



OPINION 6  
9/11: THE DAY THAT  
CHANGED THE WORLD

WORLD 9  
'INDIA-FUNDED PROJECTS TO  
CONTINUE IN BANGLADESH'

MONEY 10  
FOREIGN FUNDS DRIVE INDIAN  
MARKET RALLY, SENSEX UP

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# the pioneer

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TWIN TITLES FOR  
SHUBHI GUPTA IN  
CHESS MEET  
11 SPORTS

## SABOTAGE RED FLAGS INDIAN RAILWAYS

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is grappling with a massive sabotage for the last one and a half year making it vulnerable for optimum functioning of the passenger and freight train operations. It face risks from LPG cylinder on railway tracks, iron rods, huge boulders and concrete slabs and tree trunks which could have led major accidents. Sources said Centre has asked all stakeholders including the States to be extra vigilant to thwart the nefarious designs of those involved to destabilise the railways particularly in a compact zone comprising parts of Central Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Investigations at top level is also being done about the pattern of such activities which began with bomb threats at schools followed by similar hoax in the shopping malls and now the railways. Pakistan-based terrorism mastermind Farhatullah Ghori who was behind the 2002 Akshardham temple attack and Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast, had released a video message to terror sleeper cells in India, urging them to carry out attacks on trains, petroleum pipelines, and Hindu leaders. The recent train accidents have also been investigated from this angle. With yet another attempt to derail the trains on Tuesday near Ajmer in Rajasthan, total number of

sabotage on railway tracks since August 2024 against which cases have been registered are 18 while probe on 28 such serious sabotage angle cases since June 2023 are still going on. Some of these cases are being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and CBI. This marks the third attempt to derail a train in Rajasthan in recent weeks. Previously, on August 28, scrap metal was thrown on a goods train track in Chhabra Baran, and on August 23, a train collided with a cement block on the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat track at Pali. On Monday, an attempt to derail the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi

### SABOTAGE ON THE TRACKS

October 2023	Iron and stones on the railway track in Chittorgarh
February 2024	Stones pelted in West Bengal
June 2024	Signal light covered with paper in West Bengal
July 2024	YouTuber "INDIAN HACKER", placing items like gas cylinders, scissors, etc on railway tracks, recording videos, and uploading on his channel. Uttar Pradesh
July 2024	400-500 devotees of the "Urus Mela," blocked Train in West Bengal
August 2024	The Station Master, Mr. Virendra Kumar Verma, was shot while travelling home after completing his duty in Uttar Pradesh
August 2024	Cement concrete block in Rajasthan
August 2024	100 Pandrol clips stolen in Jharkhand

Express was made in Kanpur by tracks, along with a bottle of placing an LPG cylinder on petrol and matchboxes. Earlier, a

bid was made to derail the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat Express in Rajasthan's Pali district. NIA team has joined the ongoing probe in Kanpur. Kanpur Police has detained six people, including two local history-sheeters, in connection with the case and decided to form a Special Investigation Team and will study if there are any similarities with the recent Sabarmati Express derailment in Kanpur. "Senior officers are looking into things seriously. Whatever facts come to light, shall be shared," Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar told The Pioneer. This is not the first time but a similar pattern was noticed when

there was an exceptional jump in "sabotage" cases with around 18 incidents reported in December 2017. The then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu had written to Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking a detailed investigation by the NIA into the mishaps as the listed incidents with "possibility of criminal interference by outsiders". Delhi Police recently arrested about 14 people of ISIS from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Further, the investigating agencies have collected footage from 219 cameras and questioned over 100 individuals in connection with the Kanpur train derailment attempt.



Students take part in a protest, in Imphal, Tuesday, September 10, 2024

PTI

## Curfew in Manipur after protests for peace in Imphal Valley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Curfew and prohibitory orders were imposed in three districts of Manipur on Tuesday a day after student protests demanding the restoration of peace in the strife-torn state rocked Imphal Valley. The Manipur Government also suspended internet services in the entire State for five days amid intensified agitation by students. The decision was taken to curb the use of social media for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video, the State home department said in a notification. It said "In view of the prevailing law and order situation in the State of Manipur, there is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public, which might have serious repercussions for the law-and-order situation in the State of Manipur."

which might be transmitted /circulated to the public through social media / messaging services on mobile, SMS services and dongle services," it stated. "To thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public / private property, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of misinformation and false rumours, through various social media platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc on various electronic equipment like tablet, computer, mobile phone, etc, and sending bulk SMS, for facilitating and /or mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which can cause loss of life and /or damage to public / private property by indulging in arson /vandalism and other types of violent activities," it said. "Temporary suspension / curbing of internet and mobile data services including Lease Lines, VSATs, broadband and VPN services (were ordered) in the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Manipur for five days with effect from 3 PM of

September 10 to till 3 PM of September 15," the notification said. Meanwhile, tear gas shells were fired as student and women demonstrators on Tuesday clashed with security forces during the agitators' attempt to march towards the Raj Bhavan to press for their demands to remove the DGP and security advisor to the Manipur Government, officials said. Hundreds of students, who have been camping at Khwairamband Women Market since Monday, tried to march towards the Raj Bhavan along the BT Road but were stopped by security forces near the Congress Bhavan. The Manipur Government has clamped curfew in Imphal East and West districts and prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS in Thoubal district in view of the student protests. An indefinite curfew, preventing people from coming outside their houses, was clamped in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS were imposed in Thoubal. "Due to the developing law and order situation in the district, earlier orders of curfew relaxation stand cancelled with immediate effect from 11 am of September 10. Hence, there is

total curfew in Imphal East district with immediate effect until further orders," an order issued by the district magistrate said. Another order issued by the district magistrate of Imphal West said, "In supersession of all earlier orders, curfew relaxation period for September 10 is hereby lifted with effect from 11 am today." "Restriction on the movement of people outside their respective residences was lifted from September 1 last year," it said. Earlier, curfew relaxation for September 10 was lifted from 5 am to 10 pm but was superseded by the latest order. Essential services, including media, electricity, court and health, are however exempted from the purview of the curfew, it said. The orders from the two Imphal districts came in the wake of students planning to intensify their protests demanding the removal of the DGP and security advisor to the State Government for their alleged inability to deal with the law and order situation in the state. The prohibitory orders in Thoubal prevented the assembly of five or more persons as police claimed that at least one personnel was hit on the thigh by a bullet fired from the protesting students in the district on Monday. Continued on Page 8

## BJP Leaders criticise Rahul Gandhi for remarks in US on Sikh community



LtP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses the Indian Diaspora, in Washington DC, USA, Tuesday, September 10, 2024 and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri addressing a press conference at the BJP HQ in New Delhi on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP and Congress engaged in a war of words following the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's series of attack on the Modi Government, BJP and RSS during his interactions with various stakeholders in the United States. BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress Leader is trying to create a "dangerous narrative" by speaking on "sensitive issues" abroad. Congress hit back at the BJP over its criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the US, saying the ruling party should not treat itself as being synonymous with the country. The principal Opposition party in the Lok Sabha also said it would keep criticising the policies of the Government. Rahul is currently on a four-day visit to the United States. His first stop was in Dallas which began on Saturday, and he arrived in Washington DC on Monday. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a Press conference at the BJP headquarters that Rahul's remarks were "sinister" in nature as he tried to spread

falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to "eke out a living" and do not have much connection with India. "I condemn in the strongest terms the statement he has made about Sikhs not being able to wear turbans and kadas," the BJP Leader from the Sikh community said. Addressing a gathering of several hundred Indian Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, on Monday, Rahul Gandhi accused the RSS of considering some religions, languages and communities of being inferior to others and said the fight in India is about this and not about politics. "First of all, you have to understand what the fight is about. The fight is not about politics. That is superficial," Rahul said as he asked one of the Sikh attendees in the front rows to give his name. What is your name, brother with the turban," he asked. "The fight is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear his turban in India or a kada in India. Or he, as a Sikh, is going to be able to go to Gurdwara. That's what the fight is about. And not just for him, for all religions," said Rahul. Hitting out at the Congress

leader, Puri said Gandhi, of late, has been making statements on sensitive issues, which "involve our national identity, unity, the strength of our unity and diversity". "I think he is trying to set a new kind of narrative which I think is a dangerous narrative," he said. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also slammed the Congress leader for his alleged remarks accusing him of "defaming" India abroad out of his frustration due to repeated defeat in elections. "Only a frustrated person can defame the country and spoil its image abroad. Now he is raising questions not only on the Government but also the Election Commission," Chouhan said. Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the position carries responsibility, he said. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Since when has BJP become synonymous with India that if one condemns BJP, it is equated with condemning India. The BJP and Narendra Modi should not have this misunderstanding that condemning them is like condemning India." Continued on Page 8

## Haryana: BJP releases second list, drops six MLAs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday released second list of its candidates, dropping six-sitting MLAs, including two Ministers for the Haryana Assembly polls. The BJP has fielded Captain Yogesh Bairagi from Julana against Congress's Olympian candidate Vinesh Phogat while two former Ministers - Krishan Kumar Bedi and Manish Grover have been fielded from Narwana and Rohtak seats, respectively. The list also includes two Muslim candidates: Naseem Ahmed from Ferozepur Jhirka and Aizaz Khan from Punahana. With this, the BJP has fielded 87 candidates and three segments where the party is yet to announce the candidates are Faridabad-NIT, Sirsa and Mahendergarh. The party's Pehowa candidate, Sardar Kamaljeet Singh Ajrana, was also replaced by Jai Bhagwan Sharma after he expressed his inability to contest the poll on party ticket citing Opposition from the local Leaders. Ajrana was named in the first list after dropping sitting MLA and former Sports Minister Sandeep Singh, who is an accused in a sexual harassment case. The BJP denied ticket to Minister Banwar Lal, who represented Bawal in the outgoing Assembly, and fielded Krishna Kumar in his place. School Education Minister Seema Trikha, the incumbent MLA of Badhkal, has also been denied re-nomination. Dhanesh Adlakha has been nominated for the seat. The party has fielded former Ministers Krishan Kumar Bedi, Manish Grover and Om Prakash Yadav from Narwana, Rohtak and Narnaul seats, respectively. Continued on Page 8

## Sexual harassment complaint by IAF officer against senior in J and K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A case of alleged sexual harassment and mental torture has come to light after a 26-year-old Indian Air Force (IAF) officer posted in Srinagar lodged a formal complaint in the Budgam police station against her senior. In her complaint, the distraught flying officer has also accused five other officers of mishandling of investigation, stalking, harassment, and mental torture. The flying officer in her complaint has also claimed that the ongoing harassment has had a severe impact on my mental health. "I am living in constant fear, under 24/7 scrutiny and my social life has been completely disrupted." "The harassment has driven me to suicidal thoughts, and I

feel utterly helpless. I am unable to carry on with my daily life, and my social interactions are closely monitored and discouraged by authorities," she wrote in her complaint to the Jammu and Kashmir police. According to official sources, police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the senior IAF officer named in the case. The FIR was lodged under Section 376(2) of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to rape by a person in a position of trust or authority. Confirming the ongoing probe in the matter, the IAF authorities in a brief statement said the Budgam Police Station has approached the concerned Air Force Station to investigate the case. IAF is cooperating in the investigation. Continued on Page 8

## Private vehicles with GNSS not to be charged till 20 km per day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Owners of private vehicles equipped with a functional Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) will not be charged any amount for travelling up to 20 km on highways and expressways per day, according to a Central government notification. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Tuesday amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Under the new regulations, known as the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2024, fees will now be charged on the actual distance travelled if the distance exceeds 20 kilometres. "A driver, owner or person in



charge of a mechanical vehicle other than a National Permit vehicle who makes use of the same section of the national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, shall be levied a zero-user fee upto 20 kilometres of a journey in each direction in a day under Global Navigation Satellite System based user fee collection system," the notification said.

The road ministry in July had said it has decided to initially implement a GNSS-based toll collection system at select national highways on a pilot basis as an added facility along with FASTag. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that a pilot study with regard to a GNSS-based user fee collection system has been done on the Bengaluru-Mysore section of NH-275 in Karnataka and Panipat-Hisar section of NH-709 in Haryana. The ministry had organised an international workshop on June 25, 2024 to gather inputs on this system. After this, a global expression of interest (EOI) was invited from various stakeholders on June 7, 2024, with the last date of submission as July 22, 2024.

## NEWS BRIEF

YECHURY IN CRITICAL CONDITION, ON RESPIRATORY SUPPORT AT AIIMS: CPI (M)



NEW DELHI: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury's condition is "critical" and he is on respiratory support at AIIMS here, his party said on Tuesday. The 72-year-old Yechury is being treated for acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in AIIMS, it said in a statement. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors is closely monitoring the condition of Yechury, which is critical at this time, the party said. Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

COURT GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO BARAMULLA MP ENGINEER RASHID

NEW DELHI: A city court on Tuesday granted interim bail till October 2 to Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case. Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

# Driver stalking woman crashes loader into her car, 7 injured

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A stalker made an attempt to kill a woman whom he knew for the last few years by hitting the car she was riding with his loader at a railway crossing in Rahimabad on Monday night. The accused did not stop after hitting the victim's car from behind. He pressed the accelerator of the loader to the full and kept pushing the car until it rammied into the barrier of the railway crossing, breaking it, and collided with two motorcycles and other vehicles. Seven persons, including the woman and two members of her family, were injured in the incident. DCP (West) Omveer Singh said a case was registered on the complaint of the woman and the accused was sent to jail. The incident took place around 9 pm on Monday. The DCP said the accused, Vinay of Rahimabad, knew the woman and had developed fancy for her. He was stalking her for a long time and did not mend his ways despite being warned of police action in the past. On Monday night, Vinay started chasing the car immediately after he spotted the woman riding the car along with her family members in Rahimabad.

## Nurse alleges sexual assault

Lucknow (PNS): A nurse working in a private hospital alleged sexual assault attempt by three men in Mohanlalganj area while she was returning home after her duty on Sunday night. The woman filed a complaint on Monday, informing Mohanlalganj police that she was sexually assaulted by three men in Vrindavan Yojana after they forcefully made her sit in a car and drove to a room where they held her hostage. "A case has been registered under relevant sections at Mohanlalganj police station and further legal action is being taken," said ACP (Mohanlalganj) Rajnish Verma. She identified the men as Dilip Kumar, Goldi and an unidentified man. The named accused are from Lucknow. "After forcing me to sit in their car, they drove me to a room in Vrindavan where they tried to assault me. When I screamed, and tried to call my family, they snatched my phone and took me to their car again and dropped me near my home in Mohanlalganj," she alleged. She further stated that Goldi ran a hospital where she used to work between 2019-2020 and she had left the job as both the men had a "bad eye on her". He developed a fancy for me and committed the crime when he found me moving alone. He had harassed me in the past also. But I never imagined he would abduct me and attempt sexual assault on me," she said. Police are investigating the allegations.

When the car stopped at the Jurabganj railway crossing was closed, Vinay crashed the loader into it from behind. As the loader kept pushing the car, the impact broke the railway barrier and the car collided with a pole on the side of the road before hitting two motorcycles and other vehicles. The police present there chased Vinay as he tried to flee and caught him. They thrashed him and handed him over to the police. A couple riding a motorcycle

suffered serious injuries while a constable was also injured in the incident. The DCP said the injured people had been admitted to the KGMU Trauma Centre. He said the accused knew the woman who was riding the car. It is alleged that the accused was in love with the woman and was annoyed with her because she married someone else. On Monday, when he saw the woman in a car with her husband and brother, he lost his mind and he started follow-

ing her. When the car stopped, he deliberately rammied his loader into the car with the intention of killing her. It further surfaced that the accused had attempted to get the woman's husband framed in a criminal case in the past by shooting himself. On November 1, 2023, Vinay had informed the police that he had been shot at. The bullet had hit his hand. He had accused the woman's husband and his partner. A case was also registered. Investigation revealed that he had hatched a conspiracy to implicate the woman's husband and had shot himself in the hand. Even after this, no action was taken against him. In the incident, Rahimabad resident Dinesh Singh, who was on a motorcycle with his wife Rooprani and daughters Princy (10) and Stuti (10 months) were injured when the car hit his two-wheeler. They fell on the ground and were dragged several feet before the car stopped. Shivam, a constable posted in Rahimabad police station, was also hit by the car and was injured while Dinesh and Rooprani sustained serious injuries on their heads and entire bodies. Three people, including the couple travelling in the car, also sustained minor injuries.

# NGT notice to authorities over encroachment on ponds by Lucknow realtor

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has formed a panel to obtain a factual report regarding the alleged encroachment on five water bodies by a realtor based in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow. It also sought a reply from authorities, including the district magistrate of Lucknow and the vice chairman of Lucknow Development Authority. The green body was hearing a letter petition by a resident, alleging the realtor, Omaxe Limited had encroached upon five natural ponds while developing a residential township, Omaxe City in Lucknow. The petition alleged that the water bodies had been illegally converted into plots, parks and roads in collusion with the authorities concerned. In an order passed on September 2, a bench of judicial member Sudhir Agarwal and expert member Afroz Ahmad said, "From the allegations made in the complaint, we are prima facie of the view that a substantial question relating to the environment has arisen." "However, for verifying the facts we also find it appropriate to obtain a factual report for which we constitute a joint committee comprising District Magistrate Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Pollution

Control Board (UPPCB) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)," the bench added. It directed the committee to submit its report within a month. "The committee shall also examine and submit its report on the compliance of conditions of environmental clearance, and the consent granted by UPPCB to the said developer under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act," the tribunal said. The National Green Tribunal also impleaded as parties or respondents the state of Uttar Pradesh through the additional chief secretary or principal secretary of the state's environment department, the member secretaries of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board, vice-chairman of Lucknow Development, the district magistrate and the developer, Omaxe Limited. "Issue notices to all the respondents to enable them to file their response or replies within three weeks from the date of receipt of the notice," the tribunal said. The matter has been posted on October 22 for further proceedings. PTI



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath pays tribute to a statue of freedom fighter Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant on his birth anniversary in Lucknow on Tuesday

# Cong conspiring for years to end reservation: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Latching on to Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the issue of reservation, BSP chief Mayawati on Tuesday claimed that the Congress is conspiring to end reservation and asked people belonging to the deprived sections to be cautious in the wake of his "dangerous" statement. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister was reacting to Congress will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place, which is not the case right now. The BSP chief said the Congress never implemented OBC reservation nor conducted caste census when it was in power. "Now it is dreaming of coming to power under its cover (of doing caste census). Beware of this drama of theirs (Congress), which will never be able to conduct caste census in the future," she said on X. "Now also beware of this drama of the supreme leader of the Congress party, Shri Rahul Gandhi, in which he has said abroad that when India will be in a better condition, they will end the reservation of SC, ST and OBC. It is clear from this that Congress has been conspiring for years to end their reservation," she said. Asking people belonging to deprived sections to be beware of this 'ghatak' (dangerous) statement given by Gandhi, she said, "As soon as this (Congress) party comes to power at the Centre, it will definitely end their reservation. These people (of reserved cat-

egory) must be cautious of this party which is pretending to save the Constitution and reservation." "In reality, Congress has been anti-reservation from the very beginning. The reservation quota (of reserved category people) was not fulfilled in their government at the Centre. BR Ambedkar resigned from the post of law minister because he did not get justice from this (Congress) party. People should be cautious," she added. Talking to students at the prestigious Georgetown University in the US, Gandhi said, "We will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place. And India is not a fair place. The BSP chief also said the UP government should adopt an honest stand in the teachers' recruitment case and ensure no injustice is done to reserved category candidates, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said on Tuesday while Congress general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi, attacked the government over the issue. Both statements came a day after the Supreme Court stayed an Allahabad High Court order which had asked the state government to prepare a fresh selection list for 69,000 assistant teachers in the state over complaints related to reservation formula. "There should be no injustice done to candidates of the reserved category in the case. They should definitely get their constitutional rights. Also, the government should adopt an honest stand in this matter, so that no injustice is done to them," Mayawati said in a post on X.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Anwar Anees To Anwar Anees Khan for all future purpose, Anwar Anees Khan S/O Mohd Anees Khan R/o 105/693 W(2) A Bhannana Purwa Dalmit Chamanganj Kanpur Nagar.

### सूचना

मेरी पुत्री शहरीन फातिमा ने वर्ष 2022 में यू.पी. बोर्ड से हाईस्कूल की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की थी जिसका अनुक्रमांक 1221129088 है। अतः मेरी पुत्री शहरीन फातिमा की हाईस्कूल की अंक तालिका कड़ी खो गई है। गजाला परवीन M/O शहरीन फातिमा 83-D सुजातगंज कानपुर नगर।

### NOTICE

I, Rupmaya Bhattarai, spouse of Prakash Bhattarai resident of Vill: Kalapahar (Chandraman), PO: Kalapahar Teh: Senapati, Dist: Senapati State : Manipur, Pin: 795122 have changed my name from Rupmaya Bhattarai to Rupmaya Subba Bhattarai vide Affidavit dated 28/8/2024 SI. No. 6549 before the Notary Public at Dibrugarh Assam.

### सूचना

मेने अपना नाम ज्योतिष आघार पर वरुण कपूर से बदलकर वरुण कान्त कपूर कर लिया है तथा यही नाम अपने पैनकार्ड व आधार कार्ड में भी अंकित कर लिया है। वरुण कपूर तथा वरुण कान्त कपूर दोनों मेरे ही नाम हैं। वरुण कान्त कपूर पुत्र श्री सुबोध कुमार कपूर निवासी-825, बी-ब्लाक, इण्डियन ऑयल कालोनी, पनकी, कानपुर।

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from SHABIA BEGUM to SHABIA NADEEM W/o NADEEM AHMAD R/o 42/120, Hospital Road, Pared, P.S. Moolganj, Kanpur Nagar. In future I would be known & recognise my this name only.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Shimla Devi To Saumya Gautam for all future purpose, Saumya Gautam W/o Rishikesh Gautam R/o 1306, Taad Bagiya Tiwaripur Jajmau Kanpur Nagar.

### NOTICE

It is informed that before marriage my name was Gurpreet Hora. After marriage with Mr. Avtar Singh, my name has become Gurpreet Kaur. In future, I would be known and recognized only by the name of Gurpreet Kaur. Gurpreet Kaur W/O Avtar Singh, R/O House number-84A, Gurunanak Colony, near Gurudwara, Kotwali City-Sitapur.

### NOTICE

Army soldier Kush Yadav father's name is Shri Omprakash and R/O village Tajpur (Kinnurpur), Tehsil Sadar, District-Mau DOB mentioned as 07.05.1969 instead of 07.05.1961 and the DOB of the mother of the is wrongly mentioned as 05.07.1973 instead of 01.01.1974 which is correct and true.

### NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my son's name has been recorded as Ajay Kumar in the service book of my husband late. Indra Bahadur soldier number 14923328A, which is a wrong name. The correct and correct name is Ajay Yadav. Therefore, he should be known and recognized by this name only. In which my son's name should be recorded as Ajay Yadav in the discharge book. Umila wife of late Indra Bahadur Village Bhakhri Majra Umran Post Gangehra Gulalganj Unchahar Raebareli.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from SIDDHARTH MISHRA to SIDDHARTH MISHRA. In future I shall be known as SIDDHARTH MISHRA. SIDDHARTH MISHRA S/O Sudhir Mishra, 1414/1180, Old Katra, Manmohan Park, Prayagraj, UP.

### WANTED

Sri Bachchu Ram Ram swaroop Singh P. G. Collage Adhali Dhata Fatehpur (U.P.) Collage Code 2006. One Lecture/Asst. Professor for Hindi Litt., Sanskrit U.G. Classes and one Principal. Qualification and payment as per U.G.C. Rules. Last Date- 10 October 2024. Main Trusty/Manejor Mo. 6306376276, 9935406738

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

### CHANGE OF NAME

I SADHANA SINGH W/O ASHEESH VERMA R/O-1/277 Virajkhand-1 Gontinagar, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh-226010 changed my-minor Daughter's name AROHI alias MRINALINI SINGH to MRINALINI SINGH aged-8-Years. PD/735/A

I KIRAN TEWARI ALIAS KIRAN AWASTHI D/O DAYA SHANKER TIWARI W/O DEVENDRA MOHAN AWASTHI R/O,HIG-247 T/F-2 3rdFloor Ratan Lal Nagar Kanpur-Nagar, U.P.-208022 changed my name to KIRAN AWASTHI. PD/736/A

# RLD leader demands ITS for teachers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal national secretary Anupam Mishra demanded the formation of Indian Teaching Service (ITS) on the lines of Indian Judicial and Administrative Services. In the letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mishra said the issue was new and very important and that till date no one had brought such an important issue into the public domain. In his letter, he requested the prime minister that teachers be selected on the same lines as judicial officers and public servants for the Indian Administrative Services, Indian Judicial Services, Indian Police Services and Indian Foreign Services etc. Mishra said as was well known, PM Modi not only takes the toughest administrative decisions related to vision, innovation and national interest, but also keeps a close watch on implementation of such decisions on the ground. "We are drawing the PM's attention towards an important issue related to national interest and nation building and we also believe that he will certainly implement it," he said, adding a new union education commission should be established for the selection of teachers.

# Three suspended for negligence, corruption in consolidation work

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a decisive move reinforcing his zero-tolerance policy against negligence and corruption, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered strict action against officials involved in irregularities in the consolidation process. On the chief minister's instructions, three officials, including two consolidation officers, have been suspended for delays, negligence and irregularities in handling consolidation-related cases. Additionally, several others face disciplinary action, with charge-sheets issued against them. Consolidation Commissioner GS Naveen mentioned that Assistant Consolidation Officer Akhilesh Chandra Srivastava has been suspended for irregularities in preparing the initial consolidation plan in Baithwalia village, Maharajganj. Departmental action has also been initiated against him. The deputy director of consolidation has been instructed to rectify these irregularities and expedite pending inspections through Gram Adalat. In Banda's Silehta village, Consolidation Officer Shailendra Srivastava has been suspended for similar irregularities, with recommendations for further departmental action against him.

Moreover, an additional charge-sheet has been issued against Assistant Consolidation Officer Arun Narayan Singh, previously suspended for irregularities in the same village. Disciplinary measures are also being taken against then Consolidator Kamta Prasad, now serving as assistant consolidation officer, along with further action against Consolidation Lekhal Vikas Singh and Consolidation Officer Rana Pratap, who are already under suspension. The consolidation commissioner further informed that farmers from various villages had raised concerns about irregularities in the ongoing consolidation process in Bijmor. Following an investigation report by the district magistrate, a directorate-level committee was formed to further probe the matter. The investigation confirmed the complaints, leading to the suspension of Vijay Kumar, the then settlement officer, currently serving as Settlement Officer Consolidation in Muzaffarnagar. Disciplinary action has been initiated against him, and the deputy director of consolidation has been instructed to address the irregularities. Additionally, a letter has been sent to the government recommending disciplinary action against Devendra Singh, Settlement Officer Consolidation of Gonda, for

failing to resolve cases and demonstrating lax supervision. The Consolidation Commissioner also noted that the additional municipal commissioner of Lucknow Municipal Corporation had reported irregularities by Consolidation Lekhal Rajendra Kumar Yadav of Mirzapur. In response, Yadav's affiliation was immediately terminated, and the settlement officer consolidation of Mirzapur has been directed to take disciplinary action against him. In another case, based on the report from the district magistrate of Azamgarh, disciplinary actions have been ordered against retired consolidation officer Shail Rajeev Kamal, retired assistant consolidation officer Mohan Lal Srivastava, Radheshyam Verma, Chakradhar Trigunayat and Jainendra Pratap, who were found guilty of lax supervision and negligence in consolidation work. Furthermore, an explanation has been sought from the deputy director of consolidation for failing to submit the investigation report regarding irregularities in consolidation work in Muzaffarnagar, which has been pending for the last ten years. The report pertains to the then Consolidation Officer Virendra Prakash, who is currently serving as assistant consolidation officer.

# Yogi to inaugurate new session of Atal schools

Lucknow (PNS): A significant milestone in the Yogi Adityanath government's ambitious Atal Residential Schools initiative will be reached on Thursday as 6,480 students move closer to a brighter future with their enrollment for the upcoming academic session.

On September 12 in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate the 2024-25 academic session of Atal Residential Schools across all 18 state divisions. This marks the beginning of the second academic year for these

schools, following the launch of the first session on September 11, 2023. Atal Residential Schools, a key initiative under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aim to integrate children of registered construction workers, orphans from the COVID-19 pandemic, and those supported under the Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana into the social mainstream. These institutions, managed by the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (UPBOCW), are

designed to accommodate 1,000 students and are operational in 18 divisions. A total of 6,480 students are currently enrolled in Atal Residential Schools, an initiative designed by the Yogi government to secure a brighter future for these children. Each school accommodates 1,000 students, with equal enrollment of 500 boys and 500 girls, providing free residential facilities. In addition, students receive nutritious meals at no cost. Atal Residential Schools follow

the CBSE curriculum and are fully aligned with the New Education Policy. This ensures that the students receive a high-quality education. The schools are also equipped with modern educational resources such as smart classrooms, computer labs, science labs, and even astronomy labs. Furthermore, both indoor and outdoor sports facilities are available to encourage physical development. The focus extends beyond academics, particularly on holistic development.

# Property dealer shot at

Lucknow (PNS): Unidentified miscreants shot at a property dealer in Meerkanagar (Nigohan) on Monday night. The 35-year-old victim, Shahenshah, suffered two bullets injuries and was admitted to a private medical centre where his condition is said to be critical. A resident of Meerkanagar, Shahenshah, a property broker, reached home after work at around 11:30 pm on Monday night. After parking his car, just as he waited for the door of his house to be opened, four people came from behind and opened a burst of fire at him while abusing him before escaping from the scene. Shahenshah fell to the ground and was soaked in blood from his wounds. His family members rushed him to a hospital

and later called the police. ACP Mohanlalganj Rajneesh Verma said that doctors who examined Shahenshah said his condition was critical. The police said the investigations were being carried out and a few people had been detained on suspicion. The police suspect that the assailants had been waiting for Shahenshah to reach home and seemed to be aware of his routine. The police suspect a dispute over property or money transaction could have led to the attack though no clear reason for the attack has surfaced yet. Shahenshah was married two months ago and was staying with his wife and his mother. There was panic following the gunfire and the villagers huddled inside their houses and

came out only after the police arrived at the scene. Bullet shells were recovered from the spot and were said to be of sophisticated weapons, the police said. Meanwhile, a man was killed in a road mishap in Manak Nagar police station area. As per reports, Ankush Gupta of Rajajipuram was returning home around 12.30 pm on Monday and was hit by an unidentified vehicle near a school in the area. After the accident, two people took Ankush to the trauma centre where doctors declared him dead. The family has lodged a complaint in this regard. In a separate incident, a woman was duped of over Rs 17,000 in an online fraud in Jankipuram police station area on Tuesday.

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# Climate change biggest concern for country and world: Yogi

## Distributes appointment letters to 647 forest/wildlife guards, 41 JEs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Emphasising that climate change is the most significant concern for both the country and the world, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Tuesday that the newly appointed forest and wildlife guards have a crucial role to play in mitigating its harmful effects.

While distributing appointment letters to 647 forest and wildlife guards, along with 41 junior engineers selected through the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission at Lok Bhavan, the chief minister remarked, "Uncontrolled and unplanned development has created a crisis for humanity. We are witnessing untimely rains, excessive rainfall and hailstorms, while at the same time, some areas suffer from drought and others from floods."

"In some regions, there is excessive rain, while in others, people are desperate for a drop of water - both situations are harmful. Today, we are all victims of the adverse effects of climate change. If the newly appointed forest and wildlife protectors work diligently and sincerely, they can significantly contribute to reducing these negative impacts," added.

The chief minister noted that in the past, it used to take about a year to receive the final appointment letter after an examination. However, with a renewed commitment, the government has now ensured that appointment letters are provided within six months and one year.

"From the beginning of the recruitment process to the distribution of appointment letters, there has been no need for recommendations or bribery. You must have seen that there is no scope for any unfair means to influence the examination, and the government expects you to maintain the same level of integrity in your work," he said.

Reflecting on the government's progress over the past seven and a half years, the chief minister highlighted that the biggest challenges in combating climate change are deforestation, unplanned development, and the reckless use of plastic. He stressed that these practices can have disastrous effects on the environment.

"Even with efforts to curb these practices, misuse still happens at various levels. In hilly regions, forests can catch fire in any season, causing damage to the environment and triggering landslides. This not only affects wildlife but



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handing over appointment letter to a newly-selected candidate at a programme in Lok Bhavan, Lucknow, on Tuesday

also has serious consequences for humans. The reduction in forest area is a key factor contributing to human-wildlife conflicts," he added. The chief minister emphasised that seven and a half years ago, the goal was set to increase forest cover, and significant strides have been made toward this target. "We plant trees on a large-scale each year and have successfully completed the programme of planting 210 crore trees. Our aim is to achieve 15 per cent forest cover by 2028-29," he stated.

He further highlighted that while plantation is crucial, the protection of these forests relies on active public participation. Over the past seven and a half years, this approach has yielded positive results and garnered praise from international organisations. The involvement of farmers has been encouraged, and with the training of 647 new forest guards, a significant responsibility lies ahead, the chief minister pointed out. He also noted the role of the Pollution Control Board in managing environmental responsibilities through public engagement. "Many of our rivers, which are vital water sources, were at risk," he said and added, "To address this, PM Modi launched the Namami Gange programme to ensure the Ganga remains uninterrupted and clean. This program needs to be expanded with public participation." Reflecting on recent incidents of human-wildlife conflicts, the chief minister noted that this season has seen increasing instances of wildlife becoming aggressive, leading to significant loss of

life. "This loss is deeply felt by families and society, often resulting in orphaned children and disrupted lives. When waterlogging or encroachment occurs in wildlife habitats, animals are forced to migrate, which impacts human settlements. Therefore, forest and wildlife guards must not only train themselves, but also educate local residents to act as guides," he stated.

The chief minister also pointed out that the Terai districts, where these conflicts are occurring, are areas where forests and agricultural lands are in close proximity. Animals are drawn to fields when there is water in the forest, and sudden human presence can provoke wildlife aggression. He emphasised the need for electric and solar fencing in border areas to mitigate these conflicts. The chief minister emphasised that solar fencing should be prioritised. He explained that when an animal encounters an electric shock, it retreats, thereby safeguarding workers and farmers from harm. This measure can help prevent loss of life and protect farmers from wildlife aggression, reducing the risk of conflict.

Highlighting the interconnection between the human and animal lives, Chief Minister Yogi stated, "We cannot protect nature and the environment without recognising this connection. All living beings rely on each other. It is crucial to halt illegal activities such as cutting and mining." He further noted that Uttar Pradesh is the first state to

classify human-wildlife conflict as a disaster and allocate ₹5 lakh for loss of life resulting from such conflicts. This provision also extends to deaths caused by snake bites, with funds available for the deceased's dependents. Additionally, anti-snake venom is stocked in every district hospital and community health centres.

Noting the recent successful completion of the recruitment exam for 60,200 police personnel, Yogi said, "This is likely the first time a civil police force anywhere in the world has conducted such a large recruitment process simultaneously without any issues. In the next six months, the UP Subordinate Service Selection Commission will process recruitment for an additional 40,000 positions."

Chief Minister Yogi pointed out that the inefficiencies of previous governments not only jeopardised the future of the youth but also led to a state of identity crisis. "Before 2017, when the youth from UP traveled outside the state and mentioned their origin, they often faced difficulties finding accommodations," he said. He further accused the former administration of creating this identity crisis and associating with leaders of the paper leak gangs.

"After the recruitment process was revealed, lists of favoured candidates were circulated, leading to corruption. This resulted in the exclusion of deserving and impoverished students and forced appointments through backdoor channels, causing immense distress and even leading some youths to commit suicide," the chief minister asserted.

# PM to inaugurate Semicon India at Expo Mart in Greater Noida today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Semicon India 2024 at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida on Wednesday.

The prime minister will also address the gathering on the occasion. It has been the vision of the prime minister to position India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is overseeing Uttar Pradesh's role as the host state for these events. He will participate in two one-on-one sessions with investors during the event. Semicon India 2024 will see the participation of 255 representatives from 17 countries, including major industry players from the United States, Japan, South Korea and India. India is emerging as a key player in the global semiconductor industry, and Uttar Pradesh has significant potential in this field. By highlighting these factors during the event, various industries, including chip manufacturing, are expected to be drawn to invest in the state. It is also noteworthy that,



CM Yogi Adityanath inspects the Noida International Airport in Jewar on Tuesday. PTI

with Semicon India 2024 being held just before the UP Trade Show 2024, Brand UP will receive extensive promotion and recognition on the global stage. As part of Semicon India

2024, an exhibition will be held from 10 am to 6 pm on all three days, from September 11 to 13, where semiconductor manufacturers from around the world will show-

case their products. Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate Semicon India at 11 am on the first day. Following the inauguration, workshops on smart manufacturing will be held, along with a presentation on the semiconductor ecosystem in India.

On the final day, September 13, Micron will conduct a package manufacturing boot-camp, and IESA will present a session on the journey of semiconductors thus far. Additionally, IESA will introduce semiconductor fabrication. On the second day of Semicon India 2024, sessions will focus on cross-regional partnerships, flexible hybrid electronics, supply chain management, industry-academia workshops, and sustainability. The Uttar Pradesh government's IT and Electronics department, along with UP Electronics Corporation Limited (UPLC), will actively participate in the programme. They are setting up a pavilion spanning 145 square metres, which will showcase the state's presence and promote sector-friendly policies in electronics, semiconductors and chip manufacturing.

## Newly-selected candidates laud Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The newly-appointed forest guards/wildlife guards and junior engineers expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after they received their appointment letters on Tuesday. The candidates credited Chief Minister Yogi for their success, acknowledging that their hard work has finally borne fruit due to his efforts. They praised the chief minister for overseeing a transparent and fair recruitment process.

Additionally, the candidates shared their experiences regarding changes in the recruitment process before and after 2017. They highlighted that prior to 2017, the process was marred by nepotism, discrimination, corruption and exploitation. In contrast, since 2017, the recruitment process has been characterised by complete transparency and integrity.

Pooja Tripathi, appointed as a junior engineer with the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, views this achievement as a significant success for the government. She remarked, "Youth are now securing government jobs through a transparent process based on their hard work. I, too, have benefited from this transparent and fair recruitment process. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the chief minister for this opportunity."

Vijay Pratap Singh from Mau, who was selected as a forest guard, expressed similar sentiments by highlighting the government's dedication to youth. "Today's event is a testament to the government's commitment to young people. Receiving my appointment letter directly from the chief minister is a profound honour. The Yogi government's swift recruitment process, with appointment letters issued within a month of the results, underscores its commitment to the youth's future. The record number of appointments is a clear demonstration of this commitment," he said.

Varsha Rani from Moradabad, appointed as a forest guard in the Environment, Forest and Climate Change department, remarked, "Previously, bribes were often required for government appointments, but now selections are made purely based on merit. The practice of bribing for jobs has become a thing of the past. The chief minister has set a new standard for Uttar Pradesh by ensuring a transparent appointment process. I am deeply grateful to the chief minister for making this possible, without any need for recommendations or bribes." Jaya Yadav from Bareilly, appointed as a junior engineer with the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, expressed her appreciation for the chief minister's efforts. She stated, "Under the

chief minister's leadership, we are witnessing a fair and transparent recruitment process. The government's commitment extends from ensuring women's safety to providing employment opportunities. Out of the 688 appointments, 128 are women, which highlights the support for women under Chief Minister Yogi's leadership. We now feel safe and empowered, and we can go out at any time without fear. For us, Yogi ji is number one."

Salim Ahmed from Rampur, who has been appointed as a forest guard in the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change department, shared his appreciation for the current administration. Having previously been selected for the post of lekhpal two months ago, Salim stated, "I am living proof of the fair recruitment process under the Yogi government. The way youth are being appointed now is unprecedented. This government has rewarded our hard work and integrity. I passed the exam twice and was selected for both positions. If you are qualified and capable, securing a government job under this administration is entirely possible."

"This is the same state where, before 2017, both the youth and their dreams were disregarded during interviews. Today, the chief minister himself is personally distributing appointment letters," he added.

## Proposed task force to develop Noida into a dynamic city

Lucknow/Noida (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government is set to constitute a task force in order to develop the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida) into a dynamic city, boasting a wide range of industries as well as advanced amenities.

The state government aims at enhancing Noida's branding, not just as an industrial hub, but as a modern city with cutting-edge urban amenities through the initiative. The dedicated task force will also identify and develop vibrant cultural spaces within the city.

The New Okhla Industrial Development Authority has begun the process of selecting a knowledge partner to expedite the formation of this task force. The task force will include various officers from the authority and district levels, who will oversee several critical functions.

These include compiling progress reports on ongoing projects, monitoring development activities, creating a comprehensive database, identifying investment opportunities, enhancing tourist attractions and fostering creativity within the area.

# Female wolf caught in Bahraich

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Forest department officials captured a female wolf from the Sissaya village in Bahraich district at 6:30 on Tuesday morning.

This is the fifth wolf to be successfully captured by the Forest department out of a pack of six wolves.

The captured female wolf is a sub adult. With its capture, one more wolf is left to be captured by the Forest department. The pack of six wolves had killed 10 people and injured more than 40 in the Bahraich district in the last one and a half months. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Sanjay Pathak, who is monitoring the operations, while giving the details said, "We got information that the wolf was sighted in Sissaya village and a goat was lifted from there. Our team reached the village and carried out a survey while scanning the area using a thermal drone and got a picture of the wolf. The team cordoned off the entire area with traps and was successful in capturing the wolf." Pathak said that only one wolf was left to be captured and most probably it was a male but they were not too sure.

"People are claiming that it is a lame wolf but this cannot be said with certainty because sometimes the wolf portrays itself in this manner to mislead the prey. They sometimes also pose as if they are dead to catch the prey," he said. He further stated that operations would continue to catch the last wolf out of the pack of



Another wolf, part of a pack which has allegedly killed several people, after being captured by Forest department personnel in Bahraich on Tuesday. PTI

six. "Left alone, it has no conservation value. Besides, the villagers will also be relieved if all the wolves are caught and that will prevent them from blaming the wolf for any attack," he stated.

DFO Ajeet Singh said that the wolf caught was most likely to be transported to the Gorakhpur Zoo. "We were able to trace its location on Monday evening itself because due to the rains the pug marks had become visible. Thereafter we began the operations at 5 in the morning and caught the animal by 6:30 am," he said. Singh said that the same strategy of pre-

vention of attacks and location hunting would be carried out to trap the remaining animal. Pathak admitted that with the water receding more area would open out for the wild animals. "It is possible that the wolves got trapped towards the side of the humans because of the rains. It could be a chance that the wolf picked up a child and found it an easy prey. With the spaces opening up the wolves will find its animal prey to feed upon," he said. He said that most of the man-animal conflicts happened that way. "They are cyclical in nature and ultimately settle

down. Out of the hundred cases that were reported by villagers at the command centre in Bahraich, 95 of them were untrue. On Sunday night we were informed about the wolf picking up a dog which we found to be a false alarm because no wolf has ever picked up a dog. A video was also passed on to us by the villagers in the Sikandarpur area where they claimed that the wolf was present but we could make out that this was not the video of the same area," he said. Pathak admitted that there was a lot of confusion with the general public mistaking a jackal for a wolf, the former being in good numbers. He said that they were trying to spread awareness amongst the people and they were distributing pamphlets and banners which showed what the wolf looked like. "It is difficult to distinguish a wolf from far away but it is the face and the tail through which it can be recognised," he added.

Pathak said that the operations would continue and the patrolling as well as location hunting would be carried out until it was certain that the attacks had ceased. "It is important for the people to sleep indoors and keep the doors bolted. The children should not go for open defecation in the morning as well as in the evening," he added. He said that unfortunately the people do not follow the advice given by the Forest department. "Despite regular advice given by the forest team when it visits the villages one can see people sleeping outside," he added.

## 'Rabies or canine distemper virus may be behind wolf attacks'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A disease such as rabies or canine distemper virus could be responsible for the spate of wolf attacks that have terrorised around 50 villages in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district, according to SP Yadav, head of the International Big Cat Alliance.

The exact reason, however, can only be determined through a proper analysis of the captured animals, he told PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here. A pack of six wolves has killed eight people and injured more than 20 in the district, a traditional wolf habitat, since mid-July. "It is a one-off incident; it is not a regular occurrence. There must be a rabid animal or something similar that triggered this issue. Normally, this does not happen. I believe it is the first such incident in the past 10 years. The forest department is conducting surveys to identify the problematic animal," Yadav said. Yadav, who previously headed Project Tiger and Project Cheetah, said that rabies and canine distemper virus can sometimes alter the behaviour of big cats, making them lose their fear of humans. "This could be the cause. It is important to capture the animal, analyse the sample, and diagnose the issue properly to determine the reason," he added.

**राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
**KURUKSHETRA-136119**

**Advt. No.: 75/2024**

**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) cum Request For Proposal (RFP)**

NIT Kurukshetra invites Expression of Interest (EOI) cum Request For Proposal (RFP) from Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) eligible as per GFR-2017 u/s 133(3) for PMC for the construction of buildings i.e. Academic block, Hostel block, Residential block, Director's residence, Vertical extension of hostels and Academic buildings and other external development work of NIT Kurukshetra at Kurukshetra (Haryana) to be undertaken under EPC mode. Interested agencies are requested to submit their expression of interest cum request for proposal as per the terms and conditions, which can be downloaded from the Institute Website [www.nitkr.ac.in](http://www.nitkr.ac.in) and CPPP Portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

The expression of interest along with terms & conditions duly signed by the interested agencies in sealed envelope, addressed to the Director, NIT, Kurukshetra may be sent by Speed Post/Registered Post so as to reach on or before 03.10.2024.

**Registrar /lc**

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region : 118/330,**  
**2nd Floor, Kaushalpur, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012**

**Possession Notice** Branch : Fatehpur Roashnai, Kanpur Dehat

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date**

**Borrower : Shri Satyendra Kumar Shukla S/o Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla and Smt. Puja Shukla W/o Shri Satyendra Kumar Shukla, Both R/o : G-593, Gangaganj Colony, Panki, Kanpur Nagar and Also at Plot No. 430, EWS, Block-G, Gangaganj, Panki, Kanpur Nagar.**

**Demand Notice Date : 27-03-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 07.09.2024**

**Property : Land and Building Situated at Plot No. 430, EWS, Block-G, Panki Gangaganj S/S, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Satyendra Kumar Shukla S/o Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla and Smt. Puja Shukla W/o Shri Satyendra Kumar Shukla, Area : 33.45 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Plot No. 431, South : Plot No. 429, East : 5 Mtr. Wide Road, West : Plot No. 419**

**O/s Amount as per Demand Notice as on Dated 12-03-2024 : Rs. 15,97,263.86 + Intt. +Others Charges**  
**Total Dues Amount as on Dated 31-08-2024 : Rs. 16,68,987.59 + Intt. +Others Charges**

**Note : We hereby withdraw previous possession notice dated 03-07-2024**

**Date : 11-09-2024 Place : Kanpur Dehat Authorised Officer**

# PRSU convocation: Chancellor's Gold Medal awarded to Anjali Giri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The seventh convocation of Prof Rajendra Singh (Raju Bhaiya) University (PRSU) was held on Tuesday. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel also attended the event as the chief guest and awarded medals to the meritorious students. The Chancellor's Gold Medal was awarded to postgraduate student Anjali Giri. This time 1,15,827 students were awarded degrees in the convocation. In this, a total of 156 meritorious students who got the highest marks in various courses were given medals, in which 49 meritorious students were given gold medals, 52 silver medals and 55 bronze medals. Former ISRO Chairman and Physical Research Management Council Chairman AS Kiran also attended the programme as the special guest. Besides, other dignitaries were Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay and UP Minister of State for Higher Education Rajni Tiwari. The Governor calling upon the meritorious students said "This is just a degree, if you do not do good work then this degree will just hang on the wall. Therefore, along with the degree, there should be culture



and good work." She discussed the budget. The Government of India has released a budget of ₹1.48 lakh crores for higher education. Teachers will have to work to get A++ and no excuses will be accepted. She also discussed the schemes of the central government. Former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran said today India is progressing very fast in the field of science. He said when

Chandrayaan was reaching the moon, the whole world was looking towards India. He said for India to become the world leader again, we all have to move forward together. UP Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay told about the National Education Policy 2020. Prof Rajendra Singh Raju Bhaiya played an important role in the field of education. He said that Uttar Pradesh

is becoming a hub in the field of education today. Minister of State for Higher Education Rajni Tiwari said the demand for National Education Policy 2020 was being made for a long time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi implemented it. She said that do not turn back until you get success. Governor Anandiben Patel is also the chairman of Allahabad Museum Committee. She visited the museum after the convocation and inaugurated the Leeladhar exhibition focused on the Brajmoan form of Lord Krishna from the miniature collection. Shri Krishna had performed many leelas while staying in Braj for 11 years and 56 days, whose beautiful pictures have been displayed in this exhibition. She also inaugurated the solo art exhibition of the month. She held a review meeting of the work done by the museum till now. The Leeladhar exhibition will be available to all the visitors and art lovers till December 10. Due to security reasons, entry of general visitors to the museum was closed after 12 noon on the arrival of the Governor. Meanwhile the 19th convocation of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) will be held on September 11.

# ITI Ltd receives ₹300 cr order from BREDA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

ITI Limited, located in Naini Industrial Area here has received an order of ₹300 crore from Bihar Renewable Energy Development Authority (BREDA). This order has been received for the supply and installation of one lakh solar street light systems in Bihar. The Naini plant of ITI Limited has been manufacturing solar panels for the last six years.

Now it has got the opportunity to supply one lakh solar street light systems under the 'Mukhyamantri Gramin Solar Street Light Yojana' which will be installed under the supervision of BREDA. Chairman and Managing Director of ITI Limited, Rajesh Rai, said that ITI is proud to have this opportunity to partner with the Government of Bihar again. This will not only provide

street lights with solar energy in Bihar but also demonstrates the confidence of the Bihar Government in our development work. ITI Limited has also recently received an order for the supply of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from the West Bengal State Election Commission which has been given after a successful demo in Kolkata. ITI Limited is the country's

leading telecommunications company. It provides telecommunication solutions to many public sectors. Its six major plants are located in Bengaluru, Naini, Rae Bareilly, Mankapur, Srinagar and Palakkad. The company is also a leader in the manufacturing of solar equipment, LED lighting systems, smart cards and defence products due to which its contribution can be seen in many sectors.

# 'Rising suicides globally a sign that mental health problems increasing due to psychological causes'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A guest lecture was organised by the Department of Psychology of Mahila Mahavidyalaya on World Suicide Prevention Day on Tuesday. The programme started with the worship of Lord Ganesha and lighting of the lamp. In her welcome address Head of Department Professor Pratibha Srivastava told the students that increasing number of suicides globally is an indication that mental health problems are increasing among people all over the world due to psychological reasons. People of all age groups are falling prey to negativity like depression, despair, conflict, anxiety etc, the extreme outcome of which is giving rise to a serious tendency like suicide. She suggested controlling suicide through continuous practice of self-control, self-confidence, self-respect and positive thinking. Renowned social worker struggling for the uplift of women, Neelam Chaturvedi was present as the chief guest speaker on the occasion. She made the students aware of the ill-effects of mechanical dependence and also told them about many legal rules with the help of which the students can protect their dignity and can stop suicide. The programme was conducted by



Noted social worker Neelam Chaturvedi addressing a gathering at MMV PG College on Tuesday.

Professor Neeta Mishra and the Head of the Department Professor Pratibha Srivastava expressed her gratitude. A large number of students participated enthusiastically in the programme and benefited from it. Professors from other departments were also present during the programme. **FELICITATION PROGRAMME:** 'Guru Vandan', students felicitation programme, was organised in the auditorium of Mahila Mahavidyalaya on Tuesday which was inaugurated by

Principal Professor Anju Chaudhary. The principal honoured all the teachers present in the auditorium with various gifts along with the wishes of Teachers' Day and sent best wishes to the newly-arrived students for their bright future. On the occasion various cultural programmes were organized by the students. The students who scored the highest marks in the session 2023-24 were honoured. The oath taking ceremony of all the members of the

newly-formed Gyan Sarovar Committee was also held as well as Miss Fresher competition was organised. All the teaching faculty of the college, including Mamta Gangwar, Vandana Sharma, Sadhna Pandey, Neeta Mishra, Deepali Srivastava, Dr Saba Yunus, Dr Shobhana Dwivedi, Dr Mamta Mishra, Dr Seema Kanaujia, Dr Pushpa Lata, Manjari Srivastava, Dr Arunima Khare, Dr Archana Srivastava, Dr Namrata Pandey contributed to make this event successful.

# Preparations for Maha Kumbh intensify

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Preparations for the Maha Kumbh-2025 to be held in January on the banks of Sangam have intensified. All arrangements are being made for the convenience of devotees coming from all over the country and the world. About 1,000 Kumbh Mitras will also be deployed to help them. They help the devotees as volunteers. Apart from this, 6,000 policemen will also be trained for this. If any devotee gets lost in the mela, forgets the way to the camp or an elderly or disabled

person is unable to walk, these volunteers will help them. All the Kumbh Mitras or volunteers who will be deployed in the Maha Kumbh Mela will also be trained to deal with emergency situations so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. Mahakumbh Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand said all preparations are going on in view of the Maha Kumbh Mela. In this sequence, Kumbh Mitras will also be deployed who will cover the entire Mela area. They will be deployed in different sectors

or at prominent places. **HINDI FORTNIGHT:** The Central Library of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), is observing Hindi Pakhwada (fortnight) from Tuesday to September 17. Librarian Christofhar Sudhir George said that as part of this celebration, the library is organising a hindi book display. This hindi book display will showcase a wide array of Hindi books, including poetry, prose, novels, and other subjects. Library patrons are

encouraged to explore and engage with the rich collection of Hindi literature available during this period. George said that Central Library of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences has also planned a hindi motivational talk on September 12 at 4:00 pm at Central Library. The topic of this session is "Student life in the 21st century". The talk will be delivered by Dr Sugreev Singh, librarian-cum-counsellor at the Model Career Centre, University of Allahabad.

# Initiative to empower women with essential self-defence skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a significant initiative to empower women with essential self-defence skills, the Dr Gaur Hari Singhania Institute of Management and Research (GHS-IMR) organised a comprehensive "Streebal Defence Session" in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club of Kanpur Princess (IWC) at its state-of-the-art auditorium on Monday. The event was a resounding success, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and the local community, highlighting the pressing need for self-defence awareness and techniques in today's world. The session was conducted by renowned self-defence expert of Akanksha Karate Classes, Raj Pratap Singh. With over two decades of experience in self-defence training, Singh is known for his practical, easy-to-learn techniques that can be utilised by women of all ages and fitness levels. His engaging and interactive training style made the session not only informative but also highly inspiring for all attendees. The session began with a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental principles of self-defence. Singh emphasised the importance of awareness, preparedness and mental strength as the first line of defence in any situation. He stressed that self-defence is not just about phys-



ical strength but also about quick thinking and presence of mind. A series of practical demonstrations followed, where participants were taught various self-defence techniques, including how to break free from grabs, defend against strikes and use everyday objects for protection. Singh, along with her team of trainers, provided step-by-step instructions on each move, ensuring that participants could practice and internalise the techniques effectively. Attendees were given the opportunity to practice the demonstrated techniques in a safe and controlled environment. This hands-on approach helped participants gain confidence in executing the moves and reinforced the importance of regular practice. The atmosphere was filled with energy and enthusiasm as women of all age groups, from college stu-

dents to working professionals, actively participated in the training. The Q&A session and motivational talk featured an interactive segment, where participants raised concerns and queries related to personal safety, legal rights and handling real-life situations. Singh addressed each question thoughtfully, providing practical advice and encouragement. He concluded the session with a motivational talk, urging women to stay vigilant, trust their instincts and never hesitate to defend themselves. To encourage ongoing practice and safety awareness, the organisers distributed safety kits, including pepper spray and safety alarms, to all participants. Certificates of participation were also awarded, acknowledging their commitment to learning and self-empowerment. Professor of GHS-IMR Smriti Saxena

expressed her gratitude to Raj Pratap Singh and his team for conducting the session and emphasised the institute's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment. "The Streebal defence session is not just a workshop; it is a movement towards empowering women with the skills and confidence to protect themselves. We believe that such initiatives are crucial in building safer communities," she said. The success of the Streebal defence session has inspired the institute to plan more such workshops in the future, with a broader reach to include students from neighboring colleges and schools as well as members of the local community. The GHS-IMR is committed to its mission of promoting holistic education, where personal safety and empowerment are key components.

# Erection of pier caps for elevated section of Corridor 2 begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The erection of pier caps for the elevated section of Corridor-2 (Agricultural University - Barra-8) under the Kanpur Metro Rail Project began on Monday. At approximately 5:30 pm the first pier cap was successfully erected on pillar No 14 near the Company Bagh intersection. A total of 121 pier caps are planned for this section. The erection of the 68-tonne pier cap was completed smoothly in the presence of senior Kanpur Metro officials and representatives from the contracting agencies. Pier caps are positioned atop the pillars in the metro's elevated structure. U-girders, I-girders and other components are then placed on these pier caps. For the elevated section of Corridor-2, pier caps are pre-cast at the Naubasta casting yard. Once casting is complete, the pier caps are transported to their designated locations within the corridor and installed on the pillars using a crane. This installation process is known as erection. It is important to note that Corridor-2 (CSA - Barra-8) features an approximately 4.5-km-long elevated section, extending from Agricultural University to the Corridor-2 Depot ramp and from the Double Pulia ramp to Barra-8. This section will include a



UPMRC started erection of pier caps for the elevated section of Corridor-2 on Monday.

total of five stations: Agricultural University, Vijay Nagar Chauraha, Shastri Chowk, Barra-7 and Barra-8. Congratulating the team on this milestone, UPMRC Managing Director Sushil Kumar stated, "Alongside the ongoing work on the Balance Section of Corridor-1, the civil construction of Corridor-2 is advancing swiftly. The casting of pier caps for the Agriculture University to Barra-8 elevated section began on June 14, 2024, and piling, the foundational work for the metro corridor, started on July 2, 2024. Today's start of the pier cap erection marks a significant achievement for us. The engineers at

Uttar Pradesh Metro are working tirelessly to ensure progress at international standards. I am confident that the UPMRC team will complete the construction as planned, maintaining the same commitment and dedication demonstrated during the priority section of the Kanpur and Agra Metros." **WOMAN ENDS LIFE:** A woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in Bhagwantpur village under Rasoolabad police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Monday night. She was found hanging on Tuesday morning. Her father informed the police alleging that his daughter had been killed. Police sent the body for

autopsy after 'panchnama' in the presence of the tahsildar. Reports said that Shiv Dutt alias Chhote Rajput of Bhagwantpur was married to Anuradha of Kanauli under Thathia police station, Kannauj, in 2021 and they had an 18-month old daughter. On Monday, Anuradha hanged herself under mysterious circumstances. On getting information about the matter inspector Anil Kumar, Kahinjri outpost incharge Yogendra Sharma and tahsildar Abhinay Chaturvedi rushed to the spot and carried out investigation. Inspector said on receipt of autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter.

# Eight railway employees awarded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

General Manager, North Central Railway (NCR), Upendra Chandra Joshi conferred awards on staff for their alertness and contribution towards safety in train operations in the presence of PHODs of NCR here on Tuesday. Eight railway employees were given Safety Awards by the general manager on the occasion. The awarded employees included Randhir Singh, Loco Pilot/Kanpur, Prayagraj division, Alok Kashyap, Assistant Loco Pilot/Kanpur, Prayagraj division, Abhishek Srivastava, Track Maintainer-IV Karonda, Jhansi division, Harish, Trackman, Ghasi Nagar/Agra division,



Bhola Singh, Track Maintainer-III Mathura/Agra division, Pawan Kumar, Train Manager/New DDU, Prayagraj

division, Pramod Verma, Pointsman/Agasod, Jhansi division and Jaiprakash, Station Superintendent/Aung, Prayagraj

division. Jaiprakash, Station Superintendent/ Aung/Prayagraj Division was conferred the Employee of the Month Award for August this year. While performing his duty on August 7, Station Superintendent Jaiprakash while exchanging all right signal with train No 22438 heard the sound of some collision and saw sparks coming out. He immediately switched off the OHE. The train stopped at Bindki Road. The train was got checked by the pointsman, who found that the fishplate at km no. 898/10 was open. Thus, due to his alertness and vigilance, a possible accident was prevented.

# Lucky Lakshmi Festival from Oct 12 to Nov 26

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) is thrilled to unveil the revamped Lucky Lakshmi Festival, themed "Get Blessed, Be Lucky" in Kanpur's prominent venues from October 12 to November 26. Addressing mediapersons, Zonal Chairman (North) Dr Ravi Kapoor said, "The Festival is a remarkable initiative that underscores our commitment to supporting the jewellery industry's growth. This festival provides an excellent platform for jewellers to showcase their creativity and for customers to enjoy a unique shopping experience. We are proud to be part of this vibrant celebration of prosperity and look forward to its success in

Kanpur." Actress Megha Godse graced the event as a special guest. GJC Chairman Saiyam Mehra Director GJC & Convenor of the festival Kamal Singhania and the Joint Convenor Manoj Jha were also present at the press conference. They said the Lucky Lakshmi Festival will provide customers with numerous chances to win guaranteed gifts and participate in periodic, weekly, and bumper prize draws. **MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED:** The members of Pensioners' Forum handed over a memorandum, addressed to the prime minister to the ACM (III) Surendra Bahadur Singh on Tuesday who assured them to forward it to the PMO for necessary action. The memorandum contained various demands which included

₹7,500 pension plus DA to EPS-95 pensioners, restoring railway fare concession to senior citizens, payment of 18 months arrears of DA/RA and exempting pension from income tax etc. They demanded a probe into the transfers made during the regime of Defence Accounts Chief Controller (North) Lucknow and resolved to lodge complaint about the transfers of women to the state/central women commission. The delegation was led by Forum's general secretary Anand Awasthi. Among others present on the occasion were president RK Tewari, BL Gulabia, Satya Nrain, BP Srivastava, Subhash Chandra Bhatia, KK Srivastava, Ravindra Kumar Madhur, Om Shanker, RP Srivastava, Jiyalal and Sahab Din Yadav.

# PM focuses on localised solutions to global issues at ANRF meeting



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasised the need for addressing challenges in India's research ecosystem and focus on localised solutions to global issues, during the inaugural governing body meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Modi also talked about developing a dashboard where information related to research and development happening in the country could be easily tracked. The meeting focussed on discussions about India's science

and technology landscape and redesigning of research and development programmes, as per a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Stating that a new beginning had been made with the first meeting of the governing body of ANRF, Modi said the country's scientific community should have faith that there would be no dearth of resources for their endeavours. Modi also talked about setting big targets, focusing on attaining them and conducting path-breaking research. He said research should focus on finding new solutions to existing problems.

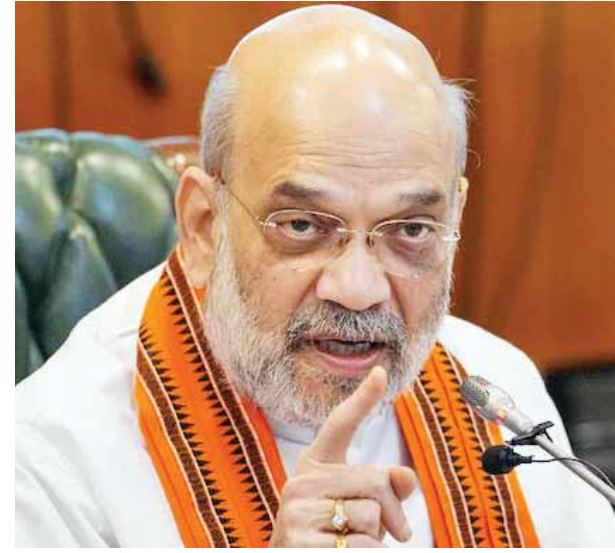
The Prime Minister emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs, according to the statement. He also discussed the need for upgradation and standardisation of institutions and suggested preparing a list of domain experts on the basis of their expertise. Discussing the positive impacts of Atal Tinkering Labs, the prime minister suggested that grading of these labs could be done. He also discussed research in various areas such as looking for new solutions to the envi-

ronment change, battery ingredients for electric vehicles, lab grown diamonds, among others. During the meeting, the governing body decided to launch a programme in the hub-and-spoke mode by pairing universities where research was at a nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode. The governing body also discussed several areas of strategic interventions of ANRF that include global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning research and development with national priorities, promoting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystem among others. The ANRF will launch programmes on solution-focussed research in mission mode in select priority areas such as electric vehicle mobility, advanced materials, solar cells, smart infrastructure, health and medical technology, sustainable agriculture and photonics. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister who is a vice-President of the governing body also attended the meeting among others. The ANRF has been established to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and research and development laboratories.

# Amit Shah urges use of AI to combat cybercrime at I4C Foundation Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday urged cyber security agencies to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify the modus operandi of criminals duping people of their hard-earned money, spreading fake news and abusing women and children online. India hosts around 46 per cent or almost half of global digital transactions, making the job of these agencies "challenging", he said while delivering a keynote speech during the first foundation day celebrations of the I4C or Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre here. The I4C, established in 2018, is a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is tasked with establishing a national-level coordination centre to address all cybercrime-related issues in the country. During the event, Shah launched four platforms of the I4C — cyber fraud mitigation centre (CFMC), the 'Samanvaya' platform, a cyber commandos programme and a suspect registry. "I would urge you to use Artificial Intelligence to identify the MO (modus operandi) deployed (by criminals)... This will help (you) to find new ways to fight cybercrimes," the Home Minister said. He urged the cyber security agencies to shun the age-old



protocol of "need to know" and adopt the "duty to share" approach to take forward this fight. He cited some figures to show how Internet and cyber penetration has increased in the country. "We have 95 crore Internet users in the country as of March 31 as compared to 25 crore during the same time period in 2014," Shah said, adding that in 2014, as many as 600 panchayats were linked to the Internet but the has reached 2.13 lakh now. Seven-lakh km of optical fibre cable has been laid, data download speed has increased, the cost has decreased and the Internet consumption has risen 78 per cent over a period of time, he said. The Home Minister said in

2024, India saw UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions worth about Rs 20,64,000 crore which is 46 per cent of the global digital transactions. "This makes our work challenging and hence protection against cyber fraud is required," Shah said and flagged issues such as the illegal sale of important personal data over the Internet, the spread of fake news, tool kits, online harassment and abuse of women and children. The Minister said the '1930' national cyber helpline telephone number needs to be popularised during a special campaign being launched by the I4C from Wednesday to spread awareness about cybercrimes. "We need to do more against this (cybercrimes)..."

We have reached a point but the target is far," he said. At the event, the Home Minister spoke at length about the importance of preparing effective counter-measures against cybercrimes while asserting that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keeping cyber security in mind. "The increasing use of technology is also causing many threats. That is why cyber security is no longer limited to the digital world but has also become an important aspect of national security," he said. Shah urged for "greater coordination" between the agencies of the centre and the states as this combat cannot be undertaken by one organisation alone. It is essential that "everyone comes together," he said. Cybercrimes see "no boundary" and common people should be made aware of these offences, the Union Home Minister said. "I appeal to all state governments to join this movement and ensure that cyber awareness percolates to the grassroots level." Stressing the importance of vigorously running awareness campaigns, Shah said newer cyber frauds were being witnessed each day and even children are getting involved in these. The government has planned to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to deal with such crimes, he added.



# Experts call for critical shift in understanding, addressing India's suicide trend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the death by suicide in India particularly among youth, mental health experts have called for a critical shift in understanding and addressing the trend, emphasising the need to consider socio-economic factors alongside mental health issues. This comprehensive approach is crucial given the country's alarming suicide statistics—171,000 lives lost in 2022 alone, said Dr Rakhi Dandona, Professor of Public Health at the Public Health Foundation of India in a new six-paper series published in The Lancet Public Health. It was released on World Suicide Prevention Day marked on Tuesday. India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy released recently aims to reduce suicide deaths by 10 percent by 2030. While the strategy focuses primarily on mental health interventions, the authors have highlighted the importance of integrating a wider range of socio-economic factors. Police data suggests that variables like gender, employment, and stressful life events also significantly influence suicide rates. It includes measures such as establishing effective suicide surveillance systems and integrating mental well-being curricula into educational institutions. The series outlines six key aspects of a public health approach to suicide prevention. These include examining social determinants and a model that considers how suicide may arise from various social conditions. Dr Dandona stressed the need for national policies to mitigate economic hardships, such as maintaining minimum wage levels. She also highlighted how exposure to suicide-related information can increase risk, suggesting restrictions on media portrayals of suicide

methods to reduce this risk. One paper in the series notes a correlation between poor economic status and higher suicide rates in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In India, states with higher unemployment rates show increased suicide rates, especially among men, and unemployment is also a significant risk factor for women. Another paper discusses the "transmissibility of suicide," where exposure to suicide-related information can influence others while the fifth paper explores interventions targeting major suicide risk factors, including alcohol use, gambling, domestic violence, and suicide bereavement. Dr. Dandona pointed out that creating a supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable sharing their struggles is crucial and stressed the need for these conversations to be taken seriously and addressed appropriately. Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali too echoed similar views. She noted that suicide is a major public health concern in India. "The government has launched initiatives like the National Mental Health Programme and the Kiran Helpline to address the mental health crisis and prevent suicide. However, greater awareness, access to care, and addressing underlying socioeconomic issues are essential to reducing suicide rates." She further said that there is a need to change the narrative of suicide to have open, compassionate conversations that break the stigma surrounding mental health struggles. "We have to shift the focus from judgment to understanding, and this will eventually encourage people to seek help without fear or shame. By promoting awareness, we can build supportive communities that prioritise mental well-being," she added.

# India, Philippines to review defence ties amid China tensions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines will carry out a comprehensive review of their defence and strategic partnership on Wednesday with a focus on ramping up military ties against the backdrop of mutual concern over China's aggressive posturing in the South China Sea. The two sides will deliberate on various issues relating to bilateral defence ties and regional security situation at the fifth meeting of India-Philippines joint defence cooperation (JDCC) committee to be held in Manila, officials said. While Defence Secretary Girdhar Aramane will lead the Indian delegation at the talks, the Filipino team will be headed by Senior Under Secretary in the Ministry of National Defence Irineo Cruz Espino. The defence ties between the two countries have been on a significant upswing in the last few years. In April, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, in reflection of the growing military ties. The supplies came over two years India signed a USD 375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the



weapon systems. The meeting is taking place amid increasing tensions between China and the Philippines following an incident of violent clash between their maritime security personnel in the South China Sea nearly two-and-half months ago. "During the visit, the defence secretary will discuss ways to further consolidate defence cooperation between the two countries," an official readout said. The situation in the South China Sea will figure in the talks, officials said. There have been growing global concerns over China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. Several countries in the region including Vietnam, the

# Key operator of international gold smuggling racket brought from UAE to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A key operator of an international gold smuggling racket with an Interpol Red Notice against him was brought from the UAE on Tuesday in an operation coordinated by the CBI with the NIA and Interpol, officials said. Muniyad Ali Khan is the third fugitive in the case who was successfully brought back to India, they said. Khan landed at the Jaipur airport from the UAE and was arrested by the NIA, the officials said. In the case probed by the NIA, it was alleged that Khan had conspired in the illegal smuggling of gold bars from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, into India along with other accused, a CBI spokesperson said here. Two co-accused in the case, Shokat Ali and Mohabbat Ali, were brought from Saudi Arabia on April three, 2024 and August 17, 2023, respectively in an operation coordinated by the CBI with Interpol NCB-Riyadh and the NIA. It is alleged that Khan along with the co-accused had provided gold bars to be smuggled from Riyadh into Jaipur. Gold bars weighing 18.56 kilograms worth Rs 9 crore in the market



were seized while being smuggled into the country at the Jaipur airport from Saudi Arabia in 2020 as part of the "criminal conspiracy to derail the country's economic security and monetary stability," the NIA said in a statement on August 17, 2023. The bars had been concealed inside a battery of emergency lights for smuggling into India, the statement had said. "He (Khan) is involved in international gold smuggling from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Jaipur, India. The subject was charge-sheeted by the NIA on March 22, 2021, before the NIA Special Court, Jaipur. He was wanted for criminal conspiracy for offences under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," the spokesperson said. The CBI got a Red Notice issued against Khan from Interpol on September 13, 2021, at a request of the NIA which was circulated to all law enforcement agencies globally for tracking of the wanted criminal.

# Israel approaches India for 15,000 workers to plug their skill gap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israel has approached India to carry out recruitment drive again for 10,000 construction workers and 5,000 caregivers simultaneously to plug their skill gap in the infrastructure and health sector. This comes on the back of a similar request made by Israel, earlier in the year, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) said here on Tuesday. The Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA) has put in a request across four specific job roles: Framework, Iron Bending, Plastering, and Ceramic Tiling. A team from PIBA, comprising of assessors, is to visit India in the coming week to carry out the necessary skill tests for selecting those who meet their criteria and skill requisites. The second round of recruitment drive for construction workers is to take place in Maharashtra, it said. Further, Israel also requires 5,000 caregivers to boost its healthcare services. They have stated candidates who have completed at least their 10th standard along with holding a certificate issued by a recognised Indian institute and completing a care giving course with at least 990 hours of on-the-job training can apply. In the first round of recruitment of construction workers for Israel, a total of 16,832 candidates appeared for skill tests in their trade out of which 10349 candidates were selected. Those selected will earn a salary of Rs 1.92 lakh per month, along with medical insurance, food, and accommodation. A bonus of Rs 16,515 per month is also provided to these candidates. The NSDC reached out to all states to carry out recruitment after the government-to-government (G2G) agreement was signed in November 2023. The first round of recruitment drive was carried out in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana. The agreement was signed after India and Israel initiated a Framework Agreement on Temporary Employment of Indians in May 2023. All the candidates, going through the G2G pathway are mandated to undergo pre-departure orientation training. This encompasses a manual to understand Israeli culture and way of life and get accustomed to their new home.

# Priyanka Gandhi accuses BJP of double game in teacher recruitment case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

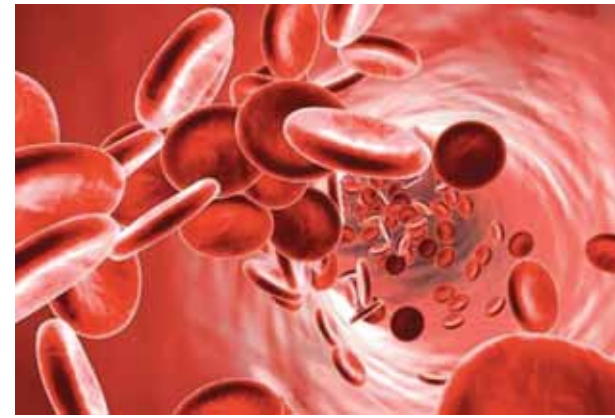
Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday slammed the BJP over the teachers recruitment case, alleging that it was playing a "double game" with the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories are being harmed socially, economically and mentally. Her remarks come a day after the Supreme Court stayed the

Allahabad High Court order asking the Uttar Pradesh Government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the State. The top court also stayed the High Court verdict setting aside the selection lists of the assistant teachers issued by the State authorities in June 2020 and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates. "The anti-youth and anti-social justice attitude adopted by the BJP in the matter of recruitment of 69,000 teachers in UP is shocking. By playing a double game, the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories are being harmed socially, economically and mentally," she said in a post in Hindi on X. "First, the reservation scam in the recruitment process took away the rights of hundreds of Dalit and backward candidates. And even now the BJP's intention is to delay and misdirect social justice."

# Siddha medicine effective in treating anaemia in adolescent girls: Ayush Ministry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Integrating Siddha medicine, a traditional system of healing from South India, into anaemia treatment strategies could support the flagship Anaemia Mukta Bharat programme by combating this condition among adolescent girls, the Union Ayush Ministry has stated, citing findings from a recent study. Titled "A Combination Siddha Drug Reduces Anaemia Among Adolescent Girls in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu, India," the study was conducted at a hospital in the Southern State under the Public Health Initiative to mainstream 'Siddha' drugs for anaemia treatment. Published in the Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, it highlights the potential of Siddha medicine in addressing this public health challenge. The study found that a combination of Siddha drugs—ABMN, which includes Avana Annapententuram, Bavana katukay, Matulai manappaku,



and Nellikay lekiyam—was effective in improving various anaemia indicators such as haemoglobin levels, packed cell volume, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin. Anaemia in adolescent girls often stems from poor diet, menstrual blood loss, and underlying health conditions. If Siddha remedies prove effective, they could complement conventional treatments like iron supplements and dietary adjustments. The research was carried out by experts from

Siddha institutions, including the National Institute of Siddha (NIS). Dr. R Meenakumari, Director of NIS and a senior author of the study, emphasised, "Siddha medicine plays a notable role in the public health initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush." She noted that awareness among adolescent girls, dietary advice, and Siddha drug treatment provided therapeutic benefits, making it a cost-effective and accessible treatment option.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Strategic partnership

Following PM Modi and UAE Crown Prince Al Nahyan talks, India-UAE relations reach new heights with landmark energy pacts

Indian diplomacy is soaring to new heights. As nations around the world eagerly welcome Indian businesses and forge strategic alliances, India is experiencing an unprecedented wave of global goodwill and influence not seen in years. The recent UAE-India energy pact is yet another case in point. UAE crown prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is presently in India and had a meaningful dialogue with Prime Minister Modi. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, with a significant boost in the energy sector, as both nations signed four major agreements aimed at deepening cooperation. The agreements span key sectors, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, petroleum supplies, nuclear plant operations, and production concessions, marking a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship. As both leaders emphasised, the pacts signal a broadening of collaboration, particularly in emerging areas such as nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and advanced technologies.



The signing of a long-term supply agreement for one million metric tonnes of LNG per annum between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is among the most prominent developments. This is the third such deal in just over a year, reinforcing India's energy security while further consolidating ties with one of the world's leading energy producers. In addition, a groundbreaking production concession pact was signed between Urja Bharat and ADNOC for Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block One. This marks the first instance of an Indian company holding an energy production concession in the UAE. An equally crucial development is the agreement between the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). This pact is designed to enhance collaboration in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods from India, and fostering mutual investments in the civil nuclear domain. During their discussions, PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan acknowledged the rapid progress made under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was first established during Modi's 2015 visit to the UAE. With about 3.5 million Indian expatriates forming the largest community in the UAE, the deepening of ties in key sectors like energy, nuclear cooperation, and trade will continue to be a cornerstone of this growing relationship. Crown Prince also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajhat, where he planted a sapling, continuing a tradition started by his grandfather in 1992. The crown prince's visit is more than just about pacts. It strengthens the historic ties between the two countries. The recent implementation of the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, which facilitates cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams is yet another example of growing affinity between the two countries.

company holding an energy production concession in the UAE. An equally crucial development is the agreement between the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). This pact is designed to enhance collaboration in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods from India, and fostering mutual investments in the civil nuclear domain. During their discussions, PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan acknowledged the rapid progress made under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was first established during Modi's 2015 visit to the UAE. With about 3.5 million Indian expatriates forming the largest community in the UAE, the deepening of ties in key sectors like energy, nuclear cooperation, and trade will continue to be a cornerstone of this growing relationship. Crown Prince also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajhat, where he planted a sapling, continuing a tradition started by his grandfather in 1992. The crown prince's visit is more than just about pacts. It strengthens the historic ties between the two countries. The recent implementation of the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, which facilitates cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams is yet another example of growing affinity between the two countries.

## 9/11: The day that changed the world

As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance and mutual respect



SANTHOSH MATHEW

On September 11, 2001, the world stood still as a series of events unfolded that would forever alter the course of history. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 not only shook the United States to its core but also had profound repercussions globally, leaving an indelible mark on international politics, security frameworks, and societal attitudes. Now, 23 years later, the legacy of that day continues to influence the world in significant ways.

The attacks, orchestrated by 19 members of the extremist group Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, were intended to instill fear and challenge American power. The immediate aftermath saw the U.S. respond swiftly with the launch of the "War on Terror." Just weeks later, in October 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, targeting the Taliban regime that harbored Al-Qaeda operatives. The war, which initially focused on dismantling the Taliban, expanded in 2003 to include Iraq, resulting in the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The costs of these wars, however, were staggering. Over two million people lost their lives, and the financial toll was estimated at \$4.5 trillion. The Middle East was plunged into a state of instability, with extremist groups like ISIS rising in the wake of regime collapses. The U.S. intervention, initially framed as a campaign to liberate oppressed nations, came under heavy criticism due to incidents like the torture of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. These actions tarnished the U.S.'s reputation, fueling anti-American sentiment and exacerbating tensions between the West and the Islamic world.

Beyond military campaigns, 9/11 also had far-reaching societal impacts. In the U.S. and elsewhere, fear and suspicion of Muslims surged. Islamophobia became more entrenched, as communities and individuals were unfairly associated with terrorism. The "clash of civilizations" narrative, which framed Islam as inherently opposed to Western values, gained traction, deepening divisions and fueling preju-



dice. This legacy of suspicion and distrust continues to shape political discourse and societal attitudes today. The seeds of 9/11 were planted decades earlier during the Cold War, when the U.S. supported Islamist fighters in Afghanistan to counter Soviet influence. Figures like Osama bin Laden, initially seen as allies in the fight against communism, turned against the U.S. after the Soviet withdrawal. Bin Laden's growing resentment of U.S. involvement in the Middle East culminated in the deadly attacks on September 11, a day that redefined global security priorities.

In response to 9/11, the Bush administration implemented a range of measures to protect national security. The Department of Homeland Security was established, and stringent airport security protocols became the norm worldwide. The U.S. also adopted the Bush Doctrine, which justified preemptive strikes against nations that harbored or supported terrorists. This doctrine underpinned the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and marked a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy. However, the invasions, especially that of Iraq, became highly controversial. While the Bush administration ini-



THE PHYSICAL SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HAS SINCE BEEN REBUILT, WITH THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER STANDING AS A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE. AT THE BASE OF THE ORIGINAL TOWERS, A MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO HONOR THE VICTIMS

tially claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), none were found, leading to widespread skepticism about the true motives behind the war. The failure to uncover WMDs highlighted the dangers of misinformation and flawed intelligence, further eroding public trust in the government.

In the years that followed, 9/11 and its aftermath shaped not only U.S. foreign policy but also the broader international order. Counterterrorism became a global priority, with governments implementing new laws to enhance surveillance and prevent further attacks. However, this focus on security often came at the expense of civil liberties, as governments expanded their powers to monitor citizens, raising concerns about privacy and individual freedoms.

The physical site of the World Trade Center has since been rebuilt, with the One World Trade Center standing as a symbol of resilience. At the base of the original towers, a memorial and museum have been constructed to honor the victims. Yet for many, the emotional scars remain. Survivors, first responders, and the families of victims continue to grapple with the trauma of that fateful day. Health issues linked to expo-

sure to toxic debris have plagued many first responders, and the psychological toll remains deep.

As we reflect on the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, it is clear that the world has changed in profound ways. The attacks prompted the U.S. and its allies to rethink their approach to security, while also creating new challenges, such as the rise of extremism and the erosion of trust between nations and communities. Today, as the global community faces new threats, including cyberterrorism and shifting geopolitical alliances, the lessons of 9/11 remain relevant. The need for global unity, cooperation, and understanding is as pressing as ever.

Ultimately, 9/11 is not just a moment in American history—it is a moment that transformed the world. As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. The resilience shown in the face of adversity on that day offers hope for a better world, one where such tragedies are prevented and where humanity comes together to heal, rebuild, and move forward.

(The writer is an associate professor; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WARRIORS OF INDIA

Madam — Apropos to "Paralympics: Warriors of India write history and victory" published on 9th September-24, here is my response. Kudos to Indian Paralympics athletes for winning the best medal haul in the history of games. Each of these 29 medal winners in the Paris Paralympics games have an inspiring story of resilience, grit and perseverance. Avani, Preethi, Nitesh, Sumit, Kapil, Parnav, Dharmabir and Kapil all have shown what one can achieve through sheer will power. They need to be given the same grand welcome, recognition and honor that we bestowed upon the likes of Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra and other Olympics medal winners.

What is really incredible is the fact that not only these Paralympics athletes have won medals but few of them broke their personal best and Paralympics games records in the process. In a few events we even won two out of three medals to be won, which itself is historic.

Some accident or tragedy may have taken some of these athlete's limbs but their steely resolve remained intact. And if ever God needed any reason to increase the budgetary allocation to disability rights groups, the ever highest medal tally achieved by our Paralympics medalists is that reason. And the least local civic authorities and local administration across the cities can do is to create infrastructure sensitive to the needs of differently abled people. It is the least we can do as a society to make them feel better and equal, so that they do not look upon themselves without any complex or inferiority.

Bal Govind | Noida

## PHOGAT JOINS CONGRESS

Madam — Apropos news item, "Will win each battle with people's blessings: Vinesh Phogat", published on Sep. 9, this is my response. With wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress, the party's fortunes in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections have brightened. Congress can present itself as the party

## India's efforts to foster peace



Today India's role on the global stage continues to grow. India could play a role of a peacemaker in facilitating dialogue with both Russia and Ukraine in bringing to an end this two years old conflict. India enjoys good ties with both Russia and Ukraine's PM Modi can "freely communicate with Putin, Zelensky, and the Americans who are supporting Ukraine with weapons and money". In his meeting with

Zelensky, the prime minister expressed his willingness to contribute personally to finding a peaceful resolution. After Putin, now Italian PM Meloni has suggested that India can play a role of mediator in resolving this two years old Russia-Ukraine conflict; this conflict, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, till there is no clear end in sight.

The visit by India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to Russia which is followed the prime minister's summit with Putin six weeks ago and with Ukraine president Zelensky is a step forward to discuss and take forward peace efforts in resolving this two years old ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

for the aspirational and successful youth. Importantly, the party aims to capitalise on the popularity of these two wrestlers, especially Vinesh Phogat, who really caught the nation's attention after she missed her Olympics medal by a whisker. Apart from all these factors, Congress banks on consolidating the decisive Jat vote bank in the state through these wrestlers as they come from the same community. Lastly, that there is a revolt within the BJP, with senior leaders have resigned over the denial of tickets, stacks are loaded in favour of Congress to wrest the power back in Haryana.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

—are important risk factors that drive a person to pain and hopelessness. Having access to kill oneself—guns and poisons—is also a huge risk factor. Substance abuse disorder (SAD) is a cause.

A sustained campaign is needed to thwart suicide attempts, and bring lives back on track. World Suicide Prevention Day falls on September 10. Everything in this mankind can be prevented, and suicide is not an exception. There are many "foundations", easily accessible through internet, to come to the rescue of the suicide attempter. It is always good to directly start a conversation with those contemplating suicide with compassion and empathy taking care not to further push them to the brink. "Talk with them; don't argue with them" is the familiar refrain in the international community of experts. The mountains of problems men and women carry with them are only supposed to be climbed.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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## PICTALK



Migratory birds rest on a tamarind tree during the monsoon season in Birbhum district

PTI

## Fintech: Paving the way for sustainable development

As India's fintech landscape continues to experience unprecedented growth, it is not only transforming the financial sector but also advancing sustainability

Fintech, or financial technology, is revolutionising the financial sector by expanding accessibility, reducing costs, and boosting efficiency while fostering an equitable financial environment. It has assisted in overcoming the shortcomings of traditional financial services. India is presently witnessing a fintech transformation marked by an impressive growth trajectory. With a market size of \$50 billion in 2021, it is expected to surge to \$150 billion by 2025. It boasts 17 Fintech Unicorns, making it the third largest fintech ecosystem globally.



The regulatory landscape is robust, with the government's initiatives and support in mobile connectivity; policies like Direct Benefit Transfer and Atal Pension Yojna have accelerated the digital revolution, bringing citizens, especially in rural areas within the digital financial services domain. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payments Vision 2025 outlines ambitious goals including a substantial increase in digital and payment transactions. The fast expansion of Fintech puts forth optimistic growth num-

bers, it can also be pivotal in advancing sustainability by leveraging digital innovations to promote environmentally and socially responsible financial practices. India's fintech ecosystem per se has seen significant growth initiatives that support sustainable development goals, enhance financial inclusion and foster green economic activities. The path of Green Financing Measures encompassing green investment tax credits, mandatory environmental disclosure and reporting, and development of sustainable financial standards has experienced a steady and robust expansion from 188 to 784 Measures and a Year-to-Year growth from 40 per cent to 100 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Financial institutions adopt environmental and social governance (ESG) criteria in their investment

and provision of Sustainable Finance such as Green Bonds to encourage allocating funds to environmentally friendly projects. Fintech has the potential to support the transition to a circular economy by providing innovative financial solutions. This includes circular supply chains by offering financing based on the value of their Recovered and Reuse materials; business models that facilitate leasing and sharing of goods rather than ownership; and providing them data analytics to track the life-cycle of their products from production to disposal to reduce waste. Furthermore, there is also provision of crowdfunding for renewable and green projects particularly solar and wind energy initiatives. The banking sector, which plays an instrumental role in funds dispersion is increasingly incorporating green investment policies, such as providing sustainable loans and adopting environmentally friendly banking practices. Similarly, insurance companies are integrating environmental risk assessment into their underwriting processes

and product development. The government has launched several schemes and initiatives to promote green financing such as the Green Energy Finance Scheme and the National Clean Energy Fund. The RBI has also issued guidelines for green bonds, which are designed to finance environmentally sustainable projects. The SEBI has issued guidelines for sustainability reporting by listed companies, where companies must disclose their ESG performance for greater transparency and accountability. India's fintech sector is leading the way in advancing sustainability through the development of novel financial services that promote social and environmental objectives. Given the favourable regulatory environments and ongoing technical progress, the fintech industry is in a strong position to increase its influence on sustainable development in India.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR



## FIRST COLUMN

## TRANSFORMING DISLIKE INTO COMPASSION

By viewing people positively, we can create a more harmonious fulfilling life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All of us are born with strong feelings of likes and dislikes. These feelings shape our personality from childhood itself. That's why today, we see new mothers making statements like, "My child doesn't like green colour, he gets irritated if he sees yellow dal, he doesn't like his scout uniform," etc. It won't be an exaggeration to say that one of the greatest causes of tension, burden, and conflict in our lives is the feeling of dislike for others.

The question is, why do we allow ourselves to collapse into such an ultimately unwanted experience? Is it mandatory for us to dislike someone because they are wrong or perhaps because they are of a displeasing disposition? Why can't we change our perspective in such a way that our inner reaction changes from negative to positive? For this, we need to wear the right kind of glasses that would enable us to maintain a positive vision for all. By doing so, we would be able to see good traits and positive virtues in others rather than their defects and weaknesses. Once we learn this technique of seeing only virtues in others, life will become easier on both sides.

The technique is very simple, and it begins with self. If we reflect over the years, we can easily make out that the periods in which we have been most unhappy with others were the times when we were dissatisfied with ourselves. When we are dissatisfied from within, we will be inclined to be dissatisfied with just about everyone and everything, without knowing that this dissatisfaction is directly related to the perspective or vision we hold of ourselves.



So, we must first begin by asking ourselves, "What is the perspective I have of myself?" or "How do I see myself in the mirror?" These introspective questions can reveal a lot about our inner state. Modern-day psychologists have proven that people who are unhappy with themselves are often unable to find peace with those around them. It means that they project their inner unhappiness onto others, making relationships and interactions more difficult than they need to be. So, if we are not positive about ourselves, then on what basis can we be positive about others?

The only way out of this problem is to ensure that we have a positive vision of ourselves first. Learning to appreciate who we are—our strengths, talents, and positive qualities—creates a ripple effect in our lives. It becomes easier to extend the same kindness and understanding to those around us. Moreover, when we foster a healthy relationship with ourselves, we also develop the emotional strength needed to accept and navigate the imperfections in others without being weighed down by judgment or negativity. So, start by liking yourself first, enjoy others, and develop new and desirable qualities within yourself. This inner work creates a foundation for healthier relationships and a more peaceful life. Remember! Dislikes and grudges drain our energy, while positivity and understanding elevate us, giving us the power to approach others with compassion and love. As we focus on cultivating a positive self-view, our interactions with the world will naturally transform. We must remember that our perspective shapes our reality.

So, by consciously choosing to view ourselves and others positively, we can create a more harmonious, fulfilling life. The key lies in the ability to see beyond faults and embrace the goodness that exists in all of us. So come on let's commit to wearing the 'right glasses'—ones that allow us to see virtues rather than weaknesses, strengths rather than flaws. It's time to replace our inner dissatisfaction with inner contentment, paving the way for a more compassionate and peaceful existence.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist; views are personal)

## India needs to excel in 'Olympics of skilling'



DINESH SOOD

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel as the standardised competition environment guarantees a level playing field



The 47th edition of the biannual WorldSkills Competition-2024 is set to begin in Lyon, France. The competition featured a 60-member young contingent from the WorldSkills India Team competing in 52 skill categories against participants from over 70 countries. Often considered the "Olympics of Skilling", this international skilling competition is expected to attract over 2.5 lakh participants and will take place from September 10-15. It will include more than 1,400 competitors and 1,300 experts. The WorldSkills Competition is a platform that celebrates excellence in a wide range of skills, from construction and manufacturing to information technology and creative arts.

The 60-member India team, with 20 per cent women, is a breakthrough in this edition as they will compete in traditionally male-dominated fields like welding, plumbing, and heating. They have received rigorous training supported by leading corporations in the manufacturing sector and expertise from industry leaders and institutions across the country. Unfortunately, the same approach is missing in the female-dominated (67%) beauty and wellness sector, as its skills potential still needs to be appropriately recognised in the current contingent in the WorldSkills Competition.

It would be a significant step forward if the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and CSR funds could rigorously support these skills also in the India Skills competition, the country's most important competition aiming to demonstrate the highest skilling standards, offers a platform for young people to showcase their talent in various skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the importance of skill development, allotting 40% of credits to this area. It is essential to ensure that



THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE MORE EXPOSURE AND HIGH-STANDARD TRAINING FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN GLOBAL SKILL COMPETITIONS SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE THEIR MARK

financial constraints do not hinder access to skill development. Models for financial aid, scholarships, and low-interest loans must be explored to support individuals in pursuing skilling programs, particularly in the beauty and wellness sector, which plays a significant role in shaping India's future. The regulatory framework for skill development needs refinement to adapt to changing industry needs and technological advancements.

Streamlining and simplifying the accreditation and certification processes are areas that require attention. However, the true power lies in collaboration. The involvement of academia, industry, and training providers is crucial to achieving India's skilling objectives. Together, we can significantly impact the future of skill development. To make India a global skill capital, we must focus on eleven major paradigms and enablers: aspiration and advocacy, capacity, quality, synergy, mobilisation and engagement, and international partnerships.

Each stakeholder has a unique role to play in this collaborative effort. Together, we can shape a skilled workforce at a global level that meets the world's evolving needs and could be a game-changer for India. Currently, India's performance in the beauty and wellness sector in global skill competitions is not at par with that of other countries.

There is a need to provide more exposure and high-standard training for our boys and girls in global skill competitions so that they can leave their mark. Beauty

contests such as Miss World or Miss Universe have created a differentiator, diluting earlier misconceptions about the fashion industry and fueling a unique recognition. Similarly, the beauty and wellness sector has unlimited potential and can showcase skilled talent globally. However, our approach towards honing the skills of our beauty and wellness skilled individuals needs focused improvement so that they can leave their indelible mark in international competitions.

WorldSkills Competition hosts global championships of skills every two years, attracting young people worldwide to compete and win medals in their chosen skill. Competitions span various industries, from joinery to floristry, hairdressing to electronics, auto-body repair to bakery, beauty and wellness, and more. Competitors are selected from skills competitions held in WorldSkills member countries and regions, representing the best of their peers. The increased visibility of skilled professional education is one of the legacies of WorldSkills competitions, serving as a social and economic transformation tool.

At the global level, one key deterrent to India's dominance in global skill competitions is the need for a more international approach to our various skill sets. This crucial aspect needs immediate attention and action, as it could significantly enhance India's standing in the global skill development arena. In the WorldSkills Competition 2022, the 50-member Indian contingent

received only 13 medallions for appreciation and was positioned 11th, while China was top-ranked with 11 gold, eight silver, and nine bronze medals.

Although India has never won any gold medals, young professionals have immense potential to excel in various skill sets and win medals in global competitions, fostering international exposure and instilling optimism about India's future in skill development. Need to revisit strategy: An enabling atmosphere has to be created in the training institutes, where there is an uninterrupted exchange of information and best practices regarding industry and professional education.

New ideas and processes inspire school-aged youth to dedicate themselves to technical and creative careers to build a better future. If our skilled participants are not winning medals in the 'Olympics of Skills,' it's a clear sign that we must revisit our strategy.

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel, as the standardised competition environment guarantees that participants from across the globe compete on a level playing field. This reiteration of the need for continuous improvement and adaptation should make the audience feel the importance of these aspects in skill development.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views are personal)

## The silent crisis: Rising suicide cases demand urgent attention

As mental health continues to be overshadowed by the pursuit of success, it is crucial to provide support to those who need it most

The rising number of suicides in India, especially among young people and businessmen, is an alarming and heart-wrenching issue that demands serious attention. News about students and entrepreneurs ending their lives after facing failure or distress has become all too frequent. It is high time that society, including teachers, psychiatrists, and responsible citizens, reflects on why these individuals are so prone to taking such extreme measures in moments of despair.

In recent years, the suicide epidemic has gained prominence, particularly among students preparing for competitive exams. The pressure to succeed, exacerbated by societal expectations and the fear of failure, has devastating conse-



VIVEK SHUKLA

quences on the mental health of young individuals. The city of Kota in Rajasthan, famous for its coaching institutes, has become a hub for student suicides. Thousands of students flock to the city each year with the singular goal of cracking entrance exams for top medical and engineering colleges. Yet, under the immense weight of academic expectations, many crumble.

According to data presented in

the Lok Sabha, over 35,000 students in India committed suicide between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, the number of student suicides stood at 10,335, which increased to 12,526 in 2020 and further to 13,089 in 2021. These figures paint a grim picture of the pressures that students face. The constant comparison to peers, the relentless competition, and the desire to meet the high expectations of parents, teachers, and society often leave young individuals feeling trapped, hopeless, and unable to cope with failure. Former president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, emphasizes that merely expressing concern over the rising number of suicides is insufficient. He argues that there is an urgent need to identify solutions to this crisis.

On World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on September 10th, a seminar will be held in New Delhi to discuss the causes behind youth, businessman, and other suicides. The event will bring together psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers who will share their experiences and insights. Following this, strategies will be developed to curb the rising suicide rates.

In the realm of student suicides, efforts are being made by some coaching centers to ease the pressure on students. Counseling services have been introduced, and parents are being engaged in the process to ensure students' well-being. These initiatives aim to reduce the intense stress associated with high-stakes examinations. However, more compre-



hensive measures are required at both institutional and societal levels to alleviate the crushing burden placed on students.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that in 2020, a student committed suicide every 42 minutes. This statistic is both shocking and indicative of the mental health crisis that young people are facing. It underscores the need for parents, teachers, and society to create an environment

that allows students to pursue their academic goals without undue pressure. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) echoes this sentiment. He stresses that students should not be subjected to unnecessary comparisons or interrogations about their family background, income, or caste. Such actions, often unwittingly, can weaken a child's self-esteem and lead to despair. George advocates for a holistic approach to education that nurtures the child's mental health alongside academic success. He also emphasizes that children should have the freedom to choose careers that align with their interests and abilities, rather than being forced into predefined molds of success.

The suicide epidemic is not limited to students. Businessmen, too, have been increasingly taking their lives due to financial losses. The NCRB also reveals that in 2020, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, 11,716 businessmen in India committed suicide. This marked a 29% increase from 2019 when 9,052 business-related suicides were recorded. The economic turmoil brought on by the pandemic dealt a severe blow to businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These enterprises, already vulnerable to financial shocks, were further burdened by debt and losses. Karnataka recorded the highest number of suicides by businessmen in 2020, with 1,772 deaths—a staggering 103% increase from

the previous year. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also reported significant increases in suicides by businessmen, with 1,610 and 1,447 cases, respectively. The plight of India's business community, especially SMEs, is often overlooked in discussions about mental health. The issue of suicide among students, businessmen, and others cannot be ignored any longer.

It is imperative that both the government and society at large take concerted action to address the mental health challenges facing these vulnerable groups. Preventive measures, including counseling, mental health awareness, and creating supportive environments, must be prioritised.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

# Defiant doctors refuse to join work despite SC order

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and other medical colleges remained defiant the Supreme Court order by refusing to join hospital duty by 5 pm on Tuesday a deadline that had been set by the Court on Monday. Instead of following the Apex Court order the junior doctors who have, for nearly a month, been observing 'cease work' at State-run hospitals, in protest against the rape and murder of an on duty lady doctor inside the RGKMCH set a counter deadline for the State Government to force the resignation of the Health Secretary and Directors of Health Education (DHE) and Health Services for their alleged complicity in tampering of evidence in the place of occurrence. "The DHE and DHS had signed the circular along with the Principal allowing the part demolition of walls adjacent to the seminar hall and the attached washroom ... so they should immediately resign to facilitate impartial inquiry," doctors said. Thousands of doctors on Tuesday marched to the Swasthya Bhavan and was still staging a sit-in demonstration in support of a five-point demand that included justice for the victim doctor, proper infrastructure and security set up in all the government hospitals apart from



resignation of the top Health officials who had circuitously "allowed a syndicate raj to perpetrate in the Health sector." It is not only the doctors but the people along with them who have descended on the streets to press for the demand of justice for Abhaya who this is because the Government does not seem to be willing to keep its words ... by punishing the real culprits of the health syndicate and threat raj in the Government Health sector of which the rape and murder of one of our colleagues was a foregone consequence," said Dr Tathagato Das one of the protesting doctors. Another doctor said that the "demands of the doctors have not been fulfilled and justice not meted out to the victim... to make things worse the State Government has not shown the right intention to give justice and improve the atmosphere in Health sector which was evident by the false and fabricated facts that it allowed to be dished out before the Supreme Court by

its lawyers ... remember how the Government counsel was being paid tens of lakhs of rupees to tell lies and mislead the Supreme Court resulting in the disappointing order of Monday. A third doctor said that the "cease work will continue till our demand is met ... if it is met in five minutes ... if some responsible officer from the Government comes out and gives a written assurance of the measures that would be taken within a time a frame we will go back to work or else it will not be possible to do so." The Supreme Court had on Monday asked the doctors to return to work providing them immunity from any government action till 5 pm on Tuesday. Following this State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too had requested the doctors to join work saying she was not willing to take action. The doctors also questioned the "good intention" of the investigating agencies like the police and even the Central Bureau of Investigation

wondering why the central Agency would not ask for an extended remand for arrested former principal of the RGKMCH Sandip Ghosh who was on Tuesday sent to judicial custody. In surprising move the CBI counsel would not seek extension of Ghosh's remand though it told that it was in possession of a large number of digital and documentary evidences in the case. "The CBI has already secured large amounts of digital evidence on the alleged crime. We need time to analyse that evidence. We do not need the accused in police custody immediately. But we may seek their custody again later, if required," the CBI counsel told the Court with the Judge asking back as to how the CBI could assume beforehand that it would get Ghosh's custody back when it returns with such application. Meanwhile chaotic scenes were witnessed inside the Alipore Court premises where Ghosh was produced with the junior lawyers, particularly women advocates resorting to slogan shouting demanding "Justice for the victim." Even as some shouted "thief ... murderer" some threw sandals at him while he was whisked out of the Court towards the prison van. The lawyers asked, "why the CBI refused to seek extension of his remand ... why he was accorded a VIP status inside the court by the police?"

# Sunil Sharma leads BJP campaign in Jammu-Kashmir Assembly polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sunil Sharma, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janta Party in Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as one of the top favorites of the party's high command when it comes to implementing the party's road map to secure majority seats in the first phase of polling on September 18. Out of 24 Assembly segments that are going to polls in the first phase, eight seats fall in the region. The party has set its eyes on winning the maximum seats in the region. There are three seats each in Doda and Kishtwar while Ramban has two Assembly segments. In the last assembly elections held in 2014, the BJP had won four seats - Kishtwar, Ramban, Bhaderwah and Doda, while the Congress had got Banihal and Inderwal constituencies. Two assembly constituencies were added to the region in 2022 after the delimitation exercise following the reorganization of the erstwhile state. Victory and defeat of BJP candidates are directly linked to his rise in the party hierarchy. Before the Assembly polls were announced Sunil Sharma was seen working hard in the region. As the campaign is entering in its last leg for the first phase of polling Sunil Sharma and his team of workers have redoubled their efforts to defeat the political adversaries in the fray. Prime Minister



Narendra Modi is also scheduled to visit the region to address campaign meetings to bolster the party's poll prospects. In the absence of any other tall leader from the region, Sunil Sharma is fully backed by the organizational machinery on ground zero. He is seen crisscrossing the boundaries of different assembly segments via helicopter in the erstwhile Doda district to supervise the campaign. During the day Sharma addresses more than half a dozen election meetings and chairs several meetings with party workers and senior leaders camping in the region to boost the party's election campaign. Sharma is himself contesting from the newly carved-out Padder-Nagseni Assembly seat in Kishtwar. Sharma who represented Kishtwar in the 2014 Assembly polls is aggressively

campaigning in support of BJP candidate Shagun Parihar. He visited Jammu on Sunday to appeal to the voters settled there to visit their native places to cast their votes and ensure the victory of the party candidates in the fray. The party is banking on a sympathy wave for 29-year-old first-timer, Shagun Parihar whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were killed by terrorists in November 2018, to retain the Kishtwar seat. The alliance partners National Conference and Congress have jointly fielded former DDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur against Sunil Sharma while PDP has fielded Sandesh Kumar in the fray. BJP is facing a rebel candidate Rakesh Goswami and two other independents from the Padder-Nagseni seat. A senior BJP leader told The Pioneer that by denying tickets to the old guards in the

party the Bharatiya Janta Party has attempted to shore up the party's image in the eyes of the electorate. Leading the pack of young party leaders, who are contesting the Assembly polls for the first time, is party General Secretary and former minister Sunil Sharma. The BJP leader claimed Sunil Sharma is being groomed for the bigger responsibility in the future. Former BJP minister Shakti Raj Parihar, who lost District Development Council elections in 2020 is contesting from the Doda West constituency, facing a tough challenge from Pardeep Kumar of Congress, Tanveer Hussain of PDP and Abdul Ghani of DPAP. Former BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar is locked in a triangular contest with Congress leader Nadeem Sharief and former IAS officer Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal of the National Conference from Bhaderwah constituency of Doda. Former minister GM Saroori, who had won the Inderwal seat for three consecutive terms in 2002, 2008 and 2014 elections, is facing National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, Sheikh Zafarullah of the Congress and BJP's Tariq Hussain Keen. Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani, who is eyeing a hat-trick from Banihal constituency, is facing a major challenge from NC's Sجاد Shaheen and PDP's Imtiyaz Shan.

# How can Didi ask us to return to festivities: Victim's mother

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The parents, particularly the mother of the victim lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who had last month been raped and murdered while on duty expressed "remorseful shock" at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to the people in general and the junior doctors to shun movement and return to work and prepare for the festive Durga Puja season ahead. "It is strange that madam Chief Minister has threatened action against the junior doctors who are still

not feeling safe in their work places and who are asking for justice ... it is all the more shocking that she has all of us to return to festive mood," the mother of the victim said wondering how a woman could say like that. "Can she return my daughter so that I can return to festive mood ... Could she have returned to festive mode and celebrate Durga Puja had the victim who is my daughter been her own relative ... my daughter used to celebrate Durga Pujas every year and she herself organized the Pujas in our house ... now we know that we will never have the Puja in our house ... all our festivals have gone

forever ... there will be no light in our house ... but my question is should the Chief Minister who is also a woman have been a little more sensitive and careful in choosing her sentences ... we have just lost our everything and this was another blow that came from the topmost person of our State from whom we are seeking justice," Banerjee had on Monday told the people of the State in general and the agitating doctors in particular to return to work and prepare for Durga Puja festivals as "already one month has elapsed," since the RG Kar incident took place. The mother of the victim also



said that the Chief Minister was not telling the truth about the Government offering the parents money after the victim's tragic death. "The Chief Minister is not telling the truth... Would I lie in the name of my daughter who will never return? The Chief Minister had herself told us that she could arrange for us the requisite amount of money if we wanted to create something in our daughter's memory... then I told that I would definitely go to her for that money but first of all she should ensure justice for my daughter the victim's mother said. The father of the victim had earlier told that a senior IPS

officer had personally approached him with a packet stuffed with notes "when the body of my daughter was still lying inside my house." The mother of the victim said, "is this how we deal with a family which has lost its only child ... we know how hard my daughter slogged to become a doctor ... she was killed not only in duty but also after serving and perhaps saving several lives ... and now she is telling the people to return to celebrate ... how a mother who has lost everything can ask the people of the State to go back to the Puja mode when myself I cannot do so."

# Curfew in Manipur after protests for peace in Imphal...

From Page 1  
Meanwhile, hundreds of students from various schools and colleges spent the night at camps set up at Khwairamband Women Market in Imphal. The students, in their uniforms, were helped by women shopkeepers to set up camps at the market. "We have given a 24-hour deadline for Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya's response to the six demands we have placed. We will decide our future course of action after the deadline ends," student leader Ch Victor Singh told reporters on Tuesday morning. Thousands of students protested in front of the Manipur Secretariat and Raj Bhavan on Monday, demanding action against those behind the recent drone and missile attacks, and calling for the protection of the State's

"territorial and administrative integrity." At least eight persons have died and over 12 injured in a fresh wave of violence, which included drone and missile attacks. Later, the students met Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Governor Acharya. Student representatives who met Acharya later told reporters that they have placed six demands, including the removal of the Director General of Police (DGP) and the security advisor to the State Government for their alleged failure to control the violence. They also called for the Unified Command, currently chaired by former CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh, to be handed over to the State Government. Police claimed protesting students also engaged in stone-pelting, forcing the law enforcers to fire tear gas shells to disperse them.

In Thoubal, a large number of protesters, including students, marched towards the district police headquarters and DC office on Monday. "Police warned people to disperse but the unruly mob got violent and there was live firing from among the crowd at the police personnel in which one person was hit on the left thigh by a live round," Manipur Police said in a statement. The unruly mob also damaged one vehicle parked outside the court complex. An ambulance carrying some injured personnel was also pelted with stones, it added. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic strife between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis since May last year.

# Sexual harassment complaint by IAF officer...

From Page 1  
The lady officer in her complaint said the ordeal dates back to the night of December 31, 2023, during a New Year's party at Air Force Station, Srinagar. The lady said that after the party Wing Commander at the station asked her whether she had received the gift. "I said that I hadn't received any. He asked me to come to his room where he had kept all the gifts. I went along with him to his room," she said in the complaint. The lady officer accused the Wing Commander of sexually assaulting her in his room. "Despite resisting his advances, I was forced into a traumatic situation," she alleged. "I revealed the incident to two lady officers. They guided me in putting up a complaint. I went into a mental shock being new to the

atmosphere. I was embarrassed and broken to the extent that I lacked the courage to report. I can't describe the mental agony of being an unmarried girl who has joined forces and was treated in such a heinous manner. Since the incident, I have nightmares and in the dilemma whether to discuss or be quiet. Finally I took a call and decided to fight," she said in the police complaint. She alleged that she was troubled to see that even after she submitted a complaint to AOC (Air Officer Commanding) and a Colonel rank officer was ordered to investigate the incident, the accused was made to sit with her. She alleged that an internal investigation was mishandled and her concerns were dismissed. "I had pleaded in front of the Internal Committee (IC) to

use their powers to summon a witness who was made to run away from the camp area before giving his statement, but the Internal Committee did not do so." IC disregarded everything despite providing all facts and bringing out lies and contradictions in tutored witnesses. I brought out the negligence of Station Authorities' doings, how a witness was made to exit the camp area before giving his statement, body identification, etc. She had even requested interim relief and requested leave multiple times but was denied leave each time. "I asked that either I or the accused should get posted out this place, but to date, both are posted in the same place. I am forced to socialise with these people and attend events with my abuser," she alleged.

# COURT GRANTS INTERIM...

From Page 1  
Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh granted the relief to Rashid, who had moved the court seeking interim bail to campaign in the upcoming Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections. "I am granting interim bail till October 2. He will have to surrender on October 3," the judge said. The judge granted Rashid the relief on a personal bond of Rs two lakh and one surety of the like amount. The judge also imposed various conditions on him, including that he shall not influence the witnesses or the probe.

# BJP leaders criticise...

From Page 1  
"This is wrong. They (the BJP) condemn India's founding fathers in the world, that is condemning India. We will condemn their policies and will keep doing so and raise questions, it is our job," Khara said. Over the BJP's criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the Lok Sabha election was not fought on a level playing field, the Congress Leader said an independent body had put forward its statistics on how there was "bungling" on 79 seats. "When the PM says on foreign soil that people were ashamed

to be born on Indian soil, what was that? When he speaks against (Jawaharlal) Nehru abroad, what was that?" he said. On BJP citing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to slam Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the community, Khara said there is no connection between the two. "A person sitting on the post of PM talks about recognising people by clothes. His party runs a movement against Hijab. Those who run a movement against hijab now will tomorrow also come for turbans of Sikhs. Nobody has a doubt about that," Khara said.

# Haryana: BJP releases second list, drops six...

From Page 1  
It also dropped Hodal (SC) MLA Jagdish Nayar, Hathin (SC) Praveen Dagar, Pataudi (SC) MLA Satya Prakash and Ganaur MLA Nirmal Rani. Amit Chand Mehta will contest from Ellenabad from where senior INLD Leader Abhay Singh Chautala is seeking re-election. A new candidate has been named for the Rai Assembly segment, after incumbent legislator and Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli made it clear

that he would not contest the polls and instead work to ensure the party's victory. The ruling party also denied tickets to the sitting MLAs from Ganaur, Pataudi, Hathin and Hodal seats. Yogender Rana has been fielded from Assandh, Devender Kaushik from Ganaur, and Pradeep Sangwan from Baroda. In place of BJP State president Mohan Lal Badoli, who had announced to opt out of the contest, the BJP has fielded Krishna Gahlawat from Rai.

However, another Minister Sanjay Singh, the MLA from Sohna, has been given ticket from Nuh. The party has fielded Pawan Saini, considered close to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, from the Naraingarh seat while Satpal Jamba has been nominated to fight the polls from from Pundri. The list, notified by BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, has names of candidates for 21 assembly seats in the state. Baldev Singh Mangiana will fight the Dabwali seat,

Manish Grover has been nominated for Rohtak, Krishna Kumar for Bawal (SC), Bimla Chaudhary for Pataudi (SC), Manoj Rawat from Hathin, Harinder Singh Ramrattan from Hodal (SC) while Dhanesh Adlakha will contest from Badkhal. While eight women figured in the first list of candidates, the BJP's second list has two women - Krishna Gahlawat from the Rai seat and Bimla Chaudhary from the Pataudi (SC)

segment. Bimla Chaudhary replaced Satya Prakash Jarawata who was denied renomination while Devender Kaushik has been given ticket for the Ganaur seat, replacing sitting MLA Nirmal Chaudhary. In the first list of 67 candidates, the party fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from Karnal to the Ladwa seat. Saini served as the MP from Kurukshetra between 2019 and 2024. Prominent Leaders like former State BJP president Om Prakash

Dhankar, who now holds a national secretary role in the party, have been fielded from the Badli constituency. Another key figure, Anil Vij, the veteran party Leader and former State Minister, is set to contest from his traditional stronghold of Ambala Cantt. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday filed his nomination as the BJP candidate for the Ladwa constituency in the upcoming Haryana

Assembly elections. He was joined by Union Minister and former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, along with other party leaders, during the nomination process. Further bolstering the possibility of going it alone in the State, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday released its second list of candidates for the Haryana Assembly elections. In its second list, the AAP has announced the candidates for Indri, Sadhaura, Thanesar, Ratia,

Adampur, Barwala, Tigaon, Faridabad and Bawal constituencies. Hawa Singh has been fielded from Indri and Praveesh Mehta from Faridabad. The second list included three more Assembly seats - Thanesar, Bawal and Faridabad - out of the 46 that the party had contested in the 2019 Assembly elections of which two, Sadhaura and Thanesar overlap with those where candidates declared by the Congress are also contesting.



# US, UK accuse Iran of sending Russia short-range missiles to use in Ukraine

AP ■ LONDON

The United States and Britain formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in the war in Ukraine, and said they will take measures to punish those involved.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a visit to London, said Iran had ignored warnings that the transfer of such weapons would be a profound escalation of the conflict. "Russia has now received shipments of these ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line."

Shortly after Blinken and Lammy spoke, the US, Britain and Germany issued a joint

statement calling the missile transfers "a direct threat to European security", and said they would impose penalties on Iran, including the cancellation of bilateral air services agreements with Iran and sanctions on individuals and entities involved in Iran's ballistic missile programme.

"We will also work towards imposing sanctions on Iran Air," they said.

The US Treasury and the State Department in the past few years have already imposed economic sanctions on people and companies based in Iran, China, Russia, Turkey and other nations who officials allege are connected with the development of Iran's drone programme.

The sanctions on Iranian drone production tied to Russia's invasion, which reach as far back as November 2022, were issued despite Iranian leaders' denials that the country had sent drones to Russia for use in

the war in Ukraine. Among other things, sanctions bar people and firms from accessing property or financial assets held in the US and prevent US companies and citizens from doing business with them. The new sanctions announcement came as Blinken and Lammy prepared to make a joint visit Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defences.

The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

The accusations about Iranian missiles could embolden Zelenskyy to further ramp up pressure on the US and other allies to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks.

President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire US-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defence but largely limited the distance over concerns about further escalating the conflict.

That has not stopped Ukraine from using its own weapons to hit targets deeper in Russia, launching on Tuesday one of the biggest drone attacks on Russian soil in the 2 1/2-year war that targeted multiple regions including Moscow.

The rare joint visit to Kyiv was, unusually, announced in advance, in a public signal of US-UK support for Ukraine ahead of what's likely to be a brutal winter of Russian attacks. It will be followed by a meeting at the White House on Friday between Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, with support for Ukraine's defence on the agenda.

Asked whether the US would allow weapons it supplied to

strike targets in Russia, Blinken said all use of weapons needed to be allied to a strategy.

He said one goal of the joint visit this week "is to hear directly from the Ukrainian leadership, including ... President Zelenskyy, about exactly how the Ukrainians see their needs in this moment, toward what objectives, and what we can do to support those needs."

"All I can tell you is we will be listening intently to our Ukrainian partners, we will both be reporting back to the prime minister, to President Biden in the coming days and I fully anticipate this is something they will take up when they meet on Friday," he said.

Word of the alleged transfers from Iran began to emerge over the weekend with reports that US intelligence indicated they were underway, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity.

# Temporary truce with Hamas possible: Gallant

Ending war is another story, says Israeli defence chief

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel's defence minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals — including the destruction of

Hamas."

The United States, along with mediators Egypt and Qatar, has been working for months to broker a cease-fire to end the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. A main area of disagreement has been Hamas' demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely.

Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks — to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting

where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu. During Monday's meeting with foreign journalists, Gallant was asked about his relationship with the prime minister.

"As defence minister, my first priority is the state of Israel and those who protect her, and then everything else," he said. The current US-led proposal calls for a three-phase plan, beginning with a six-week pause in fighting during which Hamas would release some of the roughly 70 hostages who are still believed to be alive and held by the militants.

In exchange, Israel would free dozens of Palestinian prisoners, withdraw troops from Palestinian population centres, allow displaced Gazans to return to their original place of residence and facilitate the influx of large amounts of badly needed humanitarian aid.

# Woman killed near Moscow as over 140 Ukrainian drones target Russia

AP ■ MOSCOW

Over 140 Ukrainian drones targeted multiple Russian regions overnight, including Moscow and surrounding areas, killing at least one person, officials said Tuesday, in one of the biggest drone attacks on Russian soil in the 2 1/2-year war.

A woman died and three people were injured in the town of Ramenskoye, just outside Moscow, where drones hit two multistory residential buildings and started fires, Moscow region Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said. Five residential buildings were evacuated due to falling drone debris, Vorobyov said.

The attack also prompted the authorities to temporarily shut down three airports just outside Moscow — Vnukovo, Domodedovo and Zhukovskoy. A total of 48 flights were diverted to other airports, according to Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia. It was the sec-

ond massive Ukrainian drone attack on Russia this month. On September 1, the Russian military said it intercepted 158 Ukrainian drones over more than a dozen Russian regions in what Russian media described as the biggest Ukrainian drone barrage since the start of the war. Russia's Investigative Committee announced a criminal investigation into what it described as a terror attack.

Russia, meanwhile, has pummeled Ukraine with missiles, glide bombs and its own drones, killing over 10,000 civilians, according to the United Nations.

Ukraine has invested a lot of effort in developing domestic drone production, extending the drones' range, payload and uses. It has increasingly used drone blitzes to slow Russia's war machine, disrupt Russian society and poke the Kremlin. Ukrainian officials have complained that weapons pledged

by the country's Western partners fall short of what the Ukrainian military needs and commonly arrive long after they were promised. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged defence companies to increase their output.

On the battlefield's 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line, Ukrainian troops are up against Russia's larger and better-equipped army. The two sides are especially contesting parts of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, fighting over towns and villages that are bombed-out wrecks, while Ukraine last month launched a bold incursion into Russia's Kursk border region.

In Moscow on Monday night, drone debris fell on a private house on the outskirts of the city, but no one was hurt, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. He counted over a dozen drones heading toward Moscow that were shot down by air defences as they were approaching the city.

# Pak court reverses order to remove serving Gen

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani court on Tuesday reversed the order to remove a serving general of the Pakistan Army from heading the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), a civilian post, in the country.

NADRA regulates government databases and statistically manages the sensitive registration database of all citizens of the country.

A Lahore High Court (LHC) two-member bench comprising Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal and Justice Ahmad Nadeem Arshad set aside the single bench decision to throw out Lieutenant General Munir Afsar as the Chairman of NADRA because he was appointed in violation of the authority's rules.

The military-backed government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has posted a good number of retired generals on important seats after coming to power last February.

However, Lt.Gen Afsar was the first serving military officer appointed as NADRA head in October last year by the caretaker government and later confirmed by the Shehbaz administration for a three-year term till 2027.

On Tuesday, the bench admitted the federal government appeal filed through the attorney general arguing the single bench ignored facts and the laws in passing the decision.

"The federal government is competent to undertake rule-making exercise under the mandate of Section 44 of the Nadra Ordinance, 2000, which included the power to amend the rules," the attorney general said.

The court restored the army general to the civilian post after setting aside the single bench verdict.

# EU vows retaliation if Hungary sends migrants to Brussels

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Hungary's threat to send a bus convoy of migrants to Brussels in protest against European Union policies is unacceptable and would prompt EU retaliatory action, the bloc's powerful executive branch warned on Tuesday.

Hungary's anti-immigrant government signalled last week that it is serious about giving migrants free one-way travel to Brussels, a measure meant to pressure the European Commission into dropping heavy fines imposed on Hungary over its restrictive asylum policies. In June, the European Court of Justice ordered Hungary to pay a fine of 200 million euros (USD 216 million) for persistently breaking the bloc's asylum rules, and an additional 1 million euros per day until it brings policies into line with EU law. The government in Budapest is delaying payment.

Asked about Hungary's plan, commission spokeswoman Anitta Hipper said: "It is unacceptable." "This action, if carried out, would be in clear breach of the EU law, but also it would be in clear breach of the principle of sincere and loyal cooperation, but also of mutual trust," Hipper told reporters. The commission has its headquarters in the Belgian capital. "In addition, it will also undermine the security of the Schengen area as a whole," she said, in reference to the 29-country zone where people and goods can cross borders without document checks. The commission is in contact with the Hungarian authorities and those in any neighbouring countries that the convoy might pass through should it leave.

Travelling overland, the buses would have to cross either France or Germany — which along with Luxembourg and the Netherlands surround

Belgium — and possibly other EU member countries like Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia or the Czech Republic. "We are also standing ready to use all our powers under the treaty to ensure that EU law is respected," Hipper said. But the most effective step would certainly be for other member countries to stop the buses by reintroducing border checks.

Hipper did not elaborate on what action the commission is able to take, but it is difficult to see what kind of punishment might dissuade Hungary given that the country is already defying a court order to pay 200 million euros in fines. On Monday, Belgium's top migration official, Nicole de Moor, said Hungary's threat "undermines solidarity and cooperation within the Union." Her office said the Belgian authorities will "not provide access" to any such migrant arrivals.

# Vietnam storm toll rises to 87

AP ■ MOSCOW

The death toll in Vietnam from Typhoon Yagi and subsequent heavy rain that triggered floods and landslides climbed to 87 on Tuesday, with 70 people missing and hundreds injured, state media said. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit Vietnam in decades when it made landfall Saturday with winds of up to 149 kph (92 mph). It killed nine people and then weakened Sunday, but downpours continued. Vietnamese state broadcaster VTV reported that 87 people are confirmed dead and 70 remain missing. Most of the deaths were caused by flooding and landslides, it said. Water levels in several rivers, including the Red River that flows through the capital, Hanoi, were dangerously high. Authorities evacuated families living close to the river in Hanoi on Tuesday.

On Monday, a bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away, while factories in northern provinces like Haiphong were damaged. One of the hardest-hit provinces is Cao Bang, where 19 people died and 36 others are missing because of landslides in the hilly area. A landslide in Cao Bang tipped over a bus carrying about 20 people into a flooded stream on Monday.

# 'India-funded projects to continue in B'desh'

PTI ■ DHAKA

A top adviser of the interim government said Tuesday that India-funded projects are "very important" and will continue under the new administration in Bangladesh.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed also said that Dhaka looks forward to "enhanced cooperation" with New Delhi during his meeting with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma here, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

"Already, the projects they (India) have with us are big projects, and we'll continue those, as those are not small projects and we'll take another big project for the benefits of ours..." the report quoted him as saying.

"We'll not stop on whatever we have got, and we'll talk about those projects...funding of the projects and also their implementation part," he added.

The financial adviser's remarks come amid concerns about the timely implementation of projects funded under India's three lines of credit following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government last month after a mass uprising.

Indian envoy Verma said New Delhi has not stopped any of its line of credit projects to Bangladesh as those are major projects.

"Those projects are going on, and those are basically very big projects and located at different sites. So, the contractors will be coming back to start the projects," he was quoted as saying in the report.

Ahmed thanked the Indian government for their continued cooperation and said, "We're looking forward to future and enhanced cooperation."

Addressing the importance of the Indian-funded projects, he said they were initiated based on Bangladesh's own needs. "While there have been some disbursement issues, we are in the process of resolving them." In the meeting the two sides also discussed ways to enhance the existing bilateral economic cooperation.

Asserting that India is "next door and a big neighbour of Bangladesh", Ahmed said both nations have many areas of economic cooperation and trade. "We've assured him (Verma) that Bangladesh is a very good place for investment and economic cooperation. They (the Indian side) have taken note

and they will continue the cooperation," he said.

Talking about the bilateral trade volume, which tilts in favour of India, the financial adviser expressed optimism that it could be addressed.

Ahmed said the Indian high commissioner assured they would encourage more quality export of Bangladeshi products to India, which should be a win-win situation for both countries, the report said.

The Indian side also offered support in the fields of science and technology, scientific research and laboratory, he added.

Replying to a question on the Indian government's engagement with Bangladesh's interim government, Verma said, "Of course, we're very closely engaging with the government, and my meeting with the adviser is proof of that."

"There were some issues relating to disbursement, and we're sorting those out," he said, adding that there would be some future projects with Indian funding.

Verma said he briefed the adviser about the progress made on some Indian-funded projects, emphasising the commitment to move forward.

# China's Mpox vaccine to undergo trials

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's top drug regulator has cleared a mpox vaccine developed by local drug firm Sinopharm for clinical trials which could be the country's first experimental dose to battle the deadly disease.

The domestic vaccine candidate, created by the Shanghai Institute of Biological Products and administered by Sinopharm, is expected to play an important role in preventing and controlling mpox infections, the company said in a statement released on Monday afternoon.

There is currently no approved mpox vaccine in China. Globally, a few vaccines have been approved in the United States, Canada, the European Union, Japan and Russia.

In China, a vaccine candidate typically goes through three phases of clinical trials before gaining market approval.

The process can take years, even decades. However, the National Medical Products Administration, China's top drug regulator, has launched a number of accelerated or streamlined channels to facilitate applications of novel drugs and vaccines or those in urgent need, state-run China Daily reported on Tuesday.

# Starmer faces heat after winter fuel allowance cut

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced a battle of nerves with his Labour Party on Tuesday, winning a parliamentary vote on a contentious decision to cut a payment that helps millions of pensioners pay winter heating bills — but not ending unease about it among his lawmakers.

Starmer says the decision to remove the winter fuel allowance, worth between 200 and 300 pounds (USD 262 and USD 393) a year, from all but the poorest retirees is needed because of the dire state of the public finances left by the previous Conservative government.

But the decision to hit people on fixed incomes in one of the government's first economic moves since winning a landslide election victory in July has caused disquiet in the centre-left Labour Party. Seventeen Labour lawmakers backed a call to postpone the cut.

"Tough decisions are unpopular decisions," Starmer told his Cabinet on Monday, telling ministers that "we have to fix the foundations of our economy and that means tough choices". Labour's large House

of Commons majority meant the government easily voted down, by a margin of 348-228, an attempt to overturn the cut. Only one Labour lawmaker voted with the opposition, along with several legislators serving suspensions from the party over a previous rebellion. Many Labour MPs backed the move after expressing doubts, while 53 did not vote. Of these, some had authorized absences while others deliberately abstained.

"It's my conscience that I cannot vote for these measures," said one, Rachael Maskell. Treasury chief Rachel Reeves on Monday had urged unity, telling lawmakers, "We stand, we lead and we govern together."

During the election campaign, Starmer vowed to get the country's sluggish economy growing and restore frayed public services such as the state-funded National Health Service.

Since winning, he has struck a gloomy note, saying there is a 22 billion pound (USD 29 billion) "black hole" in the public finances left by the previous government, and warning that "things will get worse" before they get better.

The Conservatives accuse

Labour of penalising vulnerable older people. Conservative leadership candidate Mel Stride said the cut would hit "millions of pensioners ... who are on extremely low incomes".

The cut is expected to reduce the number of pensioners receiving the winter fuel allowance from 11.4 million to 1.5 million. The government argues that pensioners will be better off even with the cut because the state pension, which is indexed to wages and inflation, is due to rise by 460 points (USD 600) next year.

Starmer is also facing criticism over the early release of more than 1,700 inmates to make space in Britain's overcrowded prisons. Starting Tuesday, some prisoners are being freed after serving 40 per cent of their sentences, rather than the usual 50 per cent. Inmates convicted of serious violence or sexual offenses are not eligible.

Chief inspector of prisons Charlie Taylor said the government had no choice because "the bath was in danger of overflowing, and they either had to turn the taps off or they had to let some water out". But he warned it was likely some of those freed would go on to commit new crimes.

# SpaceX launches billionaire to conduct the first private spacewalk

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL

A daredevil billionaire rocketed back to space Tuesday, aiming to perform the first private spacewalk and venture farther than anyone since NASA's Apollo moonshots.

Unlike his previous chartered flight, tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman shared the cost with SpaceX this time around, which included developing and testing brand new spacesuits to see how they'll hold up in the harsh vacuum.

If all goes as planned, it will be the first time private citizens conduct a spacewalk, but they

won't venture away from the capsule. Considered one of the most riskiest parts of spaceflight, spacewalks have been the sole realm of professional astronauts since the former Soviet Union popped open the hatch in 1965, closely followed by the US. Today, they are routinely done at the International Space Station.

Isaacman, along with a pair of SpaceX engineers and a former Air Force Thunderbirds pilot, launched before dawn aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida. The spacewalk is scheduled for late Wednesday or Thursday, midway through

the five-day flight. But first the passengers are shooting for way beyond the International Space Station — an altitude of 870 miles (1,400 kilometres), which would surpass the Earth-lapping record set during NASA's Project Gemini in 1966. Only the 24 Apollo astronauts who flew to the moon have ventured farther.

The plan is to spend 10 hours at that height — filled with extreme radiation and riddled with debris — before reducing the oval-shaped orbit by half. Even at this lower 435 miles (700 kilometres), the orbit

would eclipse the space station and even the Hubble Space Telescope, the highest shuttle astronauts flew.

All four wore SpaceX's spacewalking suits because the entire Dragon capsule will be depressurized for the two-hour spacewalk, exposing everyone to the dangerous environment.

Isaacman and SpaceX's Sarah Gillis will take turns briefly popping out of the hatch. They'll test their white and black-trimmed custom suits by twisting their bodies. Both will always have a hand or foot touching the capsule or attached support structure that

resembles the top of a pool ladder. There will be no dangling at the end of their 12-foot (3.6-metre) tethers and no jetpack showboating. Only NASA's suits at the space station come equipped with jetpacks, for emergency use only.

Pilot Scott "Kidd" Poteet and SpaceX's Anna Menon will monitor the spacewalk from inside. Like SpaceX's previous astronaut flights, this one will end with a splashdown off the Florida coast.

At a preflight news conference, Isaacman — CEO and founder of the credit card processing company Shift4 — refused to

say how much he invested in the flight. "Not a chance," he said.

SpaceX teamed up with Isaacman to pay for spacesuit development and associated costs, said William Gerstenmaier, a SpaceX vice president who once headed space mission operations for NASA.

"We're really starting to push the frontiers with the private sector," Gerstenmaier said.

It's the first of three trips that Isaacman bought from Elon Musk 2 1/2 years ago, soon after returning from his first private SpaceX spaceflight in

2021. Isaacman bankrolled that tourist ride for an undisclosed sum, taking along contest winners and a childhood cancer survivor. The trip raised hundreds of millions for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Spacesuit development took longer than anticipated, delaying this first so-called Polaris Dawn flight until now. Training was extensive; Poteet said it rivalled anything he experienced during his Air Force flying career.

As SpaceX astronaut trainers, Gillis and Menon helped Isaacman and his previous team — as well as NASA's pro-

fessional crews — prepare for their rides.

"I wasn't alive when humans walked on the moon. I'd certainly like my kids to see humans walking on the moon and Mars, and venturing out and exploring our solar system," the 41-year-old Isaacman said before liftoff.

Poor weather caused a two-week delay. The crew needed favourable forecasts not only for launch, but for splashdown days later. With limited supplies and no ability to reach the space station, they had no choice but to wait for conditions to improve.

# Foreign funds drive Indian market rally, Sensex up

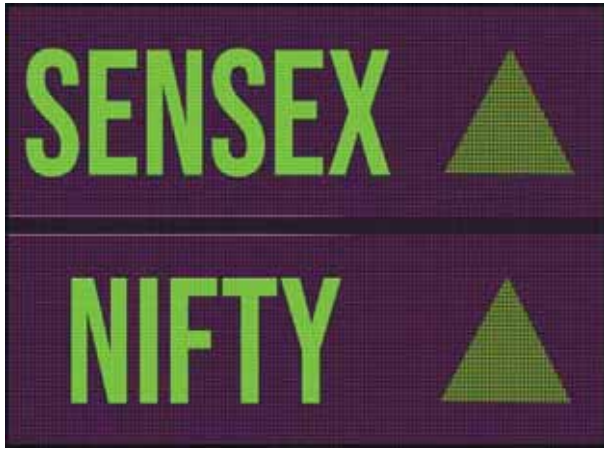
PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains following a rebound in the US markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55.

The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Adani Ports were the biggest gainers.



Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher

while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended significantly higher on Monday.

Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,176.55 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth Rs 1,757.02 crore.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.39 per cent to USD 70.84 a barrel.

"With an overnight rebound on Wall Street, strong net buying from both FIIs and DIIs, and sluggish oil prices, bullish traders are expected to pursue bargains," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE benchmark Sensex rebounded 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54 on Monday.

The NSE Nifty went up by 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 24,936.40 after three days of fall.

# Rupee falls two paise against US \$



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee traded in a narrow range on Tuesday and depreciated 2 paise to close at 83.97 (provisional) against the American currency, weighed down by the strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said the US dollar recovered amid mixed non-farm payrolls data. The slight recovery in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee. However, a surge in the domestic markets cushioned the downside.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.95 against the American currency and finally settled at 83.97 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 2

paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and closed flat at 83.95 against the American currency.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong US dollar and concerns over global economic growth. However, positive domestic markets and any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may support the rupee at lower levels," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Choudhary further noted that "investors may remain cautious ahead of the US CPI and ECB monetary policy this week. "USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 83.70 to 84.20," he said.

On the domestic equity markets front, the Sensex climbed 361.75 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 81,921.29 points, while the Nifty rose 104.70 points, or 0.42 per cent, to close at 25,041.10 points. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to 101.58. Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell 1.16 per cent to 71.01 in futures trade. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,176.55 crore, according to exchange data.

# Air Express to phase out business class seats



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India Express, which is set to complete the merger of AIX Connect with itself next month, will phase out business class seats in its aircraft in 2025, according to a senior airline official.

Currently, the carrier, part of Tata Group, has a fleet of 85 aircraft -- 25 A320 family planes and 60 Boeing 737s. By year-end, the total number is expected to be around 100. The airline has 34 white tail Boeing 737-8 aircraft and out of them, 29 have business class seats of varying numbers. Their count will rise to 50 by the end of this year. Generally, white tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline.

The airline official told PTI that aircraft with the business class seats will be phased out by reconfiguring them next year as business class does not fit into the Air India Express model.

These white tail aircraft have varying number of business class seats, the official added. In the existing fleet of Air India Express, there are 20 A320s, 5 A320neos, 26 B737-NGs and 34 B737-8 planes. At present, the airline offers economy and business class seats. The global aviation industry continues to grapple with supply chain woes that have also resulted in instances of delayed aircraft deliveries and shortage of planes amid rising air traffic demand post the coronavirus pandemic.

Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, operates more than 380 daily flights, connecting 32 domestic and 14 international destinations. In February 2023, Tata Group-owned Air India placed orders for 470 planes comprising 250 from Airbus and 220 from Boeing. Out of the total, 400 are narrow body aircraft. Tata Group has four airlines Air India, Vistara, Air India Express and AIX Connect -- earlier known as AirAsia India.

# Adani Airports launches 'aviio' app

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform to provide passengers real-time data on variety of airport accesses - from wait times to gate change and bags on belt. Avioo aspires to bring the aviation community together to collaborate and serve passengers better, a top official said.

By enabling airport stakeholders to access real-time data, passengers can expect easier access to airport information in the form of updates related to security checks, wait times, gate change and bags on belt, among other aspects, he said. With this path-breaking initiative, AAHL, a subsidiary of Adani group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd, aims to serve the aviation community and set new standards for airport operations management and passenger experience.

With seven operational airports in its stable, and one more expected to go live



during the middle of 2025, this platform for B2B services has been conceptualised and curated to meet AAHL's unique need to manage airports at scale.

Acting as the backbone for all digital transformation initiatives, the 'aviio' platform is placed to create a benchmark for airport operations across the globe. AAHL's vision for 'aviio' encompasses the development of a cutting-edge Smart Airport Operations System, conceived as a replicable model of an 'Airport-in-a-Box.' This next-generation Airport Planning and Operation Centre (APOC) has 10x more features that help in arriving at data-driven decisions.

Apart from AAHL employees, the 'aviio' app (AOCC-on-the-go) is for all partners in the ecosystem, including AAHL employees, airlines, ground handlers, retail, etc, the official said, adding that each stakeholder will have relevant features and workflows to enable their roles. CISF personnel, manning the airports, would be provided smartphones, with the app installed, to ensure collaboration with all entities. "On the face of it, this multipurpose app is designed to revolutionise stakeholder collaboration, equipping both internal and external stakeholders at airports with improved situational awareness for informed decision-making.

# MeitY assures funding for semiconductor plants

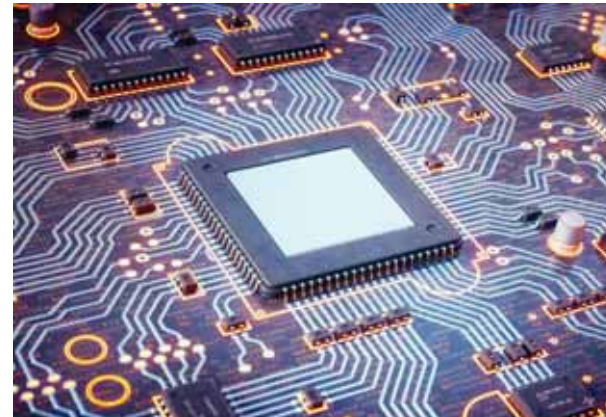
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has committed about Rs 62,000 crore in incentives for electronic plants and there is no issue in funding semiconductor projects, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan has said.

He told PTI that out of Rs 76,000 crore approved earlier, the government still has scope to accommodate small projects and will approach authorities when there are new projects in place.

"Out of the Rs 76,000 crore intended for the semiconductor mission, we have committed about Rs 62,000 crore, including the last scheme which was cleared for Kaynes. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all," Krishnan said.

The government has approved five semiconductor projects entailing investments of around Rs 1.52 lakh crore or about USD 18 billion. He said that some funding is required for the Semiconductor Laboratory's modernization in Mohali.



"We still have some funds to take up some smaller projects and approve them. Thereafter, we will have to go back to Ministry of Finance and Cabinet for approval when some new proposals come," Krishnan said.

He said there is a high level of commitment from the government to make sure the semiconductor mission works. "If additional funding is required, I am confident we will be able to secure it. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right

now at all," Krishnan said. The government has received around 20 proposals for the Centre's incentive under the India Semiconductor Mission. Krishnan said India is targeting legacy nodes--the established technology segment in semiconductor space, which will produce large size chips.

The large size chips in the node of 28 nanometer, 40 nanometer, 60 and 65 nanometer can be used in big products like cars, electric vehicles, power inverters, consumer durables like washing machines, consumer electronic products etc.

"We are balancing the fact that it is reasonably well established technology and there is a considerable market for chips in that size for a range of industries. We have an established market here in the country for that. Therefore, we are focusing on those goals where the total cost of setting up a new facility is also not too great, which means that the subsidy outgo on behalf of India will be a little less and there is a significant demand as well," Krishnan said.

He said India has a significant presence in the design ecosystem with 20 per cent of the global human resources required for semiconductor design based out of India.

Krishnan said many large brand names actually design in India. "We never had a big presence in the manufacturing space. It is not a normal manufacturing process. There are a lot of precision, engineering skills, and purity involved. Therefore we do require, at least initially, some foreign collaboration and others who are leaders in this space to actually establish such facilities here in India.



# Gold, silver prices soar amid strong demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rallied by Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying from jewellers.

In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams on Monday.

Silver prices, too, jumped Rs 700 to Rs 84,500 per kilogram from Rs 83,800 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced Rs 400 to Rs 73,750 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 73,350 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Traders said gold prices saw an uptrend due to rise in domestic demand. However, a weak trend overseas capped the gains.

In the overseas markets, comex gold is trading lower at USD 2,532.10 per ounce.

"Gold prices have held above USD 2,500-mark through the start of the European session on Tuesday as traders seemed reluctant to place directional

bets ahead of the US Inflation reports due to be published in the days ahead," Maneesh Sharma, AVP of Commodities & Currencies at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

The US Consumer Price Index is due for release on Wednesday, while the producer price index data will release on Thursday.

According to the commodity market experts, the data will influence market expectations about the size of the Fed's interest rate cut later this month and provide a fresh directions to the non-yielding yellow metal.

However, silver is quoting marginally higher at USD 28.70 per ounce globally.

"The underwhelming US jobs report bolstered the case for Fed easing, though uncertainty about the scale of interest rate cuts limited gold's upside," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said.

Additionally, traders will also closely watch speeches by FOMC members Michael S Barr and Michelle W Bowman.

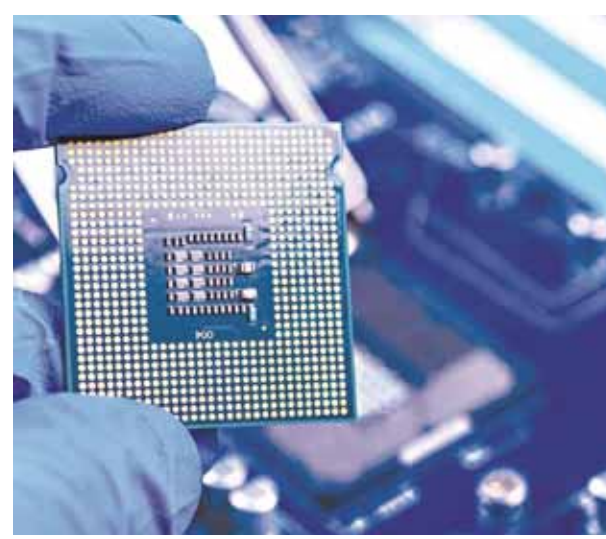
# Tata Electronics, ASMPT sign pact for semiconductor assembly equipment infra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Electronics has signed a pact with ASMPT Singapore for establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions for its chip packaging units in Assam and Karnataka.

ASMPT will collaborate with Tata Electronics for workforce training, advancing service engineering infrastructure, automation, spare supports and boosting R&D initiatives in the area of wirebond, flip chip, advanced packaging and integrated system packaging. "In a significant step towards accelerating its readiness for its semiconductor assembly

and test facilities in Vemagal, Karnataka and Jagiroad, Assam, Tata Electronics signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ASMPT Singapore to collaborate on establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions," Tata Electronics said in a statement on Tuesday. Tata Electronics is setting up a chip assembly plant in Assam under an investment of Rs 27,000 crore which is expected to become operational next year. It also has a small chip assembly unit set-up in Karnataka. "This partnership will emphasize the development



of essential training programs and advanced research and development, while also nurturing a vibrant ecosystem within the country," Tata Electronics Managing Director and CEO, Randhir Thakur said. The partnership shall also focus on energy and material efficiency to promote sustainable growth and strengthen the semiconductor supply chain ecosystem. "We are excited to partner with Tata Electronics to realize their vision of establishing a global electronics supply chain in India. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we are well-positioned to drive significant

progress in the semiconductor industry.

"This collaboration will not only propel technological innovation but also cultivate the talent required for sustained future growth," ASMPT, Group CEO, Robin Ng said.

Tata Electronics is setting up two major chip units comprising a semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat, and a Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility in Jagiroad, Assam. "With an investment outlay of Rs 1,18,000 crore, Tata Electronics is set to generate nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs," the statement said.

# PM to inaugurate electronica, productronica and SEMICON India 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global value chains (GVCs) are essential to modern manufacturing, representing 70% of global trade. In India, GVCs are particularly vital for the electronics sector, with 75% of exports relying on them. To enhance its position, India must focus on innovation, collaboration, and technology adoption. To drive this transformation, Messe Muenchen India (MMI) is hosting its largest-ever edition of electronica India and productronica India 2024, featuring a comprehensive range of technology solutions--from the smallest components to intricate manufacturing processes. Commenting on the increasing global importance



of the Indian electronics industry, Bhupinder Singh, CEO of Messe Muenchen India, says, "The upcoming edition of electronica India and productronica India is a clear testament to the expanding global stature of the Indian electronics sector." To organize electronica India & productronica India, MMI is consolidating the entire electronics value chain under one roof. This landmark event is poised to transform the electronics industry landscape in India. The upcoming 2024 editions

reflecting a vibrant and rapidly evolving market. eFuture and eMobility conferences aim to prepare the industry for the future while electronica India, productronica India 2024 will take place from September 11-13, 2024 at the India Expo Mart Limited (IEM), Greater Noida. One of this year's highlights is the inaugural eFuture Conference, focusing on groundbreaking technologies such as AI, ML, ADAS, autonomous vehicles, and 6G, with anticipated participation from international leaders. The focused buyer-seller meetings are going to be a key attraction of these trade fairs, and this edition will curate 2,000+ meetings between buying companies and suppliers of high-tech components and services.

# Maruti gears up for EV market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest Carmaker Maruti Suzuki India is looking to establish a holistic ecosystem for electric vehicle buyers as it gears up to introduce its first battery-powered model early next year.

The company will look at setting up charging infrastructure for EVs and also other critical elements like having resale avenues for such models.

"We are not only going to launch the product, we are going to basically provide a complete ecosystem for the customers who are going to be part of the electric vehicle family," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of the 64th SIAM annual session here. He noted that the biggest concern for EV users is

regarding the range. "Secondly, it is the EV infrastructure and thirdly it is about the residual value of the vehicle after five years," Banerjee said.

He stated that the company's first EV model, a mid-sized SUV, would be unveiled at the Bharat Mobility show in January next year.

The model would come with a driving range of over 500 kms, he added.

On sales expectations from this year's festive season, Banerjee said: "In festival time we are going to see some positivity. We are very optimistic about it." He further said: "The expectation is it will be much, much better than the current situation. We will be seeing upside from here."

When asked about rising inventory levels, Banerjee said the company has taken a conscious call to calibrate dispatches to the dealers.

# LED BY YOUNG STRIKERS, INDIA AIM TO MAINTAIN WINNING RUN IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY



PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

India's new-found ability to score field goals will be crucial as the defending champions will look to extend their winning streak when they face Malaysia in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey

tournament here on Wednesday. Field goal conversion was a key concern during India's bronze medal-winning campaign at the Paris Olympics last month, where they netted 15 goals but managed only three from open play.

It even prompted the legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired after the Games, to stress the need for improvement in this area. "If we are thinking about the next level for the Indian hockey team and want to consistently win Olympic

medals, we need to score more field goals because our defence has its limitations," Sreejesh had remarked. Coming into the tournament after securing their successive bronze wins at the Olympics, India are looking a more enterprising side, grabbing

opportunities up front with a rock solid defence in place. India started their title defence with a 3-0 win over hosts China before thrashing Japan 5-1 in their next league match on Monday. Out of the eight goals India have scored, seven have come

from open play, with young drag-flicker Sanjay converting a penalty corner against Japan. Young striker Sukhjeet Singh, who was part of the Paris Olympics squad, has been phenomenal, scoring three field goals, while Abhishek and Uttam Singh have added two each from open play. Going by world status and current form, India are favourites to reclaim the title having won the tournament four times before. The first two matches witnessed strong performances from the young Indian forwards, which meant star dragflicker and skipper Harmanpreet Singh had to do very little so far. In contrast, last-edition's runners-up Malaysia are languishing at the penultimate position with one loss and a draw. Despite the strong start, the Indians can ill afford to take any side lightly as they begin a new Olympic cycle. India's new first goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who replaced the talismanic Sreejesh following his retirement after the Paris Games, too had a decent outing so far in the tournament, conceding just one goal. After the round-robin league among the six teams, the top-four sides will qualify for the semifinals to be played on September 16.



## Paralympic champs return to hero's welcome



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Swarmed by hundreds of supporters, garlanded and fed sweets, India's Paralympic medal-winners returned to a jubilant welcome on Tuesday after securing an unprecedented haul of 29 medals at the just-concluded Games in Paris. There was the customary dhol and euphoric chants hailing them as the athletes made their way out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport this morning. Supporters, sports administrators and families of the athletes lined up to show their appreciation for the contingent. "Thank you so much for this grand welcome," javelin thrower Sumit Antil told PTI. He clinched a second successive gold in the F64 category by breaking his own Games record with a throw of 70.59m. The reigning world champion became the second Indian after shooter Avani Lekhara to defend the Paralympics title. Avani had won gold in women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event in Paris after winning a yellow metal in the same event in the Tokyo Games. She returned to the country last week after completing her events. Antil lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015. He was an able-bodied wrestler before his accident which led to the amputation of his leg below the knee. "When you prepare well, you automatically feel confident. I will try to breach the 75m mark soon. I have not had tea for a few days, I would like to

have tea with my family," Antil said. Archer Harvinder Singh, who is also pursuing a Ph.D in economics from Punjab University, was overwhelmed by the appreciation. He has impaired legs owing to the side effects of a dengue treatment he received as a toddler. He became the first Indian archer to win gold in Paralympics after becoming the country's first medalist in the sport three years ago in Tokyo with a bronze. "I like to keep myself busy. It helps my focus, the mind wanders less. Any person who is distressed or defeated can take inspiration from para-athletes," he said even as supporters showered flower petals on him and fellow archer Sheetal Devi. Sheetal, who was born without arms, won the mixed team bronze with Rakesh Kumar after missing an individual medal by a whisker. "I have had a great experience. I am very happy that India won two medals in archery. We have got good support and that's why we have won so many medals," she said referring to India's record overall haul because of which the country ended 18th in the medal standings. Another javelin thrower Navdeep, who competes in the F41 classification owing to his short stature, was lifted by his supporters as he celebrated with them. Navdeep won the gold medal with a personal best of 47.32m. India had sent a contingent of 84 athletes, the country's largest ever for the Games. Of the total 29 medals, seven are gold, which is also a first for the country.

# France rests Mbappé and beats Belgium while Haaland is decisive in the Nations League

AP ■ GENEVA

Even after leaving star forward Kylian Mbappé on the bench, France handed Belgium yet another loss in the Nations League. Two of Mbappé's former teammates at Paris Saint-Germain, Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembélé, struck with powerful shots either side of halftime in a 2-0 win in Lyon on Monday. The latest win helped France make up ground in the top-tier Nations League group after losing to Italy 3-1 in Paris on Friday. Italy beat Israel 2-1 on Monday and leads the four-team group. Also, Erling Haaland scored a decisive 80th-minute goal in Norway's 2-1 win over Austria

and Slovenia star Benjamin Šeško scored a hat trick in a 3-0 win over Kazakhstan. Haaland and Šeško once were clubmates in Austria at Salzburg. Mbappé was rested from the start despite France seeking to avoid a third straight loss, two months after a European Championship semifinals exit against eventual title winner Spain. Real Madrid's new star had little preseason preparation after Euro 2024 and played a full game against Italy. He was eased in against Belgium by coach Didier Deschamps, who sent on his captain in the 67th minute to replace Kolo Muani. France extended its winning run over Belgium to four games in the Mbappé era.



Starting in the 2018 World Cup semifinals, Les Bleus also eliminated Belgium in the 2021 Nations League semifinals and in the Euro 2024 round of 16. Monday's game was 43 years to the day since France lost a competition game against Belgium, in 1981 in Brussels in

a World Cup qualifier. Belgium started with fierce intent and France survived a wave of early attacks in an increasingly testy atmosphere. Belgium forward Loïs Openda was at the heart of most of the action and confrontations. France led in the 30th when Kolo Muani lashed in a shot

from close range after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pushed out a weak bouncing effort from Dembélé. Dembélé was more purposeful in the 57th, cutting in from the right side of the penalty area to score with a rising left-foot shot. A smiling Mbappé was among the substitutes who went on to celebrate with Dembélé and lifted him to his feet. Haaland had to wait and wait - after a 2 1/2-minute video review check - for his 32nd career goal for Norway in just his 35th international. At 1-1 in the 80th minute against Austria, the ball returned to Haaland near the penalty spot and the striker held off two defenders before poking in a low shot. The VAR

check for a possible offside went on and on before the goal was confirmed. Norway and Slovenia each has four points at the top of their second-tier group ahead of meeting in Oslo on Oct. 10. Hat trick for Aktürkoglu Turkey leads its second-tier group from Wales on goal difference with both on four points after wins. Kerem Aktürkoglu scored a hat trick for Turkey in a 3-1 result over Iceland just days after his move from Galatasaray to Benfica restored his chance to play in the Champions League this season. Wales scored twice in the first three minutes in Montenegro and hung on for a rain-soaked 2-1 win.

## Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over US soccer friendlies



AP ■ MILFORD (US)

Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over interim coach Mike Varas and his players. Coming off a dismal performance in Canada's first win over the U.S. On American soil in soccer since 1957, players say they realize more intensity is needed when the team faces New Zealand on Tuesday night. "All we can do is put ourselves in the best position so that if an announcement is made in the near future that we're ready, that we're confident going into the next step for this federation," US midfielder Christian Pulisic said on Monday. "We need to show that no matter who is the coach is that we're willing to fight and willing to give the best for this country and that we want to win games." Varas and players criticised the team's effort in Saturday's 2-1 defeat, the first US match since first-round elimination at the

Copa America led the US Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter. "Anybody who plays, they will have earned it," Varas said, "and at the same time this is a September window with a new coach coming in so it's also my responsibility to make sure that multiple players get a chance of showcasing themselves as long as they have also shown that they can earn it." Pochettino, a former coach of Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain, has been in negotiations with the USSF since mid-August. He appears likely to take over for friendlies against Panama on October 12 at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later. "Sometimes when someone new comes in, yeah, it gives everyone a bit of an extra push and say, you know what, I need to show a little bit extra. I need to give a good first impression," Pulisic said. "It can change a little bit of the mentality, a little bit of the culture."

Pochettino would become the first foreign-born coach to head the US since Jurgen Klinsmann from 2011-16. "It's better to almost go in not necessarily blind to who you're going to be working for but with an open mind to understanding that just because they've done things a certain way previously doesn't mean that they're going to do that the same coming in," defender Tim Ream said. Columbus goalkeeper Patrick Schulte started against Canada in his second international appearance and had five saves in a strong performance. Varas chose the 23-year-old over Matt Turner, the No. 1 pick the last two years, Ethan Horvath and 18-year-old Diego Kochen, a Barcelona youth player. "The decision was, again, to balance the long-term vision and the short-term vision," Varas said. "We need to move the program forward. It was an open competition. And then we were looking for matchups based on the opponent." The US is missing regulars Sergiño Dest, Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams, Weston McKennie, Tim Weah and Gio Reyna. New Zealand is coming off a 3-0 loss to Mexico on Saturday in a friendly at Pasadena, California. The All Whites, whose last World Cup appearance was in 2010, start World Cup qualifying next month against Tahiti. "Once game time hits," Pulisic said, "it's who's going to go out on the field and who's going to step up and who's going to not be afraid to get into a hard tackle, to show that they're there."

# Twin titles for Shubhi Gupta in chess meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Shubhi Gupta underlined her prowess as she clinched the girls U-16 gold and girls U-20 bronze medals in the just-concluded Commonwealth Chess Championships in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. A Women FIDE Master and the reigning U-19 girls' national champion, Shubhi left a lasting impression with her performance in the U-16 category, securing seven wins and two draws. With an exceptional score of eight points out of a possible

nine, she outclassed her competition, finishing ahead of compatriots Mrittika Mallick (7 points) and Yashvi Jain (6.5 points), who took second and third place respectively. Shubhi further showed her competitive spirit in the Open category, competing against seasoned Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters. She scored 4.5 points to finish in third place in the U-20 girls' division, securing her a bronze medal. Reflecting on her success, Shubhi said: "It was a fantastic



experience, playing against some of the top international players. I am happy that I could perform consistently in both

U-16 and the Open category. "Winning the Commonwealth U-12 title and the World Cadet Championship were important

milestones in my journey, and this latest success has boosted my confidence further." Shubhi won a prize purse of Rs 1 lakh. The young talent from Ghaziabad was first introduced to chess by her father and has consistently delivered outstanding performances on the national and international platforms. She previously won the U-12 gold at the Commonwealth Youth Chess Championship and claimed the World Cadet Championship title in the same age category two years ago.

# Anwar banned for four months: AIFF PSC judgment

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The All India Football Federation on Tuesday imposed a four-month suspension on India international Anwar Ali after finding the defender "guilty" of illegally terminating his four-year contract with Mohun Bagan who are also eligible for a huge compensation of Rs 12.90 crore. The Players Status Committee of the AIFF also ruled that the Anwar's parent club Delhi FC and East Bengal, with whom the defender had entered into a lucrative five-year deal, have been banned from registering players for two transfer windows — 2024-25 winter and 2025-26 summer. Anwar Ali, East Bengal and Delhi FC are all jointly "liable" for the compensation amount which includes Rs 8.40 crore for the residual value of the contract, Rs 2 crore already paid to Delhi FC under loan agreement, and Rs 2.50 crore for other "damages suffered by the club," stated the decision of the AIFF Players Status Committee. The transfer of India centre-back Ali to East Bengal from Mohun Bagan following a unilateral termination of his loan, had sparked a controversy in Kolkata Maidan.

MOHUN BAGAN ELIGIBLE FOR ₹12.90 CR COMPENSATION



The 23-year-old, who played a key role in their Indian Super League Shield-winning campaign, scoring three goals and one assist in 26 games last season, terminated his contract and joined arch-rivals East Bengal in a five-year deal. Mohun Bagan then challenged the decision by filing a complaint with the AIFF's Player Status Committee. "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four)

months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision," read the six-page judgment signed by Savio Messias deputy chairperson, AIFF Players Status Committee. This suspension is applicable for his club matches and he will be eligible to play for India. "Under Article 20.3, and subject to any provisions to the contrary in contract, the Committee holds all three parties

i.e. Anwar Ali, East Bengal FC and Delhi FC jointly and severally liable for the above amount (Rs 12.90 crore)." "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four) months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision." It further said if the compensation is not paid within 45 days, the club will face a ban on registering new players for up to three registration periods, and the player will be restricted from playing in official matches for up to six months. Appeals against the AIFF Players Status Committee decisions can be made to the AIFF Appeals Committee within the time limits specified in the AIFF Disciplinary Code, it added. Much before the PSC delivered its judgment, Delhi FC co-owner had stated that they "would appeal and this would go on for a while". "...The decision has no final bearing on the final outcome or verdict — so no one should either be too happy or too sad (both sides) as PSC is a preliminary body and all its orders can be appealed. This will go on for a while... Patience is the name of the game," Ranjit Bajaj had posted in X on September 1.

# NO PLAY ON 2ND DAY AS DDCA SENDS COVERS

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Using traditional tarpaulin to protect outfield, electric fans to dry wet patches, loaning ground cover from one state unit and super sopper from the other while deploying untrained ground staff, the Greater Noida Authority encountered colossal failure in not being able to get second day's play underway in the one off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand. For the second successive day, not a single ball could be bowled at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports complex here putting the venue under scanner and making it an international embarrassment. The game, the first between the two nations, was scheduled to begin on Monday but no play was possible as the umpires cited "players safety" as a concern. While there was no rain throughout the day, there was a downpour for about an hour on Monday evening, affecting the start of play on Tuesday, which was scheduled to

commence half an hour earlier than the original start time of 10 am. While the skies remained clear on Tuesday, the field couldn't even be readied for a curtailed day's play despite best efforts. The mid-on and midwicket areas remained a cause of concern as the groundsmen were bringing in dry sections of grass from the practice area to "transplant" it to the mid wicket area. Additionally, three table fans were used to dry patches of grass on the offside as the groundsmen continued to work all day. Officials from the Greater Noida Authority, under which the stadium falls, were also in attendance, supervising the work. Umpires conducted three inspections before calling off play on the second day. According to the stadium officials, there are five super soppers -- two automatic and three manual. However, all throughout only two have been used, that too sparingly. If sources are to be believed, the Greater Noida Authority

## GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



had requested Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for a couple of super soppers and they sent it from their Meerut Stadium for logistical purposes. Similarly during day time, traditional marriage shamiyana (tent) was used to cover the outfield and in the evening when heavy rains started, they used tarpaulin as DDCA authorities were rushing their outfield cover from Kotla. If this wasn't enough, the Greater Noida Authority didn't have enough trained groundstaff and apparently used their untrained labour for the work. While the pitch area remained pristine, the outfield has been the issue on both days. The BCCI had given the Afghanistan Cricket Board a few options including Kanpur, Bengaluru and Greater Noida. However, the ACB opted for Greater Noida for logistical reasons. "The venue has always been Afghanistan's home venue. If we talk about back from 2016, we have been playing games here," ACB International

cricket manager Menhaj Raaz said. The area is receiving incessant rainfall for the past two weeks, which the ACB claim has played spoilsport. "It is because of the rain. Yesterday also, it rained. We had a three-day game here with one of the local teams which went well. We didn't face any issue. But when the rain started and all of this happened." Afghanistan Cricket Board has hosted 11 white-ball international games here before. The other Indian ground where they have hosted games is Dehradun. "We had conducted a recce four to six months back, and even the visiting team had done their recce. So there was no issue" Raaz added that ACB considered moving the match to a different venue but the monsoon made it impossible. "We tried working on a solution to shift the game and they said that because of the same rain, you will not be able to, you know, actually prepare the venue for you in the coming next 24 hours."



## Rinku picked for second round as stars leave for national duty

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

Majority of the players picked in the India squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, including Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Shubman Gill, were on Tuesday rested for the second round of Duleep Trophy beginning here on September 12. The others picked in the national squad on Sunday include Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashvir Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, who all have been exempted from the second round. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Sarfaraz Khan, who too are part of India's 16-man squad for the opening Test, have not been released from their Duleep Trophy duties indicating they won't be part of the playing eleven against Bangladesh in the game to be played in Chennai. "The selectors have named Pratham Singh (Railways) as a replacement for Gill, Akshay Wadkar (Vidarbha CA) as a replacement for KL Rahul and SK Rasheed (Andhra CA) as a replacement for Jurel," said the BCCI in a statement. "Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani will replace Kuldeep in the squad whereas Aaqib Khan (UPCA) will replace Akashdeep in the squad." Mayank Agarwal has been named as India A captain in Gill's place. As Jaiswal and Pant's replacements, the selectors have named Suyash Prabhudessai and Rinku Singh.

Nishant Sandhu comes in as a replacement for Axar in the India D squad. Pacer Tushar Deshpande has been ruled out of the game due to a niggle and his place will be taken by India A's Vidwath Kaverappa. No changes have been made to the India C squad led by Ruturaj Gaikwad. Pant, returning to red ball cricket for the first time since December 2022, gave a good account himself in the Duleep Trophy opener and so did K L Rahul and Akash Deep. **Updated India A squad:** Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan. **Updated India B squad:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). **Updated India D squad:** Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sandhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

## Bangladesh rising pace sensation Nahid Rana confident and ready for India Test series

PTI ■ DHAKA

Having made an instant impact with his brilliant performance in the historic 2-0 triumph over Pakistan, Bangladesh rising speedster Nahid Rana has now set his eyes on the upcoming away Test series against India. The 21-year-old consistently hit 150 kph and stood out as the star performer especially in the second innings of the final Test in Rawalpindi where he took 4/44 as Bangladesh secured a historic sweep. "Obviously we are well prepared for India series. We have started training. The more we are prepared the better we will be in execution during the matches," Rana said in a video shared by Bangladesh Cricket in 'X', formerly twitter. "India are a good team but the team that plays better cricket will win. We will see when we go there." The speedster, from Chapainawabganj, has emerged as a new sensation in Bangladesh cricket with his



ability to bowl consistently fast over long spells. He made headlines by crossing the 150 kph mark on his Test debut against Sri Lanka in March this year. Then in Pakistan he established himself as a genuine fast bowling threat by making immediate impact in the second Test. He dismissed Shan Masood with his third ball before scalping the prized wicket of Babar Azam in his next over. "Before leaving, I had said that I wanted to achieve something

for my country, and it feels great to have delivered on what was expected of me," he said. The first Test is slated in Chennai, a venue known for its bounce-friendly pitch. Asked if he is ready to hit the 152 kph mark again, Rana said, "I will strive to give my best. "Pace is something you can't always predict -- it depends a lot on rhythm. Sometimes, it just clicks, and suddenly you find yourself hitting those speeds. "I never set out to clock 152

kph or push past that. I just focused on executing the team's plan. My friends and folks back in the village are really happy of my achievement," he said. Rana's journey in cricket began when his brother enrolled him in an academy in 2020 after finishing college. He made his first-class debut in October 2021 and quickly made a mark, taking 32 wickets in the following season. In the 2022-23 National Cricket League, Rana and Sumon Khan achieved a rare feat with both taking over 30 wickets, an accomplishment not seen in over 11 years for fast bowlers in the domestic first-class tournament. Determined to carve his own path, he said: "I don't want to be like anyone else. I want to create my own identity and be known as Nahid Rana of Bangladesh," Rana said. "I haven't followed any particular bowler. I've watched and learned from everyone -- my seniors and those I grew up watching," he signed off.



## Keen tussle on cards as Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The cream of Indian women's golf including Hitaashee Bakshi, Sneha Singh, and Tvesa Malik will be back in action as the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes with the 11th leg at the Delhi Golf Club. The field is huge with 46 players and the purse is a handsome sum of Rs.14 lakh. Led by the leader on the Hero Order of Merit, Hitaashee, and last year's No. 1 Sneha Singh, the field includes almost all the stars barring Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor who have opted to rest before playing on the Ladies European Tour later this month. Hitaashee and Sneha will need to contend with proven names like Tvesa, Amandeep Drall, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi and Seher Atwal, all of whom have international experience and aspirations of going on to the LET and further. While the Tour resumes after a gap of almost six weeks, the players have been playing in international events and some

other domestic Pro-Ams. Sneha who went to the United States has qualified for the second stage of the LPGA Qualifying while Hitaashee has been playing in South East Asia and was third at the Singapore Ladies Masters. There are as many as nine amateurs and they are led by teenaged Zara Anand, who was recently T-10 at the Junior Asia Pacific Championships in Manila. Her teammate Keerthana Rajeev is also in the field. The top amateur is Mannat Brar, who created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the semi-finals of the R&A Juniors in United Kingdom. She is also the current All India Ladies Amateur champion, and she beat Zara in the final. The competition will be keen as the flagship event in India, the Hero Women's Indian Open, is scheduled next month and the top stars from the domestic Tour will get a spot in this prestigious event which is co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour and the Women's Golf Association of India.

## SAI, Steel Plants Sports Board make quarters

PTI ■ PUNE

Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Steel Plants Sports Board entered the quarterfinals from their respective pools after recording contrasting results in the 4th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship here on Tuesday. On a day of do-or-die battles for qualifications, SAI beat Central Board of Direct Taxes (CDT) 5-1 to claim second spot in Pool A with 9 points behind Petroleum Sports Promotion Board who topped the pool. Lalit Negi (6th), Neeraj (28th), Pankaj (38th - p.S, 53rd - p.C) and Rajat Minz (54th) scored for SAI. CDT reduced the margin through a Nachappa Ir (44th) strike. Steel Plants Sports Board made it in second position from Pool B after Dena Bank dramatically struck in the final minute to draw the game 3-3. Pradhan Somanna Pudiyyokkada Somaiah converted a penalty corner to help Dena Bank earn a point.



Earlier, Chandanda Aiyanna Nikkin Thimmaiah (4th); Somanna Km (33rd) scored for Dena Bank. For the Steel Plants Sports Board, it was Dilbar Barla (5st); Bara Rabi (53rd) and Abdul Qadir (55th) who scored. As a result, Steel Plants Board finished with 7 points (4 matches) and qualified for the knockouts. Pool B had a thrilling finish as the already-qualified Railway Sports Promotion Board faced a tough challenge from All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB). RSPB staged a fightback from a 2-3 deficit to win 4-3. RSPB ended up unbeaten in Pool B. RSPB scored through Parampreet Singh (4th - p.C), Yuvraj Walimiki (21st), Darshan Vibhav Gawkar (54th) and Simranjot Singh (56th). Varinder Singh (37th - p.C; 45th) and Haris Mohammad (11th - p.C) struck for the police team. The loss impacted AIPSCB (6) who missed to qualify after finishing third behind Steel Plants Board (7) by a point.

# F1 car design great Adrian Newey to join Aston Martin after leaving Red Bull

AP ■ SILVERSTONE (ENGLAND)

Formula 1's most influential car designer, Adrian Newey, is joining Aston Martin in March 2025 after leaving Red Bull, ending months of speculation over a backroom figure who seemed more in-demand than any driver. Newey has spent nearly two decades with Red Bull and is widely credited with putting the team on its path to dominance in F1. Now he's joining a team that has big ambitions to challenge for the title and the backing of billionaire Lawrence Stroll - but no race wins yet.

Newey will arrive in his new role as "managing technical partner" in time to help shape how Aston Martin responds to the new F1 car regulations coming for 2026. He'll also be made a shareholder in the team. Newey said he and Stroll got to know each other while training in the gym during F1 race weekends in Asia. Newey visited Aston Martin's new headquarters in June as Stroll closed in on a signing which the Canadian billionaire called "another demonstration of our ambition to build a Formula 1 team capable of fighting for world championships."

"You have to be honest with yourself and you have to keep yourself fresh and so I felt I needed a new challenge," Newey said. He added that Stroll's hands-on approach as an owner was an "old-school model" that reminded him of his old bosses at teams like Williams and McLaren, which both won titles with Newey-designed cars in the 1990s. "I was very flattered to have a lot of approaches from various teams, but really, Lawrence's passion and commitment and enthusiasm is very endearing, it's very persuasive." The last time the regulations



had a big change, with the return of "ground effect" aerodynamics for 2022, it was Newey's Red Bull that dominated as Max Verstappen won the championship. Newey had a lifetime of experience to draw on, having written his university thesis on ground effect in the 1980s, back when it was previously used in F1. Aston Martin's drivers are Fernando Alonso, the two-time champion and Lance Stroll, the son of team owner Lawrence Stroll. Newey said he'd known Lance Stroll from his teenage years competing against Newey's son in Formula 3, and said Alonso

seemed like "a kind of arch-enemy at times" when he was challenging for wins against Newey's previous employers. Newey joined Red Bull in 2006 and helped the team win seven drivers' titles - including the last three seasons with Verstappen - and six constructors' titles. Red Bull said in May that its chief technical officer would be stepping back from F1 design and focus on a production car, the RB17, before leaving in the first quarter of 2025. The announcement comes ahead of this week's Azerbaijan Grand Prix, and at a time when Red Bull's dominance of F1

seems to be slipping. Max Verstappen - who recently called his Red Bull car a "monster" - and his teammate Sergio Perez have not won any of the last six races, the team's longest drought since 2020, while McLaren and Mercedes now seem to have faster cars. Newey's departure is also part of a broader exodus of senior Red Bull staff in a season which began amid legal turmoil when team principal Christian Horner was accused of misconduct by an employee. Red Bull's parent company dismissed a complaint against Horner and an appeal was dismissed last month.

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