11 to life term.



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



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

## Several drown during Bihar festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/NEW DELHI

t least 43 people, including 37 Achildren drowned and three others went missing while taking holy dips in rivers and ponds in separate incidents during the 'Jivitputrika' festival in Bihar, the State Government said on Thursday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

The incidents occurred in 15 districts of the state during the festival held on Wednesday. During the 'Jivitputrika' festival, women fast for the wellbeing of their children and both take holy dips.
"A total of 43 bodies have been

recovered so far. Further search operation is on," a statement issued by Disaster Management

Department (DMD) said. The process of providing the ex gratia has begun and family members of eight deceased have already received

it, the statement said.
"The incidents of drowning were reported from East and West Champaran, Nalanda, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Buxar, Siwan, Rohtas, Saran,

Patna, Vaishali, Samastipur, Gopalganj and Arwal districts

The DMD has pressed several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) for search and rescue operations. children drowned Eight

Aurangabad district - four at Itahat village under Baruna police station area and another four at Kushaha village of Madanpur police station. According to reports from Kaimur,

seven minors drowned in Bhabhua and Mohania police station areas when they were taking bath in the Durgawati river and a pond, respectively

Four incidents of drowning were reported on Wednesday evening from Amnabad village under Bihta police station area of rural Patna and five persons, including two boys, drowned in Daudpur, Manjhi, Taraiya and Marhaura police station areas of Saran district.

The incidents took place when the victims, along with their family members, went for a holy dip in the water bodies," Aurangabad District Magistrate Srikant Shastri said.



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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh was summoned to Delhi and reprimanded by the Congress brass over a controversial order issued by his department mandating food outlets across the State to display the name and address of their owners, which has however been withdrawn.

Facing flak by the party high command the Himachal Pradesh Government on Thursday said no such decision has been taken. The State Government in a statement said it has not taken any decision that makes it mandatory for street vendors to display nameplates or other identification at their stalls.

The development came as the Congress came under fire on social media as well as within the party over

Minister

the move as it had criticised a similar move by the Uttar Pradesh Government during the Kanwar Yatra

a few weeks back. Sources said Vikramaditya has been asked not to give controversial remarks on this matter. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was upset with Vikramaditya. The Himachal Urban Development Ministry's order came under criticism from Congress leader TS Singh Deo, who called it a reprehensible and discriminatory

BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said Singh must stick to his words. "If Vikramaditya Singh has" talked about implementing vendors' policy on the pattern of Uttar Pradesh, he should stick to his words," Thakur, who is Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, said.

Continued on page 2

## **SC** rejects Gujarat **Government plea**



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat Government seeking a review of the court's verdict which contained certain observations against the State while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 riots. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan also rejected the application for listing review

retition in open court.

"Having carefully gone through the Review Petition, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, we are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the Review Petition, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The Review Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench

The Gujarat Government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgment, holding the State guilty of "usurpation of power" and abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds.

#### Little hopes of ceasefire between Israel, Hezbollah had been any directive to ease up responded to the proposal for a to meet with other world leaders pause in fighting, although Lebanon's caretaker Prime

The Israeli Prime Minister ■ appeared to downplay hopes of an imminent truce with Hezbollah on Thursday after the United States and its allies called for an "immediate" 21-day ceasefire to "provide space for diplomacy".

In a statement released as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was en route to New York to attend the UN General Assembly, his office said there was only a proposal on the table and that he had not yet responded to it. The statement also denied that there on fighting on the northern border with Lebanon.

The comments raised questions about a new international initiative to halt increasingly heavy exchanges of fire that have killed hundreds of people in Lebanon and threatened to trigger an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah. They came as Israel has threatened to launch a ground invasion into Lebanon to push the militant group away from the border and as an Israeli strike in Lebanon killed 23 people. The Israeli foreign minister, Israel



residents of the north to their country would continue fighting "with all our might until victory homes. Katz, had previously said the and the safe return of the Hezbollah has also not yet

welcomed it. The Lebanese militant group has insisted it would only halt its strikes if there is a ceasefire in Gaza, where Israel has been

battling Hamas for nearly a year. That appears out of reach despite months of negotiations led by the United States, Egypt and Qatar. In its statement, Netanyahu's office said "the fighting in Gaza will also continue until all the objectives of the war have been

on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Najib Mikati has Israel launched massive operation in Gaza after a Hamas-

led attack into southern Israel on October 7 in which about 1,200 people (mostly civilians) were killed, and 250 taken hostage. More than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since then, according to local officials. Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel one day after the October 7 attack in support of its Hamas allies, and Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire ever since. achieved." Netanyahu is expected Continued on page 2

## BJP's return to Jammu and Kashmir means return of PoK to India: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Thursday that the Bharatiya Janata Party is essential for development and security in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated, "With the return of the BJP, PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) is set to become

a part of India." UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath began his campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections on Thursday. Yogi sought votes for Ramgarh candidate Devendra Kumar Maniyal, Vijaypur candidate Chandraprakash Ganga,

RS Pura candidate Dr Narinder Singh Raina, Suchetgarh candidate Prof Gharuram Bhagat and Bishnah candidate Rajiv

BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Ravindra Raina joined Yogi Adityanath at the RS Pura rally. Due to inclement weather, Yogi Adityanath sent a message via mobile, urging voters to support BJP candidate Rajiv Sharma from Chhamb. During a public meeting in the Ramgarh assembly constituency, Yogi Adityanath asserted that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will soon become a part of India with the BJP's return to power.

to save democracy. Voices for separation are rising in PoK. If elections were conducted in Muzaffarabad alongside the Jammu and Kashmir polls, it would send a positive message. Balochistan itself is stating that its chemistry does not align with Pakistan, as Pakistan is a 'cancer to humanity, and the world should aim to eradicate it."

Yogi highlighted the significant benefits provided by the Indian government, stating that 80 crore people in India receive free ration, 60 crore are covered by health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per year, and 12 crore benefit from Kisan Samman Nidhi. He also mentioned that 10 crore



poor people received toilets in their homes and another 10 Yojana. crore received cooking gas In Jammu and Kashmir, 2.75

cylinders under the Ujjwala

ed from the PM Awas Yojana. In contrast, he pointed out that in "beggar Pakistan", people are struggling for food. Stating that Prime Minister

Modi fulfilled Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream by abrogating Article 370, Yogi remarked, "The nursery of terrorism has come to an end. The Congress, PDP (People's Democratic Party) and National Conference had turned Jammu and Kashmir into a 'warehouse of terrorism'. but with Narendra Modi as prime minister and Amit Shah as home minister, terrorism is on its way out, and stone pelters have vanished.

of Maharaja Hari Singh, Premnath Dora and Brigadier Rajendra Singh, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised that these heroes had transformed Jammu and Kashmir into a paradise on earth. However, he criticised the Congress, PDP and NC for allegedly turning the region into a hub of reli-

gious frenzy. Yogi stated, "This election is an opportunity to teach them a lesson. Prime Minister Modi facilitated the construction of the Kartarpur corridor. While the Congress celebrated Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday as Children's Day, Prime Minister Modi has chosen to commemmemories of Guru Gobind Singh's four Sahibzadas. This significant event is also celebrated in Uttar Pradesh on the

Yogi Adityanath highlighted the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "You have witnessed the new Jammu and Kashmir of the new India. This is no longer a 'terrorism state'; it has emerged as an exceptional 'tourism destination. During the tenure of Congress, PDP and NC, one had to make appeals for hoisting the tricolour here, but now we host the G-20 Summit."

## MCD has so far removed 1653.73 MT of silt: Raj Niwas

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Municipal Council of ■ Delhi(MCD)has so far removed 1653.73 MT of silt / C&D Waste / malba and the waste removed have been duly deposited on the identified dumping sites where they will be reprocessed for successful bio-remediation, Raj Niwas said on Thursday. This action came about fol-

lowing Lt Governor(LG)V K Saxena's directions to roadowning and civic agencies - MCD, PWD and NDMC on September 23 to undertake a Dust-Free Delhi Drive. Despite severe constraints, MCD has been able to remove 1653.73 MT of silt / C&D Waste / malba over September 24 and 25.

With de-silting not having been undertaken for years together, silt and C&D Waste has accumulated in huge quantities estimated at lakhs of tonnes. This has made the task of removing the same comprehensively extremely difficult and challenging, reports submitted by MCD and other agencies to the LG Secretariat, underlined.

The MCD that took up the task of removing the silt / C&D waste in all its 12 zones removed 404.65 MT of such waste on 24.09.2024 and

1249.08 MT on 25.09.2024. The maximum removal took place in the Shahdara South Zone with 122.25 MT and 861.58 MT waste getting removed over the two days. The Keshavpuram Zone was next with 92.80 MT and 69.00 MT of silt being removed on September 24-25 respectively. Despite a beginning having been made, the task ahead is

who had in a meeting to

review air pollution on September 20, stressed upon preparedness for mitigating it, well in advance. He had asked the MCD, PWD, NDMC, I&FCD and DJB to take up a Dust-free Delhi Drive over the next one week / 10 days and asked for the same to be converted into a year-long campaign.

Pollution caused by road dust is one of the two major contributors to air pollution in Delhi, and with the rains having stopped, dried up mud /silt accumulated on roads is extremely daunting. flying high in the environment causing major air polflying high in the environ-

### BSES, TP-DDL launch Tatkal scheme for providing electricity connections

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

he BSES and Tata Power-DDL have launched a Tatkal' scheme for providing same-day temporary electricity connections ahead of the festival season to enhance the festivities and reduce pollution, it said on Thursday. The people can apply for new connections via the BSES website, mobile application, WhatsApp or at customer care/Digi Seva centres, it said. "The BSES has launched 'Tatkal', offering same-day temporary electricity con-nections for events such as Durga Puja, Diwali melas, Ramlilas and weddings. Consumers can now obtain a temporary connection within 24 hours after completing the required formalities. This initiative not only enhances the festive spirit but also contributes to efforts to reduce air pollution," the statement said. With the city's pollution levels traditionally spiking during the winter and festival months, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) -- under the guidance of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) -- was



Aligning with this effort, the BSES' 'Tatkal' connections provide a sustainable alternative to diesel generators, significantly reducing noise and air pollution. These temporary connections are also hassle-free, cost-effective and safe, the statement said.

"Our 'Tatkal' service ensures that celebrations are brighter and the environment less pol-

By leveraging our advanced systems and streamlined processes, we are making same-day connections a reality, directly contributing to Delhi's fight against pollution," a BSES official said.

This initiative cuts down the waiting period for new connections from up to seven

days to just a few hours. Tata Power-DDL in a statement said it is dedicated to supporting Ramleela, Durga Puja and other festive events by providing temporary connections within 24 hours.

Zones have meters readily available and once the customer deposits the demand note, we install the meter as swiftly as within two hours based on the needs of the cus-

Our priority is ensuring seamless operations, and we hope everyone enjoys a safe and joyful festive season.

While we are committed to offering tatkal connections during the festive season, the safety of people in mass gatherings is our utmost priority. Tata Power-DDL's operations and maintenance teams would remain on high alert to handle any safety-related issues that may arise during this time," it said in the state

Understanding the critical importance of reliable power supply during the festivities, the BSES has placed its operations and maintenance teams on high alert, the power dis-

### international counterparts for animal exchange programmes

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

**Delhi zoo approaches** 

**T**n a first, the Delhi Zoo has Lapproached its international counterparts in Dubai, Israel, Africa and Europe for animal exchange programmes, a move aimed at boosting the diversi-ty of species at the National Źoological Park in the national capital.

The officials here said that they have shared a list of animals the Delhi Zoo can offer in exchange and is awaiting response with the zoo in these countries.

'We are in talks with international zoos in Dubai, Israel, Africa, and Europe. At the same time, we are also coordinating with various state zoos across the country, including those in Gujarat, Lucknow, Ludhiana and the northeast," an official said.

Speaking about the exotic species collection, the zoo official said, "Currently, we have a single jaguar, a single African elephant, ostriches, Sika deer, hippopotamus and various exotic bird species."

According to the zoo officials, the focus is not on acquiring exotic species, as no one is willing to send their exotic animals.

The official explained that there are different ways to bring animals to the zoo-either as a gift or through exchange programmes. The zoo has already shared a

list of animals it can offer in exchange and is awaiting responses from other zoos. "We are not focusing much on exotic animals, but we have prepared a list of single-sex ani-

mals--one of either male or female in that species--which we are sending to both international and state zoos," the official said. Earlier this month, the Delhi Zoo acquired a Bengal tiger, a rhinoceros and a pair of pied

hornbills as part of an animal exchange programme with The arrival of these animals, following a long hiatus in such exchanges, marks a key

moment in the zoo's efforts to diversify its collection. Providing the latest update on these new members, an official said, "The animals are currently in a 21-day quarantine and will soon be ready for public exhi-

## LG orders MCD Standing Committee elections to be held on Thursday

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

ieutenant Governor Vinai Lieutenani Governo.

Kumar Saxena ordered the

election to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Standing Committee to be held on Thursday even as Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi postponed the meeting of the House which was adjourned till October 5 the house session on Thursday over frisking of councillors Saxena in an order stated,

"The Commissioner is hereby

directed to submit a report of conduct of elections of the sixth member of standing committee by 10 pm on Thursday positively.

Saxena added that in case the Mayor is unavailable or refuses to preside over the meeting the Deputy Mayor may be requested to preside over the meeting for conduct of elecing or unavailable, the seniormost member in order of

"Due to this unfortunate failure of the Mayor to discharge her function in conducting election for the sixth member of the standing committee, the extraordinary and exceptional powers under section 487 of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 are required to be invoked," the order read.

protested against the enforcement of a 'no phones' rule seniority may be requested to ahead of the election for a vacant Standing Committee

seat. The rule prohibited councillors from carrying phones or other electronic gadgets into the House to ensure the secrecy of the ballot.

While BJP councillors complied with the rule and filled their seats inside the House, AAP councillors refused to part with their phones, staging a protest outside the hall and cillors, meanwhile, were absent from the proceedings, having announced earlier in the day that they would not attend the

The MCD House proceeding for election to the lone standing committee seat was adjourned briefly amid uproar over frisking of councillors to check if anybody was carrying mobile phones.

As tensions escalated, Mayor Shelly Oberoi entered the their freedom. This is wrong, House at 2:31 pm and 20 minutes. She raised concern over the security check of councillors, claiming it was Commissioner to allow entry the first time this was happen-

ing. It was undemocratic and insulting for the members of the House, she said.

"It is an insult to the councillors," she remarked. "Physical frisking is being conducted, and these are all public representatives. This is hurting their dignity, sentiment, and even and it goes against the princinever happened in history. I direct the MCD Secretary and without physical checks," she

After the Mayor's departure, MCD Commissioner Ashwini Kumar emphasized the importance of the rule, stating, "Secrecy of the ballot is very important. It is written in law, so it is my humble request to all councillors to abide by this rule. Phones and other electronic gadgets are prohibited ed the elections to happen but the atmosphere was disrupted due to the frisking. "This will be remembered in history. The

way officers are pressurised and they did not comply to my orders. I am adjourning the House till October 5, 2 pm," she said later, and left the

The BJP councillors started raising slogans "Mayor hosh me aao" and "Standing Committee ka election karwao". Earlier, Commissioner and not bring mobile phones to

## Little hopes of ceasefire between Israel...

From page 1

Israeli families of the hostages said they are pushing for a possible ceasefire deal for Lebanon to include provisions for the war in Gaza, especially securing release of the roughly 70 hostages still presumed to be alive and the bodies of 30 others. Gil Dickmann, whose cousin Carmel Gat was kidnapped and was one of six Israelis bodies recovered from tunnels in Gaza in August, said the families of the hostages are feeling forgotten attention shifts to the

northern front. "We know that these things are connected to each other, the northern part and the southern part, they're all part of the same large situation which we are in from October 7 on, and we're very worried that if we don't make the right decisions now, we will miss this amazing opportunity to get the hostages out," Dickmann said on Tuesday, as hopes for ceasefire deal swelled.

He slammed Netanyahu for missing multiple opportunities to free his cousin and begged him not to miss another chance by agreeing to a truce with both Hezbollah and Hamas would include provisions for the hostages. Dickmann's sister-in-law, Yarden Roman-Gat, was released in a weeklong

ceasefire deal last November, along with some 100 other hostages.

Israel has carried out days of heavy strikes across military infrastructure. The militants have fired hundreds of rockets into Israel and on Wednesday targeted Tel Aviv for the first time with a longerrange missile that was intercepted.

On Thursday, an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon hit a building housing Syrian workers and their families, killing 23 people, Lebanese officials said. It was one of the deadliest single strikes in the intensified air against

Lebanon's National News Agency said the strike occurred near the ancient city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley, which runs along the Syrian border. It quoted Ali Kassas, mayor of the village of Younine, as saying that the bodies of 23 Syrian citizens were pulled from under the rubble.

He said four Syrians and Lebanese were wounded. Hussein Salloum, a local official in Younine, said most of the dead were women and children, and that rescue efforts lasted through the night and into Thursday morning.

"We dug through the rubble with our own hands" until a bulldozer

brought in, Salloum told The Associated Press by telephone. "We had very limited capabilities."

The Lebanese Red Cross Lebanon, targeting what it said it recovered nine says are Hezbollah rocket bodies, while others were launchers and other recovered by Hezbollah's paramedic service and the Lebanese Civil Defence. Lebanon, with a population

of around six million, hosts

nearly 780,000 registered Syrian refugees hundreds of thousands who are unregistered -- the world's highest refugee population per capita.Israel struck 75 sites overnight across southern and eastern Lebanon, the military said. At least 45 projectiles were fired from Lebanon early Thursday, all of which were intercepted or fell in open areas, it said.

Israeli strikes since Monday have killed more than 630 people in Lebanon, according to local health authorities, who say around a quarter were women and children. Several people have been wounded by shrapnel in Israel.

The fighting has killed dozens of people in Israel and driven tens of thousands from their homes on both sides of the border.

Israel has vowed to do whatever is necessary to allow its citizens to return, and it has moved thousands of troops to the northern border preparation for a possible ground operation.

### Hindu Temple...

From page 1

The temple community in response to the incident gathered for a prayer ceremony and called for peace and unity, remembering His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj's ideal of harmony and respect.

This was the second incident of desecration at a BAPS temple in less than a month in the US amidst the growing trend of temple vandalism as part of a systematic hate crime against the Hindu community in the country.

Amerish Babulal or "Ami" Bera, an American physician and politician serving as a member of the US House of Representatives California, said on X: "There is no place for religious bigotry and hatred in Sacramento County. I strongly condemn this apparent act of vandalism in our community." "All of us must stand against intolerance and ensure that everyone in our community, regardless of faith, feels safe and respected,"

Bera said in a post on  $\hat{X}$ . "This type of hate against Hindu Americans vandalism is appalling and morally wrong. Department of Justice must investigate these hate crimes, and those responsible should be held fully accountable under the law," Congressman Ro Khanna said on X.

Indian - American entrepreneur Ajay Jain Bhutoria, urging the FBI to investigate and hold accountable those spreading hate and fear, said: "No place for hate in our communities or country.

## Police altered documents in RG...

Both Ghosh and Mondal were arrested by the CBI on charges of tampering evidence whereas prime accused Sanjoy Das was arrested by the Kolkata Police for perpetrating the rape and murder of a post graduate lady doctor of Chest Medicine Department of the Hospital. Though Ghosh has been arrested for tampering evidence, the CBI is not ruling out his culpability in the original crime, inside sources said adding the investigators were also working on additional inputs

that have come up from the

Principal's mobile tower locations.

According to sources, Ghosh's tower location was in and around the hospital in the wee hours of August 9 when the crime took place. Besides, some video footages allegedly found in the mobile phone of the victim also have increased suspicion on Ghosh, sources said adding, "the victim doctor was not simply raped and murdered but he might have been raped

know about some secret and

was coming in the way of

Meanwhile, Bengal Chief and murdered as a part of a Minister Mamata Baneriee on larger plan to eliminate her Thursday held a long meeting with the top because she had come to

illegal that was being done by these people.' Sources said that the victim

had even once approached Ghosh with some complaints on how some illegal acts including distribution of spurious and below quality drugs were taking place inside the hospital. The Principal had allegedly asked her to stop being too much inquisitive about things lest her career got ruined.

including the principals of the

with a view to improve the health infrastructure of the State including the security network as was being demanded be the junior doctors. 'We discussed and took decisions on several issues

members of the police force

Officers

Medical

including installation of CCTVs, construction of washrooms and restrooms in hospitals and conducting security audits from time to time ... we have earmarked Rs 100 crore for improvement of security infrastructure," the Chief Minister said.

## **Domestic Violence...**

From page 1

Supreme Court noted a change in the circumstances under the Act may be of either a pecuniary nature, such as a change in the income of the respondent or an aggrieved person, or it could be a change in other circumstances of the party paying or receiving the allowance which would justify an increase or amount ordered by the Magistrate.

"The phrasing of the provision is wide enough to cover factors like the cost of living, income of the parties, etc. Further, a change in the circumstances need not just be of the respondent but also of the aggrieved person," the top court said.

"However, for the invocation of section 25(2) of the Act, there must be a change in the circumstances after the order being passed under the Act," it said, adding, "Thus, an order for alteration, modification or revocation operates prospectively and not retrospectively". The bench said the husband cannot seek its retrospective applicability so as to seek a refund of the amount already decrease of the maintenance paid as per the original order. The bench set aside the

orders of the High Court and the first appellate court and dismissed the application filed by the man. "However, liberty is reserved to the respondent (man) herein to file a fresh application under section 25 of the Act, if so advised," it said.

## **HP** govt face flak by party for adopting...

Health

officials

Department

week, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania constituted a sevenmember committee headed by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan for the framing of a policy for 'Street Vendors, according to a statement.

The decision to register outside workers with their identity came following massive protests weeks ago for the demolition of alleged unauthorised portions of a mosque in Sanjauli.

Demonstrations were held across the state by Hindu

workers coming from outside to work in Pradesh be Himachal registered. Citing alleged incidents of

spitting and mixing of urine in eatables, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had on Tuesday ordered operators, proprietors, and managers of food stalls to mandatorily display their names and addresses at their shops.

He also ordered that chefs and waiters must wear masks and gloves, and made mandatory that **CCTV** cameras mounted in hotels and

## HC halts counting of DUSU polls' votes till all defacement is removed

The Delhi High Court on ■ Thursday halted the counting of votes of DUSU elections, which are scheduled on Friday, till all the defacement material, including posters, hoarding and graffiti, is removed and public property is restored. A bench of Chief Justice-des-

ignate Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said the elections process may proceed but the counting of votes will not take place till the court is satisfied that defacement of property has been removed. This court directs that the elections process may proceed yet no counting of votes shall take place either on Delhi University (Students' Union) elections or on college elections till this court is satisfied that posters, hoardings, graffiti, spray paints are removed and public property is restored," the bench said

It directed the varsity to file a fresh status report and to ensure that EVMs and ballot boxes, to be used in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections, are kept secured in a safe place till further orders.

The court also directed the Delhi University to pay the expenses incurred by the civic authorities, including MCD and Delhi Metro, in removing the defacement and added that the varsity may recover the amount from the candidates thereafter.

"Delhi University has to bear the cost for this. Civic agencies can't be made to suffer due to this. You (DU) are not doing



tem in place. DU was merrily going around with it. You never came to the court that guidelines were being violated by the candidates, it was private persons who approached the court and apprised us of the situation," the bench said.

It said the varsity, where lakhs of students are studying, is not able to deal with the 21 candidates and added that the problem was "lack of will and lack of courage".
"These 21 students are bring-

ing a bad name to the university. How can you allow this to happen? You have to exercise your powers, you don't have to be scared of anyone," the bench said and listed the matter for further proceedings on October 21. During the hearing, the counsel for the DU options suggested by the court on Wednesday, counting of votes can be withheld.

The petitioners, however, urged the court to cancel the elections till the time the defacement is cleaned. The court had suggested that the university should defer the elections, scheduled for September 27, or disqualify the candidates and start nomination afresh or should allow polling but not declare the results till all the defacement is removed.

The court was hearing a plea seeking action against the prospective DUSU candidates and student outfits involved in damaging, defacing, soiling or destroying the beauty of public walls. Petitioner Prashant Manchanda, a practising advothose involved in damaging classrooms, thus denying the citizens a clean and beautiful environment and surroundings free from defacement as well as depriving the students

cate, also sought action against

of their right to education. He also sought a direction to erring candidates and their parties to remove the defacement and refurbish the areas and further take efforts for beautification of the destroyed

portions.

On Wednesday, another petition by a group of students studying at DU came up for hearing. The petitioners, represented by advocate Govind Jee, highlighted the alleged nuisance, disruptions and other activities like defacement of public property under the guise of DUSU elections.

## ABVP participates in cleanliness drive day before DUSU polls

day before the Delhi Aday before the Lucian Union (DUSU) polls, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) workers participated in a cleanliness drive while National Students Union of India (NSUI) demanded that the administration and the Delhi Police to ensure fair and transparent conduct of the elections on Thursday. A blame game also erupted

between the student unions as the ABVP alleged that students were being taken to a party organised by the NSUI where they got injured in road accident. Meanwhile, NSUI claimed that it is a false allegation and they hadn't organised any party. "It is ABVP's cheap tactic to defame us. Our manifesto is an answer to their allegations and we follow Lyngdoh committee rules and regula-



tions," the student outfit said in

a statement.

Earlier, ABVP has alleged that NSUI was luring students of Sister Nivedita College of Delhi University to Mojoland Water Park in Murthal, Haryana for a party on Thursday, when an accident took place on the way in which two students were seriously injured and other students were also injured. "The seriously injured students are admitted in a hospital in Dwarka area of Delhi for surgery," they stated.

They condemned NSUI for playing with the safety of DU girl students and corrupting the student union elections by using money and power. ABVP's National Minister Shivangi Kharwal said, "On Wednesday, NSUI goons forcefully entered Miranda House of Delhi University and then by Nivedita College, they took them out of Delhi without the permission of the college administration and the parents of the students, where the students got seriously injured in the accident."

Addressing a press conference, Varun Choudhary, president of the Congress-affiliated NSUI alleged that people linked to the ABVP and RSS had been appointed electoral officers for the polls. "Individuals previously associated with the ABVP are now serving as election commissioners that can influence the election results,' Choudhary said.

"To maintain the integrity of the election process, proctors with ties to the RSS should also be barred from election duty," he said. The Congress-backed organisation, however, expressed confidence that it would win this year's elections vision addressed key issues for students such as fee hikes, infrastructure deficiencies and women's safety.

Moreover, ABVP panel appealed to the students to vote 100 percent in the Delhi University Students Union elections to be held on September 27 and stated that it trended on social media. The party expressed its excitement about the elections and stated that it is confident of winning all four seats.

Its workers also cleaned the campus by running a cleanliness drive in the North Campus of Delhi University. ABVP National General Secretary Yagyavalkya Shukla said, "DUSU elections are a festival for the students of Delhi University. To make this festival a success, we appeal to the students of Delhi University to



The Pioneer's Associate Editor, Deepak Kumar Jha, on Thursday received `Excellence in Journalistic Reporting' award honoured by the prestigious trade and commerce body -FICCI. The award was given by Special Secretary and Member, CBIC, Sungita Sharma in the presence of Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Karol, Delhi High Court Judge Navin Chawla, former Lokayukta Manmohan Sarin, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajput and several distinguished guests. Amongst the awardees on the concluding day of the two day FICCI MASCRADE were IPS officers, Paramilitary officials, Enforcement Officers and school children who have helped prevent smuggling and trading of counterfeit products. This was the 10th edition of FICCI's Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade through its Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE). The event was inaugurated by Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Wednesday

## Kejriwal targets PM Modi for conspiring against him, AAP leaders

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

ddressing the Delhi Aassembly for the first time since he came out of jail two weeks back, former Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BIP for "conspiring against him and his party leaders. He said 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very powerful but not God' and that he will make stall. This was also the first time in months that Kejriwal and former Delhi Deputy CM, Manish Sisodia were in the assembly and the AAP convenor hit out at the BJP with a joke on this fact.

He said, "BJP wanted to show Kejriwal is dishonest and stop all works in Delhi... They put me and all the other leaders in jail...All their conspiracies have failed." Further attacking PM Modi, Kejriwal said, "They made the rule that leaders aged 75 will retire... But he says that rule does not apply to

Starting his speech by taking a dig at the opposition BJP MLAs, Kejriwal said, "My colleagues in the opposition must be sad to see Manish Sisodia and me here. I always say Prime Minister Modi is very powerful and has a lot of resources, but Modi is not God. There is no doubt that there is God or some kind of energy in this universe which has helped us. Therefore, I want to thank the Supreme Court.'

Reiterating his views on the retirement of Modi when he



becomes 75 years old, he said, leader, who said that they have given an ultimatum to Prime Minister but he shared that Modi is not ready to resign from his prime ministership. He made BJP leaders like L.K.Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi resign but when his turn came, he is not ready to leave. Such is the lust for power."

However, he added that since he has been in jail, the BJP has tried to stall the work in the national Capital through its Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena including the termination of bus marshalls, stopping medicines and tests in mohalla clinic, pensions not being given to the elderly and stopping the 'teerth yatra'.
"Please fear God if not anything else. I want to let the people of Delhi know that their brother and son have come back and will make sure that work gets done irrespective of whatever I have to do," he stated, adding that he also had a conversation with a

senior BJP leader. met a senior BJP leader three to four days back and I asked how arresting me helped

them. He told me that they derailed the entire Delhi government by arresting me and was very happy about it. I was surprised about what he said to me. I wonder what kind of party it is that is happy by ruining the life of the people of Delhi," he stated.

Kejriwal, who once occupied the 'number one' chair as chief minister, was assigned seat number 41, several paces away from his former position. His successor, Atishi, now occupies Kejriwal's trusted lieutenant, Manish Sisodia, was placed next to him at seat number 40. When he arrived in the assembly, chants of 'Kejriwal jai ho' were also hailed. Kejriwal had served as chief minister of Delhi for nearly a decade before stepping down. He also stated that the BJP leaders tried to prove him dishonest

and ineffective from jail. "People of Delhi know a couple of things. First, they know that Arvind Kejriwal is completely honest and second, they know that Arvind Kejriwal works for the public. They (BJP-led central government) wanted to portray me as dishonest and derail the work that I've done. They lodged a fake case, and jailed me, Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, Sanjay Singh and others. Despite this, our party continues to be strong," Kejriwal added.

He also claimed that despite most of the senior leadership of the party being in jail, AAP didn't break. "I challenge you that even if two of your senior leaders are jailed, your party will break," Kejriwal claimed.

### Delhi Assembly witnesses heated discussion between AAP, Opposition over termination of 10,000 bus marshalls Both sides support resolution to restore their jobs

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Thursday witnessed a heated discussion between the ruling AAP and the opposition on the first day of a mination of around 10,000 bus marshals, with both sides finally supporting a resolution to restore their jobs. Participating the short dura-

tion discussion on the regularization of DTC bus marshals, AAP MLAs Kuldeep Kumar, Rohit Kumar and Abdul Rehman hit out at Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena and the BJP holding them responsible for the bus marshals losing their jobs and their plight due to a non-payment of salaries. AAP MLAs, including Madan Lal and Jarnail Singh, accused a BJP MLA of uttering objectionable words against the bus marshals and calling them 'rapists". They claimed that these civic defence workers belonged to the poor families and they not only provided safety and security to the women and children in DTC and cluster buses but also did

the same for the families. The BJP MLAs opposed the charge and accused the AAP of doing politics on the issue. Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta alleged that the AAP government had



betrayed the bus marshals. He claimed that in a letter to the LG on October 11, 2023, then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote that "the correct legal position may be ascertained and till its determined, services of all civil defence volunteers may be terminated by October". Gupta also proposed that a resolution be passed in the House to restore the jobs of the bus marshals and provide them with "permanent"

employment. In his reply to the discussion, minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the lives of 10,000 bus marshals have been ruined as they have not been paid their salaries. They are unable to meet their basic needs, the minister added. He alleged that since Saxena took over as the LG, it has become a "pattern" that officers will find some fault or the other with a scheme that is to be stalled. "The salaries of 10,000 bus marshals were stopped in January 2023 because of officers in the transport depart-

ment who questioned the deployment of civil defence bus marshals because public transport buses had CCTV cameras for the purpose of security," Bharadwaj claimed. This observation by the offi-Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and Revenue Minister Atishi, he said. Atishi has since been sworn in as the chief minister after Kejriwal stepped down.Bharadwaj said in his letter, Kejriwal had also sought disciplinary action against the officers responsible for stopping the bus marshals' salaries.

"If the BJP is ready, we are ready to restore their jobs. A resolution can be passed by the House," he said and added that a resolution already passed on the issue on February 29 can be passed again. Bharadwaj also suggested that the resolution should have a paragraph that both the AAP and BJP MLAs will go to meet the LG at 11 am on October 3 (the first day of Navratri) and not return back till the implementation of the resolution is ensured. Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel put the resolution to vote and it was passed by a voice vote. However, Goel said the leader of opposition was backing out from the proposal to go to the LG's office for its implementation.

## **Kejriwal, Atishi** inspect city roads



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

AP supremo and former AP supremo and former Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday, along with his successor Atishi, inspected the roads in the city, stating that the works of public welfare "stalled by the BJP" will be resumed and all damaged roads in the city will be

repaired. "I want to assure the people of Delhi that I have come back and the stalled works will be resumed. All their problems will be solved," Kejriwal said, claiming that he was sent to jail because the BJP wanted to defame the AAP government in Delhi by stalling public works.

He stated the AAP government will inspect all broken roads in Delhi and repair them. Asked if he would be seen playing a more active role, Kejriwal said, "We are in action mode round the clock. I was in action mode

even in jail." Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia and local MLA Dilip Pandey also accompanied Kejriwal and Atishi during their inspection of a road in the Delhi University (DU) area. "A few days ago I met their big leader. Í asked what did you get from my arrest? I was shocked and felt sad to hear him say that at least the Delhi government got derailed and the city was

stalled," Kejriwal claimed. Their aim was to defame the AAP government by stalling works in Delhi, he alleged while asserting that the AAP and its government would not let people's works get stalled. "During the inspection, Kejriwal was briefed by Pandey about the broken roads in his assembly constituency," a state-

ment said. It added that there are some

process of allocating the repair works was underway. There are about 36 projects, out of which 30 have been approved, it said. 'Now that I have come, you don't worry. All your pending work will start again. All problems will be solved. We just came to inspect the road passing in front of DU's North Campus. There is a water pipeline under this road. The road has broken due to this pipeline."This road is used a lot by people. I have talked to CM Atishi about the repair of this road. This road will be repaired soon. Apart from this, we will inspect all the broken roads in Delhi and get them repaired,"

Kejriwal said. Sharing a video clip from this inspection, Kejriwal posted on his 'X' handle and stated, "They had stopped the work of Delhi by sending me to jail. Roads were also damaged. That was their purpose.

Today I inspected a road in Delhi University with CM Atishi. This road will also be repaired soon, and the rest of the roads in Delhi will also be repaired soon.

Now I am back, the people of Delhi should not worry. All the stopped work in Delhi will be

On the other hand, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi tweeted, Today, I inspected the Vishwavidyalaya Marg road with Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. The road is in a very bad condition. It will be repaired soon.

BJP had conspired to bring Delhi to a standstill by arresting Arvind Kejriwal. But Delhiites' son Arvind Kejriwal is now back among the people, under his guidance the stalled work of Delhi will be complet-

#### **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI discuss the issue of termina-Auditor General and drainage tion of bus marshals. he two-day session of the and sewer system of the However, the BJP MLAs Delhi Assembly started national Capital. on a stormy note on Thursday The LG Secretariat had written to Chief Secretary as BJP and AAP leaders raised Dharmendra and Finance

slogans against each other, forcing the speaker to briefly adjourn the proceedings even as many opposition MLAs were marshaled out. Chaos erupted as soon as

Speaker Ram Niwas Goel listed names of leaders who will raise issues in the House to which BJP leaders objected and demanded that their issues be raised as well. The BJP leaders wanted to raise issues such as tabling of reports of Comptroller and

Secretary Ashish Chandra Verma, asking them to lay pending reports of the apex auditor CAG in the assembly during the session after bringing the matter to the chief minister's attention.

Both AAP and BJP leaders then started raising slogans, with some BJP MLAs coming to the well, against each other prompting the speaker to adjourn the proceedings for



Speaker adjourns Assembly session, Opposition MLAs marshalled out

15 minutes. They were mar- as the AAP claimed that these shaled out of the house even are there cheap tactics to not

returned and joined the discussion on the issue. "Even though we were insulted and thrown out of the assembly, we have come here so we can

discuss the matter," Leader of Opposition Vijendra Gupta said. The assembly also discussed the alleged illegal cutting of 1,100 trees where the AAP claimed that the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kuamr Saxena did so without the permission of Supreme Court to protect farm hous-

The new government headed

by Chief Minister Atishi is expected to seek a vote of trust in the House on Friday. Atishi has now been allotted the seat number one in the assembly, while his predecessor and former Chief Minister was allotted seat number 41 in the Delhi assembly, many paces away from the chief minister's chair.Kejriwal's trusted lieutenant Manish Sisodia was given a spot next to him, who was chief minister for close to 10 years, at seat 40. Goel also announced the res-

> ignations and disqualifications of four MLAs, including three from the ruling AAP.

roads under the jurisdiction of

ed at double the speed."

## VP Dhankhar reflects upon J and K transformation

Amid Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Dal lake in Srinagar was "dull" when he went there in 1990 but is now teeming with tourists, while pointing out that Article 370 is no longer applicable to the region.

Addressing the 83rd foundation day celebrations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial P and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dhankhar recalled his visit to Srinagar in 1990 as a Union minister, when he stayed in a hotel near the Dal

"Everything was dull. D-U-L-L. Not even 20 souls could be seen on the road. A state of dejection and hopelessness," the vice president said.

He said the Rajya Sabha, which he presides over as its chairman, was informed last year that two crore tourists had visited Jammu and Kashmir.

Dhankhar pointed out that Article 370, which was envisioned as a temporary provision of the Constitution, is no longer there.



"Article 370, the only article labelled as temporary and which was taken by some people, including those who had taken an oath under the Constitution, to be permanent, is no longer there," he said.

"The state of the nation today is beyond my dreams. I never imagined. I did not conceive of the Bharat that it is today," Dhankhar said, comparing the present-day situation with that of the 1990s.

1990s were a period when India had to pledge its gold with Swiss banks to sustain its financial credibility as forex reserves had plunged to USD billion and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, issued directives to India in

'Now, the IMF says India is the most-favoured global destination for investments and opportunity, and the World Bank calls India a role

model on digitisation," he

Dhankhar said the 1990s were also an era of middlemen on the corridors of power, corruption was rampant and only a person with pedigree could get access

opportunities. 'Now, the power corridors are sanitised. middleman disappeared....

transactions take place digitally, without a human interface. That is the change I never imagined," he said. The vice president expressed

satisfaction that recognition for the scientific community has increased significantly. "Soothing to note that in the

The vice president said the last few years, recognition for the scientific community has gone up. It has gone up in several ways, including the government being very serious about it, and the prime minister's heart and soul are deeply in the scientific community,"



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

### Lawyers indispensable in constitutional discourse: CJI Chandrachud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

hief Justice of India DY Chandrachud Thursday said lawyers play an indispensable role in shaping constitutional discourse. While judges have the ultimate authority to interpret the Constitution, it is the lawyers who craft and present the interpretive frameworks for the judiciary to consider, said CJI, while addressing MK Nambyar memorial lecture

"In this sense, interpretation is as much a job of a lawyer as it is of a judge, for without robust legal arguments and advocacy, constitutional interpretation

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

would lack the necessary and diversity perspectives, Chandrachud. Noted lawyer MK Nambayar is father of former Attorney General KK Venugopal. "As we celebrate the legacy of Mr MK Nambyar, we must remember that there were many more like him, who left their imprints on the Constitution, enhanced it, infused it with meaning, and took the texts to its legal destiny. The reason we celebrate them is that they

between read jurisprudential lines, and travelled beyond the text, beyond obsequious obedience of the supposed 'intent of the President Murmu salutes Siachen soldiers bravery, sacrifice

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Siachen base camp and told soldiers posted at the world's highest battlefield that all citizens salute their bravery. Addressing the troops, she said in difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and present tolerance in protecting the motherland.

The President said as the supreme commander of the armed forces, she felt very proud of them and that "all citizens salute their bravery".

"They face severe weather conditions. In difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they remain deployed at their front with full devotion and vigilance. They present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland, President Murmu said.

She told soldiers that all Indians are aware of their sacrifice and bravery and "we respect them", according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dressed in Indian military

uniform, Murmu also paid tributes at the Siachen War Memorial.

The Memorial, she said, is a symbol of the sacrifice of soldiers and officers who have been martyred since the Indian Army began Operation Meghdoot on the Siachen Glacier on April 13,

Under Operation Meghdoot, the Indian Army established its full control over the glacier. The President said since the commencement of Operation Meghdoot, "the brave soldiers and officers of the Indian armed forces have ensured the security of this region". Lt of Governor Ladakh Brigadier B D Mishra had

received President Murmu on her arrival at Thoise airfield. President Murmu is the country's third president to have visited Siachen base camp, located in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the others being A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind. While Kalam visited in April 2004, Kovind went to the base

The Siachen glacier is at a height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain

camp in May 2018.

It is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle extreme cold, high winds and frostbite among other severe weather conditions



### **Engineers** Conclave kicks off in Hyderabad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

11th Conclave, iointly organised Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) Hyderabad, commenced on Thursday, defence ministry said here.

Giving details, officials said the aim of the two-day annual conclave is to deliberate on 'Additive Manufacturing for Defence Applications' and Manufacturing Technologies'.

The event, being held at Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO, brings together engineers, scientists, academicians and industry leaders to discuss emerging technologies advancements

indigenisation. The conclave was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission Dr Anil Kakodkar and Guest of Honour, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat. DRDL Director (Hyderabad) Shri GA Srinivasa Murthy, Director General, Missiles

and Strategic Systems Shri U

Raja Babu, and INAE

President Prof Indranil

Manna addressed

gathering.

**NEW DELHI** 

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted

his predecessor and Congress leader Manmohan Singh on his 92nd birthday. Congress leaders lauded his contributions and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi hailed his humility, wisdom and selfless service in shaping the country's future.

Modi said in a social media post, "Birthday greetings to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray that he is blessed with a long and healthy life."

Manmohan Singh was prime minister of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government between 2004 and 2014. He was also India's finance minister in the P V Narasimha Rao-led government during 1991-96, an epochal era for the country's economy marked by wide-ranging reforms.

part of Pakistan, he is credited as being the key architect of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

end to the war.

T eft parties issued a joint statement Lon Thursday demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and

informing that they will observe October seven, which marks the

completion of a year of an ongoing

conflict in Gaza, as a day to demand an

The statement was issued by five

parties -- the Communist Party of

India (Marxist), the Communist Party

of India, the Communist Party of India

(Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, the All

India Forward Bloc and the

It was signed by Prakash Karat on

behalf of the CPI(M), Dipankar

Bhattacharya of the CPI(ML)

Liberation, D Raja of the CPI, Manoj

Revolutionary Socialist Party.



effected by the Rao-led government that broke the stranglehold of socialist-era policies.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge led party leaders in greeting Manmohan Singh and hailing his contributions to the country. Kharge said he stood as a "rare embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of politics". "On the occasion of his birthday, I extend my warmest wishes to former Manmohan Singh ji," Kharge

embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of politics. A visionary statesman, whose actions spoke louder than words, we remain deeply grateful for his tremendous and invaluable contributions to the nation," the Congress chief said. Wishing him good health, happiness and a long life ahead, he added.

In a social post, Rahul Gandhi said, "Happy Birthday to Dr Manmohan Singh ji. Your humility, wisdom, and selfless country's future continue to rights-based "He stands as a rare Indians. Wishing you good zeal, India saw its greatest of all sections of the country."

health and happiness always!" Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also extended birthday greetings the pioneer liberalisation and economic reforms in the country".

"Manmohan Singh ji gave the people wonderful welfare policies and rights like MGNREGA, Right to Food, Right to Information, Right to Education. Due to your historic efforts for inclusive development, India became one of the few economic powers in the world. Your honesty, hard work, simplicity and humility are an inspiration for all of us. May God keep you healthy and a long life," she said in a social media post.

Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal, while extending his warmest greetings to Manmohan Singh, said India saw "unprecedented growth, progress and transformation during the UPA era" under his stewardship.

inspire me and millions of framework and a reformist

reduction in poverty and a massive growth of the middle classes," he said.

"His (Singh's) journey from humble origins to the highest office in the country is an inspiration for generations to come. He is not someone who makes a big show of himself, but rather lets his hard work and talent do the talking, Venugopal said.

Even today, his advice and expertise continue to guide us in our actions, he said.

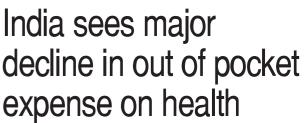
Despite the innumerable attacks he faced, like he once said, history will be kinder to him and his contributions to India's development will be written in golden letters in history," Venugopal added. Several other Congress leaders hailed Manmohan Singh's contributions to the country while greeting him. The Congress said in a social media post, "Renowned economist and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's entire life has been

dedicated to the country. He Describing the trend as a "very positive indicator," Dr V K interest, progress and welfare Left parties demand ceasefire in Gaza conflict

> Additionally, other initiatives, like the free dialysis scheme launched in 2015-16, have positively impacted millions of

"More than Rs 1 lakh crore their savage aerial and ground bombardment," they said, adding that a medical journal, "The Lancet", has estimated that the death toll from Israel's aggression could be above 85,000 (as of August 6), counting both India 2020-21 and 2021-22.

A crucial measure healthcare accessibility and financial burden, as high levels



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

There has been a significant There has been a significant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health, dropping from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 39.4 per cent in 2021-22, data available from the National Health Account (NHA) has revealed, reflecting a major shift towards more equitable healthcare access in the

Paul member (Health) of NITI Aayog said that the substantial savings-over Rs 1 lakh crore— has been resulted from the central health flagship Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme.

individuals.

savings have accrued from the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY and this has had a positive impact on the recent NHA estimates," he added. He also stated that other schemes "like the free dialysis scheme, launched in 2015-16 have benefited 25 lakh people, he said while releasing the Union Health Ministry's National Health Account (NHA) estimates for

of such spending can lead to significant financial strain for families, OOPE refers to the payments made directly by individuals at the time they receive healthcare services or goods including medical consultations, hospital stays, medications, diagnostic tests, and other health-related costs that are not covered by insurance or government

programs. Since catastrophic health debt or financial hardship, the India's National Health Policy 2017 has set ambitious goals. It aims for a significant decrease in OOPE, targeting a 25 per cent reduction in the proportion of households facing catastrophic health

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra added that the increase in government health expenditure (GHE), rose from 1.13 per cent of GDP in 2014-15 to 1.84 per cent in 2021-22, and from 3.94 per cent to 6.12 per cent of general government expenditure (GGE). Per capita GHE tripled from Rs 1,108 to Rs 3,169 during the same period, with a notable increase

expenditure by 2025.

2021-22. These changes reflect the government's commitment to enhancing public health investment, with GHE's share of total health expenditure growing from 29 per cent to 48

of 37 per cent from 2020-21 to

## Navy chief strengthens naval ties on Greece visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi is on a fourday official visit to Greece beginning Thursday. This visit is part of ongoing efforts further consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Greece, with a focus on enhancing naval co-peration, defence ministry said here.

During the visit, the Navy chief will engage in bilateral discussions with senior Greek defence officials, including Kefalogiannis, Deputy Minister of Defence, Vice Admiral Dimitrios E



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

The discussions are expected to cover a broad spectrum of defence cooperation areas, particularly maritime security, joint training initiatives, and exploring

avenues for future operational collaboration between the two navies. As part of his visit, Admiral Tripathi will visit the Salamis

Bay, the base of the Hellenic Naval Fleet as well as the Hellenic Naval Academy. Through demonstrations and visits to Hellenic naval assets, the Hellenic Navy has planned to introduce Greece's naval capabilities and training methodologies to the Navy

#### Left parties said. They said as a result of the war, nearly 42,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, have died and thousands more are buried under the rubble. "Israel has not spared residential buildings, schools and hospitals from

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Over 50 drugs including popular medications such as Paracetamol

tablets IP 500mg, anti-diabetic drug

Glimepiride, vitamin C softgels,

Vitamin C and D3 tablets Shelcal, and

high BP medicine Telmisartan, among

others have been found to be of "Not

of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert" as

per the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), the

country's top drug regulator.
The alert was issued after random

monthly sampling conducted by state drug officers. The regulator releases the list of "not of standard quality"

The batches of medicines flagged by

the CDSCO in its drug alert for

August are of companies such as

Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan

Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs

Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and

drugs every month.

**NEW DELHI** 

Bhattacharva of the Devarajan of the AIFB.

The parties called upon the Indian government to halt all arms exports to Israel and work for a two-State solution, whereby an independent Palestinian State can come into

"October 7 marks the completion of one year of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. In the name of retaliating against Hamas for the latter's attack within Israel on October 7 last year, Israeli armed forces have conducted a brutal and indiscriminate attack on Palestinians in Gaza," the

The Left parties pointed out that even as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said in January that the Israeli actions were leading to possible genocide and called upon Israel to cease military actions in Gaza, Israel has so far "scuttled all meaningful talks for a ceasefire".

the direct and indirect fatalities.

# Over 50 common medications flagged for quality concerns

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

Potassium Clavulanate tablets have also been categorised as not of "not of standard quality".

While batches of some drugs failed the 'dissolution test' as per Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and failed the 'Assay' and 'water' test as per IP, some were identified as spurious or having uniformity of volume issues. These

drugs are produced by several pharmaceutical companies.

According to the CDSCO, the drugs licensing authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu, have not submitted any data regarding the Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert for August 2024.

In August, the top drug regulator had banned over 156 fixed-dose drug combinations in the Indian market due to potential risks to humans. These included popular fever drugs, painkillers, and allergy tablets.

Earlier in February, the DCGI Rajeev Raghuvanshi instructed states/UTs to keep a strong vigilance and surveillance on the quality of drugs available in the market by doing random sampling of the medicines.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

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

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

"A week remains for polling (in Haryana) and (you should) focus on every family in a polling booth," he told party workers. There are During the past 10 years, the 20,629 polling booths in Congress has failed as

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

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

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

Singh Chouhan, and Nitin Gadkari have addressed a

series of meetings in Jammu.

Both the leaders while targeting the opposition parties Congress, National Conference, and the Peoples

Democratic Party appealed to

the voters to give a decisive

mandate to the BJP

candidates to ensure the

formation of a stable government that can carry

forward the growth-oriented agenda of the Union government at the helm of

Addressing a rally in the border belt of Ramgarh Uttar

Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath Thursday said, "After BJP's return (to power) here,

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

is also going to be a part of Jammu and Kashmir. And

this is the commotion in

Pakistan, they are struggling

to save their democracy'

Comparing the situation in

both countries the Uttar

"On one side there is India

and on the other side there is

Pakistan, there is a shortage of food there, naturally,

beggar Pakistan is not able to

handle itself today. Pakistan-

occupied Kashmir is raising

its voice for separation from

It is saying that we also had

the right to participate in the

J&K elections...Balochistan is

chemistry does not match

with Pakistan. Because Pakistan is the enemy of

humanity, it is a cancer of

humanity. The world must be

He said that the ongoing Assembly polls in J&K are historic and the "results will

be a slap on the faces of NC,

He said Pakistan's condition at present is horrific. "The country is falling apart. On the contrary, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi gives 80 Crore

people of India a free ration

and 60 Crore are getting free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh

which has been enhanced up

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

freed from this cancer..."

PDP and Congress.

to Rs 7 lakh.

Pura and Chhamb.

saying that our

opposition too."
"The party remained far from

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

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

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

Modi claimed the Congress made tall promises to the people of Himachal Pradesh like they would "lay roof to pay salaries or carry out

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

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

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

informed about it, the prime minister said at interaction.

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

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

"Haryana has for the first

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

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

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

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

it is in power, be it Karnataka or Telangana. Now they are talking big in

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

is forming the government with a big mandate. One voice is heard from every home Bharosa Dil Se, Bajpa Phir Se." We have to put all our might to win the polling booth. You have to break all records of voting," he said.
Referring to the Haryana BJP's "Mahra Haryana-Non-Stop Haryana" campaign,

Modi said it has been inspired by mothers and sisters from



## BJP gears up for crucial J and K Assembly polls Union Ministers Shivrai

MOHIT KANDHARI

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

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

In the 2014 Assembly polls, BJP won 19 out of 21 Assembly segments from the four districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur. This time three new seats

have been added, one each in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur during the Delimitation of Assembly constituencies.

BJP's performance in this phase is going to make or chances of nent : rmation on its

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

to the innocent," the judge

said while announcing the

quantum of punishment. The

victim was raped and



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

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

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

### PM Modi cancels Pune visit due to heavy rain, orange alert T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Pune recorded 130 mm of rainfall on Wednesday and there was no let in heavy



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

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

the project have been constructed under ground.

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre to obtain a copy of a petition pending before the Allahabad High Court on the issue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship. The court said a petition on a similar issue is also being heard by the Allahabad High Court and two courts can't deal with the same issue simultaneously. On Wednesday, Allahabad High Court sought response from Union Home Ministry on its notice to Rahul on British

Citizenship holding.
The court said before proceeding further in the matter, it will be in the interest of justice to know the position about the pending petition in the Allahabad High Court. "We read in the newspaper that Allahabad High Court is also seized of

cannot deal with the same

"You (Centre) check up the

issue simultaneously.

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

the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The plea, filed by advocate Satya Sabharwal,

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

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

citizenship.

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

## Sanjay Raut found guilty in defamation

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

A Metropolitan Magistrate's court awarded him a fine of Rs 25,000, in the same case.

Immediately afterwards, Raut moved an application before the court which suspended his jail sentence for 30 days to enable him file an appeal in an upper court. The court also granted him bail against a

cash surety of Rs 15,000. The 25th Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazgaon, came out with this politically significant Order in a libel suit filed in April 2022 by Medha Somaiya against Raut, who had alleged a Rs 100-crore toilet construction scam toilet construction scam linked to Yuva Pratishthan, a non-government organisation run by the Somaiyas, at Mira Road in Thane district



### **NCW** urges companies to address workplace harassment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

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

harassment including work

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

"This should be a constant practice in organisations for the entitlement of women and all genders. This is a human and social responsibility to achieve gender diversity for all walks of society.India has a vast diversity and there should be a feeling of inclusivity in all the places possible," she said. "Corporate India should recognise this inclusivity and bridge the gender balance relationship in working spaces. Harassment in the workplace and non-payment of maternity benefits should

be addressed immediately for

We should apply a holistic approach to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047,"

Khongdup added.
Ravi Bhatnagar, Co-Chairperson, ASSOCHAM
National CSR highlighted the importance of recognising employee well-being at workplaces so that gender diversity can take center stage. Dr Shweta Sharma, a clinical

psychologist and Joint Secretary Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists (IACP) while talking to The Pioneer agreed as she said that by ensuring access to maternity leave and other related support, companies can promote a culture of inclusivity and care, which ultimately benefits everyone

in the organisation. She further said that from a psychological standpoint, the importance of work-life

balance in a company's policy cannot be overstated, particularly in high-stress environments like EY India, where demanding workloads often contribute to mental health struggles. "A wellstructured work-life balance policy promotes mental wellbeing, reducing burnout, stress, and anxiety among employees. It allows individuals to

maintain personal time for rest, relationships, and selfcare, which are vital for psychological resilience. Companies that prioritize this balance can significantly improve satisfaction, productivity, and retention.

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

rupees smuggled into the country by poor Muslim workers returning home after their trip to West Asian countries. "Last three years saw 180

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

of calling Ajith Kumar, one of the senior IPS officers in the State a "criminal". By the time the press meet was

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

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

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Trouble for Siddaramaiah**

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

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



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

The probe, aims to examine Siddaramaiah's role and whether he acted within the framework of the law. While the investigation is in its preliminary stages, the political ramifications are already visible. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanding a thorough investigation and even his resignation, the pressure on Siddaramaiah is mounting. In response to the accu-

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

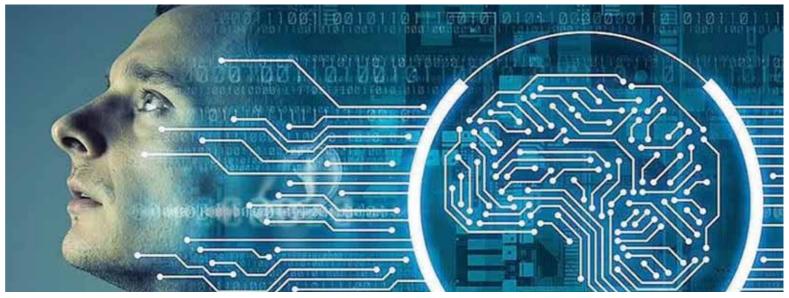


artist gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess at artisans' village Kumartuli, in Kolkata

## Exploring the depths of the human mind



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



he human mind is a unique organic entity whose lengths of reach and visions of the range are still to be fully mapped. Many believe that an average mind works at less than 30 per cent of its potential. Putting this in the context of artificial intelligence, the matter becomes even more complex. There is a theory doing the rounds in the field of artificial intelligence that suggests that entities of artificial intelligence have the potential of organic functioning, just like the human

The evidence for this is fairly mixed. Some conclusions may emerge over time. The crucial question concerning artificial intelligence however does include its possibilities and potential for organic evolution and growth. As observed, sooner or later, answers will emerge. Even otherwise, the human mind is a suo motu logic of its existence. Attempts to map it, are indeed one of the exciting aspects of human endeavour. Notwithstanding some breakthroughs in mapping the brain, there are areas of brain function that need a closer look both physically and operationally. interestingly, notwithstanding all this, there is a common reference to the 'second childhood' of human beings, where

age, start behaving with childlike traits. It is difficult to explain this process, but it is fairly obvious to notice.

Similarly, the jury is out on the age by which, the basic orientation of the brain fully takes place. One also needs to know when it matures enough to develop a relationship between the 'conscious' brain and the 'subconscious' brain.

Notwithstanding the diverse interpretations of the above narrative, it is obvious that at some stage the basic foundations of the mind seemingly get concretised. One such example is the influence of early childhood experiences on a growing human being. There are stages of childhood emerging into early adult-

All this becomes integral to the individual's ways of thinking and behaving. Popularly, this is known to affect the orientations of a growing individual on matters of finance, gender or for that matter even values.

The list can be extended but more to the point one does not know, exhaustively, of all the influences which go into the making of an operationally adult human mind. Very often, there may be latent people, upon reaching a certain influences on a human mind

MANY AREAS OF THOUGHT, REFLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND RESEARCH MAY CONTAIN INDICATIONS OF **UNDERSTANDING** THE DYNAMICS OF THE MIND. IT MAY BE A CHALLENGE, BUT A CHALLENGE

THAT CANNOT

BE EVADED

that may not manifest themselves until a much later point in adulthood.

All in all, many ambiguities

remain, and so do many contradictions that stay alive so far as the working of the mind is concerned. Above all, it is generally believed that hor-monal changes affect the working of the mind. Both men and women reportedly pass through menopause in their later life. Many are of the view that menopausal effects are more identifiable amongst the women than the men. An issue, however, remains to be fully answered: what are the factors that influence the working of the mind?

Yet another element that influences behaviour is the fall out of a mental shock. It can have many approximations of derailing the thought process of the individual, and indeed, impacting many values. Put simply, many areas of thought, reflection, analysis, and research may contain indications of understanding the dynamics of the mind. It may be a challenge, but a challenge that cannot be evaded.

Further, there are also some transgenerational aspects to it. Say, how two parents deal with each other, or singly and collectively deal with a child is an important factor for the child's growth. This can carry on across generations. Physiologically, the passing of some genes is known to happen across generations.

This is not only in terms of physical characteristics but also certain diseases that may have affected one of the grandparents in a given generation and resurfaced again two generations later in the physical system of a descendant. The mapping of this process, as of today, needs much additional work to be done.

This also contains a whole research agenda of human physiology, physical anthropology, medicines and more. Such a subject matter would deserve an integrated approach of not just, anthropology, psychology, genetic sciences and more, but a whole setup of support disciplines with appropriate interdisciplinary framework.

This will give insights into the physiology of the human being and the composition of the brain and mind. It is a challenging task, but it is a task that cannot be avoided.

( 1 ne writer is a weii-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## World tourism day: Uniting people, fostering peace



ANJULI PATHAK

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

very year on September 27, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, a reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in fostering cultural exchange, boosting economies, and promoting peace. As borders open and people explore new destinations, tourism serves as a bridge, uniting diverse cultures and breaking down barriers between nations.

In 2024, as we celebrate World Tourism Day, the theme focuses on the far-reaching benefits of travel beyond leisure, recognising how tourism helps us understand the world, its people, and its many cultures in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Tourism is not merely about sightseeing; it's about experiencing the essence of a place, its history, and its culture. As Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, emphasises, "Tourism is primarily a way to immerse oneself in new cultures and experience history." Through tourism, individuals are given the chance to see the world through different lenses, fostering greater acceptance and understanding of other peo-

ple and their ways of life. This broader understanding is why cities like Moscow have prioritised cultural tourism as a key driver for their economic and social growth. The Moscow tourism strategy emphasises the importance of museums, exhibitions, and cultural events, which help travelers connect with the history and artistic traditions of the region. This approach reflects a global shift in tourism, where travelers seek deeper, more authentic experiences that expand their worldviews

Tourism has always played a unique role in creating connections between people from different backgrounds. It allows us to learn from one another, building bridges of supports local businesses, and

understanding and respect. On World Tourism Day, this aspect of travel is especially highlighted, as we reflect on how it fosters harmony in an increasingly interconnected world.

As Kush Kapoor CEO of Roseate Hotels & Resorts, points out, "Tourism is about the connections we forge and the cultural experiences we offer." Kapoor stresses the importance of offering travelers more than just a stay, but a chance to explore different cultures and traditions. In a world where differences can sometimes divide, tourism brings people together, promoting peace and mutual respect.

For hotels and resorts, the focus is now on providing culturally aware experiences, from diverse culinary offerings to personalised services that reflect the traditions and customs of visitors. This kind of attention to cultural diversity enriches the overall travel experience, making it more inclusive and meaningful. Beyond cultural connections, tourism is a major economic

generates millions of jobs,

larities and shared humanity driver for many countries. It

contributes to the global economy

Sustainable tourism focuses on minimising the environmental footprint of travel while maximising the positive social and economic impact on host communities. From eco-friendly hotels to tours that support local artisans, tourism can be a powerful tool for inclusive development and environmental protec-

For example, in one of his sentences, he Perhaps the most significant impact of tourism is its role in promoting global peace and understanding. By encouraging interactions between people of different cultures, tourism helps to break down prejudices and build mutual respect. As we celebrate World Tourism Day, it's important to remember that each journey is not just a trip to a new place but an opportunity to engage with the world in a way that promotes peace and harmony. When people experience the customs, values, and traditions of other cultures, they begin to appreciate the simi-

that unite us all (The author is a travel writer, views expressed are personal)

#### **GOVERNOR SPARKS CONTROVERSY**

Madam — Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, in an unprecedented move on the evening of June 29 last year, unilaterally removed Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthilbalaji from the Council of Ministers. But he hastily backtracked from his decision late at night because he too knew that his act was not only illegal but also unconstitutional.

Some people say that Ravi has always been in the habit of being in controversies. But I believe that R N Ravi is a Governor later, first he is the order follower of the ruling Home Ministry. The ideology of the Home Ministry is clearly visible in every decision and every speech of him.

For example, just two days ago, while giving a lecture, he said that 'secularism is a European concept, that is why it was not a part of the Indian Constitution earlier, later, an 'insecure Prime Minister' got it added to the Constitution during the Emergency'

first hinted at the concept of a Hindutva nation and secondly, he also criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Some critics are demanding the immediate removal of R N Ravi from the post of Governor, whereas I believe that this is an ideological war which has been started by the central Government through the Governor, hence it would be better to answer this verbal war with thoughts only. Ravi should be asked, and then he will also say that the entire Constitution of India is external and is a copy of Europe, especially Britain, hence the entire Constitution should be abolished? Is our Constitution, on the basis of which we are proudly waving the flag of being the largest democracy today, also a European

Has the Governor forgotten that he has taken oath of this Constitution? Secularism is an integral part of our Constitution. It is our biggest duty to keep

religion separate from politics. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur ented players, of course, are indispensable

#### **Ukraine appreciates India's efforts** cial role in establishing peace within Ukraine with its humanitarian assistance, negotiating stabil-



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

nation near or far from us; stuck in the political or economic or geopolitical turmoil, India's assistance will be helpful to ensure peace and tranquillity in the war hit country. Also such moves will also help India to meet its commitment of becoming Vishwa Shanti Guru or World's Peace Leader in the time to come. This peace collaboration between India and Ukraine will take Indian diplomatic skills to the next level.

#### **INDIA'S HOCKEY DOMINANCE CONTINUES**

Madam—Indian hockey is on a high as exemplified by the way Manpreet Singh's men dominated the Men's Asian trophy at China's Hulunbuir. Notwithstanding the fact that India was the favourites to lift the title, the boys had to perform on the day, and they did. Although India fought hard to overcome an unexpected resistance from China in the final, the same team it had blanked in the league match, there was little doubt that it was the best team on display throughout the tourney

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medal, 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, bronze at the recent Paris Olympics, and now Asian gold: India has had an excellent run on the astroturf for a couple of years, after a long, long period. The best part of the present Indian hockey team is the unity and spirit with which they come across the field come what may. Coach Craig Fulton's disinclination towards unnecessary and unwarranted chopping of players, in contrast to a few former coaches, has played its role. The tal-

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

ity deals and peace settlement mediation

between Ukraine and Russia. The Indian efforts for peace initiation is so far are still moving

ahead in the back channel diplomatic level. For

which Ukraine is thankful for the clear support of India towards Ukrainian integrity and sover-

eignty. India's efforts in this regards is partic-

ularly welcoming that, we take care of every

#### **ENCOUNTERS RAISE CONCERNS**

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

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **SHARPENING THE QUAD VISION**

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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

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

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



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

The next Quad leaders' summit is likely to be hosted by Delhi, where a new US president is likely to be the key guest of honour. Given that ex-President Trump had encouraged the Quad grouping and President Biden has elevated it to leaders summit, it is safe to assume that QUAD is here

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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**ESTABLISH ITS** POWER IN **PARLIAMENT** 

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the post-independence landscape, missed opportunities for reconciliation and economic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



lion by 2025. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for water conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for better fertiliser management are further driving this growth. AI and Machine Learning: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are

also playing a crucial role in

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

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

blockchain provides verifiable in India is projected to reach information about the origin USD 634.5 million by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 12.5 per and journey of food products, ensuring adherence to sustainability standards. The blockchain market in India's agriculture and food supply chain is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47.8 per cent, reaching USD 289 million by 2027. IoT and Smart Farming: The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionising how farmers monitor and manage their crops. IoT devices, such as soil

moisture sensors and weather

stations, provide real-time data

on environmental conditions,

allowing for better decision-

making in the field. For exam-

ple, smart irrigation systems

can adjust water usage based

on real-time data, saving water

and improving crop health.

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

officer with Arahas Technologies; views are personal)



## US, allies call for immediate ceasefire Trump threatens to end Biden between Israel, Hezbollah

The US, France and other allies jointly called on Wednesday for an immediate 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations in the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has killed more than 600 people in Lebanon in recent days. The joint statement, negotiated on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly in New York, says the recent fighting is "intolerable and presents an unacceptable risk of a broader regional escalation".

"We call for an immediate 21day cease-fire across the Lebanon-Israel border to provide space for diplomacy," the statement said. "We call on all parties, including the governments of Israel and Lebanon, to endorse the temporary cease-fire immediately.

There was no immediate reaction from the Lebanese side or Hezbollah — but senior US officials said all parties were

therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

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aware of the call for a ceasefire. Netanyahu's Office said that the ceasefire put forward from the United States and France was only a proposal and the Prime Minister, who is currently on a flight en route to the United States for the United Nations General Assembly, has not responded to the proposal. Earlier, representatives for Israel and Lebanon reiterated their support for a UN resolution that ended the 2006 war between Israel and the Iranian-backed militant group.

The US hopes the new deal could lead to longer-term sta-bility along the border between Israel and Lebanon. Months of Israeli and Hezbollah exchanges of fire have driven tens of thousands of people from their homes, and escalated attacks over the past week have rekindled fears of a broader war in the Middle East. The US officials said Hezbollah would not be a signatory to the cease-fire but

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applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.



believed the Lebanese government would coordinate its acceptance with the group. They said they expected Israel to "welcome" the proposal and perhaps formally accept it when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the General Assembly on

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Friday. While the deal applies only to the Israel-Lebanon border, the US officials said they were looking to use a three-week pause in fighting to restart stalled negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release deal between Israel and

Hamas, another Iranian-

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backed militant group, after nearly a year of war in Gaza. The US, France and other allies jointly called Wednesday for an immediate 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations in the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has killed more than 600 people in Lebanon in recent

The allies calling for a halt to the Israel-Hezbollah conflict are the United States, Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Work on the proposal came together quickly this week with President Joe Biden's national security team, led by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan, meeting with world leaders in New York and lobbying other countries to support the plan, according to US officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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## immigration programmes

813,000 migrants have used

that system since it was

launched in January 2023.

Separately, the administration

launched a programme last year that allows 30,000 people

a month from Cuba, Haiti,

Nicaragua and Venezuela to

come to the United States if

they have a financial sponsor,

pass background vetting and

buy a plane ticket to fly into an

American airport instead of

going to the southern border.

About 530,000 people have

come to the US under that pro-

Migrants using both pro-

grammes are admitted to the

country under humanitarian

parole for two years. The Biden

administration has touted both

policies as ways to reduce

chaos at the border with

Mexico, cut out vicious smug-

gling networks and allow for

more vetting of migrants before

they enter the country. But Republicans say both pro-

gramme.

**AP** WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump, who has made antiimmigration rhetoric a key part of his reelection campaign, has warned that he would kick out hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have entered the country under two key Biden administration programmes if he is reelected. Speaking to Fox News on Wednesday, Trump railed against two immigration programs created by the Biden administration to encourage migrants not to come directly to the southern border to seek asylum and make the region less chaotic.

Trump said he would make the more than 1 million people who have entered the US under the two programmes leave: "Get ready to leave because you're going to be going out real fast.

Trump has already promised a vast crackdown on immigration if he's reelected, including a vow to carry out mass deportations of migrants. He made similar pledges during previous campaigns, but during his time as president, deportations never topped 350,000.

Under one Biden administration programme, migrants as far south as the Mexican border with Guatemala can use a smartphone app called CBP One to schedule a date to come to an official US border crossing to seek asylum. So far,

grams essentially amount to an end-run around the country's immigration laws, which are set by Congress, and that the Biden administration is admitting people who otherwise would not qualify to come to the US. Republican-led states have sued

to stop both policies.
Following previous pledges for mass deportations of migrants, Trump and his chief immigration policy architect, Stephen Miller, are bringing more specifics on how he plans to carry them out in a second White House term, such as invoking wartime powers, relying on like-minded governors and using the military.

However, any efforts to deport migrants on such a large scale would almost certainly run into legal, logistical and financial challenges. Immigration advocacy groups

say that Trump's promises of mass deportations are sowing fear among migrant communities. Esther Sung is the legal director for Justice Action Center. When Republican-led states sued to end the sponsorship program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans the organization represented Americans who sponsored migrants to come to the US and wanted to preserve

the program. A federal judge in Texas allowed the program to continue, saying the states hadn't proved they suffered financial harm because of it.

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Co- Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/Outstan- ding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Premendra Shankar, Ranjana Srivastava, C 87 Third Floor Duggal Colony, Khanpur Extension, Khanpur South Delhi Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi 110062 Ac:- LBGHZ00004858544	Duplex House No. 252, Block HD, Sector 135, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida- 201301	14/08/2024 / Rs. 1,04,19,607.44/-	03/06/ 2024
2.	Saloni Mohan, Hari Mohan Grover, Flat No. 401 Tower 4, Sunworld Arista, Sector 168, Chhaprauli Bangar, Noida- 201305 Ac:- LBGHZ00002398248	Apartment No. 1402, 14th Floor Tower/Block T-2 Sunworld Arista Situated At GH 1C, Sector 168 Noida Expressway Noida- 201301	02/09/2024 Rs. 54,67,186.26/-	03/06/ 2024
3.	Preeti Jogeshwar, Asha Jogeshwar, K-304 Ajnara Homes, Sector 16B, Khora, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Buddha Nagar - 201309 Ac:- TBNOD00006188604/ LBNOD00006198200	Flat No. 12135, 12th Floor, Block Chestnut, Mahagun Mywoods, Built On Plot No. GH-04, Sector-16c, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201306	10/9/2024 / Rs. 42,12,449/- Rs. 1,05,465/-	27/06/ 2024
4.	Manoj Kumar, Raj Kumar, Chander Probha, D 1/65 D Block Pkt 1 Rohini Sec 16, Delhi- 110085 Ac:- LBDEL00005798285/ LBDEL00005798309/ LBDEL00005798330/ LBDEL00005766884/ LBDEL00002210005/ LBDEL00003479699	Property Bearing No. 65, Block D, Pocket-1, Sector-16, Rohini Residential Scheme New Delhi- 110085	27/08/2024 / Rs. 84,380.4/- Rs. 12,102.7/- Rs. 27,659.28/- Rs. 9,21,255.03/- Rs. 15,64,867.43/- Rs. 9,51,677.03/-	05/05/ 2024
5.	Ashish Dass, Sunita., 214 Dda Flats, Hastsal Vikas Puri, Near Kendriya Vidyalaya, New Delhi, Delhi- 110059 Ac:- LBDEL00002440013	Flat No. 2302, 23rd Floor, Ajnara Le Garden, Tower-o, Situated At Plot No. Gh-02, Sector-16, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201307	10/09/2024 Rs. 27,49,192.36/-	07/09/ 2024
6.	Dharmendra Singh, Shobha Singh, R/o 143 2nd Floor, Ashoka Enclave, Main Sector-34, Delhi, New Delhi- 121003 Ac:- LBDEL00006358114/ LBDEL00006365427	Flat No. F-1103, 11th Floor, Tower Blueberry, Situated At Green Arch, Plot No. Gh-10A, Sector-63, Techzone-IV, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh, 201303	17/08/2024 / Rs. 23,02,158.54/- Rs. 1,73,870.32/-	13/05/ 2024
7.	Sanjeev Kumar Jain, Namita Jain, B-12, Second Floor, Frontside Rana Pratap Bagh, New Delhi, Delhi- 110007 Ac;- LBDEL00001288341/ LBDEL00001757133 / LBDEL00001757141	Flat No. A-208/2, Second Floor, Without Roof/terrace Rights, Sector-A, Situated In The Layout Plan Of Dera Ismail Khan Co-op. Housing Society Ltd., Derawal Nagar, Mubarak Bagh, G.T Road, Post Office Azadpur, Delhi-110033	10/09/2024 / Rs. 97,71,415.44/- Rs. 2,14,882.71/- Rs. 5,24,906.49/-	07/05/ 2009
8.	Pratik Kumar Jain, Sarita., A 188 Gulab Bagh Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059 Ac:- LBDEL00004976580	Flat No A-1406, 14th Floor, Tower-A, Diya Green City, Situated At Khasra No- 1097 4& 1098, Village Morta , Raj Nagar Ext., Meerut Road, Ghaziabad 201001 (with One Open Car Parking)	02/09/2024 Rs. 19,52,034.34/-	28/03/ 2024
9.	Niharika Biswas, H No. 503 A UP Start, Mohalla Ratnakar, Khanda Eldiko, Khanda Eldiko, Lucknow- 226025 Ac:- LBDEL00006036568/ LBDEL00006077643	Flat No C 906, 9th Floor Tower C, Terra Lavinium Sector-75 Faridabad- 121001	04/09/2024 / Rs. 18,58,675.44/- Rs. 82,395.18/-	09/04/ 2024
10.	Amber Walia, Flat No.36, Manav Apartments, A-3, Delhi, West Delhi- 110063 Ac:- LBDEL00005867031/ LBGUR00005985670	Flat No-10132, 13th Floor, Tower-10, Synera, Situated At Sector-81, Village- nakhdaula, Tehsil-Manesar, District Gurgaon Haryana-122005	17/08/2024 / Rs. 17,99,715.5/- Rs. 26,263.9/-	06/05/ 2024
11.	Prashant Kumar Singh, Ananya Singh, R/o D-401, Bhagyawan Apartments, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, East Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi- 110091 Ac:- LBNOD00002129217	Flat No. 406, 4th Floor, Tower-D, Ace Aspire, Situated At Plot No. GH-02A, Sector Techzone-IV, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201307	10/09/2024 Rs. 17,78,065.54/-	03/06/ 2024
12.	Ramanand, Anita Devi, Hasan Mushtaba, R/o 163 Masjid Vali Gali, Vikas Nagar NFL, Haryana, Panipat- 132103 Ac:- LBGHZ00004975305	Shop No. O-651, 6th Floor, Wing-B, Gaur City, Gaur City Center, Situated At Plot No. GH-01, Sector-4, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201307	10/09/2024 Rs. 16,01,248.12/-	05/05/ 2024
13.	R/o Sw-20042 20th Floor, Plot No. Gh-04, Mahagun Mywoods, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida Extn., Bishrakh, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Budhh Nagar 201306 Ac:- TBDEL00006483626	Unit No. Sw 20042, 20th Floor, Mahagun Mywood, Block Sandal Wood, Situated At Plot No. GH-04, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201306	10/09/2024 Rs. 13,82,607.42/-	12/05/ 2024
14.	House No. 304, Ground Floor, Sector 11, Vasundhra, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad- 201012 Ac:- LBDEL00001977334	Flat No. 1202, 12th Floor, Tower-M, Type-2, Blossom Greens, Situated At Plot Gh-01, Sector-143, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201305	09/02/2024 Rs. 13,07,316.82/-	08/06/ 2024
15.	Vijay Kumar Shukla, Madhu Shukla, C/o Pritam Lal, BM-38, West Shalimar Bagh, Delhi - 110088 Ac:- LBDEL00006589867 / LBDEL00001791387	Flat No-60, Pocket-3 Block-H, Second Floor (Front Side) Sector-18 DELHI 110085	27/08/2024/ Rs. 10,79,226.06/- Rs. 1,97,921.02/-	03/02/ 2024

Ac:- LBNOD00002083292 These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (a: applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction o Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Uttar Pradesh, 201307

Flat No. 1705, 17th Floor, Tower 15, Exotica Dreamville, Situated At Plot No. Gh-01/A, Sector-16c, Greater Noida,

Free Hold Flat No. B-29/31, Sapna Type 2 Flat, Challan No 1384,3rd Floor, Secto

5. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010

Flat No. 401, 4th Floor, Tower-K-2, Neotown, Situated At Plot No. GH-03, Sector-Techzone-iv, Greater Noida,

Guatam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh,

Date: September 27, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR

Sincerely, Authorised Signator, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

10/09/2024

Rs. 9,32,376.12/-

10/09/2024

Rs. 4,03,602.9/-

02/09/2024 Rs. 4,00,841.6/-

27/06/

## **Trump: Ukraine** is demolished

Washington (AP): Former President Donald Trump described Ukraine in bleak and mournful terms on Wednesday, referring to its people as "dead" and the country itself as "demolished", and further raising questions about how much the former president would be willing if elected again to concede in a negotiation over the country's future. Trump argued Ukraine should have made concessions to Russian President Vladimir Putin in the months before Russia's February 2022 attack, declaring that even "the worst deal would've been better than what we have now".

Trump, who has long been critical of US aid to Ukraine, frequently claims that Russia never would have invaded if he would put an end to the war if he returned to the White House. But rarely has he discussed the conflict in such detail.

His remarks, at a North Carolina event billed as an economic speech, come on the heels of a debate this month in which he pointedly refused to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win the war. On Tuesday, Trump touted the prowess of

Russia and its predecessor Soviet Union, saying that wars are "what they do".

The Republican former president, notoriously attuned to slights, began his denunciation of Ukraine by alluding to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent criticism of Trump and running mate JD Vance.

Zelenskyy, who is visiting the US this week to attend the UN General Assembly, told The New Yorker that Vance was "too radical" for proposing that Ukraine surrender territories under Russian control and that Trump "doesn't really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows

Said Trump, "It's something we have to have a quick discussion Ukraine is in our country and he's making little nasty aspersions toward your favorite president, me."

Trump painted Ukraine as a country in ruins outside its capital, Kyiv, short on soldiers and losing population to war deaths and neighbouring countries. He questioned whether the country has any bargaining chips left to negotiate an end to the war.

### Harrods issues apology to women claiming abuse by former owner

victims.

London (AP): The managing director of Harrods said Thursday that the London department store is "deeply sorry" for failing employees who say they were sexually assaulted by late owner Mohamed Al Faved.

Michael Ward said it is clear Al Fayed "presided over a toxic culture of secrecy, intimidation, fear of repercussion and sexual misconduct".

Five women have told the BBC they were raped by Al Fayed, who died last year aged 94, and several others allege acts of assault and physical violence. Lawyers for the alleged victims say they have been retained by 37 women and the list is growing.

Ward said he was "not aware of his (Al Fayed's) criminality and abuse" during the four years he worked for the Harrod's owner, though "rumours of his behaviour circulated in the public domain?

Al Fayed owned Harrods for a quarter century before selling it 2010 to a company owned by the state of Qatar through its sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority. "We failed our colleagues and for that we are deeply sorry, Ward said in a statement. He said Harrods had set up a "settlement process" for Al Fayed's

"This was a shameful period in the business' history," the statement said. "However, the Harrods of today is unrecognisable to Harrods under his

ownership." London's Metropolitan Police say they were made aware of allegations in the past and had questioned Al Fayed in 2008 over the alleged sexual abuse of a 15-year-old, but prosecutors at the time did not take the cases forward.

Al Fayed's family has not commented. Egypt-born businessman Al

Fayed moved to Britain in the 1960s and bought Harrods, an upmarket retail emporium in London's tony Knightsbridge district, in the mid-1980s He became a well-known figure through his ownership of the store and the London soccer team Fulham. He was often in the headlines after his son Dodi was killed alongside Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris in 1997 Al Fayed spent years promoting the conspiracy theory that the royal family had arranged the accident because they did not approve of Diana dating an Egyptian.

Date: September 27, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR Sincerely, Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd. **PUBLIC NOTICE PICICI Bank** | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005 The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA).

A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice. Description of Secured Asset to be enforced Date of Notice sent/Outstan-ding as on Date of Notice Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address Renu Kathuria/ Rajiv Kathuria/ Tai Infotech Pvt Ltd A/c No LBGUR00003300349/ 600 NEAR Huda Market, Sec 31 Gurgaon Haryana 122001 Plot No 10 Ground Floor Block D, Sector 48, Residential Colony Vipul World Village Fazilpur Jharsa And Tikri, Tehsil And District Gurgaon Haryana 122001 02/09/2024 04-07 2024 Rs. 1,82,28,049.49/-Anita Belwal/ Deepak Chopra A/c No LBGUR00002892058/ 115 Aspen Greens Nirvana Country Sec 50 Gurgaon Haryana 122001 Flat No 3162, 16th Floor Type A In Tower 3, Ats Mari Gold, Sector 89a, Gurgaon Haryana 122001 17/08/2024 30-05 Rs. 67,67,676.33/-Anita Belwal/ Deepak Chopra A/c No LBGUR00002892058/ 115 Flat No 3161, 16th Floor Type A In Tower 3, Ats Mari Gold, Sector 89a, Gurgaon Haryana 122001 30-05-2024 17/08/2024 67,58,729.91/-Aspen Greens Nirvana Country Sec 50 Gurgaon Haryana 122001 Shashank Manjari/ Vikash Chandra Plot No 713, Sector 40, Urban Estate, 10/08/2024 08-06-MISHIRA Mansui Trading Pvt Ltd A/c No LBGUR00004492313/ House No 375, Sector 40 Gurgaon, Haryana 122101 Haryana 122001 1,04,01,464.3/-Shashank Manjari/ Vikash Chandra Mishra/ Mansui Trading Pvt Ltd A/c No LBGUR00005115491/ House No 375, Sector 40 Gurgaon, Haryana 122101 Plot No 713, Sector 40, Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Tehsil And District Gurgaon Haryana 122001 10/08/2024 08-06 4,24,012.4/-Rishabh Aggarwal Wazir LLP/ Rishabh Aggarwal/ Mukesh Kumar A/c No TBGUR00006574421/ Office No 612 To 615 Spaze Boulevard Gurgaon Haryana 122018 Unit No 601 & 602, 6th Floor Spaze Boulevard, Sohna Road Sector 47, Gurgaon 122001 03/09/2024 04-07 Rs. 1,01,37,272.08/ 2024 Amit Gupta/ Mithlesh Gupta/ Vijende Kumar A/c No LBGUR00004427403/ H No- 44A Pocket- B Saraswati Vihar Delhi 110052 Unit No 1143, 11th Floor Jmd Megapolis Sector 48, Sohna Road Situated At Village Tikri Tehsil And District Gurgaon 122001 02/09/2024 21-06 Rs. 74,61,425/-Dhruv Harjai/ Ravi Mohan Harjai A/c No LBGUR00002410976/ G-1002 Suncity Heights Golf Course Road Suncity Sec-54 Haryana Gurgaon 122002 Flat No 103, 1st Floor Tower V, The Hyde Park, Plot No Gh -003, Sector 78, Noida 201301 02/09/2024 03-06 Rs. 70,45,791.07/-Surender Singh Sheoran/ Sahil Sheoran,/ Kiran. A/c No LBFDB00005400953/ H-No- 1121 A Sec-23 A Haryana Faridabad 121004 09-06-2024 Residential Site Property No 2471, Sector 65, Urban Estate Faridabad Ballabhgarh Faridbad 121001 27/08/2024 Rs. 42,39,860.22/-27/08/2024 Surender Singh Sheoran/ Sahil Sheoran,/ Kiran. A/c No TBFDB00006509262/ H-No- 1121 A Sec-23 A Haryana Faridabad 121004 Residential Site Property No 2471, Sector 65, Urban Estate Faridabad Ballabhgarh Faridbad 121001 09-06 21,78,713.6/-Pradeep Vidyadharan/ Tina Nag A/c No LBGUR00002492794/ R/o 410, 4th Floor, Tower 9, Proview Technocity Apartments, Sector-CH15, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida 201301 Flat No. T-3/C-616, 16th Floor, Ncr 11/09/2024 03-06-Monarch, Situated At Plot No. Gh-02/c, Sector-01, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh Rs. 48,44,285.32/-2024 12. Ashutosh Yadav/ Narender Kumar Yadav A/c No LBGUR00004863716/ House No, 553 Sec 14 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon 122001 19/08/2024 Plot No 304, Sector 1, Part -1, Narnaul Complex Rewari 123401 11-10 Rs. 27,32,484.95/-Ashutosh Yadav/ Narender Kumar Yadav A/c No LBGUR00004858678/ House No, 553 Sec 14 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon 122001 Plot No 304, Sector 1, Part -1, Narnaul Complex Rewari 123401 11-10 19/08/2024 2022 14,49,676.09/-Flat No-10132, 13th Floor, Tower-10, Synera, Situated At Sector-81, Village-nakhdaula, Tehsil-manesar, District Gurgaon Haryana 122005 Amber Walia A/c No LBGUR00005985670/ Flat No.36, 17/08/2024 06-05 2024 Rs. 26,263.9/-Manav Apartments, A-3, Delhi 110063 06-05 2024 17/08/2024

Amber Walia A/c No LBDEL00005867031/ Flat No.36, Manav Apartments, A-3, Delhi 110063 Flat No-10132, 13th Floor, Tower-10, Synera, Situated At Sector-81, Village-nakhdaula, Tehsil-manesar, District Gurgaon Haryana 122005 Rs. 17,99,715.5/-Property Comprised In Khata No. 1154, Khasra No. 2671/2(2-5), Intkal No. 10471A, Situated At Mauja Ashok Colony, Railway Line Par, Inside Municipal Of Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar, Haryana, 124507 Sonu Sharma/ Arti Devi A/c No LBXBA00005186625/ R/o 968/ 4, Ashok Nagar Line Par Bahadurgarh Haryana Jhajjar 124507 08-06-2024 02/09/2024 13,55,578.63/-18-06 26/08/2024 2024 Rs. 8,90,121.64/-

Flat No A1-205, 2nd Floor, Aangan Tower A1, Sector 88a And 89a, Village Harsaru Gurgaon Haryana 122001 Akshansh Kumar Kulshreshtha/ Neha Kulshreshtha A/c No LBGUR00003765389/ HN 599/ 23 Luxmi Garden, Gurgaon Haryana 122001 Manoj Kumar Dubey/ Kavita. A/c No LBFDB00002866425/ House No. D-452-F, Gali No. 32, Molar Band Extention Badarpur, Mandir Shani Dev, Mehrauli, Delhi- 110044 Flat No. 1108, 11th Floor, Type-b, Tower-7, Auric City Homes, Situated At Village Bhatola Sector-82, Faridabad, Haryana,

Gaurav./ Manju. A/c No LBGUR00003241060/ H No 4686 St Flat No C-153, 14th Floor, 63 Golf Drive Tower 3, Situated At Sector-63a, No 3, Shivaji Nagar Ludhiana, Punjab, 141008,shivaji Nagar Ludhiana, Ludhiana, Punjab-141008 10,46,061.00/-These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Sincerely, Authorised Signator For ICICI Bank Ltd.

29/08/2024

Rs. 9,05,153.52/-

06/07/2024

11-05

18-12

16. Ravi Kumar, R Insprio It Private
Limited, Yogendra Prasad, Anita
Kumari, Paritosh Pandey, R/o B-107
Oxford Square Supertech, Eco Village
3 Noida Extension, Uttar Pradesh,
Greater Noida- 201305
A---- I BNOD0005185390

Mahendra Singh, Seema Singh, House No. 33-B-ST No.-9, Block-B,

Mahalaxmi Enclave, Karwal Naga

18. Sumit Nanda, Nisha Nanda, R/o 140 2nd Floor, Ashiana Greens, Ahinsa Khand-Il Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh,

Ac:- LBNOD00005185390

New Delhi. Delhi-110094

Ac:- LBDEL00001979532

Ghaziabad - 201001

## Zelenskyy visiting WH as partisan Labour Party members deal a blow to divide grows over Ukraine war



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

**AP** WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is visiting Washington on Thursday as U.S. support for his country's fight against Russia faces a partisan reckoning in this year's presidential election. Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, has pledged to continue sending military assistance to Ukraine if she's elected. She'll have her own meeting with Zelenskyy after the Ukrainian leader sits down with President Joe Biden, who announced billions of dollars more in missiles, drones, ammunition and other supplies. The weapons include an additional Patriot missile defense battery and a new shipment of glide bombs that can be deployed from Western fighter jets, increasing their strike range.

"The United States will provide Ukraine with the support it needs to win this war," Biden said in a statement, pledging to ensure that all approved funding is disbursed before he leaves office. He also said he would convene a meeting with

ing the immediate release of the

first loan tranche of less than

USD 1.1 billion to reinforce the

cash-strapped country's efforts

to address the ongoing eco-

The International Monetary

Fund (IMF) board met on

Wednesday in Washington to

give a nod to the staff-level

agreement with Pakistan after

Islamabad promised to over-

haul its agriculture income tax,

transfer some fiscal responsibil-

ities to provinces, and agree to

The Prime Minister's Office

confirmed the Executive Board

of the IMF approved the 37-

month Extended Fund Facility

(EFF) totalling USD 7 billion.

It is the 25th IMF programme

that Pakistan has obtained

The Taliban said Thursday it was absurd to accuse them of

gender discrimination and other

human rights violations, as four

countries vow to hold

Afghanistan's rulers accountable

under international law for their

treatment of women and girls.

Australia, Canada, Germany and

the Netherlands are set to start

legal proceedings against the

Taliban for violating a UN con-

vention on women, to which

The countries launched the

initiative on Wednesday on

the sidelines of the UN General

Assembly, which is taking place

Despite promising more mod-

erate rule after they seized

power in 2021, the Taliban have

barred women and girls from

education beyond sixth grade,

many public spaces and most

jobs. In August, the Vice and

Virtue Ministry issued laws

banning women's bare faces

and prohibiting them from

raising their voices in public.

in New York until Monday.

Afghanistan is a party.

nomic crisis.

limit subsidies.

other world leaders focused on Ukraine's defense during a visit to Germany next month. Ahead of his White House

visit, Zelenskyy was meeting with a handful of senators on Capitol Hill before heading across the Capitol to talk to House members, including the Republican chairs of several committees. Zelenskyy's tumultuous rela-

tionship with former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, continued to deteriorate this week. Instead of meeting with Zelenskyy, Trump has criticized him. As for U.S. support for Ukraine, Trump complained that "we continue to give billions of dollars to a man who refuses to make a deal" to end the war. His message dovetails with Russian propaganda that claims intransigence by Kyiv — not aggression from Moscow has prolonged the bloodshed. It's the most politically treacherous landscape that Zelenskyy

since 1958 and the sixth EFF. National Fiscal Pact and the

Pakistan will pay around a 5 Balochistan government signed

has encountered in Washington

since Russia invaded nearly three years ago. Ukrainian officials are anxious to maintain good relations with whoever how." how." On the same day, Zelenskyy

IMF approves US\$ 7b bailout for Pak

as saying in a statement given

to the Senate Standing

Committee on Economic

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

on Wednesday reiterated this

would be Pakistan's last IMF

programme; a statement he

made after the approval of the

24th programme in 2023 as

well. Shehbaz, giving credit

for the new bailout package to

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq

Dar, Chief of the Army Staff

General Asim Munir and the

finance team, noted the feder-

al government cannot complete

the 25th programme without

the cooperation of all four

The Sindh government on July

30 ratified a memorandum of

understanding for signing the

More than 20 countries

expressed their support

Thursday for the proposed

legal action against the Taliban.

systematic human rights viola-

tions and abuses in

Afghanistan, particularly the

gender-based discrimination

against women and girls," the

"Afghanistan is responsible

under international law for its

ongoing gross and systematic

violation of numerous obliga-

tions under the Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women," they added.

The countries said they did not

politically recognise the Taliban

as the legitimate leaders of the

"Afghanistan's failure to fulfil

its human rights treaty obliga-

tions is a key obstacle to nor-

malization of relations," they

said. The Taliban's deputy

spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat

said human rights were pro-

tected in Afghanistan and that

nobody faced discrimination.

Afghan population.

countries said

'We condemn the gross and

Affairs.

provinces

**Taliban: No one faces** 

discrimination in Af

the United States, which is its biggest and most important provider of arms, money and other support.

But the effort risks slipping into the political blender of the presidential campaign, polarizing the discussion around a war that used to be a bipartisan cause célèbre in Washington. Zelenskyy is eager to secure as much leverage as possible before Biden leaves office including acquiescence to fire long-range Western weapons deeper into Russia — as a hedge against the possibility that American support erodes

after the election. The latest round of sniping started on Sunday, when The New Yorker published an interview with Zelenskyy in which he criticized JD Vance, Trump's running mate, as "too radical" for suggesting that Ukraine needs to give up some territory to end the war. Zelenskyy also dismissed Trump's boasts that he could quickly negotiate a solution, saying "my feeling is that Trump doesn't really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

ekanand Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Prades 1001, declare that name of my wife and n

ninor daughter has been wrongly mentioned ii

he School records, according to the school

dmissions records daughter's name mentione Kanishka, her correct name is Kanishk

Boswami aged 14 years and according to

toured a Pennsylvania factory producing munitions for the war. He was joined by Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro, a top surrogate for Harris, and Republicans criticized the visit as a political stunt in a political battleground state.

House Speaker Mike Johnson demanded that Zelenskyy fire the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S., alleging that the tour was "designed to help Democrats and is clearly election interference. Johnson, a Louisiana

Republican, wasn't scheduled to attend any of the Capitol meetings with Zelenskyy on Thursday. But in a show of some lingering bipartisan unity, Johnson was flanked by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. as he entered the senators' meeting. Zelenskyy did not answer questions about his relationship with Trump as he walked in. Zelenskyy's trip to Washington coincides with the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where the Ukrainian leader spoke on Wednesday.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY No.EM/PED-27/2024 No.EM/PED/TECH-11/2024/370

The IMF has approved a USD 7 billion new bailout package for Pakistan, authoris
quoted the Ministry of Finance

The IMF has approved a USD 7 billion new bailout package for Pakistan, authoris
The IMF has approved a per cent interest rate on the it on July 26 following the stafflevel agreement between pakistan and the IMF on July

System at Paradip Port Authority. Festimated Cost. 157.50 050/- Last date. stimated Cost: **1,57,50,050/-**. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt. 09.10.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.

Date: 18.09.2024

Refer our website for details: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I **Paradip Port Authority** PPA/PR/40/2024-2025 dtd.26.09.2024

CORRIGENDUM NO.-01

Dated: 06-09-2024. Name of work:

Mechanized cleaning of coaches of through passing trains at New Jalpaiguri platform during halt under "Clean Train

Station" (CTS) scheme for a period of four

ears. Now <u>Please read as</u>: Date & Time f **closing** of Tender at 19:00 Hrs. on

04-10-2024 instead of 19:00 Hrs. on

27-09-2024. Date & Time of Opening of

Fender at 19:30 Hrs. on **04-10-2024** nstead of 19:30 Hrs. on 27-09-2024.

Other terms and conditions will remain

Sr. DME/Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Service Control

PUBLIC NOTICE

s to inform to the public at large that Mr. Anwa han who is the owner of the Plot No.17A, area easuring 100 sq.yds., out of Khewat No.3 hatoni No.9, Mustatii No.16, Killa No.12, 15 ituated at Ghazipur, Tehsil Badkhal, Dist aridabad, Haryana, vide Transfer Deed date and the Communication of the Communic

1.01.2020 (vide Doc. No. 0146) executed by hidda Khan and same to be finance & mortga / SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Former ullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), Noida. Th

Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), Noida. The Original Sale deed dated 01.06.1990 execute by Mr. Ishwar Singh Sharma as attorney of N Mohan Lal in favour of Mr. Hasinuddin host/misplaced. So, to comply the requirements-3ANK/NBFC, we give this public notic hat if any Person having any type of clair inputtitle/interest/ creating mortgage over trail and property, may inform in writing, at the address nentioned below, about his objections, within lays from today, failing which it shall be presume hat the said property is free from all type of incumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Leas!

"Serving Customers with a smile"

Sr. DMF/Katiba

The amendment is made in the orders floated vide following Tender

chool records wife's name is Rashmi, the prrect name of my wife is Rashmi Goswami. ATHE PIONEER A

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Khushboo Agrawal Wife of Nishant Kumar, currently residing at Flat No 1-A-111, G C Grand, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram , Ghaziabad-201014, U P have changed my name from Khushaboo Agraval to khusbhoo Agrawal.

Henceforth I would be known by the name Khushboo Agrawal for all future purposes. PD(797)C It is hereby notified to all concerned that due to my marriage to Mr. Ankur Garg,

my name has been changed from Suchi Goyal to Suchi Garg. Suchi Garg W/o Mr. Ankur Garg Resident of H-1816, Pratik Edifice, Sector-107, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar.

PD(798)C

#### LOST & FOUND

I, Khushdeep Rai S/o Late Sohan Lal have lost my original Certificate Possession Letter of Flat No.64, Lok Sabha Sectt. CGHS Ltd, Sansad Vihar, Plot No.2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi, finder please contact: 9811546464

PD(799)A

## Starmer day after his appeal for unity

Liverpool (England) (AP): allowance, worth between 200 Members of Britain's governing and 300 pounds (USD 262 Labour Party dealt Prime and USD 393), for all but the Minister Keir Starmer a blow on Wednesday, rejecting his decision to cut payments that offset winter heating costs for millions of retirees.

The vote on the final day of Labour's annual conference is not binding, but it's a setback to Starmer's efforts to unite his centre-left party around the contentious measure. Since winning office in July, Starmer has cautioned that the dire state of the public finances inherited from the last Conservative government means he must make hard choices such as ending the winter fuel Sharon Graham, general secre-

poorest pensioners. Trade unions that are among Labour's funders and allies organised resistance to the cut at the conference in Liverpool, northwest England.

They forced a vote on a demand for the decision to be reversed. It was narrowly passed in a show-of-hands vote amid cheers and jeers in the conference hall. "I do not understand how our

cut the winter fuel payment for pensioners and leave the superrich untouched," said

new Labour government can

applause from delegates.

This is not what people voted for. It is the wrong decision and it needs to be reversed." The government has promised

the withdrawal of the heating allowance will be offset by an above-inflation increase in the state pension and other measures to reduce poverty. Work and Pensions Secretary

Liz Kendall told delegates that the cut "wasn't a decision we wanted or expected to make". But she argued that "this Labour government has done more to help the poorest pensioners in the last two months than the Tories did in 14 Starmer tried to unite the party and appeal to a sceptical electorate in his first conference speech as prime minister on Tuesday, telling voters exhausted by years of political and economic turmoil that better times are on the way — if they swallow his recipe of short-term pain for long-term gain. He said he would make "tough decisions" — code for public spending restraint and tax increases — to achieve economic growth to fund schools, hospitals, roads, railways and more. Starmer acknowledged some of those decisions would be unpopular, but said: "We will turn our collar up and face the

## Pope arrives in Luxembourg

Pope Francis on Thursday began his trip to once-strong bastions of Christianity in the heart of Europe in an effort to reinvigorate a Catholic flock that is dwindling in the face of secular trends and abuse scandals that have largely emptied the continent's magnificent cathedrals and village church-

Francis landed mid-morning Thursday in Luxembourg, the European Union's secondsmallest country, with a population of some 660,000 people, and its richest per capita. Francis arrived under stormy skies and blustery, damp conditions, days after the 87-yearold pope cancelled his audiences because of a slight flu. Francis greeted journalists at the start of Thursday's flight from Rome but declined to walk down the aisle to greet them one by one as he typical-

ly does.
"I don't feel up to the trip. I'll greet you from here," he said, referring to the trip down the aisle. The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the decision was due to the logistics of the aircraft, with just a single aisle, and the short duration of the flight, and was not a reflection of Francis' health. Francis later seemed in fine spirits as he met separately with Grand Duke Henri and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden at the duke's palace.

Migration, climate change and peace are likely to be themes during the visit, which continues later Thursday with Francis' arrival in Belgium.

EU figures show that barely half of Luxembourg inhabitants, or 52.6%, are native citizens, with 37.2% coming from other EU nations like Portugal and 10.2% from outside the EU. After his meetings, Francis will speak to the country's Catholic priests and nuns. The venue is the late-Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame. which was built in the early 1600s by Francis' own Jesuit order and stands as a monument to Christianity's long and central place in European history. The trip is a much-truncated version of the 10-day tour St John Paul II made through Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1985, during which the Polish pope delivered 59 speeches or homilies and was greeted by hundreds of the world in the future". thousands of adoring faithful. In Luxembourg alone, John Paul drew a crowd of some 45,000 people to his Mass, or some 10% of the then-population, and officials had predicted a million people would welcome him in Belgium, accord-

contraception and sexual morals, opposition that has only increased over time. Those secular trends and the crisis over clergy abuse have helped lead to the decline of the church in the region, with monthly Mass attendance in the single digits and plummeting ordinations of new priests. Bruni said that by travelling to the two countries. Francis will likely want to offer "a word to the heart of Europe, of its history, the role it wants to play in

In Luxembourg, Francis has a top ally and friend in the lone cardinal from the country, Jean-Claude Hollerich, a fellow Jesuit. In an article this week in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Hollerich also blamed migration and the influx of people of other faiths or none for the changes and challenges confronting the church in Luxembourg today.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Yogendra Singh & Mrs. Anju who is purchasing Flat No.105, Upper Ground Floor, having super area admeasuring 350 Sq. Ft. (i.e., 32.51 Sq. Mtrs.), constructed on Plot No.A-1/5, area admeasuring 528.99 Sq. Mtrs., situated at DLF Ankur Vihar, Village-Sadullabad, Pargana-Loni, Paragna Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.) from Mr. Gulshan Nagpal and Mr. Rajeev Nagpal who is the legal heirs and owner of the abovementioned property after the demise of Mrs. Santosh Nagpal. Now my client inlend to get the financial assistance from SMFG Gribashakti Home Finance Housing Finance in India. If any illiancial assistance from Similer Grindsmire House Home Finance Housing Finance in India. If any person(s) /Institution has/have any objections) or claims) 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 nentioned herein below, failing which my clients shall not be held responsible in manne

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

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Name of the work: Vehicle Speed Detection
System at Paradip Port Authority.

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Indernal Singh is purchasing operty bearing No. B-7/6, admeasu 123.66 Sq. Yds , Situated at Double Store Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 from Mi Parveen Sharma who is owner of the property by Relinquishment deed dated 10.09.2024 and intend to get the financia assistance from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited will provide the financia assistance 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 07 lays from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoeve

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

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Preeti
Jain is the owner Property no. 70-A area measuring
112 5 sq. yos. out of Khasra no. 821/271 situated at
residential colony Balbir Khand Gulab Vatika
Hadbast Village Bahlahajipur Pargana & Hehsli London,
10stt. Ghaziabad through Sale Deed (within family)
dated 19 12.2022 doc. No. 18347 executed by Mr.
Ankur Arora (area measurine 62.5 so. v63.) & Mr. unkur Arora (area measuring 62.5 sq. yds.) & Mr lans Kumar Jain (area measuring 50 sq. yds.) ir avour of Smt. Preeti Jain (73.125 sq. yds.) & Smt leera Devi (39.375 sq. yds.) in respect of saic troperty and Sale Deed dated 11.09.2024 doc. No 304 executed by Smt. Meera Devi in favour omt. Preeti jain in respect of plot no.70A (part) are easuring 39.375 sq. yds. out of Khasra no.

n favour of Mr. Hans Kumar Jain in respect of spect of Plot no. 70-A area measuring 50 sq. yds tt of Khasra no. 821/2/1. 3) Org. Reg. GPA dater t.11.2022 executed by Mr. Hans Kumar Jain ir your of Mr. Ankur Arora in respect of Plot no. 70-A avour or invr. ANKU A107a in respect of Plot no. Q'As nea measuring 62.5 sq. yds. out of Khasra no. 121/2/1. FIR No. 80108086, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 25.09.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly landover the same to the Manager of Shriram

Housing Finance Ltd., L\*1/Lt, 2 nd floor, Green Park Extension, Gurudwara Road, Near SBI Bank, New Delhi-110016. Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

#### #ICICI Bank Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra

Road, Vadodara – 390007, Gujarat Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra

East, Mumbai – 400051, Maharashtra **Branch Relocation Notice** 

On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., MET Jhajjar Branch

We wish to inform you that with effect from October 30, 2024,

we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., Highway Mart Reliance MET Ltd., SCO No. 22, 23 & 24, Sector 7 A, On SH 15, Dadri Toe, Jhajjar,

Haryana -124515. There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at

Branch Manager, MET Jhajjar Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all, SNEH GAUR W/O SHANNIR SINGH R/O FLAT NO.6/122, DD JANTA FLATS, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-11006 purchaser/owner of DDA JANTA FLAT NO.6/22, GROUND FLOOR, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-110062, have applied for certified copies freehold in DDA. The original documents of the DEMAND FLOTH STATE POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, SITE POSSESSION SLIP & OTHER DOCUMENTS of the above saiflat has been lost. An LR NO.2150746/202 dated 25/09/2024 to this effect has been losted in the second of the decided of the second of the decided of the second of the second of the decided of the second of th

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that or behalf of my client M/s Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. has lost/misplaced the Origina Apartment Buyer Agreement dated 16.02.2013 Original Possession Certificate dated 07.04.2021 and Original Conveyance Deed dated 07.06.2021 as Doc. No. 893, in respect of Fourth Floor, House No. 498, in Gadoli Khurd, Gurgaon 122001 Haryana which was executed by M/s Apps Ruidbuell Det Ltd. in Forum of Sh. Mukrek National Which was executed by Wils Appl Suildwell Pyt. Ltd. in favour of Sh. Mukesh Kumar & Smt. Harjeet and FIR has been lodge ride application No. 132270952400325 or 10.09.2024. Any person(s)/Institution(s) nd/finds the same may please send us to the ddress mentioned herein. Anyone misusing the ame shall be liable for action under relevaovisions of the Law of the Land. Khaitan & Khaitan

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

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street New Delhi-110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule) 1993) in the matter of Date 20-08-2024

T.A. No. 975/2023 STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus

MUKESH KUMAR & ORS.

**D1 Mukesh Kumar S/o Rajender Yadav,** A 1/97, Gali No. 16, Hastal Road, Uttam Nagar Delhi-59 Also at: M/s Zest Ortho AG-215 Back Side Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, Also at Flat No. S2-802, Tower Speed S2 8th Floor Solitairian City Sect-25, Jaypee Green Spor City SOZ Gautam Bugh Nagar, U.P.-201308 2. Parv Developers Pvt. Ltd., B-22. PKT-9A Jasola, New Delhi-25 Also at: GH-B1/2, Jaypee Green Sport City, Sect-25, Yamuna Express Way Industrial Development Authorit Area Gautam Bugh Nagar, UP-201306 Also at: Jaypee Sports City SDZ Distt. Solitairian City Sect-25, Yamuna Express Way Industria Development Authority Area Gautam Bugh Nagar, UP-201306 3. Solitaire Realinfra Pvt. Ltd., D-835, Ne

Friends Colony, New Delhi-25, Also at: A-56 Sect-136 Noida UP- 201301 Also at: Sect-25, Jaypee Greens Sports City, SDZ Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201308 Whereas the above named applicant(s) has

have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 31,21,247/- (Rs. Thirty One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Only against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is no possible to serve you in the ordinary way herefore, this notice is given by advertis directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 05-12-2025 at 11.00 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance o

heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing or Physical and for that

the day before the mentioned, the case will be

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / software;

ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. In any exigency qua that the Advocate Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph

No. 23748478. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this the 20th day of Augt, 2024.

By order of the Tribunal SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, Delhi

KATIHAR RAILWAY STATION

ing to news reports at the time. Even then, the head of

the Catholic Church faced

indifference and even hostility

to core Vatican teachings on

GeM Bid Number. GEM/2024 /B/5415608 Dated: 23-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Custom Bid for Services-Mechanised cleaning of Katihar Railway Station for the period of Three (03) years. Esimated Bid Value: ₹13.42.12.019/-. EMD Amount: ₹8,21,100/-. Bid End Date: 16.00 hrs. of 16-10-2024 & Bid opening at 16.30 hrs. of 16-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.GeM.gov.in

DRM (C), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Serving

6 INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK Punjabi Bagh Branch 1/52, North Ave, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi- 110026

Notice is hereby given that the Origina Sale Deed bearing Registration no 518 dated 04.05.1999 for property admeasuring 50 sq. yds, forming par of khewat no. 1129, khata no. 1906 khasra no. 5036/2724 (1-13) 5037/2724(1-18) Surat Nagar, Line Paar, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana have been lost and are not traceable by the Bank. The Said Sale Deed was executed in favour of Sh. lalit Kumai and was deposited with the bank as security against home loan. Anyone who finds the same is requested to return it to the Punjabi Bagh Branch of ne bank within 15 days of the receipt o his notice. Subsequent, to which the Bank shall take the necessary steps for issuance of Duplicate Documents. Any Objections to the issuance of the duplicate documents shall be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this notice. It is further to be noted tha the said property is free from any or all vith the bank any more.

SANJAY KUMAR JHA ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

I, P.K Jain alias Pravesh Kumar Jain son of Shri F.L Jain, Proprietor, M/s:-Pee Key Enterprises, presently residing at:-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, District-Ghaziabad, U.P.-201009, hereby declare under oath that: That my above mentioned name and address are true and correct. It is name and address are true and correct. It is informed to the general public that my name is P.K. Jain alias Parvesh Kumar Jain son of Shri F.L. Jain, Proprietor, M/s:-P.K. Enterprise, present resident:-N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, District-Ghaziabad, U.P. Pratap Vinar, District-Graziabad, U.7.
201009. An industrial property No. D-342,
Sector-10, Noida, area 114 sq.m. was sold by
me on 19/09/1991 to M/s. VIEWTRON
ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. OFFICE
AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI, for which an MOU was signed between me and Virendra Agarwal, employee of the above company on 19/09/1991. A notarized GPA was given by me to Vinod Kumar Gupta, another employee of the above company, on 10/09/1992. The MOU between me and the company M/S VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS PVI. LID. has been cancelled with mutual understanding and consent through the co-director of the company, Mr. Satish Jain, son of Mr. Ramanand Jain, resident of House No. 14, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Now, there is no transaction or grudge liability left between me and M/s VIEWTRON ELECTRONICS DUTLITO. TRONICS PVT, LTD. Now, I am the full and legal owner of this industrial property No. D-342, Sector-10, Noida. This property is completely in my possession. Hence, I have full authority to transfer/sell the above property. authority to transfer/self the above property. Therefore, in this sequence, I am transferring this industrial property number: D-342, Sector-10, Noida, (114 sq.m.) to Mr. Dinesh Bansal son of Mr. Ved Prakash Bansal resident: C-46, Sector-20, Noida, in Noida

8527710450 or on my Add:- N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, District- Ghaziabad, U.P.-201009. After the publication of this P.k Jain Alias Pravesh Kumar Jain

Authority Sector-6 If anyone has any objec-

tion regarding the above transfer, then please inform me within 15 days On My Mobile No.

This is to inform all concerned that Smt. Meeta Singh Saharan, Member of the Public Education Society, Sec-03, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad 201010. It's being more than one year that Sm

Meeta Singh Saharan has remained absen without any intimation from General & governing Body Meetings despite multiple notifications sent to her via registered post. A show-cause notice was also issued on 07-08-2024, but no response has been received from her to date. As a final opportunity. Smt. Meeta Singh is required to submit her reply and mark her presence at the Society's Office with the documents related to ne school run by the society latest by 05-10 2024. Failure to do so will be interpreted as he unwillingness to continue in her role Consequently, as per the Society's bylaws, her ame will be proposed for removal from the lisif general & governing body member without

ny further consideration. Kapil Dev Sareen, Secretary Public Education Society, Sec-03, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad.

#### PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT OF NON-STANDARD CONVENTIONAL TYPE PANEL & ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING AT 9 STATION Tender Notice No.: N 7 HQ EPC

El 2024-25; dtd.: 24-09-2024. E-Tende are invited by the undersigned for the ollowing work; Tender No. N\_7\_HQ\_EPC\_ EI\_2024-25; Name o work: Provision of Replacement of Nonstandard Conventional type Pane nterlocking with Centralized Electronic Interlocking at 9 Stations (Chariali (CGF) Duliajan (DJG), Naharkatiya (NHK) Namrup (NAM), Borhat (BFD), Sapekhait (SPK), Bhoio (BOJ), Safrai (SFR) & akwa (LXA)) in Tinsukia Division of N.F Railway. Advertised Value ₹51,70,75,581.92/-; Earnest Money ₹27,35,400/-; Date & time of closing of ender at 11:00 hrs. on 04-11-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be vailable in website www.ireps.gov.in

GM (S&T), Maligaor NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

1 Satish Jain son of Shri Rama Nand Jain resident of:- House No.-14, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54, hereby declare under oath that:-That my name and address mentioned above are true and correct. It is notified to the general public that my name is Satish Jain son of Shri Rama Nand Jain resident of:- House No.-14, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54, I am the present Co-Director of Ms;- VIEWTRON FLIFCTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. DEFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELIHI, We have purchased an Industrial Property No. D-342, Sector-10, Noida, Area 114 sq.m. on 19/09/1991 from proprietor Shri PK Jain alias Pravesh Kumar Jain son of Shri FL Jain presently residing:- N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP-201009, Proprietor of Ms PEE KEY ENTERPRISTS for which an MOU was signed between Shri PK Jain alias Pravesh Kumar Jain and our company on 19/09/1991, in which our company was represented by our employee Virendra Agarwal son of Shri Ram Avatar. A notarized GPA was given by Shri PK Jain alias Parvesh Kumar Jain to our employee Vinod Kumar Gupta on 10/09/1992. As per our mutual understanding. If the Common of P.K. Jain and the MOU has also been cancelled with mutual consent. At present, none of my present and former employees, co-directors and any of my successors and my company M/s.-VIEWIRON ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATI'AN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI, have any transaction, legal claim, liability or dispute with the above property of Shri P.K. Jain Alias Pravesh Kumar Jain and neither will it happen in future. After cancellation of the above MOU, now Shri P.K. Jain and neither will it happen in future. After cancellation of the above MOU, now Shri P.K. Jain so Shri P.L. Jain resident.—N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, is now again the Lawfull owner of this Industrial Property No. D-342, Sector-10, Noida, Distit. Gautam Buddha Nagar, Utitar Pradesh. Area 114 Sq. Mfrs. Ghaziabad, UT-201009 and now Shri P.K. Jain has got the full right to sell his property mentioned above and he has full authority to transfer/sell this property to any person. In this sequence, now Shri P.K. Jain son of Shri FL. Jain resident:—N-19, Teachers Colony, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, UT-201009 is transferring Industrial Property No.: D-342, Sector-10, (Area 114 sq. m) directly in favour of Shri Dinesh Bansal s/o Shri Ved Prakash Bansal resident:—C-46, Sector-20, Noida in Noida Authority Sector-6, for which we ic. M/s VEWIRON ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD. REGD. OFFICE AT 303-304, RATTAN JYOTI, 18, RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI.

RAJENDRA PALACE, NEW DELHI.

Satish Jain

## CBDT reshuffles responsibilities Jio-bp inaugurates 500th EV charging station

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the authority that supervises the income-tax department's work in the country, has carried out a fresh reshuffle of responsibilities amongst its with members, investigation wing reporting to the chairman.

An official order issued on September 24 said CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, will be in charge of "coordination and overall supervision" of the board's work and that of the investigation, central and intelligence and criminal investigation directorates.

Earlier, there used to be an independent post of member (investigation) in the CBDT, but it was done away with last year as part of the work reorientation of the board and



the chairman was authorised 1987-batch IRS officer, will with the "supervision of the work of investigation", a senior officer told PTI.

other members' responsibilities were also According to the order, Harinder Bir Singh Gill, a Sanjay Kumar, a 1988-batch officer, will hold the charge of member (audit and

be the member (taxpayer services and revenue), apart from holding the additional charge of member (systems

and faceless services).

judicial), additional charge of member (income tax).

Prabodh Seth of the 1989 batch will be the member (administration) and his batchmate, Ramesh Narain Parbat, will be the member (legislation), according to the order that also listed out the zonal charges for these officers.

The CBDT, under the Department of Revenue in the Union finance ministry, is headed by a chairman and can have six members in the rank of a special secretary. The board currently has a vacancy of two members.

affected as the tenure of two members ended in August, with Pragya Sahay Saksena taking voluntary retirement service and the scheduled superannuation of Pravin Kumar, the officer

The latest reshuffle was

PTI NEW DELHI

nant Mukesh Ambani, Anant Mukesii Allica, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Auchingless, CEO, Industries Limited (RIL) and Murray Auchincloss, CEO, bp, on Thursday inaugurated the 500th Jio-bp pulse EV-charging station of Jio-bp. Jio-bp is a fuels and mobility joint venture between RIL and global energy giant RP

global energy giant BP.

The commissioning of the EV-charging station enables access for guests at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Jio World Plaza and Jio World Convention Centre in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, marking the installation of the 500th Jio-bp pulse charging point in India," a company statement said. Jio-bp has expanded its network of EV-charging stations at a rapid pace,

in just a year.

With 95 per cent of its EV-charging network comprising fast charging stations -- the

growing from 1,300 to 5,000

with DC fast chargers, and highest in the industry -- the

company is poised to deliver high speed electrons with unmatched industry-leading uptime of 96 per cent, establishing itself as the

country's most reliable charging network, it said.
Jio-bp is also the first in the industry to deploy the toprated 480 KW chargers backed by unique CVPs, which enables it to provide an efficient and quick charging experience at locations such as experience at locations such as malls, public parking, corporate parks, hotels, and wayside amenities.

'By reducing range anxiety through its rapidly growing infrastructure, charging minimising charging time

delivering a seamless charging experience through its stateof-the-art Jio-bp pulse charging app, Jio-bp has occupied pole position in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in India," it

Ambani said Jio-bp is playing a pioneering role in accelerating EV adoption in India. "With the largest network share of fast-charging stations, fastest growth in EV charging infra, and highest reliability, Jio-bp is offering a well-packaged, digitised charging solution to millions of Indians".

With its foray into green electrons, powered by

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd's solar power plants, Jio-bp is making rapid progress in its

broader goal of promoting sustainable green mobility in India.
"EV charging is one of bp's key transition businesses in our journey to becoming an

integrated energy company. We are focusing on scale, speed, and strategic locations to provide a seamless customer experience. By combining bp and RIL's

capabilities, we are delivering EV charging with charging convenience, creating a unique value proposition for customers," Murray Auchincloss statement.

With its sustained charging infrastructure growth, pioneering customer proposition, and focus on sustainability, Jio-bp is reinforcing its position as the fastest, mostly available, and most reliable

EV charging partner in India.

## ICRA sees room for petrol, diesel price cuts

reduction in crude oil Areduction in crass improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing state-owned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre, rating agency Icra said on Thursday. The price of a basket of crude

oil India imports averaged USD 74 per barrel in September, down from about USD 83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by Rs 2 per litre. In a note, Icra said the marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the Indian Oil Marketing Marketing Companies (OMCs) have improved in recent weeks with the reduction in crude prices.

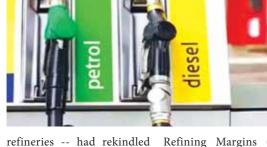
The rating agency anticipates that there is headroom for the downward revision of retail fuel prices if crude prices remain stable at current

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by Rs 15 per litre for petrol and Rs 12 a litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September retail selling price (RSPs) of these fuels have been have been unchanged since March 2024 (Rs 2/litre was reduced on petrol and diesel on March

15, 2024) and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by Rs 2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable". Crude prices have witnessed a sharp decline in the last few months, primarily due to weak global economic growth

and high US production and the OPEC+ has pushed the rollback of its production cuts by two months to combat the declining prices.

A decline in the price of crude oil -- which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at



hopes for a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a preelection reduction in March. While petrol and diesel (meaning oil companies have the freedom to fix retail rates), the state-owned fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have rarely used this freedom since late 2021 by not revising prices in line with They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high,

prompting the government to roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected during the pandemic to take low oil prices The freeze continued into

2022 but the war-led spike in international oil prices prompted a Rs 10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March 2022 before another round of excise duty cut rolled back all of the Rs 13 a litre and Rs 16 a litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel done during the pandemic. That followed the current price freeze which began on April 6, 2022, and continued till March 15 reduction. Thereafter there has been a freeze in rates again. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 87.62

a litre. Icra said the Singapore Gross

Refining Margins (GRMs) witnessed significant moderation in the first half of the 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025) to about USD 4 per barrel due to a drop in crack spreads with higher is deregulated product output and reduced demand.

The impact is mainly on account of weak demand from China due to rising electric vehicle (EV) sales, muted industry demand and real estate downturn. Further, demand in Europe has also been subdued due to weak industrial activity and a structural shift in vehicle fleets towards EVs, it said.

"A marketing gain of Rs 1 per litre on petrol and diesel would compensate for the GRM loss of USD 0.9 per barrel for the domestic refining and marketing industry," Icra said.

Commenting on the OMCs' The OMCs reported healthy operating margins in FY2024 (April 2023 to March 2024), recouping the losses incurred during FY2023.

Despite moderation in the GRMs, the improvement in marketing margins is likely to result in the OMCs maintaining their profitability in H1 FY2025"

However, inventory losses due to a sharp decline in crude prices could impact profitability to an extent in Q2 FY2025. Further, the profitability for standalone refiners would take a hit with the declining GRMs. Icra's outlook on the refining

and marketing sector remains

## India aims to integrate scalable food security interventions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India is seeking to integrate scalable food security interventions into existing government programmes while promoting local crop varieties, a top government official said on Thursday.

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi outlined these priorities during a review of the implementation of the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) country strategic plan (CSP) for India spanning 2023-2027. Chaturvedi, who chaired the

first meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC) under the new CSP, suggested the officers to "identify the scalable interventions and



initiatives and prepare mechanisms for including the same in ongoing programmes of ministries/departments." The secretary called for a dedicated workshop to discuss the agriculture sector

in

highlighting the need for a focused approach, an official statement said.

initiatives

promoting nutritious local varieties of rice and millets alongside fortified cereals, signalling a shift towards indigenous crop promotion. He advised exploring the possibilities of bringing the

different initiatives. The secretary also emphasised emphasized that while accessing the

Organizations (FPO) into

Producer

nutritional outcomes of the programmes "we should also look at the standards on nutrition applicable for the Indian population."

The committee, comprising joint secretaries from various ministries and NITI Aayog representatives, is tasked with coordinating and reviewing progress on initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. The CSP, underpinned by a Memorandum Understanding India's agriculture ministry

and UN-WFP, focuses on four outcomes: enhancing food-based social protection systems, diverse and promoting nutritious diets, empowering women financially, building climate-resilient

WFP Country Elizabeth Faure briefed the committee on ongoing initiatives, including efforts to boost food security for smallholder farmers in Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, and the nationwide push to bring millets in mainstream.

The meeting participation from various ministries, including Food & Public Distribution, Women and Child Development, and Rural Development, as well as agencies like the National Disaster Management Authority and Meteorological Department. India, the world's most populous country, faces significant challenges in ensuring food security for its 1.4 billion people.

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

detail,

Farmer

India is set to achieve 6.5-7
per cent GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators. till August, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth,

inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position.

"A challenge on the macroeconomic front is of navigating the continuing uncertainty in global economic prospects. We will likely encounter a cycle of policy rate cuts globally amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical conflicts," geopolitical the Monthly conflicts," Economic Review for August

On balance, the report said, the GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in Q1 FY25 and the

movements highfrequency indicators till August fit well with the real GDP growth projection of 6.5-7 per cent for FY25, provided by the Economic

Survey 2023-24. For the remaining part of the financial year, it said, a reasonable expectation is that public expenditure will pick up, providing added growth and investment impetus. In the farm sector, higher

kharif acreage is already Adequately visible. replenished reservoir levels will potentially give a fillip to the upcoming Rabi crops as

The skewed spatial distribution of rain may have an impact on farm output in a few regions. However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and demand should get stronger, and food inflation will be milder, it

said. There are also incipient signs of strains in certain sectors. For instance, the automobile dealers' body FADA has pointed to moderating sales of passenger vehicles and a build-up of inventory, it added.

Data from Nielsen IQ indicated that the growth of

fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in O1 FY25. While these may turn out to

be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring. Further, capital spending by Indian states has declined in the current financial year. Stock markets around the

world are booming, reinforced by recent policy announcements in a few countries, it said.

"Consequently, the risk of an eventual correction has risen. If the risk materialises, the spillover effect may be felt globally as well," it said.

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Thursday said the Mexican drug regulator has imposed a penalty of around Rs 28 lakh.

The drug regulatory body of Mexico has imposed a penalty of MXN 6,51,420 (Rs 28 Lakh) on the company for deviation from prescribed guidelines for filing intimation of import of a reference standard for one of the active pharmaceutical ingredients, the Hyderabadbased drug major said in a

regulatory filing. Shares of the drug maker were trading 0.39 per cent up at Rs 6,720 apiece on BSE.

## Fixing SpiceJet's broken wings

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

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

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

Delhi High Court order mandating the return of three engines used by the airline on their Boeing 737 aircraft.

With leasing companies asking the airline to pay up, and taking their aircraft away, the airline is down to just having 21 operational aircraft according to website airfleets.net. This is a precipitous decline from the halcyon days of the airline before Covid when the airline had almost five times as many aircraft in its fleet and was the first Indian operator of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. However, the one-two punch of the coronavirus shutdown and the grounding of the Boeing 737MAX fleet Boeing worldwide following two disasters almost knocked the airline out.

But this is not a time to dwell on the past, the fact is that despite difficult odds the airline has managed to raise a confidence of employees,



Mutual Fund subscribing to the issue. The quality of investment is a very positive indicator of the future prospects of the airline. SpiceJet has a lot to do, first and foremost to regain the importantly customers. They can do this by becoming more reliable and offering more services. Due to issues with leasing companies, the airline has been forced to wet-lease temporary aircraft from airlines in Cambodia and Turkey. They should now concentrate on operating their own fleet and by repaying dues owed to leasing rebuild

confidence in SpiceJet as a reliable airline. There is now talk of the airline growing to 100 aircraft by the end of If this fructifies, it is a

welcome move as the Indian aviation sector needs the competition domination of IndiGo and Air India/Air India Express leave customers with little choice. This duopoly needs to be challenged, and SpiceJet passengers per year by 2028.

the sector. Now however, they will have to deal with increased competition from the likes of Akasa. That said, the prospects for the Indian

was a capable third player in

aviation sector are extremely high. Between january and June 2024, domestic air traffic numbered 79.35 million passengers, which was a growth at 4.28 percent from the same period last year. The growth could have been higher still had it not been for the collapse of Go First last year and persistent engine problems Pratt&Whitney GTF engines

plaguing IndiGo leading to almost a quarter of their fleet grounded. If SpiceJet can get their act together, and there is no reason to doubt that they can't after the fund-raise, the Indian aviation sector could easily grow to 250 million

#### **INBRIEF**

**NGEL INKS JV AGREEMENT WITH MAHAPREIT** 

NEW DELHI: NTPC Green Energy Limited, entered into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT) on 25th



SRM HOSPITAL OPENS TOBACCO CESSATION CENTRE



KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM SKMCH&RC) has inaugurated a Tobacco Cessation Centre at its Kattankulathur location. The center, located at the Psychiatry OPD (C-1/37), First Floor, C Block, will operate from Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 2 PM.

#### **GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL KHATARAYE KALAN RENAMED**

AMRITSAR: The Puniab government has approved the renaming of government schools to honor prominent freedom fighters and martyrs, aiming to commemorate their sacrifices for the country's independence.



**GNDU ORGANISED ORIENTATION WORKSHOP** 

AMRITSAR: An orientation workshop for college eco-club in-charges from seven districts was organized by the College Development Council, Guru Nanak Dev University under the Environment Education Programme.











## PONDICHERRY LITERARY FESTIVAL SHAPING INDIA'S LITERARY FUTURE

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

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

festivals are iterary reasonably new phenomena that have sprouted across the globe. They are gatherings of authors who come from all corners of the world to discuss the evolution of literature and the modern trends that drive it. A festival syndrome has taken over

India's literary world. The land of Kalidasa is bereft of any authors who are incapable of matching the stature of global-quality writers. Though there are writers who get patronage from some publishing firms or newspapers because of their obsession with anarchy and "out-of-the-box" stances like equating Maoists as "Gandhians with AK-47 rifles" and comparing their country to a "mobile-free republic", they are mere pygmies when compared to the ones in the global arena.

The literary festivals that mushroomed across India gave a lot of hope to average Indians. The general expectation was that young authors would get a platform to tell the world what they felt about the emerging Indian literary world. But what we saw was that the festivals were getting hijacked by a coterie who set the agenda for wannabe writers. They want the newgeneration authors to speak and write only against the concept of India. These literary festivals became an extension of the

Progressive Writers' Forum of the former Soviet Union, where the Communist Party was the last word on literature. The Party would decide what constitutes literature and ask the writers to "compose" ideology in the form of novels and poems.

The two-day Pondicherry Literary

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



associations with reverence and respect," said Alo Sud, the festival director, who is the moving spirit behind this event.

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



works well in advance, authors like Aravindan Neelakantan and Anand Ranganathan are exceptions. They do not publicise their new works and it is by word of mouth that their contents get disseminated. The "secular media" blackout their groundbreaking works because of the unpalatable facts they highlight. It is Pondicherry Lit Fest that offers everyone (irrespective of caste, creed, ideology, and religion) a platform to air their views and

The delegates were given a bird'seye view of the happenings in spheres like science, technology, defence and security. The festival

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

title Sangeeta Kala Nidhi! What Dr M Rajeev Kumar, a noted critic and author of many short stories and dramas, says about lit fests is noteworthy. "We do have many lit fests, but their agenda is fixed. There is no literature or culture in these events other than promoting certain politicians, their ideologies and some publishing houses. Lit festivals are for open discussions and not for namecalling and abusing rivals," said Dr Kumar, who has been writing for more than five decades and has yet to be invited to at least one lit fest in Kerala. Interestingly, there are lit festivals in West Asian countries too, where the targets are Modi and Indian nationalism. There are frontal organisations of extremist outfits as well as the CPI(M) (masquerading as cultural associations).

Lit Fest stand out from other events. Lucid speeches, lively discussions, and speakers who are keen to take the participants into confidence make it distinct from other such festivals. Delegates are treated to sumptuous meals of knowledge, wisdom and erudition. Who said avant-garde art and literature are meant only for intellectuals? Come to Pondicherry and you will be elevated to the level visualised by Sri Aurobindo, for whom the waterfront state was the second

This is what makes Pondicherry

## SEPTEMBER RELEASES



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

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

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

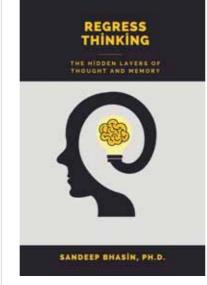
n Turtle Moon, Silver Trevelon's family Igrapples with unhappiness due to the absence of a long-awaited sibling. When her father receives an invitation to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica, Silver hopes it will be the adventure that brings her family closer together. As she settles into life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

# Exploring the interplay of thought and memory

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

egress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by Sandeep Bhasin invites readers on an enlightening journey through the complexities of the mind, combining historical insights with contemporary applications to offer a fresh perspective on creativity and cognitive processes. With over thirty years of experience across various fields, *Bhasin* draws on his extensive knowledge to explore these themes further.

The book is structured around several central themes, each highlighting the vital role of creativity as a multidimensional process. Bhasin explores the psychology of creativity, illustrating how ideas emerge from the intricate interplay of different brain functions. He introduces the notion of Regress Thinking, a concept that encourages readers to retrace their cognitive steps to uncover hidden insights that might have been overlooked in the rush of everyday thought. This methodology is not just an academic pursuit, it has tangible applications in business, technology, and personal development. Bhasin's writing is both clear and engaging, making complex concepts accessible to a broad audience. He encourages readers to adopt a mindset of experimentation and to regard failure as an essential part of the creative process. By drawing connections between historical innovations and modern challenges, he highlights that lessons from the past can provide crucial strategies for tackling present-day problems. A standout aspect of the book is its use of case studies and real-life examples,



illustrate the various

a comprehensive

illumination and

manifestations of regression and its

impact on individual's lives. These

narratives offer practical insights and

inspiration for overcoming challenges,

framework for understanding and

empowers readers to harness the

potential of regression while

One particularly compelling section

of the book focuses on the four stages

of the creative process: preparation,

verification. Bhasin explains how

each stage contributes to idea

managing regression.

mitigating its negative effects.

which

providing

incubation,

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by SANDEEP BHASIN PH.D. **Publisher:** Notion Press ₹990.00

generation, urging readers to embrace the non-linear nature of creativity. He also discusses the significance of environmental factors, mindset and collaboration in enhancing creative potential, reminding us that creativity

flourishes in supportive and stimulating settings.

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

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

**Book**: Regress Thinking:

## INDIA LIKELY TO MAINTAIN SUPREMACY OVER BANGLADESH

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

The all-round show of Ravichandran Ashwin, Shubman Gill's sublime hundred, Ravindra Jadeja's quality batting and Rishabh roaring comeback allowed India to script a comfortable victory Chennai despite being put under pressure by Bangladesh pacers on day one. The way India bounced back in the game reaffirmed their supremacy in Test cricket, especially at home where they are on course for a record extending 18th consecutive series win. Having made a successful return in white-ball cricket, it was time for Pant to show that it is the Test arena where he can make the maximum impact.

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

if the situation demands, making him even more dangerous.

However, both Rohit and Virat's bats remained silent in series-opener

supportive track and were rewarded. With a long Test season ahead of them, the two premier batters must be itching to get back among the runs.

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

**CHANGE** 

traditionally been a low and slow track that assists spinners. While it is expected to offer some assistance to the fast bowlers initially, the basic nature of the pitch, prepared with black soil brought from Unnao, is not expected to change much.

as the game progresses. It means, India can field three spinners instead of three

Bangladesh pacers — Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed bowled probing lines on a

start of his innings.

**COMBINATIONS:** Green Park wicket has

The wicket will become slower



pacers. If that is indeed the case, Akash Deep could make

way for Kuldeep Yadav. If India think they need more cushion with the bat, then Axar Patel might just pip home

Kuldeep, who has hero performed exceptionally over the last 18 months.

In the last Test played at Green Park in 2021, India had fielded Ashwin, three spinners

Jadeja and Axar — in a game that ended in a thrilling draw with New Zealand.

Interestingly, the 2021 contest and the one before that in 2016 (also against New Zealand)

lasted five days.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, who failed to apply themselves with the bat in the series opener, are expected to make changes to struggled against a high-quality Indian pace attack in their first essay in Chennai and then could not be then could not handle Ashwin and Co while chasing an improbable target.

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

Hathurusinghe said he is eligible for selection. Bangladesh can bring left-arm spinner Taijul Islam in place of lanky pacer Nahid Rana. They also have an option in off-spinner Nayeem Hasan.

A SPLENDID DOUBLE AWAITS JADEJA: In 73 Tests, Ravindra Jadeja has taken 299 wickets and scored 3122 runs. He needs to add just one more scalp to his kitty to become the second-fastest player in Test history to complete the double of 300 wickets and 3000 runs. England great Ian Botham had achieved the feat in 72

CONDITIONS CHALLENG-ING: The muggy weather will

matches.

players. The humidity has been very high in the city in the last few days. The Indian team made Thursday's practice optional, saying it needs to save

players from searing heat. match may interruptions on first and third day with weather forecast

prédicting rain.

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

TEAMS (FROM):

India: Poblic Champe (Co.) India: Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman

Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik



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

**PTI** ■ KANPUR

 $B_{\text{Shakib}}^{\text{angladesh}}$ all-rounder Hasan Thursday announced retirement from Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at

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

The 37-year-old great, who Bangladesh will, however, continue to play in franchise

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

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

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise everything so that I can go to

If that won't happen, the match against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he

Shakib was named as an accused in a murder case back home during the political unrest that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. was a member of Parliament from her party, the Awami League.

Indian journalists.

unevnecte events, Shakib was named in an FIR in a murder case related to the civil protests in Bangladesh last August. The case pertains to the death

garment father, Rafiqul Islam, filed the

complaint on August 7.
The 37-year-old Shakib indicated that he may not travel back home after the current series in India, if he

can't be promised safety.
"Going back to Bangladesh is not a problem but leaving is. My close friends and family members have concerns (about my safety), I hope things are better, well and there should be is a solution to it." In January, Shakib had won an uncontested become a parliament for the then-ruling Awami League party. He was

during the protests.

announcement interacting with Bangladeshi media but spoke in English following a request from the

worker Mohammed Rubel, whose

election to member of criticised for not speaking up for the student community

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm ormer~Australian~captain}_{\rm Lisa~Sthalekar~said~India}$ have the all-round depth to grab an elusive ICC title during the upcoming women's T20

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

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

and mojo programme at the Australian High Commission. The former Australian skipper validated her argument citing good options through India's "India has got power, depth, decent bowlers and if their 4-7

good strike rate, they will be in a good position. They need a good start from the openers. "Jemimah Rodriguez did well in the West Indies (in the CPL) recently. It will be fascinating to see how she performs in the WC," she said.

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

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



dislodged Australian middleorder. India won that match by

"If any top order Indian batter scores a century or bowlers have a good day, they can take the game away," said the veteran who was the first woman to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODIs. Expressing delight over ICC's decision of having equal prize money in men's and women's WCs, the 45-year- old said it will have a bigger impact on the game.

"From money perspective, I think it's really good. But what I am more pleased about than just the winner getting the same prize

counterpart is how much money teams are getting for just participating in the World "So, it ensures that it's not just

the strong nations getting stronger and wealthier, but there is an effort at growing the global game," she said. She used Scotland to leverage

her point.

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

But when you look a little bit deeper, they would like to have a bigger impact on the game." After her playing days, Sthalekar has established herself as a respected voice of the game over the last decade. The Indian-origin Aussie

described the effort she put in to reach the higher rungs of her job as a commentator. 'Not everyone has to be a

Richie Benaud or a Danny Morrison. But we all have different skills and strengths that we bring to the commentary box. That's why you have diverse personalities (doing commentary)," she said. Sthalekar

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

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

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

Tanuma Vihari, part of India's back to Hanuma Vinari, pair of industrial back series wins in Australia, reckons the services of veteran batter Cheteshwar team aims for a hat-trick Down Under later this year.

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

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

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

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

interaction arranged by JioCinema. "So that kind of role...Who will play is a question mark for me. Currently I would say we have an attacking mode of a batting line up (the top six). All like to play their



shots. Virat is the only one I feel in that batting line up who can be like a glue to the other batters.

"He can stay on and bat the most number of overs and you know batting in Australia is all about time. If you see off the new ball, it gets a little easier with the older Kookaburra ball," added Vihari who played the last of his 16 Tests in July 2022. In the absence of Pujara, he also sees a significant role for K L Rahul at number six. He feels Risabh Pant is best suited at number five. Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli form the top four. That's where KL Rahul's role also will be

important because he is someone who's got the experience in playing in SENA d he can ba well in SENA countries. I feel they are looking at KL Rahul at number 6 as well. "By playing Rahul ahead of Sarfaraz in the current series (against Bangladesh), they are looking at a bigger picture. They want experience in number 6 when we tour Australia.

"Because in Australia playing at 6 you need to have good technique whether it's facing the second new ball or batting after

an early collapse," he said.

Vihari also thinks playing Australia in their own backyard will be the biggest thus far for Jaiswal, who has done well at home but is yet to prove himself in overseas conditions.

"It's his biggest test. But he's a very confident guy. Overall facing Australia in Australia, the mental preparation is key. This time we are playing five Test matches in Australia compared to four earlier.

"So it's even more mentally draining Down Under because everything is against you. The media is against you, the people are against you and you are away from home facing Australian attack in Australia," added Vihari, who stitched a match saving stand with R Ashwin in the Sydney Test on the previous tour.

## India U20 face stern Iran test in AFC Qualifiers

PTI ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

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

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

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

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

They are an extremely good side, but we have made our plans according to their game as well. Anything can happen on the day, and with a little

against Iran.



luck, our boys can get a good result. The most important thing for us is to play our game well, and come out of the match with our heads held high, with a smile," he said. While India registered a 4-1 win against Mongolia, Iran trampled hosts Laos 8-0, a result that puts them firmly on

top of Group G. However, Iran head coach Hossein Abdi was wary of India's potential threat.

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

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

**AP** MANCHESTER

 $\underset{\text{questioned his players' killer}}{M^{anchester}} \overset{\text{United}}{\text{Erik ten Hag}}$ instinct after they were held to a 1-1 draw by his old club FC Twente in the revamped Europa League.

Sam Lammers capitalised on a mistake by Christian Eriksen in the second half at Old Trafford and raced away to fire an equalizer for the Dutch underdog. "You saw that was the game of their life. They fought for every

yard and we didn't," Ten Hag

said. "99% is not enough, You

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

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

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

Instead it was United fans left pain, despite Eriksen seemingly putting the home team on course for victory. have to give 100%. You have United has won just three of

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

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

front of the home fans.

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With one fist clenched, he ran left cheering the loudest after to the corner to celebrate in Lammers' goal in the 68th when beating Andre Onana at But it was Twente's supporters his near post.

"There's a lot of football (still to play) when you (are) one up and the game takes more than 90 minutes," Ten Hag said.

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

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

Nigeria striker's header goalbound `

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

Lazio cruised past Dynamo Kyiv 3-0. Boulaye Dia struck twice and Fisavo Dele-Bashiru added one. Both teams ended the game with 10 men. Real Sociedad, struggling in La

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

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

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

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

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