OPINION 6

HARYANA ELECTIONS: BJP FACES CONGRESS' RESURGENCE

WORLD 9

IRAN'S PRESIDENT SLAMS WEST ON SUPPORT TO ISRAEL

MONEY 10 RUPEE SETTLES FLAT

AGAINST US DOLLAR

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RAJ KUMAR'S HAT-TRICK HELPS INDIA THRASH MALAYSIA 8-1 11 SPORTS

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Stern message by Centre to Rahul for anti-national remarks in US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tet another foreign trip by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has stoked another round of controversy in the political circles of India and the Centre and BJP Leaders on Wednesday also commented that Rahul Gandhi's quota remark in a foreign land has exposed the Congress' "antireservation face" and making "anti-national statements" has become a habit for the

former Congress chief. Sending a stern message to Rahul Gandhi, Home Minister Amit Shah said that as long as the BJP is there, no one can abolish reservation or mess with the nation's security. The senior BJP Leader's comments came after Rahul Gandhi told students of Georgetown University in the United States that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which he said is not the case right now.
"Standing with forces that conspire to divide the

country and making antinational statements have become a habit for Rahul



Rahul Gandhi interacts with the media at the National Press Club, in Washington DC, USA and Amit Shah condems his Photos: PTI anti-national statements

Cabinet colleagues including Defence Minister Rajnath

Hitting back at the BJP for accusing Rahul Gandhi of The Home Minister said making "anti-national whether it was supporting statements", the Congress the National Conference's

party," Shah said who was Opposition in the Lok Sabha also joined by his other has only talked about upholding the Constitution and asked why the ruling party has a "problem" whenever there is such talk.

Gandhi and the Congress said the Leader of "anti-national and anti-party," Shah said who was Opposition in the Lok Sabha reservation agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir or making "anti-India statements" on foreign platforms, Rahul Gandhi has threatened" the 'alwavs nation's security and hurt sentiments.

Pakistan spreads terror to discourage voters in J and K polls

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

In the run-up to the first phase of polling across 24 Assembly segments on September 18, Pakistan has stepped up efforts to spread the reign of terror to discourage enthusiastic voters from participating in the maiden assembly polls taking place after the Abrogation of Article 370 in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On Wednesday, two major provocative incidents were reported in the Jammu region which indicated terrorist handlers and their sympathisers in Pakistan are desperately trying to disturb the peaceful conduct of the

upcoming Assembly polls. In one incident, two heavily armed Pakistani terrorists, hiding in the upper reaches of Basantgarh bordering Kathua and Udhampur districts, were neutralised by the joint team of security forces late Wednesday evening.

In a separate incident, a BSF jawan was injured during

unprovoked firing by the Pakistani rangers on the border outpost of BSF in the Akhnoor sector. In response, BSF troops 'effectively' retaliated to give a befitting reply to the Pakistani rangers. However, there was no official confirmation whether the Pakistani rangers suffered any fatal injuries or not.

Confirming the elimination of Continued on Page 8 | two foreign terrorists in the

resilient supply chain, the

Prime Minister expressed

pride in India's central role in

building resilience across

country as a key player in the global mission to safeguard

positioning the



ongoing operation, Rising Star Corps of the Indian Army posted on X, "Two Terrorists neutralised in the ongoing Operation at Khandara Kathua by troops of Rising Star Corps-operations in progress".

The initial contact was established during ongoing search operations launched by the security forces to pin down the group of terrorists roaming in the area.

After the brief exchange of fire between terrorists and security forces additional troops were rushed to the encounter site to plug the possible exit routes along the Khandara top. A group of more than three terrorists was spotted in the area after which search operations were launched to neutralise them inside the deep forests.

On September 9, two heavily armed terrorists believed to be Pakistani were neutralised by the troops of the Indian army

while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory in the Laam sector of Nowshera in the frontier district of Rajouri on Monday. For the past several days, different parts of Jammu and Kashmir have been witnessing an 'unprecedented' response the high-voltage igning by the

campaigning by the candidates representing various political parties.

The atmosphere in Kashmir valley is electrifying as many candidates are canvassing as late as midnight in their native villages and 'mohallas' in the urban centers amid tight

security arrangements. In Jammu, unconfirmed reports indicated the BSF soldier was targeted by a sniper from across the International border. Senior BSF officials of the Jammu frontier rushed to the forward area to take stock of the ground situation.

Continued on Page 8



Members of Hindu organisations stage protest over illegal construction in a mosque, at Sanjauli, Shimla

Shimla: Police, protesters clash over encroachment by mosque

PNS SHIMLA

Protesters demanding the demolition of an illegal portion of a mosque in Shimla's Sanjauli area clashed with security personnel on Wednesday, breaking barricades and pelting stones breaking as police used water cannons and baton-charged to disperse them.

Raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Hindu Ekta Zindabad", hundreds of protesters gathered at the Sabzi Mandi Dhalli and marched towards Sanjauli, defying prohibitory orders and ignoring warnings by the administration to lodge their protest and broke barricades erected near the Dhalli tunnel.

Continued on Page 8

Delhi Police asks metro staff to be vigilant

SAUMYA SHUKLA

Two days after the suspected bid to derail the Kalindi Express train in be on high alert along with

an LPG cylinder placed on tracks. A bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also found at the site hinting at sabotage. The Kanpur Police has lodged an FIR in the matter.



According to officials on Wednesday, the Delhi Police have also asked the staff of Delhi Metro to be vigilant and alert. It has also asked to increase checking of passengers and subsequently more police personnel will be deployed

city to deter any similar sabotage attempt in the city's lifeline Delhi Metro. "The entire staff of the Railways unit has been put on high alert following the Kanpur incident," a senior police officer of the Delhi Police said, adding that both foot and motorcycle patrolling have been

at the metro stations in the

enhanced. He added that anti-sabotage checks are being conducted regularly along the railway tracks with the help of dog squads and bomb disposal teams. "We have also asked the railway staff of many adjoining areas to keep strict vigil in and around the railway stations and railway tracks," another senior police officer said.

Right time to invest in Indian Harris puts strong challenge **Semiconductor industry: PM**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called Kanpur, the Delhi Police has asked the metro staff to conductor hub and pointed out conductor hub and pointed out be on high alert along wal-increasing deployment of security at Delhi Metro industry. Modi said India is well-positioned for success in that this is the right time to averted on Monday by an alert loco pilot as the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi Express was brought to a screeching half after hitting on LPC cylinder placed on the semiconductor in this field and that the world can count on India's growing semiconductor ecosystem. Modi said that India is now the eighth country globally to host an event focused on the semiconductor industry. ductor industry.
Speaking at the SEMICON

2024 conference at Greater Noida, Modi said the Covid pandemic showed the importance of the supply chain and underscored the need to act to ward off any disruption. "Whether it was Covid or war, there hasn't been a single industry to remain unaffected by supply chain disruptions," he said. Stating that India is a huge consumer of such chips, he emphasised that the world's finest digital public infrastructure was built upon it. "This small chip is doing big things to ensure last-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the inauguration of SEMICON India 2024, in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Wednesday

mile delivery in India," Modi

During his speech, mentioned various initiatives and achievements that position India as a key player in the global semiconductor industry. Interestingly, Semiconductor stocks rallied after PM Modi asserted India's commitment to building and growing its semiconductor infrastructure at the Semicon India 2024 event. The Prime Minister also

highlighted the importance of partnerships between industries Government.

The Prime Minister said resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy as he made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors the foundation of everything from smartphones to EV and AI.

Stressing the importance of a

Prime Minister showcased India's reformist regime, stable policies and a market that has tasted technology to make a strong pitch for investments in semiconductor

supply chains.

said.

manufacturing. "In 21st-century India, the chips are never down."
"Whether it is mobile manufacturing, electronics, or semiconductors, our focus is clear - we want to build a world that doesn't stop or pause in times of crisis but

keeps moving forward," he

The Prime Minister also spoke about the comprehensive approach under the Semicon India Program, which provides financial assistance for frontend fabs, display fabs, and semiconductor packaging, ensuring that all critical components of the supply chain are covered.

Continued on Page 8

to Trump on key issues

AP PHILADELPHIA

Kamala Harris pressed a forceful case against Donald Trump on Tuesday in their first and perhaps only debate before the presidential election, repeatedly goading him in an event that showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy.
The Democratic

president provoked Trump with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies, delivered derisive asides at his false claims and sought to underscore the Republican former president's role in the Supreme Court's overturning of a national right to abortion two years

ago. Trump tore into Harris as too liberal and a continuation of Biden's unpopular

administration, as he launched into the sort of freewheeling personal attacks and digressions from which his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away. In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump shakes hands with Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris during an ABC News presidential debate at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

spoken to foreign leaders who better than this." "are laughing at Donald Trump," and said she had spoken to military leaders, "and they say you're a disgrace."

As Trump, 78, again questioned her racial identity, the 59-year-old Harris, the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president, pointedly gestured to Trump and responded, "I think the American people want better than that, want

Trump in turn tried to link Harris to the still-unpopular Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president.

Trump also focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration. "Why hasn't she done it? She's

been there for three and a half years," he said.

Continued on Page 8

Shekhawat unveils restored rail coach at GSDS, Rajghat

After his return from South Africa in July 1914, Mahatma Gandhi travelled the length and breadth of India, with mode being the third class on Indian Railways. The aim was to have a one-to-one connection with the masses, he shared his experiences in the book "Third Class in Indian Railways" penned in Ranchi on September 25, 1917.

In a bid to bring these historical moments closer to common public, on Wednesday, Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat unveiled a meticulously restored railway coach at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) at Rajghat in the national Capital which is visited by over 10,000 people daily, including domestic and foreign

The historical coach is painted brown and marked with a 'III' to denote third-class compartments, Continued on Page 8 featuring a life-size sculpture of the connect directly with the common

'Father of the Nation', depicting the famous act of stepping down from the coach, underscoring its national legacy.

Donated by the Union Ministry of Railways, the coach is also enriched with sculptures showcasing Gandhi's travels and interactions with passengers, providing visitors with an immersive experience that brings to life Mahatma Gandhi's rail journeys.

During the ceremony, Shekhawat emphasised that Gandhi's principles, especially his commitment to ahimsa (nonviolence), remain profoundly relevant in today's geopolitical climate. "Gandhiji's thoughts are relevant even today. Today, war has broken out in Russia-Ukraine and Gaza-Israel. In such a time, peace can be established in the world only by using Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence."

He recalled that Gandhi always used to travel in third class and



people. The Union Cabinet Minister also

noted that the current Government's initiatives, such as the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision in defence and technology, align with Gandhi's ideals. Shekhawat also addressed the urgent issue of climate change, urging adherence to Gandhi's teachings to protect the environment.

"Gandhi transformed the freedom movement into a mass movement. His memories will become a source of inspiration and energy for future India," said the Minister, adding that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi took inspiration from Gandhi and launched a cleanliness campaign across the country.

We made the country free from open defecation by building a record 11 crore toilets. This was Gandhi's dream, which our Prime Minister realised, said the Minister. On the occasion, GSDS Vice Chairman and former Union Minister Vijay Goel, reflected on Gandhi's profound connection with train journeys, recalling an incident in 1893 when Gandhi was forcibly removed from a train in South Africa due to racial discrimination. This pivotal experience acted as a catalyst for Gandhi to fight against apartheid and other injustices. Dr Jwala Prasad, GSDS director

acknowledged the committee's efforts under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to realise Gandhi's dreams, particularly through the Swachhata Abhiyan. Shekhawat also participated in the Ek Ped Maa dreams, Ke Naam campaign, planting a sapling dedicated to environmental

conservation.

Stepfather of Malaika Arora commits suicide

Actor-model Malaika Arora's stepfather Anil Mehta allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a building in Mumbai on Wednesday morning, a police official said. Mehta allegedly jumped off the sixth floor of a building in Bandra area, an official said.

Police rushed to the spot and shifted him to a hospital where he was declared dead before arrival, the official said. The exact reason behind the incident was not yet known, the official said, adding that an

investigation was underway. According to him, Mehta was the stepfather of the Bollywood actor. Meanwhile, a source told PTI, "It's true that Malaika's (step) father passed away this morning. He has not committed suicide, it's an accident. They all are shocked because he had no ailment or anything as such."

The police 'panchnama' will make things clear, the source said.

crushed to death

Aspeeding car ran over an lice cream vendor and hit an e-rickshaw at 1090 crossing in Lucknow on Tuesday night. The ice cream vendor was fatally injured in the accident while the e-rickshaw driver sustained serious injuries.

As per reports, Jiyamau resident Rajendra Yadav had put up his ice cream cart near 1090 crossing on Tuesday night. Around 2 o'clock in the night, a speeding car hit the cart and crushed him. The car also hit an e-rickshaw parked nearby, injuring e-rickshaw driver Pankaj, of Nilmatha. The youth and his female com-

panion in the car escaped injuries as the airbags opened. The duo however fled the scene abandoning the car at the accident site.

The collision was so powerful that its sound was heard by many around the scene. People passing the road also stopped and soon a big crowd of onlookers gathered at the spot. On getting information, a police team reached the spot and rushed the injured to the hospital and took the car involved in the accident in custody,

According to Gautampalli police station, the ice cream seller was pronounced dead by the doctors at the hospital while the e-rickshaw driver was discharged after first aid. Identities of the car driver and

Bid to disturb Ganesh puja

Lucknow (PNS): A woman celebrating Ganesh puja accused some youths belonging to another community of booing the devotees, breaking the puja kalash by throwing bricks and threatening dire consequences before fleeing in Chinhat on Tuesday night.

As the news spread, a large number of devotees gathered at the scene, giving the police a tough task in the night. A heavy police force was deployed at the scene.

The complainant, Kiran Chaurasiya of Chhoti Masjid, Ganga Vihar Colony, said like previous years, on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, she installed the idol of Lord Ganesh along with the Kalash as per rituals at her residence on September 7. She alleged that from the day after the idol was installed at her residence, 20 to 25 youths, including children, of another community started creating disturbance every evening between 7 to 7:30 during the aarti. She alleged the mob raised provocative slogans and threatened the people performing the aarti.

his companion are being ascertained on the basis of the registration number of the vehicle.

Ice cream vendor Lucknow University Convocation Week ————

'Make arts a part of your lives'

The inaugural session of the **1** 67th Convocation Week of Lucknow University was held in the Malviya auditorium on Wednesday. Bhatkhande Sanskriti

Vishvavidyalay Vice-Chancellor Prof Mandvi Singh was the chief guest of the occasion while Lucknow University Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Manuka Khanna was the guest of honour. The event began with the cer-

emonial lighting of the lamp and Kulgeet of the university. In her address Prof Mandvi Singh congratulated the students of Lucknow University on belonging to an institution with a glorious past and a promising present and future. She also exhorted the students to make arts a part of their lives, not as a professional but as a connoisseur of arts. Prof Manuka Khanna in her address extended warm wishes and a congratulatory message on behalf of the LU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai and the university administration. She extolled the students to engage, enjoy and develop their erudition regarding art and culture.

Rahul Choudhary then presented Saraswati Vandana. A song composed in the Sanskrit language was presented by

One of the foreign students of the university, Khwan San, presented a glimpse of the Mayanamar dance

A solo song, sung by Kartikeya mesmerised the audience. A Shastriya Nritya rendition was performed by Priyam Yadav. Aditi Singh, accompanied by Hitesh on Guitar, sang a folk song from the hills while Aditi Singh's Bhojpuri song sung tra-ditionally on the vidai sent waves of emotional ecstasy among the audience.

Sachidanand, dressed up as Swami Vivekanand, recreated the speech of Swamiji delivered at the World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago on this very day in 1893.

A rendition of the classical vocal by Akshaya Awasthi Trisamma Arts enthralled the audience. He was accompanied by Soham Mishra on tabla and Shravan Yadav on harmonium.

These young artistes were felicitated by Prof Mandvi Singh. The session concluded with the presentation of the formal vote of thanks and the National Anthem.

RANGOLI. DISCUSSIONS

On Day 2 of the Pre-Convocation Week 2024 at Lucknow University, the applied economics department organised a rangoli com-

petition focusing on the theme of gender equality.

Thirteen groups, each having two participants, showcased their creativity through vibrant designs promoting inclusivity and equality. Notably, the active participation from boys broke stereotypes, emphasising the importance of equal involvement in all cultural activities. The event not only celebrated artistic expression but also sparked discussions on gender roles, reinforcing the department's commitment to fostering social awareness

and inclusivity.
The chemistry department of Lucknow University which is celebrating the Convocation Week, organised the fifth healthy mind session on Wednesday which was delivered by Dr Alok Kumar Pandey, of the electrical and electronics engineering department of the KIET

Group of Institutions, Ghaziabad. In the beginning, head of the chemistry department, Prof Anil Mishra, welcomed the guest and mentioned the importance of the topic in the present day context. He said that happiness was a complex and subjective emotional state that could vary significantly from person to person. "At its

core, it often involves feelings of joy, contentment and well-being. Understanding happiness involves looking at various factors that influence it, including psychological, biological, social, and philosophical perspectives," he added.
Dr Pandey spoke on
'Understanding Happiness'.
The session began with recog-

nising basic human aspirations that are continuous

happiness.
"If we look in the light of right understanding, continuous happiness is the purpose of human's life and every instant of human activity is dedicated to achieve this aim. Due to a lack of understanding, humans regard their puring, humans regard their purpose as "becoming" something and "attaining" something. When we look at it through the lens of understanding, we discover that "doing", "becoming:, and "attaining" are just steps on the route to achieving the human objective. The more

happiness is the objective of humanity and we are able to make efforts," he said. During this session, participants tried to explore the meaning of happiness that is: "To be in the state of harmo-

ny is happiness".

we are able to acquire insight

in ourselves, the more clear-

ly it appears that continuous

LMC gets first place for excellent work in loan distribution

PNS LUCKNOW

T ucknow has secured the Lifting place for excellent work at national and state level in loan distribution under the most ambitious scheme of the Government of India, PM SVANnidhi Yojana.

In a programme organised at the Directorate of Local Bodies on Wednesday, Urban Development and Energy Minister AK Sharma awarded the first prize to the Lucknow Municipal Commissioner. It was received by additional municipal commissioner and project officer, DUDA, Lucknow

The award has been given to Lucknow district in the 'Best performing ULBs at National and State level' in loan distribution.

Under this scheme, which was started to re-establish the employment of street vendors affected during the COVID-19 period, 1,14,792 loans have been distributed in Lucknow district so far against the target of 93,758 first loans.

Under the scheme, street vendors are provided loans of Rs 10,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000. In the said programme, self-help groups formed under DUDA's Day-NULM scheme set up stalls of their groups' products such as chikan work products, herbal products, jute bags and other handicrafts.

NOTICE

I Sudhanshu Shukla S/O Anupam Kumar Shukla R/O 3- Vishnupuri Ext-2 Aliganj Lucknow have purchased a property bearing no. 304 R 0190020304 tower No A2 Eco Village-2 Address GH-01 Sec-16B, Greater Noida, have lost the original allotment of the above said property. I have requested M/S Superteck to issue the duplicate allotment letter of the said property. If anybody or financial institutions have objection, he/she may contact to M/S Superteck limited office plot No. C-2 sec-96 Noida 201303, UI

सूचना

within fifteen days

राजेंश कमार पत्र स्व० रामनाथ निवासी मस्तेम तहसील मोहनलालगंज लखनऊ द्वार 15/4/15 भूमि गाटा संख्या 325/0.108 पैमाइश 33 ${f X}$ 66.66=2000 वर्ग फिट चंद्रपाल पुत्र गंगाप्रसाद से क्रय किया गया था। उपरोक्त बैनामा उपनिबन्धन कार्यालय मो. इनलालगंज लखनक की बड़ी संख्या —1 जिल्ह सख्या—5612, पृष्ट सख्या— 121 से 136, क्रमाव संख्या–6638 पर दिनांक 15/4/15 को दर्ज है। जिसका मूल बैनामा वास्तव में कहीं खो गया है। राजेंश कुमार पुत्र स्व० रामनाथ निवासी ग्राम मस्तेमऊ तहसील मोहनलालगंज लखनऊ।

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NOTICE

Last Date- 10 October 2024

It is to inform general public that Satya Pal s/o Sheetla was owner of "Plot No. 9-C, area 875 Sq.Ft., Part of Khasra No. 954, Village Sarsawa, Pargana and Tehsil Sarojani Nagar, District Lucknow having purchased it from Gauri Devi, Dharmendra Kumar, Durga Shankar, Km. Vandana and Ravi Shankar through POA holder Awadhesh Kumar, Vide sale deed registered in the office of Sub Registrar Sarojani Nagar, Lucknow in Book No.1, Volume 1844, Pages 283-308 at Serial No. 11198 on 24.04.2019. Now said Plot is being sold by Satya Pal in favour of Ramu Kumar Kanojiya thereafter which will be mortgaged with ICICI HFC Limited, against loan. If any person or financial institution has any interest or objection in this regard then arsawa, Pargana and Tehsil Sarojani Naga ony interest or objection in this regard the contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection in writing and with relevan locuments, within 7 days from the date o publication of this notice.

Mr. Amit Kumar Singh Rathaur Advocate,
Chamber No.7, UGF, Krishna Tower,
Chakbast Road, Quaiserbagh, Lucknow,
Mobile No. 9559811119

NOTICE

It is to inform general public that Original Sale Deed executed by Usha Devi Infavour of Mohd. Sufiyan, Ganesh Prasad Gupta, Rakesh Agarwal and Jaswant Singh, reparding Plot area 2025 Sq.Ft. Khasra No. 300, Village Ibrahimpur, Sarojani Nagar Lucknow, registered with Sub Registrar I, Lucknow in Book No. 1, Volume 20805, Pages 355–414 Serial No. 8830 on 12.05.2016., now owned by Aman Rawat and Ranjeeta Rawat, has been lost by Aman Rawat and Ranjeeta Rawat, has been lost by Aman Rawat at Neelmatha Market, Lucknow on 05.09.2024 at 5 PM-6 PM during getting its photocopy. Now, buyer/proposed owner Mrs. Marita Chaubey is purchasing House No. 594-Ka/501/1 area 1010 Sq.Ft. part.of.said plot, which will be mortgaged with part of said plot, which will be mortgaged with CICIHFC against loan. Use of this lost said deed by any other person will be void. If an person or financial institution has find it kindl person or financial institution has find it kindly return or has any interest or objection in this regard, please contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection in writing and with relevant documents, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mr. Amil Kumar Singh Rathaur Advocate, Chamber No.7, UGF, Krishna Tower, Chakbast Road, Qualserbagh, Lucknow. Mobile No. 9558811119

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sohan Reit to SOHAN SINGH S/o Pyara Singh R/o I-11 Indraprasth Apartment, Ratan Lal Nagar Kanpur for all future

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Chhote Lal To Chhote Lal Gupta for all future purpose, Chhote Lal Gupta S/o Rameshwar Prasad Gupta R/o Kali Devi Road Naya Bazar, Jagdish Ganj, Karvi,

NOTICE

have changed my name from Pradeep Kaur to PARDEEP KAUR W/o Sohan Singh R/o I-11, Nagar Kanpur for all future

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Afshan Khatoon To Noor Afsa for all future purpose, Noor Afsa W/o Mohammad Gufran R/o Village/Post- Afoi, Fatehpur

NOTICE

have changed my name from WASIM AHMAD to WASEEM AHMAD S/o ISLAM AHMAD R/o 130/267 - A Bagahi TP Nagar Kanpur Nagar - 23. In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

NOTICE

I, Najmuddin S/o Mr. Mohd Farooq, have incorrect name spelling in the passport as Najmuddeen. My Correct Name spelling is Najmuddin R/o-224/81, Pate Bazar, Maurawan, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, 209821

सूचना

सूचित हो कि मेरे घर का मूल बैनामा जो दिनांक 04.02.1992 बही संख्या–1, जिल्द संख्या-1431, पृष्ठ संख्या- 93 से 98 पर क्रमांक 4476 कार्यालय मुख्य उपनिबंधक लखनऊ में पंजीकृत है कहीं गिर गया है। अकील अहमद पुत्र डॉ अब्दुल वली नि.- रामगंज, हुसैनाबाद,

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी माता का सही नाम हीरामुन्नी देवी है जो कि उनके आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड, बैंक पासबुक, कुटुम्ब रजिस्टर में अंकित है। त्रुटिवश मेरे हाई स्कूल के अंक प्रमाण पत्र अनुक्रमांक 23203930 में मेरी माता का नाम अर्चना देवी अंकित हो गया है जो कि गलत है सावंत सिंह पुत्र चंद्रपाल सिंह निवासी हिम्मापुरवा, ब्लॉक सरवन खेड़ा, मोहाना, कानपुर देहात उ०प्र० – २०९३११

Man duped of ₹41,175

PNS LUCKNOW

man was duped of Rs Aman was duped of Rs 41,175 by unidentified miscreants who fraudulently withdrew money from his account in Sarvodaya Nagar under Ghazipur police station area.

A case was registered on Wednesday.

In his complaint, the victim, Anwar Hussain, said on 30-7-2024, he received a call on his mobile number and the caller, who identified himself as Rahul, said he was calling from Green Gas Company and his gas connection would be disconnected due to non-payment of his green gas bill.
"When I said that I do not have

any pending amount, he asked me to go to WhatsApp and see the details of the pending amount in the message sent on this number and deposit it. Since I was out of Lucknow for two months. I thought that some bill may have come and was yet to be paid. Out of curiosity, when I opened the WhatsApp message, only Rs 7 was pending in it. I got suspicious why my gas connection would be disconnected for Rs 7. The caller was on the line and was insisting I make the payment. I got suspicious and refused to make the payment, then he started abusing me and said that he was asking me to pay Rs 7, not Rs 700 or Rs 7,000. But I did not make the payment and disconnected the

call": he said. He said he tried to find out the truth by talking to another number of Green Gas, and they also told me that this call seemed to be wrong and asked me not to make any payment.

LASSIFIEDS

Woman accuses LMC official of attempting to outrage her modesty

PNS LUCKNOW

Awoman accused a Lucknow Municipal Corporation official of attempting to outrage her modesty, criminal intimidation and forcing her into submis-

In her complaint to the Ghazipur police, the woman said she had work related to mutation of her house and so she went to Zone 7 office of LMC to meet the official, whom she named as Uday. She said went to LMC Zone 7 office on September 4 for mutation of her house.

There I had to withdraw money from ATM to deposite fee for mutation. When I went to ATM to withdraw money, MC Zone 7 official Uday fo lowed me. His act was captured in CCTV camera. After that he took me to a secluded place while promising to get my work done and he kept touching my thigh. When I removed his hand and protested, he threatened me not to tell anyone about it. While returning,

"Meanwhile, I got a call from the State Bank of India that some transactions were made from my credit card and asked I had made them. I said that I had not made any transaction and requested the bank to block my card and the transactions immediately. When I checked my phone, I saw many messages, out of which three messages were related to payment from my credit card, in

he stopped the motorcycle under a tin shed near Jalkal Department (the area where the cows are reared) and again started kissing my thigh and chest. A wooden pole put under the roof fell on my hand and I was injured. After a long time he left me outside the nagar nigam and warned me of dire consequences if I told anyone about his act," she

alleged. She said she complained to an LMC officer about the incident and he checked the CCTV footage and then suspended Uday Tripathi. She requested the police to initiate action against the errant official.

A police spokesman said a case was registered under relevant sections of BNS and an investigation was underway. The police sources said that the accused tried to exploit the innocence of the woman who had no knowledge of mutation work and the accused official just exploited the situation by taking advantage of her inno-

which the money was paid and two were cancelled. One message was about my Aadhaar number and one transaction related to my HDFC Bank transaction. Thus, money was fraudulently withdrawn from my account using the credit card," he said. The victim gave the details of

money which was fraudulently withdrawn from his bank

Man mauled to death by tiger

Lakhimpur Kheri: A 40-yearold man was killed by a tiger in the Maheshpur range of the South Kheri forest division in this Uttar Pradesh district on Wednesday, marking the second such fatality in the area within a fortnight.

Jakir, a resident of Muda Assi village, was attacked by the animal when he was working in his sugarcane field. The incident has sparked an outrage among local villagers, who are demanding immediate action to capture the big cat.

DFO, South Kheri, Sanjay Biswal confirmed the second human casualty of tiger attacks in the Maheshpur range. On August 27, another villager, Ambarish Kumar, was allegedly killed by the same tiger. Following these tragic events, state Forest Minister Arun Kumar visited the area to assess the situation and instruct the forest authorities to capture the tiger.

The Forest department has deployed patrolling teams, installed cages and cameras, and brought in tranquillising experts to capture the elusive animal. However, heavy rains and waterlogging have hampered their efforts. According to the DFO, four

patrolling teams equipped with drone cameras and other equipment have been deployed, and four cages and 40 cameras installed in the affected areas to locate and monitor the tiger. Tranquillising experts, led by Daksha Gangwar from the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, have been called in. A tranquillising expert from the Kanpur zoo has also been called in.

Lakhs of pilgrims pay obeisance to 'Radha Rani' at Barsana

Mathura (PTI): Lakhs of pilgrims on Wednesday paid obeisance to 'Radha Rani' at the Ladli temple here as she was bathed in 51 quintals of milk, curd, and honey before being adorned with attire and ornaments worth Rs 31 lakh on Radha Ashtami.

The 'abhishek' (bathing) ceremony was conducted in the morning during the 'Brahma muhurta' amid chants of Vedic hvmns.

The abhishek was performed with a mixture of 51 quintals of milk, curd, honey, khandsari, ghee, and 11 varieties of herbs," Ras Bihari Goswami, a priest at the Ladli temple in Barsana, said. "This was followed by an aarti

and darshan of Radha Rani in a golden cradle. The deity was adorned with a rare 'poshak' (attire) and ornaments valued at over Rs 31 lakh amid the chants of 'Radhe Radhe', the priest said.

A large number of pilgrims gathered at the temple to participate in the celebrations and performed a parikrama of Gahvar Van while singing religious songs, he said.

As the air reverberated with chants of 'Radhey Radhey', religious fervour gripped the temple. Seventeen drones showered rose petals on the canopy of the temple and the cradle of the deity in the evening leaving the devotees awestruck, Goswami said.

Drones were used as a helicopter could not fly due to inclement weather, he added.

"In the evening the 'Dola' (palanquin) of the deity was brought back to the sanctum sanctorum of the temple amidst the beating of drums and blowing of conch shells. Prior to that, the 'Arta' of the deity was performed by a teenage girl," the priest stated.

An 'Arta' is like an arti but performed by a teenage daughter of a temple priest only on three occasions in a year, including Radha Ashtami.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (Mathura) Shailesh Kumar Pandey, more than 10 lakh pilgrims have arrived in the temple town to pay obeisance to the deity. No untoward incident has been reported, he added.

At the Radha Vallabh temple in nearby Vrindayan priest danced in a circle and sang songs praising Goddess Radha while curd mixed with turmeric was splashed on them as part of the celebrations, priest Mohit Maral Goswami said.

The Abhishek ceremony was also held at temples in Rawal village, Dwarkadhish temple, Srikrishna Janmasthan's Keshav Deo temple, Chandrodaya temple in Vrindavan, and other temples in Brijbhumi, Rakesh Tiwari, legal advisor and PRO of Dwarkadhish temple, said. At the Bankey Bihari Temple in Vrindavan, the 'Veni Gunthan Leela, wherein Lord Krishna ties the hair of Goddess Radha into a braid, was performed in the 'Chauk' (courtvard) area. Gvanendra Kishor Goswami the priest of the temple said.

I-T Dept to confiscate

New Delhi: The Income Tax

The authority has held that the immovable property located at 'Mauja Kapurpur NZA under Sadar Tehsil' in Ghazipur dismi" asset.

issued a provisional order in April 2013 under the provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act of 2016 to attach this property. The asset, a land parcel with an estimated market value of around Rs 12 crore, was impounded by the tax depart-

According to the I-T Department's order, the "benamidar" (in whose name a benami property is standing) in this case was identified as

Ansari's alleged associate and neighbour Ganesh Dutt Mishra. The "beneficial owner" was Ansari, it said.

Sources said the tax department will now initiate steps to confiscate this asset.

Ansari died of a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Banda in March this year at the age of 63. A fivetime MLA from the Mau Sadar seat, he was behind bars in Uttar Pradesh and Puniab since 2005.

He had over 60 criminal cases

pending against him. He was sentenced in eight cases since September 2022 by different courts in Uttar Pradesh and was lodged in the Banda jail. The adjudicating authority has held that Ansari, through his legal heirs Afsan Ansari, Umar Ansari and Abbas Ansari, is the "beneficial owner" of the asset. It said the property shall not be transferred

The adjudicating authority also directed the department to take "immediate steps" to attach the remaining part of

or otherwise dealt with, in any

manner, except with its permis-

RLD to contest 10 to 15

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Pradeep Gupta To Pradeep Kumar Gupta for all future purpose, Pradeep Kumar Gupta S/o Chhote Lal Gupta R/o Kali Devi Road Naya Bazar, Jagdish Ganj, Karvi,

NOTICE

I Richa Gupta W/o Ravindra Kumar R/o 117/155, O Block, Geeta Nagar Kanpur, Have Lost Sale deed in the name of Om Prakash Bhatia Book No.1, Jild No.2656 and Page No.79 to 100, Kramank 1176 Printed on deed it's Lost Some where it's used will be

NOTICE

I Legally Inform to all concern that myself has broken all the relations with my Daughter (Firdous) and my Son-in-law (Rukhsar Ahmad). They will be responsible for all activities as social, political, economical & criminal. Jalaluddin B-1553 Sector-3 Indira Nagar Lucknow.

seats in Jammu-Kashmir

PNS LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal will contest 10 to 15 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir eleac-RLD national secretary

Anupam Mishra said the party

intends to expand its base outside UP. Party insiders said that the RLD, which is part of Central and state cabinet in the NDA alliance, will contest the elec-

tions in Jammu alone and not

as a NDA partner. They said Chaudhary Charan Singh's ideology had been the development of farmers, poor and labourers. "This will be our main issue in Jammu elections too. A huge quantity of fruits and flowers are cultivated in Jammu Kashmir, but there is no industry related to it. Due to this, the people here are not getting the expected benefits. Our effort will be to do something better for the farmers, poor and labourers there," the

Mishra said that the party was preparing to field candidates on some seats not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also in

sources said.

Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. "The party is expanding to various states. Under this, we are entering the fray in these states. The situation regarding Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand will also be clear soon," he said. Tyagi said, "We are campaigning on five points which are statehood, establishment of small-scale industries, women empowerment, help to farmers growing dry fruits and other fruits and development issues," he said.

Tyagi said the fruit growers in Kashmir are in a pathetic state. "They are given Rs 40 per kg for apples which are sold at Rs 200 per kg in Delhi. This disparity should end and they should be included in the mainstream business to get the benefit as growers/farmers of others states in our country are getting," he said. Tyagi further said that nation-

al leaders of the party will start campaigning in Jammu soon. If the local organization demands, then national president and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary will also visit the

KGMU hosting ICACON 2024

thesia department of King George's Medical University is hosting the 5th International and 15th National Conference of the Indian College of Anaesthesiologists (ICA) from

Kohli, head of the department, and Dr Tanmay Tiwari, organising secretary. This prestigious event is renowned as a platform for education, training, and knowledge exchange in the field of anaesthesiology. More than 700 registered participants are expected to attend this year's conference. The conference will be inaugurated on September 14, 2024, by Governor Anandiben Patel. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, Minister of State for Medical Education Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh, and KGMU Vice-Chancellor Sonia Nityanand. will be present on the occasion.

Founded in 2008, the Indian ing in anaesthesiology.

Lucknow (PNS): The anaes-

September 12 to 15, This announcement was made on Wednesday during a press conference by Prof Monika

College of Anaesthesiologists (ICA) is an autonomous academic organisation dedicated to advancing education and train-

Mukhtar's ₹ 12-cr 'benami' asset

Department will soon confiscate a Rs 12-crore asset of deceased gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari after the adjudicating authority constituted under the anti-benami assets law confirmed a 2023 attachment of the property, official sources said Wednesday.

trict of Uttar Pradesh is a "bena-The investigation wing of the I-T Department in Lucknow

ment in May.

CM: Semicon to position India as UP has transformed from investment global leader in semiconductors drought to flooded market state: Yogi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of Semicon India 2024 in Greater Noida on Wednesday.

PNS GREATER NOIDA

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said Semicon India-2024 will position India as a global leader in semiconductors.

"Today, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a major exporter of consumer electronics. This success is a result of the efforts made over the past few years, with 55 per cent of the country's mobile manufacturing and 50 percent of mobile component production now taking place in Uttar Pradesh," said the Chief Minister addressing the inaugural function of Semicon India-2024 at the India Expo Mart

The Semicon India 2024 is being organised from September 11 to 13 with the 'Shaping theme Semiconductor Future'.

Highlighting Samsung India for establishing its display unit plant in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath noted

that the state is also becoming a major hub for data centers. "Uttar Pradesh Semiconductor

Policy-2024 has been implemented to create a favorable environment for the semiconductor industry in the state. This policy includes attractive provisions for capital assistance, interest subsidies, land value, stamp and electricity duty exemptions," he stated. The chief minister emphasised that this three-day event will mark the realisation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. "In 2020, the global supply chain was severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, affecting the semiconductor industry as well," he said. Emphasizing that, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Uttar Pradesh has focused on developing the IT sector, data centers, electronic manufacturing, and semiconductors, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath noted that the state

al hub for semiconductor design engineers.

He highlighted that major companies such as MediaTek, ERM, Qualcomm, NXP, Synopsys, and Cadence have established operations in Uttar Pradesh, which is leveraging local talent and fostering innolocal talent and fostering innovation in semiconductor design. CM Yogi added that recognising this, the IT industry has been granted the status of an industry in Uttar Pradesh. This designation allows industrial land to be offered to IT companies at more affordable rates.

The Chief Minister further emphasised that numerous measures have been taken to foster a favorable investment environment in the state. "As a result, Uttar Pradesh has earned the status of an Achiever State in Ease of Doing Business. Presently, 27 sectoral policies are active across different industries in the state", he asserted. Highlighting that ease of doing business, infra-

structure connectivity, and strong law and order are the USP (key strengths) of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated, "Uttar Pradesh boasts an extensive network of rail and road infrastructure. The Eastern and Western Freight Dedicated Corridors pass through the state. Additionally, the country's first inland waterway operates between Varanasi and Haldia. We are also developing a multi-modal terminal in Varanasi, a multi-modal logistics hub in Dadri, and a logistics transport hub in Udaki." He also mentioned that several significant projects are underway, including the state's underway, including the state's first medical device park, film city, toy city, apparel park, and handicraft park along the Yamuna Expressway. Other initiatives such as the integrated township in Greater Noida the mean food prakting. Noida, the mega food park in Bareilly, and Trans Ganga City in Unnao are progressing

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh has transformed from a state facing investment drought to a thriving market since 2017, owing to rule of law, investmentfriendly policies, and a business-friendly atmosphere. The chief minister made the

remarks at a joint press conference with Union Minister of IT and Electronics Ashwini Vaishnav on the sidelines of the Semicon India 2024.

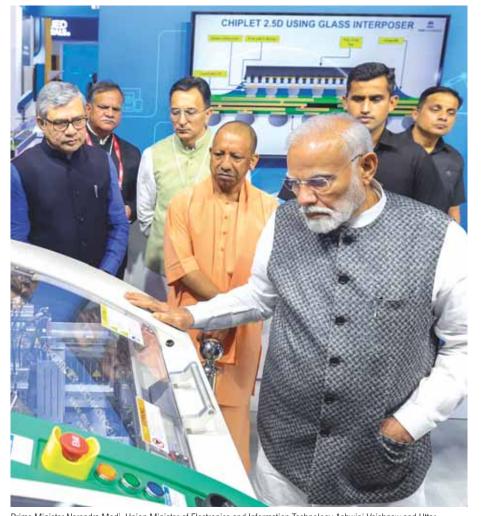
"Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was not seen as a desirable investment destination. However, due to a shift in perception, the state now attracts significant investments. Uttar Pradesh today has rule of law, investment-friendly policies, and a business-friendly atmosphere. As a result, everyone now wants to invest in Uttar Pradesh."

Highlighting the transformation in Uttar Pradesh since 2017, CM Yogi said, "When we were planning the Investors Summit in 2017, it was projected that only up to Rs 20,000 crore in investment could be achieved. However, last year, the Global Investors Summit attracted investment proposals

totaling Rs 40 lakh crore." He added, "As of February this year, we have successfully brought investment proposals worth Rs 10 lakh crore to fruition. This underscores the significant improvement in Uttar Pradesh's work culture and investment environment." Chief Minister emphasised that significant efforts over the past seven years have transformed Uttar Pradesh into an investment-friendly state.

CM Yogi also highlighted the implementation of the Semiconductor Policy 2024 in Uttar Pradesh, which is designed to facilitate and ease the path for investors.

The chief minister later engaged in one-on-one meet-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at an exhibition during the inauguration of Semicon India 2024 in Greater Noida on

ings with global leaders and investors. Both domestic and international investors expressed confidence that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has the potential to become a global hub for semiconductors. Chief Minister offered assurances of a safe and supportive investment environment in Uttar Pradesh. He emphasised the state's commitment to providing all necessary facilities to investors. Daehoon Lee of South Korea's Hanyang Engineering said, "India offers vast opportunities for semiconductors. The world has witnessed India's progress in recent years, and with the rapid adoption of advanced technology, the scope for semiconductors here is continuously expand-

Ken Ukawa from Singapore noted, "The semiconductor industry in India may be small now, but with PM Modi's vision, it is poised to grow sig-

of its kind in India, has attracted companies from around the world, which is truly impressive." Rahul, a representative of the German company Visco Tech, acknowledged the improvements in law and order under CM Yogi's leadership, which have made Uttar Pradesh more attractive to foreign investors. "Our company has been increasing its investment in the state year after year," he added.

nificantly. This event, the first

Two more girls injured in suspected wolf attacks

Bahraich (PTI): Two more killed eight people and injured girls have been injured in suspected wolf attacks in two villages of Mahasi tehsil in Uttar to villagers, a 11-year-old girl, Pradesh's Bahraich district, who was sleeping with her officials said on Wednesday. According to the officials, one was lifted from her bed and of the incidents, involving a 11year-old girl, took place in Makupurwa village late Tuesday night, while the other attack occurred in Bhavani Pur village, where a 10-year-old girl was injured.

Though the villagers claim the attacks were carried out by wolves, government doctors suspect the injuries may have been caused by bites from another animal, they said.

The forest department said it was yet to confirm which animal was behind the latest attacks in the region, which has been in the grip of fear due to man-eating wolves that have

more than 30 since mid-July. In the first incident, according family in Makupurwa village, dragged by the neck by a wild animal late Tuesday night. The family raised an alarm and chased the animal away, forcing it to leave the injured girl behind, they claimed.

is positioning itself as a glob-

In the second incident in Bhavani Pur village, a 10-year-old girl was dragged off her bed by a wolf around 5 am on Wednesday. The girl's mother said, "I saw the wolf approaching and we started hitting it with sticks. It left the child and fled." Bhavani Pur village head Gulraj also mentioned the possibility of a wolf attack. Both the girls are being treated at the Mahsi Community Health

Centre (CHC), the officials said. "Bite marks and scratches have been found on various body parts of both the girls. It is possible these are animal bites," CHC in-charge Dr Ashish Verma told reporters. He added that there have been around 30 similar cases since mid-July.

However, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ajit Pratap Singh expressed doubts about wolves being involved. "In the Makupurwa incident, if a wolf had dragged a 4-foot-tall child by the neck, there would have been signs of dragging, which were not found. No wolf tracks were found nearby," he said. "Fresh wolf tracks were found at 4 am but the attack in

Bhavani Pur was reported to have occurred at 5 am. The locations are far apart, and wolves cannot cover such a dis-

tance in such a short time," Singh said. He suggested that hospital doctors should send swabs of the girls' wounds to the Wildlife Institute of India for analysis to identify the animal involved. Since July 17, a campaign named Bhediya' has been ongoing to capture a pack of six wolves that have been terrorising 50 villages in Mahsi tehsil of Bahraich district. Five wolves have already been captured and efforts to catch the remaining man-eating wolf have been intensified, the officials said. So far, at least eight people, including seven children, have died and over 30 have been injured in suspected attacks by these wolves, they said.

The district administration and forest department are conducting rescue, relief and awareness campaigns in the area.

Govt set to develop Jhansi as peanut cluster

PNS LUCKNOW

hansi, renowned nationally and globally for its soft toys, gained further recognition when the state government designated it as the district's ODOP (One District One Product). Building on this success, the Yogi government now plans to replicate this model

with Jhansi's peanuts.
Under the UP AGREES scheme, supported by the World Bank, there is a strategic plan to develop Jhansi into a peanut cluster. If successful, Jhansi's peanuts will not only reach major markets across India, but also be exported to international markets, particularly Southeast Asia.

In the last decade, peanut cultivation has garnered significant interest among farmers in Uttar Pradesh due to its mul-

tipurpose benefits. This growing interest has led to a notable increase in both per-hectare yield and the overall acreage dedicated to peanuts. Recognising this trend, the Yogi government plans to leverage the UP AGREES scheme to maximize benefits for farmers in the Bundelkhand

region by developing Jhansi as

a peanut cluster. According to the data from the Director of Economics and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, the average peanut yield per hectare in India from 2013-14 to 2015-16 was 1,542 kg, while Uttar Pradesh's yield was only 809 kg. During that time, peanut cul-tivation covered 4.93 million hectares nationwide, with Uttar Pradesh contributing just 2 per cent to the total area. However, in the past decade,

the area under peanut cultiva-tion in Uttar Pradesh has more than doubled, reaching approximately 4.7 per cent of the total acreage.

ing 47 percent of the total output from about 2 million hectares, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, with shares of 16 and 10 percent, respectively. Nationally, the average yield per hectare has increased from 1,542 to 1,688 kg. Given the rising demand for multipurpose peanuts in local markets and Southeast Asian countries like

Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines, the Yogi government aims to position Jhansi as a major peanut production hub under the UP AGREES scheme. Notably, peanuts are

rich in protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals, offering numerous health benefits, including improved heart health, digestion, and weight manage-Gujarat leads the country in ment. Peanut oil, known for peanut production, contribut- its antioxidants and vitamin E content, is widely used in cooking and beauty products, contributing to skin and hair health. Peanuts also serve as a valuable protein and energy source in animal feed, and are commonly consumed boiled, roasted, or as peanut butter and cheese. Additionally, peanuts are used in a variety of dishes, including curries, chutneys, salads, and snacks.

Even peanut shells have economic value, as they can be used as fuel or sold by the kilogram to companies, potentially fetching up to Rs 5 per kilo-

Maya continues to attack Congress over quota

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Wednesday attacked the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks on the issue of reservations and alleged that the Congress is conspiring to abolish the sys-

The BSP chief also warned people from deprived sections of society to remain vigilant and emphasised the need for caution regarding the Congress party's intentions. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's clarification that he is not against reservation is clearly a misleading false statement. This is proof that during his 10 years of active participation in the government before the BJP came to power in the Centre, he, along with SP did not let the SC/ST reservation bill in promotions get passed," Mayawati

posted on X.
"Their (Congress) talk of increasing the reservation limit in the country from 50 per cent is also a deception, because if their intentions in this matter were clear, this work would definitely have been done in the previous Congress governments. Congress neither imple-



mented the OBC reservation nor implemented SC/ST reservation properly," she said. "It is clear from this that when Congress is not in power, it talks a lot about the interests and welfare of these neglected SC/ST/OBC classes for the sake of their vote interest, but when it is in power, it continuously works against their interests. These people should be aware of their conspiracy," the BSP leader said. On Monday, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said that the

Congress party will think of

scrapping reservations when India becomes a "fair place", which it is not. The Congress leader who was on a visit to the US was interacting with students and faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Meanwhile, a four-member delegation from the 69,000 teacher recruitment candidates in the state met Mayawati on Wednesday. During this, the candidates submitted a memorandum to the BSP chief and also talked about the irregularities in implementing reservation by the government. Assuring the candidates, Mayawati said that "this fight is our fight and we are keeping an eye on it". She said that injustice will not be tolerated with the candidates of the reserved category under any circum-

stances. Targeting the Yogi govern-ment, the former CM said that it is the failure of the government that the matter reached the Supreme Court. If the government wanted, everyone would have got justice by now. But today due to the government, the candidates of the reserved category are facing trouble.

'Pattern of encounters': AKY says BJP has 'encountered' truth itself

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday continued his attack on the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government, terming the killing of crime accused persons in gunfights with police as "fake encounters".

The former chief minister and Kannauj Lok Sabha MP also sought to identify a "pattern of encounters" during the Yogi Adityanath rule, saying the BJP has "encountered the truth" itself.

"A pattern of encounters has been set in BJP rule: Pick someone first, then make up a story of a fake encounter, then show fake pictures to the world, then after the murder, when the family members tell the truth, pressurise them with various kinds of pressure and temptations, protect the top leadership by bringing forward its second-rate leaders when exposed by opposition political parties," Yadav said in a post

He continued, "Then use the media, which maintains the relationship of 'iiska daana-uska gaana' for propaganda. Then get your so-called big BJP leaders, who are experts in lying, to make irrational statements to justify such illegal encounters. Defame the real media by portraying them as surviving on opposition or foreign support, and when public anger grows, conduct a for-mal, superficial investigation and bury

the matter." "The more the BJP with its forces try to prove such encounters to be true, the bigger lie that encounter actually is. BJP has encountered the truth itself," the SP

chief alleged. Earlier on Tuesday, Yadav had slammed the Uttar Pradesh government, saying statistics of encounters during the BJP rule are also statistics of the "injustice of illegal killings" and "injustice done against the PDA".

He also shared some data of "fake encounter killings", claiming that 60 per cent of those killed in gunfights with the police belonged to the PDA — a combine of 'Pichde, Dalit and Alpsankhyak' communities (backwards, Dalits and minorities).

However, the data had no source men-

tioned. While the SP chief has been critical of the state's "trigger happy" police in the past also, his latest attack stems from the recent killing of Mangesh Yadav, a suspect in the Rs 1.5 crore robbery at a jewellery store in Sultanpur, who died allegedly after a gunfight with the police. He had previously also termed Mangesh Yadav's encounter as "fake" and alleged that it was done based on the basis of the accused's caste.

However, on Monday, UP Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar denied the allegations, saying no partiality is practised by the state

police.
"Police do not do such things... When bullets are fired on police, those who have faced such situations, who are our former officers, all of them know about it... I deny all such things and the police take action completely impartially," he told reporters in Lucknow.

Groundwater depletion: NGT imposes fine of ₹5,000 each on Lucknow DM, others

New Delhi (PTI): The National Green Tribunal has imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on the district magistrate of Lucknow, the Lucknow Nagar Nigam and the Lucknow Development Authority for not appearing before the tribunal in pursuance to its directions. The green body was hearing a matter regarding groundwater depletion in the Uttar Pradesh capital. In an order passed on September 4, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said that the tribunal had earlier issued notices to the authorities concerned.

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil after noting the submissions of the counsel for the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) allowed their request seeking four weeks to file replies. It noted that there was no representation

from the other authorities. The tribunal said, "Inspite of service of notice, Lucknow Nagar Nigam, Lucknow Development Authority and District Magistrate, Lucknow, are not represented today. Hence, the cost of ₹5,000 each is imposed upon them for not appear-

ing before the tribunal and not render-

ing assistance in the matter." The cost had to be deposited within two weeks, said the tribunal. The matter has been posted for further proceedings on December 20.

Couple, son crushed to death while making 'reel'

incident has come to light in Lakhimpur Kheri, where a family was hit by a train while making reels on the railway track and died. The deceased included husband, wife and their 2-year-old son. The accident happened near Oil railway station in Kheri police station area, when the train coming from Lucknow hit all three

According to information, Mohammad Ahmed (30), his wife Nazmeen (24) and son Arkam, of Mohalla Sheikh Sarai of

Lucknow (PNS): A heart-wrenching Laharpur in Sitapur, were making reels near the railway bridge when they were hit by the train. After the mishap, people gathered nearby and the police and RPF reached the spot and removed the bodies from the track, after which the train was sent forward. The bodies were sent for post-mortem. Some witnesses claimed that they alerted the victims when they were busy making a reel and even asked them to jump into the river to save themselves but they kept running on track and were ultimately crushed to death.

UPRTOU HOLDS 19TH CONVOCATION

Guy's emphasis on educating women

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel while presiding over the 19th convocation of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) organised in the Atal auditorium located in its Saraswati campus on Wednesday said: "It is the need of today's era to take education out of the four walls and reach Anganwadi. Educating women is essential to make this country a developed nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047 can be fulfilled only when women are educated". The Governor advised to link education with employment and skills and told the students the importold the students the impor-tance of joining the industry through internship. She also made reference to such schemes prepared by the Government of India. She said that prisons should also be made study centres and people from the transgender community should be brought into the mainstream of education. Governor directed the UPRTOU to make efforts to increase the number of students. For this, universities should set admission targets for their 12 regional centres and study centres should also be motivated to increase the number of students. Patel said she will review the work of UPRTOU after a month. Patel expressed the importance

of Indian family structure by making reference to mother-inlaw and daughter-in-law and said that our family structure should be strong for the devel-opment of the country. The chief guest, of the convo-

cation, Professor Kameshwar Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor, Central University of South Bihar, Bodh Gaya, said our education system should be in accordance with Indian cultur-



al values and Indian vision of life only then we will be able to give shape to an inclusive India. He asked the medal winners and students who received degrees to give a practical form to life by incorporating morality and human values in their lives. Prof Singh said upgradation and development of research must be in accordance with local, national and international needs. Remembering Bharat Ratna Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon, he said that we have to imbibe his living ideals in our

Special guest UP Higher Education Minister Dr Yogendra Kumar Upadhyay, said our educational institutions play a major role in inculcating the basic values of love for the motherland, compassion for all, respect for women, honesty in life, self-restraint and discipline in the youth, thereby building a strong nation.

Dr Upadhyay said this open university is determined to help students in their all-round development along with character building and making them skilled. He said develop-ment of information and technology has affected every sphere of life. This is the most important basis in distance

were awarded to 31,940 students who had passed the examination of December 2023 and June 2024 sessions. These degrees are now uploaded to

Digi-locker.

dents the lessons of honesty and courage to face the challenges of life. Special guest UP Minister of State for Higher Education, Rajni Tiwari, said we strongly need the power of youth to build a strong nation and for this purpose our youth have to come forward to take initiative. Congratulating all the students, she said that they should set a worthy goal for themselves and use technical knowledge and dedicated hard work to

education. He taught the stu-

achieve it. Tiwari said that education is a powerful medium to ensure equality and through it, equality, harmony and socio-economic mobility can be achieved in the society. To fulfil this objective, this open university is carrying out latest experiments and is laying special emphasis on new research and innovations to provide higher and quality education for which the it deserves congratulations. Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Satyakam while presenting the progress report said the university is rapidly moving towards the development of its infrastructure along with its academic achievements. He said the women's study centre is trying to make rural women selfreliant by setting up awareness

camps in the villages As many as 26 gold medals were awarded to the students who had obtained degrees from different schools of the University in the 19th convocation, out of which 16 gold medals were given to the female students and 10 gold medals to the male students. Degrees

The Chancellor's Gold Medal was given to Arti Yadav, enrolled at Azamgarh study centre. She passed the examination of BSc in the first division. She was the best among UG and PG students of the various academic Schools. Governor Anandiben gave the University Gold Medals to the seven toppers of all schools of the university in the post-graduation cat-egory. Similarly, in the gradu-ate category gold medals were awarded to seven toppers of the different schools of the univer-

Before the convocation ceremony, various programmes like – health and hygiene, nutrition and programmes based on measurement in the presence of women workers at 'Aanganbadi' of the adopted village were organised on the instructions of the Governor. Similarly in the primary and junior schools of adopted villages, speech, drawing and storytelling competition had been organised. The participants of the adopted villages by the university had shown great interest in the programmes. On the occasion of the convocation ceremony the winners were awarded by Chancellor Anandiben Patel. On behalf of the university, anganbadi centres were provided with kits by the Chancellor. Patel inaugurated newly found Bank Building and also launched a mobile app (Eklavya) of the university.

Beheaded body of woman recovered



Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar inspecting the spot after recovery of beheaded naked body of a woman on Wednesday morning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

beheaded naked body of a Awoman with fractured limbs was recovered on Kanpur-Delhi highway service lane near Munna trisection under Gujaini police station area on Wednesday early morning. It is apprehended that the victim was killed after gangrape. City Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar along with officers and forensic team rushed to the spot and

probed the issue. He deputed separate teams for work out the crime. DCP (South) Ravindra Kumar said CCTV cameras installed in nearby areas were being examined. A probe was on keeping in mind the road accident and other nature of crime. Forensic team recovered some teeth from the spot. ACP Naubasta said apart from Gujaini police, crime branch and surveillance teams were also deputed for working out

Woman's body found floating in drain

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Danic spread in the area Pafter a woman's body was found floating in a drain in Bahria area here on Wednesday. Police reached the spot on being informed by the villagers. The deceased could not be identified. Injury marks were also found on the woman's body.

Sensation spread when the woman's body was found in a drain in Rajepur village under Bahria police station area on Wednesday. Police took the body into possession. The woman, around 35 years, could not be identified. Police said that injury marks were found on her body. Therefore, there is a suspicion that the woman was murdered and her body was thrown in the drain. Looking at the body, it seems that it is only a day or two old. Bahria police is engaged in investigation. The woman was wearing a saree

and cotton was stuffed in her nose and mouth.

Police station in charge Ranvijay Singh said the body has been sent for the postmortem examination. People of the village are being questioned.

In another incident the cops in Yamunanagar claimed to have arrested a mobile thief near COD Modh near the industrial area here on Wednesday. As many as 18 new Android mobile phones were recovered from the possession of the arrested accused, whose total value is estimated to be around ₹13.50 lakh. According to the police, the accused had escaped after stealing mobiles from a Delhi-based company. During interrogation, he told his name as Izhar Hussain, a resident of Khanpur, Meja, Prayagraj. According to Industrial Area SHO Mahesh Mishra, the estimated cost of the recovered Android mobile phones is ₹13.50 lakh.

Virtual world today becoming mother of crime: Rajput

Varanasi (PNS): A one-dav orientation programme was organised under the aegis of the

Department of Sociology, DAV PG College here on Wednesday. Leading criminology expert and Dean of Social Sciences Faculty, Dr Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, (Madhya Pradesh) Prof Diwakar Singh Rajput, while addressing the students as the main speaker, said that criminals have changed their trend of crime according to the times. "Now when the whole world is dependent on the internet, the criminals have also changed themselves in that way. The situation is that criminals have become more skilled and trained than the police", he said. He said that just as the users of social media have increased, cyber crime is also increasing in the same way. "Everyone needs to



be very cautious in the virtual world while experimenting and today the virtual world itself is becoming the mother of crime", Prof Rajput said, adding that there is a dire need to avoid friendship and any kind of behaviour with unknown profiles on social media. "There is also no need to react to every post", he said, and added that the danger to society from white collar criminals who commit crimes under the guise of

social service is much more than that from habitual criminals. Delivering the welcome address, college manager Ajit Kumar Singh Yadav said there are many types of criminals in the society, including white collar criminals, who are hollowing out the society from the root and in this direction, the role of education mafia and land mafia is very high. "Such white collar criminals forcibly take over the sys-

al institutions and take economic and social advantage for themselves and there is a need to protect the society from them too", he suggested. Presiding over the function, acting principal Prof Satyagopal said that the way crime is increasing in the society, some crimes are committed to fulfill the need while others in anger and due to adverse mental state. "Our judicial behaviour is also promoting crime", he said.

tem and property of education-

Head of the department Prof Madhu Sisodia also spoke on the occasion. Dr Ziauddin, Dr Hasan Bano and Dr Neha Chaudhary welcomed the guests. The programme was conducted by Dr Surya Prakash Pathak. Dr Óm Prakash Kumar, Dr Vikas Singh, Dr Satyaprakash etc were also present.

Livelihood conclave from today

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Varanasi (PNS): The National Livelihood Conclave will be held at Rudraksh Convention Centre, Sigra here from September 12 to 14. It will be organised in coordination with the central and state governments under the aegis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana venue, Kashi Darshan of the participating officers and (National Rural Livelihood Mission). In connection with the preparations, a meeting eld at the Collectorate auditorium here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Rajalingam. The DM said in this livelihood conclave, the officers and employees working at the state, district and devel-

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opment block level across the the DM gave necessary guidelines for medical facilities at the participating officers and employees, smooth traffic, food arrangements, accommodation. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himans (City), Additional District Magistrate (ADM/Protocol), senior officers of central and state governments, Transport, Health, and Police departments and Nagar Nigam, DC NRLM etc were also present in the meeting.

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brings laurels country apart from officers of central and state governments PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ will participate. For the successful conduct of the programme,

Nidhi Pandey

SHUATS student Nidhi Pandey has brought pride to SHUATS as well as the Uttar Pradesh by securing 10th position in the national ranking in the JRF examination conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi.

Head of GPB Department Dr Vaidurya Pratap Shahi said ICAR had conducted the JRF examination at the all India level for PhD admission in which SHUATS student Nidhi Pandey secured 10th position while Áasi Vaishnavi 21st position and Kiran M 71 position at the national level.

Dr Shahi said SHUATS students have also made their mark in the UP Joint Agriculture and Technology Entrance Examination in which Madhavendra Kumar Pathak secured first position in the state. Similarly, Yagvendra Saubhari secured second position, Tipu Patel secured third position, Srijal Sahu secured fifth position, Nitesh Kumar Singh secured sixth position and Harivendra ninth position at the state level. All the students have been selected for PhD in Seed Science and Technology. SHUATS Vice-Chancellor (V-

C) Prof Rajendra B Lal congratulated all the successful students and wished them a bright future. He also appreciated the contribution of the faculty members of the University.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dr Jha: Rainy season significantly increases risk of GI diseases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

As the rainy season provides a much-needed break from the scorching heat, it also brings a surge in gastrointestinal (GI) diseases. With the combination of increased humidity, stagnant water and poor sanitation, conditions are ripe for the spread of various GI ailments, leading to a noticeable rise in cases this monsoon season. Healthcare professionals are

observing a significant impact on public health due to common GI diseases such as gastroenteritis, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and E, cholera and amoebiasis. These conditions are mainly transmitted through contaminated food and water, inadequate hygiene practices and direct contact with infected individuals. Gastroenteritis, for instance, is among the most common diseases during the monsoon, often caused by viruses such as norovirus and bacteria like E. coli, Salmonella, and Shigella. Symptoms can include diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and fever. Water-borne diseases such as typhoid fever, hepatitis and cholera are also on the rise. with poor sanitation and water quality being major contributing factors.

Senior consultant DM Gastro, Regency Health, Dr Praveen Jha, emphasises the need for heightened awareness and pre-

Man, grandson die after wall caves in

Ramdeo Nishad and police

rushed to spot and carried out

cautionary measures: "The rainy season significantly increases the risk of gastrointestinal diseases due to factors like water stagnation and food contamination. To combat this, we must focus on both individual and community-level preventive strategies. Maintaining proper hygiene, drinking safe and purified water and avoiding street food are crucial steps. Additionally, vaccinations, especially for typhoid and hepatitis, are highly recommended. Early medical intervention is vital, particularly for symptoms like persistent diarrhoea or abdominal pain. By staying vigilant and adopting

these measures, we can minimise the impact of GI diseases during the monsoon." Understanding these diseases and their symptoms is vital for early intervention and effective management. Typhoid fever, caused by the Salmonella typhi bacteria, often presents with prolonged high fever, headache and abdominal pain. Hepatitis A and E, viral infections that affect the liver, can cause symptoms such as jaundice, fatigue and nausea. Cholera, a severe diarrheal illness caused by the Vibrio cholera bacterium, can lead to rapid dehydration if not treated promptly, while amoebiasis, triggered by the parasite Entamoeba histolytica, results in abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and fever. To reduce the risk of these diseases, individuals should main-

tain personal hygiene, such as regular hand washing with soap and clean water, especially before meals and after using the toilet. Ensuring that all drinking water is safe— either boiled or purified—can significantly reduce the chances of water-borne infections. Avoiding street food, which is often prepared in unsanitary conditions, is crucial, as is thoroughly cooking food at home and washing fruits and vegetables before consumption. Proper sanitation practices, including keeping the surroundings clean, managing waste effectively and preventing water stagnation, also play a critical role in reducing the spread of infections. Staying hydrated is particularly important, especially when experiencing symptoms of diarrhoea or vomiting and consuming probiotics can help maintain gut health and boost immunity against GI infections. Vaccination against typhoid and hepatitis A is highly recommended for individuals, particularly those living in or traveling to areas prone to these diseases. While the monsoon season brings much relief and joy, it also poses serious health risks, especially concerning gastrointestinal diseases. By taking preventive measures, such as maintaining hygiene, ensuring food and water safety, staying hydrated and seeking timely medical advice, individuals can protect themselves and their families from the GI conditions that are commonly prevalent during this time of year.

Week-long suicide prevention campaign concludes at BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

week-long suicide preven-Aweek-long suicide prevention campaign at Banaras cluded on World Suicide Prevention Day on Tuesday with a focus on self-care, promoting mental health and mutual support. The final day featured a silent march themed 'Steps of Healing,' which was inaugurated by Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Śingh. The event also saw the participation of Dean of Students Prof Anupam Kumar Nema, Associate Dean

Students (Student Development) Prof Nishat Afroz and Student Adviser (Faculty of Arts) Prof Binavak Dubey, alongside a large number of students from various faculties. The campaign, which began on September 4, included a series of awareness, participatory, and interactive activities. It started with a pledgetaking ceremony and 'The Story Circle' at Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV), where students shared personal experiences to enhance communication, perspective-taking and active listening. On the second day, students engaged in creative expression through poster making, while the third day featured oath-taking ceremonies and informative ses-



School and Central Hindu Boys School, complemented by physical and sporting activities. The office of the Dean of Students also organised an open mic programme showcasing student talents. The day four included a slogan-writing session with impactful messages on suicide prevention, and a special talk on 'Self-Care and Help-Seeking Behaviour' by Prof Nidhi Singh.

On day five, South Campus, Barkachha, hosted a play celebrating the spirit of life. The day six featured two 'nukkad nataks' (street plays) performed at Sir Sunderlal Hospital Crossing and in front of Shri Vishwanath Temple, aiming to spread the campaign's message to a wider audience. With significant participation

from students, faculty, and staff, the campaign successfully conveyed the importance of supporting one another and fostering a community where everyone feels valued and sup-

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NA/12/25345/2023/37549 Dated CHD :- 9/11/2024

Aman and his grandson Were killed when a dilapidated wall suddenly caved in on them in Baktaurikheda village under Ajgain Kotwali area of Unnao on Wednesday morning. A cattle was also killed in the incident. After heavy rains on Wednesday morning when Badri Prasad (70) and his grandson Mahendra (30) son of Santosh Pal were releasing the cattle, the dilapidated wall suddenly caved in on them and they were crushed under the debris. Villagers rescued them after around one hour and found Badri Prasad dead. Seriously injured Mahendra was immediately rushed to Hasanganj CHC but he also succumbed to his injuries on the way. SDM

investigation. SDM assured all possible help to the kin of the deceased. He said two persons were killed after the wall of their kuccha room caved in on them. Further action in the matter will be initiated after probe. He also assured to recommend for payment of compensation from the govern-ment to the kin of the deceased. Meanwhile a youth allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a sheesham tree on the outskirts of Singhpur village under Rasoolabad police station of Kanpur Dehat late on

Tuesday night. He was found

hanging by the kin on Wednesday morning. Police probed the issue and sent the

body for an autopsy. Rahul (24)

had tension over some issue.

On Tuesday around 4 pm he had left the house for some urgent work and hanged himself at night. Tishti outpost incharge Kripal Singh rushed to the spot and carried out

investigation. **SPORTS COMPETITION:** The five-day 53rd National Sports Competition (Basketball Boys category) started in a grand manner at Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Kanpur on Wednesday. A total of 516 participants from 23 divisions are participating in the event. On the occasion Principal Ravish Chandra Pandey welcomed and felicitated the chief guest Anees Upadhyay (Professor IIT Kanpur), special guest Vijay Kumar (Assistant Commissioner, Lucknow Division) by giving them a

ACF campaign for TB continues

sions at Central Hindu Girls

Case Finding (ACF) campaign for tuberculosis (TB) continued for third day in the district here on Wednesday to search for hidden TB patients. Under the campaign, on the directions of the District Magistrate and Chief Medical Officer (CMO), health workers are going doorto-door and screening all the members of different families. In the screening, sputum of potential persons with TB symptoms is being collected and sent for examination. Positive persons are being notified and put on immediate treatment. Along with this, public awareness activities are being done under the TB Mukht Panchayat Campaign. District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) Dr Piyush Rai said that on the first day of ACF cam-

paign, health workers visited 10,069 houses in all 23 TB units of the district, in which 59,630 people were screened. During this, symptoms similar to TB were found in 337 people. Out of this, 194 potential people were examined, in which TB was confirmed in 11 people. All these patients were notified and put on immediate treatment.

DTO said 20 per cent of the total population of the district is being covered in the ACF campaign. A total of 198 teams have been formed to search for TB patients. One supervisor has been nominated on five teams for monitoring. A total of 40 supervisors have been given responsibility. The campaign has been started by training everyone. Along with this, one medical officer has also been nominated on each TB unit, he added.

According to him, the investigation team is taking sputum to check for possible TB. High-risk areas have also been identified in the campaign, in which the investigation team will also visit jails, Kasturba Residential School, schools, old age homes, slums and other possible places. Sputum will be taken and sent to the laboratory for testing. If TB is found positive, treatment of the patients will be started. Sputum is also being tested in microscopy lab. If TB bacteria is not found in the sputum test, then the patient's chest X-ray will also be done. Treatment of patients will start if TB infection is found, he said, adding that under the TB Mukht Panchayat Abhiyan, an awareness rally was taken out by the students of composite school in Kerakatpur village of Kashi Vidyapeeth block on the first day.



BJP slams Rahul Gandhi for meeting Ilhan Railway Ministry orders removal of Omar, calls it dangerous, mischievous

 $B_{\text{Rahul Gandhi over his}}^{\text{JP on Wednesday slammed}}$ meeting with US lawmaker Ilhan Omar and others during lihan Omar and others during his visit to that country, alleging the Congress leader is indulging in "dangerous and mischievous" activities by reaching out to people abroad who are known for their anti-India stand.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters, party national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said that Rahul Gandhi earlier used to indulge in "childish activities" but "now he is indulging in dangerous and mischievous activ-

The Opposition party dismissed the criticism over Rahul Gandhi meeting Democrat Ilhan Omar, known for her controversial positions regarding India, and said the BJP is in government and summon the US ambassador and take action if they believe so.

"It is for the first time in the history of India that a Leader of



anti-India lawmaker and expressed his sweet feelings. He has met US lawmaker Ilhan Omar, who is infamous for her anti-India stand and statements," he added.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the Sikh community, Trivedi alleged that he has drawn support from Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. With this, Rahul has further added a new friend in his list of anti-India friends, the BJP leader charged.

There is a saying: King James I was the wisest fool in Christendom. In my opinion, Opposition has met a declared the same thing applies to Rahul

Border villages are the first

villages of country: Rajnath



Gandhi for 'Congressdom," he

Trivedi also showed a picture of Rahul Gandhi with journalist Mushfiqul Fazal as he hit out at the Congress leader accusing him of meeting people who are known for their anti-India "He is that journalist who had

asked a question regarding Arvind Kejriwal's arrest in a White House press conference and he is taking a selfie with Rahul," the BJP leader said. Trivedi slammed Gandhi for "spewing venom" against India

during his US visit and termed

maker Omar and others as "very serious". "Omar is one of the US lawmakers whom the Pakistan government had taken on a visit to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). She has made several statements that directly or indirectly show her sympathy for the Muslim Brotherhood and ISI (Pakistan's intelligence

(Pakistan's intelligence agency)," he added.
Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also slammed Gandhi over his meetings and remarks in the US. In a social media post BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the woman in the red circle is Ilhan Omar, the leader of the Democratic Party in America. She has consistently supported the creation of a separate country of Khalistan and

Responding to Shah's remarks, Congress' spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "Ask him to take action, then we will expose the prime minister and the home minister both. The PM goes abroad and makes horrible comments against India and Indians, that is not anti-nation-

loose parts after sabotage incidents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Railway Ministry has instructed all its zones to immediately remove all loose engineering parts, rail materials and other equipment from the vicinity of the tracks so that those do not come in handy for miscreants to threaten the safety of train opera-Following some incidents of alleged attempt by miscreants

to sabotage safe train operations by keeping different types of obstructions on the tracks, such as gas cylinders, cement blocks etc., the railway board has asked all zones to initiate a week-long safety drive from September 9. One of the important elements of the drive is to ensure the removal of all loose engineering materials from the vicinity of the railway tracks. "Often, after track replacement and repair, the engi-

neering department normally

leaves the loose engineering

parts, track pieces, concrete

sleepers and other items near

joint probe in the Ahmedabad-bound Sabarmati Express train derailment near Kanpur on August 17 suggested that a piece of rail, measuring about a metre in length,

someone with an intent to cause damage to safe train run. "An FIR was lodged in that case and an investigation is on to find out who procured the rail piece and from where. However, from our side, we want to ensure that no such item should be left near the tracks that will give an opportunity to anti-social elements to exploit it against us," the official said.

Safety experts say that concrete sleepers, which are used for track support, are also a threat if the discarded ones are left

The agitating students attempted to march towards the Raj Bhavan in Imphal to press for

their demands to remove the

DGP and security advisor to

The police had fired tear gas

the State Government.

ED attaches ₹29.75 crore assets of Nirav Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Enforcement ■ Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has attached fresh assets worth Rs 29.75 crore of fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi under the antimoney laundering law. A provisional order has been

issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach these assets that are in the form of bank deposits, land, and buildings, it said in a statement.

The agency, which has been probing Modi in the alleged USD 2 billion fraud against the Punjab National Bank for over five years now, has attached assets worth Rs 2,596 crore in India and abroad in the past.

Modi, 53, is presently lodged in a UK jail and has lost his extradition plea to India in connection with this alleged bank loan fraud case, which is also being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, both prime accused in the case, along with others are being probed by the ED on money laundering charges for allegedly perpetrating fraud in connivance with bank officials and by issuance of fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) at the Brady House Punjab National Bank (PNB) branch in Mumbai.

Modi was declared a fugitive economic offender by a Mumbai PMLA court in December 2019. He was arrested the same year in London. The ED said movable and immovable assets of Modi and his associates amounting to Rs 692.90 crore have been "confiscated" under the provisions of the Fugitive Economic

Also, assets to the tune of Rs 1,052.42 crore have been successfully restored to the victim banks -- PNB and consortium



the tracks. Of late, we have realised that these items can come in handy for miscreants to place on the tracks," a railway official said. 'To rule out such possibilities, we have asked the engineering departments across all zones to be careful in disposing of these materials," he added. Railway officials said an initial

was placed on the tracks by

Manipur tense as curfew continues, exams postponed after student-clashes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The situation in Manipur remained tense but under control on Wednesday after students clashed with security forces during their march to Raj Bhavan here a day before, police said. Manipur Úniversity has also postponed all postgraduate and undergraduate examinations till further

Curfew, which was imposed in the State's Capital Imphal on Tuesday afternoon, continued to be in place this morning, while additional security forces



any untoward incident, a senior "The situation remains tense but under control," he said. A clash broke out

evening issued an amended order, stating that the suspension of internet services in the wake of intensified agitation by

shells to disperse students who were accused of pelting security forces with stones in Khwairamband and Kakwa Naorem Leikai areas in the State Capital. More than 55 students were injured in the clashes and admitted to RIMS hospital, a students' body claimed.

The Raj Bhavan, in a statement Offenders Act. issued late on Tuesday night, said, "Representatives of students met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and submitted

and state governments focused

Underlining the importance of border villages, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said here they are the country's first villages, not remote areas and the government is fully committed to their holistic development. Addressing the Border Area

pointed out that India's geostrategic position is such that it is exposed to different kinds of challenges and the best way to deal with them is to ensure border area development.

Highlighting the progress achieved in border area development in the last 10 years, Rajnath Singh said "Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed over 8,500 kms of roads and more than 400 permanent bridges. Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel and Shikun-La Tunnel, which is going to be the world's highest tunnel, will prove to be milestones in border area development.

Our Government has started the 220 Kilo-Volt Srinagar-Leh Electricity Line to connect the border areas of Ladakh with the National Electricity Grid. In addition, the transmission and distribution infrastructure of north-eastern states is being strengthened.

High-speed internet has been provided to over 1,500 villages

Describing roads and electricity as basic facilities that form the foundation of development of any region, the defence minment's unwavering resolve to ensure progress in every corner

efforts have not only ensured prompt military deployments in sensitive regions, but have also connected the people residing in border areas with the rest of the country.

while building roads, bridges and tunnels in border areas is imperative for national security, it is also important in makthese regions better, in collaboration with the state govern-

migration, which he termed as one of the positive outcomes of economic development in border areas. He made special mention of Huri village in Arunachal Pradesh, a unique example of development through civil-military collabo-

through the Bharat-Net broad-Pradesh.

He underlined the fact that ing the lives of the people in

band project. In the last four years alone, more than 7,000 border villages have been connected with internet connection, and our focus has been Ladakh and Arunachal

of the country.

He stated that the ongoing

Rajnath threw light on 'reverse He stated that while the central

on economic progress, BRO and Indian Army laid emphasis on infrastructure development, which resulted in reverse migration. In his address, Minister of

Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat spoke on 'Tourism A Catalyst for Growth in Border Regions'. He high-lighted the role of the Indian Army in these efforts. He stated that through joint projects it is being ensured that tourism growth in border regions goes hand-in-hand with security and infrastructure development.

Speaking on the occasion, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi described Border Area Development as a core component of national security. He stated that Indian Army's efforts in the past have contributed immensely towards model villages in border areas, border tourism and developing infrastructure support including tarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

The border area development vision is bold, ambitious and deeply rooted in the principles of inclusivity, sustainability and security, he said, adding that there has been a 'Whole of Nation Approach' with renewed

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu also attended the conclave. It was jointly organised by the Indian Army, in collaboration with Centre for Land Warfare Studies, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Telecommunications and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The aim is to create a sustainable, secure and prosperous future for India's border regions, which are not only gateways to the nation but also crucial for national security and regional devel-

were deployed and frequent between students and security patrolling by policemen was forces during a march to the students applies only to the five underway in the town to avoid Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday. Amitabh Bachchan joins cyber security Parliamentary panel

campaign; Amit Shah praises effort



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $M_{
m Bachchan\ has\ joined\ a}^{
m egastar\ Amitabh}$ campaign launched to make people aware about the cyber security and the actor's move was appreciated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The campaign was launched by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a wing of the Union Home

Pursuing Modi Ji's vision, the Ministry of Home Affairs is resolved to creating a safe cyberspace in the nation. The I4C has taken several steps in this direction. I thank Shri @SrBachchan Ji for joining this campaign. Amitabh Bachchan Ji's active involve-ment will further accelerate our mission to build a Cyber-Secure Bharat," Shah wrote in a social media post.

the I4C, Bachchan said there has been increase in number of cyber crimes which is a matter of concern for India as well as the world.

"The I4C has been relentlessly working to curb the cyber crime. Following a request of the Honourable Union Home Minister, I have also joined in this campaign.

I expect that everyone of us come together to fight this problem. A bit of our alertness and precautions can save us from the cyber criminals. I will keep reminding you from time to time," Bachchan said in the

The I4C said supporting the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister, the iconic actor has joined the I4C's campaign to make India cyber secure. "You too can join this initiative, stay vigilant against cyber fraud, and contribute to building a #CyberSecureBharat," it said in a social media post.

summons officials over Waqf law delays

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

A parliamentary committee has summoned officials of the Minority Affairs Ministry to explain reasons for the delay in completing the process for framing subordinate legislation under the 2013 Waqf law. The decision of the Rajya Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation to call the Secretary and representatives of the Ministry next week comes at a time when a Joint Committee of Parliament is scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which seeks to amend the Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2013. The Rajya Sabha panel has also summoned officials of the Ministry of Defence on the reasons for delay in completing the process for framing of subordinate legislation under the

Cantonment Act, 2006 on the

same day.



Both Houses of Parliament have their own committees on subordinate legislation which examine whether rules and bylaws related to a law are framed in time and are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

The 2013 Act had given certain powers to Waqf Boards. The 2024 bill, which is before a joint panel, seeks to reform the registration process for Waqf properties through a cen-

tralised portal.
The Bill is the first major initiative from the BJP-led NDA government aimed at reforming the registration process for Waqf properties through a centralised portal.

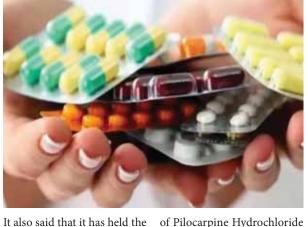
DCGI suspends Entod Pharmaceuticals permission after claims violate DMR Act

opment.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Taking exception to Mumbai-based Entod Pharmaceuticals' claims that its new eye drop can help reduce dependency on reading glasses for those suffering from presbyopia, the age-old related eye disorder, the country's apex drug regulator, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has suspended the permission granted to it to manufacture and sell their

product. In its order, the DCGI said that the claims are in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (DMR) Act and were made without prior approval from the Central Licensing Authority. The DMR Act restricts advertisements that suggest a drug can diagnose, cure, or treat listed conditions, including optical disor-



It also said that it has held the pharma company in violation of the permission to manufacture the ophthalmic solution under the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019.

In an order issued on September 10, the DCGI said the Directorate had issued permission on August 20 for

Ophthalmic Solution for the treatment of presbyopia in adults. Then on September 4, the drug regulator had asked for an explanation from the company for the claims it made in the press following which the drug-maker also submitted its response. manufacture and marketing In response to the claim "first

eye drop in India designed to reduce the need for reading glasses", the order stated that the company said there are currently no other eye drops approved for the treatment of presbyopia in India.

In this regard, you are informed that the Pilocarpine Hydrochloride Ophthalmic Solution USP 1.25 per cent w/v has not been approved for any such claim that it is designed to reduce the need for reading glasses," the order said. In response to the claim "this

eye drop offers a non-invasive

option that can enhance near vision without the need for reading glasses", the company submitted that in the clinical trial conducted, subjects did not wear glasses to participate. "In this regard, you are informed that the Pilocarpine Hydrochloride Ophthalmic Solution USP 1.25 pc w/v is approved for the treatment of Presbyopia in adults and is not

approved for such claim that these eye drop can enhance near vision without the need for reading glasses," the order

...you are informed that the Pilocarpine Hydrochloride Ophthalmic Solution USP 1.25 pc w/v is approved for the treatment of Presbyopia in adults and is not approved for such claim that PresVu can provide an advanced alternative that augments near vision within 15 minutes," the order

The drug regulator stated that the company has failed to respond to the queries and tried to justify the claims for the product for which no approval was granted.

The order further said considering the various media reports, there is a likelihood of the general public being misled by the claims made by the company for which approval was granted.

IAF to participate in Exercise Eastern Bridge VII in Oman tional readiness.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

An IAF contingent compris-ing MiG-29s, Jaguars and C-17s is ready to participate in Exercise Eastern Bridge in Oman. This is the seventh edition of the exercise that is scheduled from September 11 base Masirah, Oman, IAF said here on Wednesday.

The bilateral exercise endeavors to enhance interoperability between Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force and shall provide a platform for both teams to engage in a series of joint training missions designed to strengthen strateto 22 September at Air Force gic cooperation and opera-

Exercise Eastern Bridge VII aims to improve tactical and operational skills, foster mutual understanding and bolster the ability of both air forces to collaborate effectively in diverse scenarios. The exercise will include complex aerial maneuvering, air to air and air to ground operations, and logistical coordination, reflecting the evolving defense needs and strategic interests of both nations.

Underscoring the enduring partnership between the Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force, this exercise high-lights their commitment to regional security and stability. The participating teams are expected to benefit from the shared expertise and operational experience gained during this extensive training period.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Presidential debate showdown

In a heated TV debate, Harris and Trump present sharply contrasting visions on issues like healthcare and economy

he 2024 presidential race is shaping up to be one of the most intense and polarised in US history. At the forefront of this political battle is a head-to-head TV debate between two defining figures—Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Their exchange, filled with sharp contrasts in policy, tone, and vision for America, laid bare the deep ideological divide within the nation. Vice President Kamala Harris took the stage emphasising unity, justice, and inclusivity. Known for her dynamic speaking style and sharp prosecutorial background, she framed her narrative as one that focuses on healing America's divisions while pushing for progressive reforms. Harris reiterated her commitment to building a more equitable society, focusing on issues such as healthcare reform, boost to small businesses, climate action, and women's rights to make choices about themselves. One of her most resonant points during the debate was her advocacy for women's reproductive rights, which she positioned as not just a

women's issue but a fundamental human right. However, Harris's challenges lie in overcoming the perception of being too liberal for moderate voters.

On the other hand, Donald Trump, came out swinging with a populist message centred on nationalism, economic protectionism, and anti-establishment rhetoric. Trump focused on border security, economic growth, and energy independence, tapping into the concerns of many rural and working-class Americans who have felt left behind in the evolving global economy. At one point in time, he called Harris a Marxist implying her left-of-centre agenda. Trump's ability to connect with his base through a straightforward

approach remains his powerful asset. His rhetoric around deregulation and Americafirst policies resonated with voters who see him as a champion of their economic interests. However, in most of the debate, he looked less confident and defensive, unlike his debate with Joe Biden where he was more aggressive. Besides, he was floored by Kamala's facts that he was criticised by his staff and even Republicans including Dick Chenny were rooting for her. His handling of key issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and the January 6 Capitol riot also came up in the debate which further receded his confidence and put him on the backfoot. The big question is who resonates more with the people and who would eventually win. Right now, it looks like a fair competition but with Kamala having a slight edge, though it would be folly to disregard Trump's fanbase and constituency which is proactive and loud. Many of the cherished goals of Kamala like climate action, Israel policy, and Gun policy do not go down well with many Americans who would be looking up to Trump as their representative. Trump, continues to resonate with a significant portion of the American population—particularly white, rural, and working-class—who feel disconnected from the progressive direction the country has taken in recent years. His simplistic ideas may not work but they do sway people.



Low clouds cover the mountains after rainfall, in Shimla,

Haryana elections: BJP

faces Congress' resurgence



As Haryana gears up for its high-stakes assembly elections, the political landscape is marked by shifting alliances and big promises

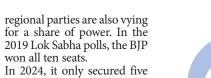
victorious in Haryana's upcoming assembly polls? Will the ruling BJP retain the state, or will the resurgent Congress seize the opportunity to win? The nation is watching as the results of the impending polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Jammu, and Kashmir will shape these states' future and significantly impact the national political landscape.Haryana is gearing up for a diverse, multi-cornered contest with 90 seats.

The main competition is between the BJP and the Congress. Still, other parties like AAP, Samajwadi Party, CPI(M), and Haryana Lokhit Party are also in the field, adding diversity to the electoral dynamics.The BJP, JJP, and Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) have allied with Dushyant Chautala as their chief ministerial candidate. At the same time, the INLD and BSP have chosen Abhay Singh Chautala as theirs.

The BJP and Congress have not declared their chief ministerial faces, but former chief minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda is leading the battle for Congress. The new BJP chief minister, Saini, is leading the BJP.Both parties are facing internal problems. In the case of the BJP, Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala and MLA Lakshman Dass Napa left the party after being denied tickets. Other prominent figures and district leaders resigned after not considered

tickets.During seat-sharing discussions with its coalition partner AAP, Congress leaders in Haryana, including Hooda, are willing to concede only a few

The Congress, led by former chief minister Bhupendra Singh Hooda, is optimistic about returning to power after a tenyear gap. The party is strategically wooing the Aam Aadmi Party (AP) and the Samaiwadi Party for an alliance. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is facing allegations of involvement in a liquor scam. The Haryana polls are crucial. The BJP wants a third term, while the Congress aims to regain power. Other



seats, with the Congress taking the other five. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP, lacking the majority, formed the gov-ernment with the help of JD(U) and Desam.Before 2014, the BJP was a minor player in Haryana. Only after the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the party gained momentum. In 2019, the BJP formed a government with 40 seats, just six short of the majority, Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which won ten seats, supported the BJP. However, JJP recently ended its alliance with the BIP.

In Haryana, the BJP's vote share decreased from 58.2% in 2019 to 46.11% in 2024. This was mainly due to the farmers demanding a legal minimum support price (MSP) guarantee. In 2024, the INDIA bloc, a coalition of regional parties and Congress surpassed the BJP's vote share.In March, BJP replaced Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini. The new Chief Minister has introduced welfare schemes, promised to fill government job vacancies,



THE CONGRESS, LED BY FORMER **CHIEF MINISTER** BHUPENDRA SINGH HOODA, IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RETURNING TO POWER AFTER A TEN-YEAR GAP. THE PARTY IS STRATEGICALLY WOOING THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP)

SAMAJWADI PARTY

FOR AN

ALLIANCE

and aims to leverage the Jat issue. However, the BJP does not have Jat's support. Also, Saini's short six-month tenure has limited his impact.

The Congress is upbeat after doubling its Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Congress focuses on joblessness, inflation, farmer's issues, and the controversial Agniveer scheme. The party is preparing its manifesto based on public suggestions, which includes welfare schemes like a Rs 6,000 pension for old-age people and 300 units of free electricity. The party also counts on 452,000 first-time voters and 4.09 million young voters.Congress aims to unite the opposition votes, while the BJP seeks to divide them strategically. AAP has some influence in border areas of Haryana. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is trying to keep the Indian

coalition intact. The AAP has agreed to fight in five seats. There are rumblings in the Congress, too. The Congress is facing factional fights. It is divided into two groups led by Hooda and Kumari Sailja. The party tries to satisfy both factions, but Hooda holds more influence because of his previous role as chief minister. Turncoats and relatives of former chief ministers are in the Congress list of candidates.

The BJP is facing a tough battle in Haryana. Current polls indicate that the party may win fewer seats. BJP's weaknesses are the absence of strong leadership at the state level and a compelling counter-narrative against the Opposition charges. Prime Minister Modi, who leads the party's campaigns, has not addressed any election rallies yet. The Congress must work on complacency, internal conflicts, and a need for more organisation. The BJP faced rebellion after the candidate list was announced, and some influential people like Ranjit left the party.

Too many ticket aspirants could diminish the party's prospects. Ultimately, the arithmetic will determine Congress's victory. Also, the unity of the INDIA coalition is essential. If lucky, the BJP may minimise damage by securing a respectable number of seats, leading to a potentially significant outcome. Congress should avoid mistakes and take everybody along. Otherwise, it will miss a golden opportunity.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

Alzheimer's: Early detection is the key



Thanks to the new technology, early detection with accuracy of Alzheimer's is now possible which can lead to better outcomes through timely interventions

lzheimer's disease is one of the most challenging neurological disorders, affecting millions globally. It is characterised by progressive memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioural changes. While the disease is often associated with older adults, the importance of detecting it in its early stages cannot be overstated. Early detection allows for timely intervention, which can slow down the progression of the disease, offering patients more years of quality life. Moreover, early diagnosis empowers individuals and their families to plan for the future, make informed decisions, and access the latest treatments.

One of the key advantages of early detection is the ability to begin treatment when the brain is still relatively healthy. Current medications, while not a cure, work best when started early. They can help manage symptoms like memory loss and confusion. Additionally, lifestyle changes such as regular exercise, cognitive therapy, and a healthy diet can have a more significant impact when implemented during the early



Researchers are now focused on identifying the disease's biomarkers before significant memory problems arise, providing a window of opportunity for early intervention. Beyond medical benefits, early detection has psychological and social advantages. It allows patients to maintain independence for a longer period, reduces anxiety associated with uncertainty, and provides clarity to families about caregiving responsibilities. Detecting Alzheimer's in its early stages has become a critical aspect of managing the disease effectively. With the advent of advanced diagnostic tools like CLEIA, early detection is now more achievable than ever.

Agappe Diagnostics in collaboration with Fujirebio Holdings of Japan, has made a groundbreaking advancement in India's healthcare sec-

Immunoassay (CLEIA) technology. This development is a monumental step forward in the indigenous manufac- and guiding personalized turing of cutting-edge diagnostic tools, specifically designed for early detection of critical diseases like Alzheimer's, Cancer, and Gastrointestinal disorders. 'We have long standing productive relations with India that are all set to further strengthen and flourish," said Takashi Ariyoshi, deputy chief of Japanese embassy in India. CLEIA, an evolved version of the widely recognized Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CLIA), merges the sensitivity of chemiluminescence detection with the precision of enzyme immunoassays. This powerful combination allows for the accurate detection of low concentrations of biomarkers, making it a gamechanger in early diagnosis. In the case of Alzheimer's, early identification of disease-specific biomarkers can significantly slow down cognitive

decline by enabling timely

interventions, including med-

ications and lifestyle changes.

introducing In modern In-Vitro Chemiluminescent Enzyme Diagnostics (IVD), CLEIA plays a crucial role not just in early detection but also in disease progression monitoring treatment.

These aspects are particularly relevant in Alzheimer's care, where early diagnosis opens the door to medical treatments and cognitive therapies that can prolong independence and improve qualy of life.

This technology is a significant leap in advancing immunoassay technology in India. Through this partnership, cartridge-based CLEIA systems have been developed and launched, supporting the healthcare system with advanced, locally manufactured diagnostic tools.

Besides, beyond Alzheimer's, CLEIA is instrumental in detecting cancer markers at an early stage, significantly improving survival rates for patients. The Inod- Japanese partnership underlines the benefits of the "Make in India" initiative, reducing dependency on imports in critical healthcare technologies.

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

MAMATA IN THE DOCK

Madam — West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to comply with Article 167(c) of the Indian Constitution by informing Raj Bhavan of all decisions made by the state cabinet. This request comes in the wake of the public outcry following the gruesome rape and murder of a woman doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A statement from the Governor's office, issued, emphasized that under Article 167, it is the Chief Minister's duty to provide the Governor with details of all cabinet decisions relating to the state's administration and any proposed legislation. The statement also reminded the Chief Minister that updates should be provided on matters discussed by the cabinet, especially when a minister's decision was not taken into consideration by the cabinet. The Governor's office criticised the state administration and law enforcement, stating that public perception had condemned their actions in

The statement outlined several concerns, including misinformation given to the victim's parents, alleged tampering of the crime scene, delays in filing the FIR, and the hasty disposal of the body despite the parents' request for more time. Furthermore, it noted that the transfer and reappointment of the Principal of the hospital raised suspicions about the state's intentions, as did the Kolkata Police's alleged attempts to cover up the crime scene tampering. The statement added that civil society and the courts had strongly reprimanded the law enforcement agencies for their handling of the case, particularly regarding the events following the discovery of the victim's body. Kolkata calling shots.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

COURTS MUST BRING DOWN PENDENCY

Madam— The time has come for the judicial think tank to put the house in order. The job of the Judges are becoming a thankless one while going by their contin-

GST relief for the middle class

E EDITO



•he 54 GST council meeting held under the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has brought some important relief to the middle class with deduction of tax cuts on sev-

uing commitment to serve the common man. This is the midfield crunch situation for Indian courts to have strategic timeout while going by the statistics of the pending cases. More than five crore cases are pending in various courts, including district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court as revealed by the recent report. Without the support from the executive the dream of the courts for the common man will continue to be the herculean task.

The trial courts must be filled with enough Judges. Doesn't mean other courts are hands free. The Court should set the accountability to dispose of cases within the stipulated time in all courts? The court should entertain appeals only after the due satisfaction of merits of the lower court order. The court must take stock of the backlogs and put a strategic team to find out reasons for delay. Depending on the nature of the case, prioritise the focus on those cases towards early completion.

Besides they should not allow adjournments to eat away the time of courts and litigants time and cost.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

eral items and services apart from cancer drugs. The middle class are burdened with penumbra of taxes on GST, results in upsetting the household budgets. Over the past few years, the taxes are being added up consistently, but the economic stature of the common man in the country are still the same. The banking sector in the country are grappling with cash crunch as the saving capacity of the people have gone down of inflationary spike. The Centre's gross GST collection for FY24 stood at Rs,20.18 lakh crore but the condition of economically crumbling the non BJP states should also be improved and their GST share must be settled. The recommendation to constitute GOM to reduce GST from eighteen percent on health and insurance services seems reasonable and boost up these two sectors if

implemented by October. Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpaiguri

LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN INDIA

Madam — The GDP of any country, along side other factors, depends on the physical health of its citizens. However, a modern sedentary lifestyle is common, and government intervention is needed to encourage physical activity. A national survey revealed that over 200 million Indians are physically inactive, with 155 million adults and 45 million adolescents failing to meet WHO guidelines.

The joint study by Dalberg Advisors and Sports and Society Accelerator found that 8% of older adults believe they are too old for physical activity, and 45% think sports are unsafe for girls. Misconceptions, such as physical exertion being harmful to menstruating women or affecting marriage prospects, contribute to the gender gap in physical activity. Women, especially in urban areas, spend 75% of their active time on household chores, leaving little time for

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

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FIRST COLUMN

GOD HAS THE SOLUTION

All we have to do is to take His shelter and remain in it



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

famous oncologist was being interviewed on television. He was asked by a reporter about the causes of cancer. The doctor replied, "It is overstress mainly." Every time this matter came up, the oncologist emphasized the overstress reason. And we know what overstress is. It is mostly caused by cyclic thinking. We get into some problem and keep on thinking about it. Surely, worry results. The solution has to come from other sources. Aren't we extremely limited in what we know? But we refuse to accept this fact. I will recite three examples of when I found answers provided by God when I was in trouble, and only God could help.Beginning with my nature to fear excessively, I was suffering. One day I prayed sincerely for relief. Suddenly, a thought came that the Bhagavad-Geeta may have a solution.

Didn't Gandhiji turn to this book of eternal wisdom whenever he was faced with some problem? I looked for a knowledgeable person, and located one who was well-versed in the Geeta. I explained my problem. He referred me to verse #2.40, which is, "Neither there is a waste of effort here nor there is opposite effect. Even a little of this Karma-yoga protects one from great fear." This is what I was looking for. The next question was about karma yoga. What does this imply? He explained that all activities about God come under it. He cited examples of praying, having darshan, doing namaskar to God, chanting God's names or some mantra like Ohm and thanking God for favours done. They seemed simple enough and I got started. A connection was made with God. Sure enough, God got interested in me.l began to get intuitions. For example, I had been suffering from headaches mainly in the forehead part



for quite some time. I prayed for help. I got a feeling that I should go to Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, New Delhi. I did and prayed there sincerely for guidance and help. While returning, I felt that God was asking me to bring Him to my forehead. I was very excited and checked with my spiritual guide.

He confirmed that this is a bona fide process, as the 'ajna (agya) chakra' is located there. I began doing it and astonishingly I was beginning to get some relief. After practice for a few days, the persistent headache was gone. Since then I have been fortunate to not be so troubled by it.I recounted my experience to my spiritual guide. He told me that God is very pleased with me and giving guidance Another headache appeared, which was only on the right side. I tried everything but there was no relief. Somehow, I had an inkling to look up various choices in Crocin. There was one with caffeine. My sixth sense, which is the same as God's guidance was to take it. Sure enough, there was relief. What happened? I had to know. I had stopped drinking green tea just before getting this strange headache. This tea had caffeine. Now I knew what the connection was. Only God could have known it, and He did. I was suffering headaches due to caffeine withdrawal. Another trouble arose due to the

One spray and I began to feel uneasiness. When I got ready to use it another time, as prescribed, I was feeling quite troubled. Surely, I looked up its composition; it had steroids. God had prevented more damage from happening to me. All we have to do is to take His shelter and remain in it. The question is: why don't we? It is a very slow process. One must have good Sanskars to get started on this journey. Otherwise, one will not get started. Fortunately, I was blessed to have them. Lord Krishna has promised it, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace." (18.58) This culminates in liberation from the painful cycle of birth and death when God releases us from all sins. (18.66) However, this will take several births after we get started. (6.45) I am counting upon it.

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

The making of Kerala's catastrophe



Despite warnings from experts about the perils of unchecked quarrying and deforestation in the Western Ghats, successive governments failed to act, leading to Wayanad disaster



K Pottekkat, who could be rated as India's best travelogue writer has elaborated on his 1955 visit to Finland. "The country's area is 1,30,119 sq miles out of which 71 per cent is forests. Finland's main source of income is the pine trees grown in its forests. But to get permission from the government to cut down a single pine tree, one has to furnish proof that he has planted six pine saplings," writes Pottekkat in his memoirs.

He was a delegate to the World Peace Council meeting held in Helsinki, the capital city. In 2024, despite a massive industrialisation drive, the country has the tenth highest percentage of forest cover in the world. Pottekkat hailed from Koghilyada the peighbouring district of Kozhikode, the neighbouring district of Wayanad.

Once the region was full of evergreen forests filled with exotic trees, plants and flowers. Folklore is that the tribal youth who led a team of Englishmen to Wayanad was shot dead by the visitors to ensure that no more outsiders entered the

But Wayanad has become a teardrop since 30 July 2024 as landslides and flash floods struck the district in quick succession swallowing hundreds of people and their houses. Pinarayi Vijayan, the chief minister, has asked the Centre to release Rs 2,000 crore as the first instalment towards the rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction mission to be undertaken by the Government of Kerala.

He also blamed the Centre for its failure to provide the exact date, time and place of the natural disaster and has vowed to establish the State's early warning system for floods, landslides and heavy rainfalls. Vijayan will outclass the best of the entrepreneurs in the skill of mobilization of resources for the Chief Minister's

Disaster Relief Fund. All media briefings by Vijayan end with him announcing the details of persons who have contributed to the CMDRF in the aftermath of landslides and deluge that devastated Wayanad. But what stands out is the generous offer made by High Range Rural Development Society,

a non-governmental organisation, which came forward to build houses for all those who lost their dwelling places in the flash floods. According to the Kerala Government's estimate, 500 homes were washed away by the gushing waters. The HRDS told the Government that it would rebuild/construct 500 safe and secured houses each of 700 sq ft and costing Rs 10 lakh free of

The NGO also told the government that it would help the landslide victims to set up group farming so that they could earn a reasonably fair monthly income. All the 500 houses to be constructed by the HRDS will feature self-contained guest rooms which could be rented out as part of the homestay programme. But district. The District Collector Development". Vijayan and his comrades are Raveendran Thampi had been The top echelons of the Church asked Vijayan to submit details of the losses suffered in nature's fury and how the State would go ahead with the rehabilitation and reconstruction. Though the disaster struck nearly a month ago, the Government has yet to come out with the details of the losses. In the aftermath of the 2018 floods, Vijayan had demanded Rs 40,000 crore as flood relief which included Rs 20,000 crore to rebuild the roads washed away in the deluge.

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But senior officials who took stock of the situation once the flood water receded had told that roads could be rebuilt with Rs5,800 crore. As part of mitigating future floods, Vijayan accompanied by an entourage of relatives (including his five-yearold grandson) and senior bureaucrats undertook a junket to the Netherlands.

But there is no end in sight for the floods in Kerala. There is no need to search for the reason behind the landslides and made the committee ask the floods in Wayanad and other places in the State. Prof Madhav Gadgil, a noted environmentalist who headed the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) had told the State Governments not to disturb the ecology and environment beyond the current level.

The team of experts had found to their horror that quarrying and sand mining of unprecedented level were taking place with offi-cial connivance across the length and breadth of Western Ghats and this included Wayanad.In 1986, this writer shot a television documentary on the Wayanad district for Doordarshan.

There were no resorts or star hotels those days anywhere in the old to the offer. The Centre has sanctioned one room as his camp office in the low power transmitter station of the Doordarshan at Kalpetta. Immediately after nature's fury in July 2024, Prof Gadgil said that the disaster was a man-made one and was waiting to happen at any time. "Wayanad has no more space for resorts, quarries and sand mining," said Prof Gadgil immediately after the landslide and flash floods.

> in his briefing was shocking. The Gadgil committee report is a big joke and one need not take it seriously," said Vijayan.The committee of experts led by Prof Gadgil toured the entire Western Ghats region and they were shocked by the kind of quarrying, mining and deforestation that was happening in the region. Prof Gadgil had described the Western Ghats region as the Water Tower

But what the chief minister said

of peninsular India. Vested interests including religious groups are exploiting Wayanad to the hilt and this authorities to stop herewith the constitution of special economic zones and reschedule reservoir operations to downstream flows. More than what the Gadgil Committee had said in its report, what Prof T P Kunhikannan, a CPI(M) activist, had said about

the report is significant.
A thorough study by
Kunhikannan has proved that Prof Gadgil's suggestions should be accepted in toto by the author-ities concerned. "The Church is campaigning against Gadgil Committee findings to save its commedcial interests. There is nothing anti-people or antiminorities in the report," said Prof Kunhikannan in his studies "Gadgil Report and Kerala's

read pastoral letters asking the laity to stage demonstrations across the country against the report as it was anti-minority," said Kunhikkannan.No purpose will be served by subjecting the Wayanad disaster to another academic analysis. The Church sabotaged the Gadgil committee report by terming it as anti-development, anti-farmers and anti-people.

Through a series of pastoral letters (which were read out during Sunday Mass), the clergy unleashed a blitzkrieg against the WGEEP report. The then union government appointed another committee headed by G Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman, to "examine" the feasibility of Gadgil's findings. Kasturirangan did his masters proud by diluting the WGEEP report and that was the death warrant of Wayanad.

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views

India's green hydrogen revolution: Paving the way for a sustainable energy future

Green hydrogen is emerging as a powerful alternative fuel, offering a clean and versatile energy source produced through renewable means

he entire world grap-ples with the dire consequences of climate change and desperately searches for sustainable and clean energy sources. Green hydrogen, a powerful alternative fuel produced using renewable energy, has emerged as a viable alterna-

hydrogen revolution is gaining momentum, with the government, private sector, and start-ups playing pivotal roles in positioning the country as a global leader in this transformative technology.In recent years green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources like solar and wind, has



ARIF AGA

Now, in India, the green The National Hydrogen Energy Roadmap, introduced in 2006, marked the first formal effort by the government to explore hydrogen's potential in India. Since then, technological advancements and a growing commitment to renewable energy have laid a solid foundation for the green hydrogen revolution.India faces immense pressure to decargained significant attention. bonize its energy systems

due to its heavy dependence on fossil fuels and huge carbon emissions. Green hydrogen can serve as a versatile energy carrier, with applications ranging from industrial processes and transportation to power generation and storage.

Unlike grey or blue hydrogen, which is produced from fossil fuels and involves carbon emissions, green hydrogen is entirely clean, thus aligning with global sustainability goals. India's vast renewable energy resources, particularly solar and wind, make it an ideal location for large-scale green hydrogen production.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has noted that India's renewable energy capacity could provide the

low-cost electricity needed for green hydrogen production, potentially making it one of the most cost-effective producers in the world. Recognizing the strategic importance of green hydro-

gen, the Union Government has implemented a series of policy measures to promote its development and adop-To make the country a global hub for green hydrogen production and export, the

Indian government launched its ambitious National Hydrogen Mission in 2021. The mission focuses on creating demand in various sectors, ensuring supply chain resilience, and supporting research and development in hydrogen technologies. Key policy incentives include



subsidies and financial support for pilot projects, the development of hydrogen hubs, and mandates for industries to use green hydrogen in their opera-

This proactive approach has started giving positive results now. However, there is a need to create a robust regulatory framework to facilitate the use of hydrogen as a and are making substantial fuel in multiple sectors, including refining, fertilisers, and transportation.

India's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, as announced at the COP26 summit. Green hydrogen is expected to play a crucial role in this journey by decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, and petrochemicals.

The transition to green hydrogen could also reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhancing energy security and providing a significant economic boost.

Indian conglomerates and big private businesses have been quick to recognize the potential of green hydrogen investments in this area. Investments are being made for setting up hydrogen pro-

duction units and integrating hydrogen fuel cells into transportation. Start-ups in the energy sector are also focusing on developing and deploying electrolyzers, creating robust hydrogen storage solutions, and innovating in the transportation sector with hydrogen fuel cell tech-

International collaborations will be instrumental in bringing global best practices to India and accelerating the green hydrogen revolution. India has actively sought to collaborate with Germany, Japan, Australia, and the European Union, forging partnerships to develop joint

ventures, share technology, and build capacity.

The green hydrogen revolution in India represents a unique opportunity to transform the country's energy landscape and lead the global transition towards a sustainable future.

With strong government support, proactive efforts by the private sector, and dynamic innovation from start-ups, India embarks on a journey to become a green hydrogen powerhouse. To achieve the target of net-zero emissions, green hydrogen would play a pivotal role in shaping India's energy future and driving global sustainability efforts.

(The writer is director, SgurrEnergy India; views are personal)

Climate change imminent, need to focus on new areas like Green Hydrogen: PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stressed on the need to focus on new areas of energy transition like Green Hydrogen to deal with climate change saying it is not a matter of future rather it calls for an action

Addressing through a video message the 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen India 2024, the prime minister said, "There is a growing realisation that climate change is not just a matter of the future. The impact of climate change is being felt here and now. The time for action is also here and now.'

He was of the view that energy transition and sustainabily have become central to global policy discourse.

Hydrogen is emerging as a promising addition to the world's energy landscape and it can help in decarbonizing industries that are difficult to electrify. Refineries, fertilizers, steel, heavy-duty transportation -- many such sectors will benefit, he pointed

Green Hydrogen can also act as a storage solution for surplus renewable energy, he opined noting that India has already launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023. The event is to further the Green Hydrogen mission for which the government had allocated Rs 19,744 crore. "We want to make India a global hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen," Modi said. National Green Hydrogen Mission is giving an impetus to innovation,

He noted that Green infrastructure, industry and investment. "We are investing in cutting-edge research and development. Partnerships between industry and academia are being formed. Startups and entrepreneurs who are working in this domain are being encouraged," he added.

There is also a great potential for a green jobs ecosystem to develop. To enable this, we are also working on skill development for our youth in this sector, he stated. Modi stated that climate change and energy transition are global concerns. "Our answers also need to be global in nature. International partnership is critical for promoting Green Hydrogen's impact on decarbonization," he said.

Scaling up production, minimising costs and building infrastructure can happen faster through cooperation, he



"We also need to jointly invest in research and innovation to push technology further. In September 2023, the G20 Summit happened in India. In this Summit, there was a special focus on Green Hydrogen," he

Giving food for thought to scientists, he posed questions "Can we improve the effisaid that these were fulfilled

across the world.

9 years ahead of the target of 2030. India's installed nonfossil fuel capacity increased nearly 300 per cent in the last 10 years, he noted. "But we are not resting on these achievements. We

help green energy transition

On Paris commitments, he

remain focused on strengthening existing solutions. We are also looking at new and innovative areas. This is where Green Hydrogen comes into the picture," he said. Speaking on the occasion, New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said with a wide variety of usage across fertiliser, steel, automobile, shipping and glass industries, Green Hydrogen will have plenty of

opportunities to export.
"This expanding sector will bring over Rs 8 lakh crore in

total investments and generate employment for over 6 lakh people in the country, he said. Not only this, with the Green Hydrogen Mission, we are confident of reducing imports of natural gas and ammonia, there will be a total

saving of Rs 1 lakh crore, he

pointed out. The Mission also provides support for mobility projects, shipping and ports projects, and low-carbon steel projects. It will lead to averting 50 MMT Carbon Dioxide emissions by 2030, he noted.

On electrolysers manufacturing, he said there was an overwhelming response from the bidders, as bids submitted were almost double of the ten-dered quantity. Around 3 GW annual manufacturing capacity has been awarded to 15 companies, and will be supported for a period of 5 years, he stated. Therefore, he said capacity to be incentivised under SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) will be

For Green Hydrogen Production, 4.12 Lakh TPA of Green Hydrogen production capacity has been awarded to 10 companies under the first tranche, he informed. The next tender for 4.5 Lakh TPA of Green Hydrogen production is currently live, he noted. With an additional quantum of 7.39 LTPA of Green Ammonia in the process, India is awarding incentives for Green Hydrogen production to more than a million tonnes per annum capacity, he noted

The tender for Green Ammonia floated by India is the largest such tender floated in the world today, he

Rains lash several parts of Delhi causing waterlogging, traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

A mid rains lashing several parts of the national Capital and adjoining areas, Delhi witnessed waterlogging and traffic snarls on Wednesday, causing inconvenience to commuters.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in the past 24 hours till 8 am on Wednesday, city's primary weather station Safdarjung received six mm of rainfall, Ayanagar 3.8 mm of rainfall, Delhi University five mm of rainfall, Lodi road 2.6 mm of rainfall, Narela 3 mm of rainfall, Palam 11 mm of rainfall, Ridge 5 mm of rainfall, Pitampura 28 mm of rainfall and Pusa 0.5 mm of

The movement of traffic was affected on the Outer Ring Road in the carriageway from Madhuban Chowk towards Peeragarhi due to damaged road/potholes at the bottleneck on the Mangolpuri Railway Bridge, Peeragarhi, police said on X.



Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Nangloi towards Tikri Border and vice versa due to potholes and water logging. Kindly avoid Mundka and take alternate route accordingly." The traffic was also heavy on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway from Akshardham towards Sarai Kale Khan.

Maneesh Singh, who was travelling from north Delhi to Gurugram, said the area near Mahipalpur was completely jam-packed. "I was travelling

It has been clarified that senior

citizens of 70 years and above

who are under private health

insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance

scheme will be eligible to avail

benefits under AB PM-JAY.

port 24.79 lakh electric two-

The new scheme offers subsi-

dies/demand incentives worth

Rs 3,679 crore to incentivise

adoption of electric two-wheel-

ers, electric three-wheelers, e-

ambulances, e-trucks and other

emerging elecric vehicles (EVs).

A sum of Rs 4,391 crore has also

been provided for procure-

ment of 14,028 e-buses by state

transport undertakings and

public transport agencies. Besides, Rs 500 crore has been

earmarked for the deployment

of e-ambulances. This is a new

initiative of the government to

promote the use of e-ambulance

for a comfortable patient trans-

port. A sum of Rs 500 crore has

been provided for incentivising

adoption of e-trucks. Faster

Adoption and Manufacturing of

MW exceeding 200 MW, for

Vaishnaw said.

Gurugram for a meeting. I got stuck at Mahipalpur and there was a massive jam at Delhi-Gurugram border. The motorists were struggling to pass through the stretch," Singh said.

In an advisory, the traffic police also said that a trial run is going to be conducted for two weeks from Wednesday for the diversion of buses and trucks to avoid the Hanuman Setu. As a result, traffic will be affected on the Mahatma Gandhi Marg and the Outer Ring Road.

Stern message by Centre to Rahul for anti-national...

"Rahul Ğandhi's statement lays bare the Congress's politics of causing rifts on the lines of regionalism, religion, and linguistic differences. By speaking about abolishing reservations in the country, Rahul Gandhi has once again brought the Congress's anti-reservation face to the forefront," Shah expressed on social media.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati too alleged that the Congress leader was making misleading statements about reservation, and said his own party did not let the Bill on SC/ST reservation in promotions pass during its

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also claimed that when not in power, the Congress talks about the "neglected" classes of SC, ST and OBC but when in power, it works "against" their interests. BSP is officially neither a part of the BJP-led NDA nor the Opposition INDIA bloc, whose key participants include the Congress and the SP.

other components in Green

Hydrogen production? Can

we explore the use of sea

water and municipal waste

water for production? How

can we enable the use of

Green Hydrogen in public

transport, shipping, and inland waterways?" He was of

the view that exploring such

topics together will greatly

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flayed Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in the US and said it is "extremely shameful" that the Leader of Opposition is hurting the dignity of India by saying "misleading, baseless and factless things" during his

Singh also dismissed Rahul Gandhi's claims on the India-China border dispute as "misleading and beyond facts" and asked the Congress leader to refrain from making such false statements.

At a press conference on Tuesday at the prestigious National Press Club in Washington, Rahul supported Prime Minister Rahul Narendra Modi's policies on Pakistan but the Leader of Opposition was critical of the latter's handling of

Responding to a question if he thinks India under Prime Minister Modi has managed the US-China competition

you call having Chinese troops in 4,000 square kilometres of our territory handling something well, then maybe". "We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster. Media doesn't like to write about it," he said. Singh said the entire country

recognises and respects the "great role" played by the community protecting the culture of India. It is not befitting for an Opposition leader to make such "false statements" about them, he added.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also hit out at Rahul Gandhi

minorities and said they are the safest in India. Responding to a question on Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the US that RSS considers some religions, languages and communities inferior to others, Rijiju said, "No matter the amount of effort made, India cannot be defamed because India's Constitution and culture do not differentiate between people."The Minister for Minority Affairs who also holds the Parliamentary Affairs portfolio pointed out that minorities in India's neighbourhood come here if something wrong happens to them there. "Minorities are the safest in India," he

Pakistan spreads terror to discourage voters...

A Jammu-based BSF spokesman in a statement said, "At about 2.35 am, an incident of unprovoked firing in the Akhnoor area from across the border happened and which was befittingly responded by the BSF. One BSF personnel sustained injuries in Pakistani firing." the International Border and Line of Control.

Last year, a BSF jawan was killed in Pakistan Rangers' firing in the Ramgarh sector, the first loss of life on the Indian side in more than

He said the troops are on high alert and keeping a strict vigil all along gunned down by the alert troops in separate anti-infiltration operations along the line of control in the Machhal and Tangdhar sectors of Kupwara.

group of Pakistani terrorists officer sacrificed his life in the line targeted an area domination patrol of duty.

party comprising jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police (JKP) in the remote Duddu Basantgarh area of Udhampur in On August 19, a heavily armed which one Inspector rank CRPF

Cabinet nod for Ayushman Bharat health insurance to all those aged above 70 years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Tn a move that will benefit 4.5 **L**crore families, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved Rs 10,900 crore for two years to boost adoption of electric vehicles and Rs 12,461 crore outlay to support the development of 31,350 MW hydropower projects to be implemented over the next eight years.

Briefing media, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the increased health coverage aims to benefit approximately 4.5 Crore families with six (6) crore senior citizens with 5 Lakh rupees free health insurance cover on a family basis. "With this approval, all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above irrespective of their socio- economic status would be eligible to avail the benefits of AB PM-JAY. The eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under AB

"The senior citizens of the age 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per year for themselves. All other senior citizens of the age 70 years and above will get a cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per year on a family basis," said Vaishnaw detailing the scheme. Senior citizens of the age 70 years and above who are already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PMJAY. projects above 200 MW.

Shimla: Police, protesters clash over... From Page 1

As the protesters gathered on the call of some Hindu groups, entered Sanjauli and broke a second barricade near the mosque, police resorted to lathi-charge and used water cannons to disperse them.

The Cabinet approved the PM Police detained E-Drive Scheme with an outlay protesters as well, including of Rs 10,900 crore for two Hindu Jagran Manch secretary Kamal Gautam, and years to boost adoption of electric vehicles in India, replacing erected the barricade near the the flagship FAME programme mosque again but the protesters refused to leave and that ran for nine years till March. The scheme will supcontinued raising slogans against the administration. wheelers, 3.16 lakh e-three The outbreak of the clash left wheelers, and 14,028 e-buses. students in Sanjauli, Dhalli The PM E-DRIVE will also support 88,500 charging sites,

and adjoining areas stranded in schools. Residents vented anger their at for not administration ordering the schools to remain closed for the day despite being aware of the demonstration.

At least two police personnel were injured in the scuffle and stone-pelting, while the protesters claimed some of them sustained injuries as well in the police action.

Shekhawat unveils restored rail...

The ceremony was attended by diplomats and representatives from countries including Peru,

Raj Ghat is the final resting place of Mahatma Gandhi, who was cremated there on January 31, 1948. The memorial is a simple black marble structure in the middle of a garden, located on the

Delhi Police asks metro staff to be...

A joint patrolling team along with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and other stakeholders has been put in place.

According to sources, 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. Additionally, investigations have also been launched 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 at the top level.

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.

After the suspected bid to derail the Kalindi Express, different security agencies have detained over two dozen people, including three members of a family for questioning.

A multi-agency probe, that included the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Anti-Terrorist Squad of the Uttar Pradesh

Police, was launched into the matter which officials suspected could have terror links.Additionally, 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. However, this is not the

first time that such sabotages have been attempted. A similar pattern was noticed when there was an exceptional jump in "sabotage" cases with around 18 incidents reported in December

Right time to...

largest market for 5G handsets. Just two years ago, we started the 5G rollout. Look at where we have reached today. Today, Bharat's electronics sector has grown to over 150 billion dollars. And our goal is even bigger. We want to grow our electronics sector to 500 billion dollars by the end of this decade. This will create about 6 million jobs for the youth of Bharat. Bharat's semiconductor sector will also benefit greatly from this. Our goal is for 100 percent of electronic manufacturing to be done in Bharat. This means Bharat will not only make semiconductor chips but also their finished goods," he said. He announced that the Government is offering 50 per cent financial support for setting up semiconductor manufacturing facilities, with State Governments also actively participating in the process.

This has attracted investments worth over Rs 1.5 trillion, and more projects are expected to follow. That programme has drawn nearly Rs 1.5 lakh crore

of investment in producing "A recent report shows that about 70 million chips per Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp to set up India's first chipmaking plant worth Rs 91,526 crore in Gujarat's Dholera. Its unit Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd is also investing Rs 27,120 crore to set up a unit in Assam.

US memory maker Micron Technology İnc is also setting up Rs 22,516 crore assembly facility in Gujarat, while Adani Group plans to build a chip plant in Maharashtra Israel's Tower Semiconductor at a cost of Rs 83,947 crore. Also, CG Power is partnering with Japan's Renesas Electronics Corp and Thailand's Microelectronics for Rs 7,584 crore chip packaging plant in Guiarat.

Explaining that India holds a three-dimensional power - a reformist government, growing manufacturing base and aspirational market which is aware of the technological trends, the Prime Minister said that this base of 3D power is difficult to find elsewhere.

Harris puts strong challenge... From Page 1 Harris promised tax cuts

the head because of the things

(Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle aimed at the middle class and (FAME) Scheme was launched said she would push to restore in April 2015. a federally guaranteed right to The Cabinet also approved Rs. abortion overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. 12,461 crore outlay to support the development of 31,350 MW Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the US stop being cheated by allies on hydropower projects to be implemented over the next eight years. The statement, the trade and said he would work scheme will be implemented to swiftly end the Russiafrom FY2024-25 to FY2031-32. Ukraine war - though he The limit of the budgetary suptwice refused to say he port for the cost of enabling believed it was in America's infrastructure has been ratiointerest for Ukraine, which nalised to Rs one crore/MW for bipartisan majorities in projects up to 200 MW and Rs Congress have backed, to win 200 crore plus Rs 0.75 crore per "I probably took a bullet to

that they say about me," he said. "They talk about democracy, I'm a threat to democracy. They're the threat to democracy."

Pakistan-based

Trump has in recent days ramped up his threats of retribution if he returns to the White House, saying he prosecute lawyers, would donors, and other officials whom he deems to "cheat" in the election.

"Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people," Harris said, "So let's be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that."

Her campaign ended the debate by expressing openness to another meeting in October - and welcomed an endorsement from megastar Taylor Swift, who labelled herself a "childless cat lady " in a dig at Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD

Vance, as she encouraged her fans to vote.

Harris defends shifts to the centre, puts abortion front Harris sought to defend her

shifts away from liberal causes to more moderate stances on fracking, expanding Medicare for all and mandatory gun buyback programs - and even backing away from her position that plastic straws should be banned - as pragmatism.

Asked about her changing positions on a number of issues, she twice repeated a phrase she has used to try to explain it away, saying, "My values have not changed." Trump, meanwhile, quickly

"She's going to my philosophy

accused went after Harris for abandoning some of her past liberal positions and said:

send her a MAGA hat." Harris smiled broadly and laughed.

Trump attacked Harris for the inflation seen under the Biden-Harris administration, a major liability for the vice president. He quickly turned his answer to warning about immigrants coming into the country - one of the subjects he's focused on most heavily in his campaign. Throughout his campaign,

Trump has leaned on illegal immigration, an issue that has bedeviled Biden and Harris with rising numbers of illegal border crossings and the arrivals of thousands of people needing shelter in Democratic-led cities. He Democrats of abetting large numbers of unauthorised crossings though they have dropped in recent months in part due to now. In fact, I was going to new asylum restrictions by

the Biden administration. But as he often does in his rallies and on his social media

account, Trump reeled off a series of falsehoods or unproven claims about migrants. One of those claims was a debunked rumour that Trump and his allies have spread online in recent days, alleging Haitian immigrants in an Ohio town are hunting and eating pets. Officials in Springfield, Ohio, say they have no evidence of that

happening. "Talk about extreme," Harris said after Trump talked about dogs and cats being eaten. Harris' expressions filled their

split-screen As the debate opened, Harris walked up to Trump's lectern to introduce herself, marking the first time the two had ever met, since Trump skipped her 2021 inauguration. "Kamala Harris," she said, extending people," Harris responded.

her hand to Trump, who received it in a handshake the first presidential debate handshake since the 2016

campaign. Trump has at times resorted to invoking racial and gender stereotypes and falsely claiming that Harris, who attended a historically Black university, hid her race during her career. "I read where she was not

Black," Trump said when about comments asked questioning Harris' race, adding a minute later, "and then I read that she was Black." He seemed to suggest her race was a choice, saying twice, "That's up to her."

"I think it's a tragedy that we have someone who wants to be president who has consistently over the course of his career attempted to use race to divide the American

US commemorates 9/11 attacks with victims in focus, politics in view

AP NEW YORK

 $T^{\text{he US remembered the}}_{\text{lives taken and those}}$ reshaped by 9/11, marking an anniversary laced with presidential campaign politics as President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Ĥarris stood together Wednesday at ground zero.

September 11 — the date when hijacked plane attacks killed nearly 3,000 people in 2001 — falls in the thick of the presidential election season every four years, and it comes at an especially pointed moment this time. The anniversary ceremony at the World Trade Centre brought Harris and Trump,

the Democratic and Republican nominees, face-to-face just hours after their firstface just hours after their firstever debate Tuesday night.

Trump and running mate Sen. JD Vance arrived at the trade centre site around 8 am and posed for photographs with some in the audience. Harris arrived with Biden about a halfhour later, to cheers of "Kamala!" from some audience

members. Biden and Trump shook hands, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to facilitate a handshake between Harris and Trump. Then the presidential rivals stood only a few feet apart, with Biden and Bloomberg between

them, as the observance began

top-of-mind for victims' relatives such as Cathy Naughton, who came to honour her cousin Michael Roberts, one of hundreds of firefighters killed in the attack.

Twenty-three years later, "it's just so raw," she said. "We want to make sure people remember always, and say the names always and never forget." "Every year, it just doesn't get easier," she added. Regardless of the campaign

calendar, organisers of anniversary ceremonies have long taken pains to try to keep the focus on victims. For years, politicians have been only

observers at ground zero observances, with the microphone going instead to relatives who read victims' names aloud. If politicians "care about what's

actually going on, great. Be here," said Korryn Bishop, who lost her cousin John F. McDowell Jr. "If they're just here for political clout, that upsets me.

Biden, on the last September 11 of his term and likely his halfcentury political career, was headed with Harris later to ceremonies in Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, the three sites where commercial jets crashed after al-Qaida operatives took them over on September 11, 2001. Trump also was due at the Flight 93 National Memorial near rural Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Officials later concluded that

the aircraft that crashed there headed toward Washington. It went down after crew members and passengers tried to wrest control from the hijackers.
The attacks killed 2,977 people

and left thousands of bereaved relatives and scarred survivors. The planes carved a gash in the Pentagon, the US military headquarters, and brought down the trade centre's twin towers, which were among the world's tallest buildings. The catastrophe also altered US

foreign policy, domestic security practices and the mindset of many Americans who had

not previously felt vulnerable to attacks by foreign extremists. Effects rippled around the world and through genera-tions as the US responded by leading a "Global War on Terrorism," which included invasions of Afghanistan and

Iraq. Those operations killed hundreds of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis and thousands of American troops, and Afghanistan became the site of the United States' longest war. As the complex legacy of 9/11 continues to evolve, communities around the country have developed remembrance traditions that range from laying wreaths to displaying flags, from marches to police radio messages. Volunteer projects also mark the anniversary, which Congress has titled both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance. At ground zero, presidents and other officeholders read poems, parts of the Declaration of Independence and other texts during the first several anniver-

National September 11 Memorial and Museum decided in 2012 to limit the ceremony to relatives reading victims' names. Bloomberg was board chairman at the time and still

But that ended after the

Politicians and candidates still have been able to attend the event. Many do, especially New

Yorkers who held office during the attacks, such as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was then a US senator.

She and Trump overlapped at the ground zero 9/11 remembrance in 2016, and it became a fraught chapter in the narrative of that year's presidential campaign.

Clinton, then the Democratic nominee, abruptly left the ceremony, stumbled while awaiting her motorcade and later disclosed that she had been diagnosed with pneumonia a couple of days earlier. The episode stirred fresh attention to her health, which Trump had been questioning for

Malaysian cops

rescue 402 kids

from Islamic

AP KUALA LUMPUR

welfare homes

Malaysian authorities on Wednesday rescued 402 children and arrested 171 sus-

pects after raiding 20 welfare

homes linked to an Islamic

business group, in which chil-

dren were exploited and sexually abused, the national police

Inspector-General of Police

Razarudin Husain said the

raids were conducted after

investigations into allegations

of child abandonment, deviant

teachings and sexual assault at

the homes, run by the Global

Ikhwan Services and Business

Holdings. 201 boys and 201

girls, aged between 1 to 17

years, were rescued from 18

homes in central Selangor state

and two in southern Negeri

Sembilan state, he said. The 171

chief said.

Iran slams West over war in Gaza, support for Israel

AP BAGHDAD

Tranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday slammed the West, saying that Israel is "committing massacres" in the war in Gaza and using European and American weapons to do so.

Pezeshkian, who spoke in Baghdad at the start of his first visit abroad since taking office, is hoping to cement Tehran's ties to Baghdad as regional tensions increasingly pull both majority Shiite countries into the widening Middle East fray. Iran has been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian militant Hamas group since its Oct 7 attack on southern Israel that sparked the war in the Gaza Strip. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war erupted, according to local health officials. The war has also caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often mul-

"The Israeli entity is committing massacres against women, children, young men and elderly. They bomb hospitals and schools," Pezeshkian said.

"All these crimes are being committed by using European and American ammunition and bombs," he added, without elaborating. Ahead of Pezeshkian's arrival,

an explosion struck a site near Baghdad International Airport used by the US military on Tuesday night. There were no reported casualties and the circumstances of the explosion were unclear. The US Embassy later described it as an "attack" on the Baghdad Diplomatic Services Compound, an American diplomatic facility, and that it was "assessing the damage" and the cause of the explosion. It didn't provide further details.

Pezeshkian's visit is significant for both countries.

For Iran, its relationship with Iraq remains crucial for economic, political and religious reasons — something that has especially been true since the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, who launched a bloody, yearslong war against Iran in the 1980s.

Baghdad, meanwhile, has been trying to balance its relationship with Tehran, which backs powerful Shiite militias in the country, as well as with the United States, which maintains a force of 2,500 troops in Iraq that remain in battle with remnants of the once-dominant extremist Islamic State group. The American troops remain

both a literal and rhetoric target for Iran, particularly as Israel's nearly year-old war on Hamas in Gaza grinds on. Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani told reporters during a joint news conference with Pezeshkian that the two neighbouring countries on Wednesday signed 14 memo-

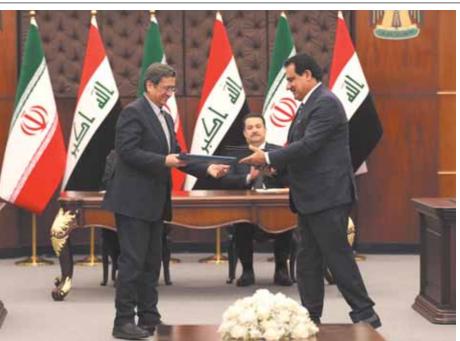
randums of understanding to

boost relations. He also pledged that Iraq's airspace will not be used for attacks on the Islamic Republic — an apparent reference to Israel.

Pezeshkian, who was sworn in as Iran's new president in July, is also to visit Shiite shrines in the Iraqi holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, a railroad project to link the southern city of Basra to Iran and Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region.

Still, there have been tensions between Iran and Iraq, particularly after Iranian missiles hit sites in Iraq in attacks over the past six years, targeting Kurdish militias, a base housing American forces and also what Tehran alleged were Israeli sites in Iraq.
Iran also fired missiles and flew

drones over Iraq in its unprecedented direct attack on Israel in April. That attack followed a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus, Syria, that killed two Iranian generals and five



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reacts as Chairman of the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, Firas Rasool (right) exchanges a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iranian Minister of Trade during the signing ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding between Iraq and Iran at the government palace in Baghdad on Wednesday.

officers, as well as a member of the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, an Iranian ally. The Islamic Republic has also threatened further retaliation against Israel over the July assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran,

which could include another

missile barrage Iraq also needs the close ties to maintain Baghdad's supply of imported Iranian natural gas to meet its electricity needs. A barter deal for Iraqi crude oil has seen the supply continue, though US sanctions targeting Tehran over its rapidly advanc-

ing nuclear program have put pressure on Baghdad. Meanwhile Tuesday, the United States and Britain formally accused Iran of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, announcing new sanctions on both Moscow and Tehran.

suspects - 66 men and 105 women — included religious teachers and caretakers, he Children were sexually abused not only by the caretakers but were also forced to do the same to each other at the facilities, Razarudin said in a tele-

vised news conference. "Those who were sick were not allowed to seek medical attention until their condition became critical," he said. Some young children were also burnt with a hot spoon when they made mistakes, and caretakers had touched the children's bodies as if to conduct medical checks, he said.

Police believed Ikhwan exploited the children and used religious sentiments to collect donations, he said. Investigations showed that the children at the welfare homes belonged to members of the Global Ikhwan group, placed by their parents at the homes since they were infants, he said. The children would undergo medical assessment amid ongoing investigations, he

added. According to its website, Global Ikhwan was founded by Ashaari Mohamad, who headed the Islamic sect Al Argam which was deemed heretical

Israeli airstrike hits UN school in Gaza, 14 dead

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA)

school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in central Gaza on Wednesday, hospital officials said. The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas militants planning attacks from inside the school, located in the Nuseirat refugee camp. The claim could not be independently confirmed.

Officials from Awda Hospital in Nuseirat said they had received 10 dead from the strike, and another four dead were brought to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. At least one woman and two children were among those killed, and at least 18 people were wounded in the strike, hospital officials said.

One of the children was the daughter of Momin Selmi, a n Israeli airstrike killed at member of Gaza's civil defence alties from its strikes, saying its An Israeli airstrike killed at Member of Gaza's civil defence alties from its strikes, saying its fighters base themselves and two children, when it hit a UN wounded and bodies after operate among civilians. strikes, the agency said in a statement. Selmi hadn't seen his daughter for 10 months, since he remained in north Gaza to keep working while his family

> Tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders are living in Gaza's schools. The school hit Thursday -

fled south, the agency said.

called the al-Jaouni Boys Preparatory School, one of the many in Gaza run by the UN agency for Palestinians UNWRA — has been hit by multiple strikes over the course of the war.

Israel frequently bombs schools, saying they are being

used by Hamas militants. It blames Hamas for civilian casu-

ore than 90% of Gaza's s buildings have been severely or partially damaged in strikes, and more than half the schools housing displaced people have been hit, according to a survey in July by the Education Cluster, a collection of aid groups led by UNICEF and Save the Children.

Israel's 11-month-old campaign in Gaza has killed at least 41,084 Palestinians and wounded another 95,029, the territory's Health Ministry said Wednesday. Israel launched its campaign vowing to destroy Hamas after the Oct 7 attack on southern Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 250 others.

Pak to expand Wagah border check-post

PTI LAHORE

Dakistan's Punjab province Pgovernment has formally launched the 'Wagah Joint Check Post Expansion Project' along the international border India, primarily to increase the sitting capacity from 8,000 to 24,000, an official said on Wednesday. The project is reportedly

launched to match the sitting capacity of the Indian side. In addition to sitting capacity, he said that a state-of-the-art historical museum showcasing the history of the Wagah border, waiting lounges and green rooms for the VVIPs would also be constructed. The security arrangements will also upgraded. Under the project, the height of the flagpole, which is the world's fifth tallest, will be increased from 115 to

135 metres, making it the world's third-highest flagpole.

Ukraine pushes for long-range missiles use against Russia

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kyiv on a ioint visit Wednesdav, as Ukraine presses the West to allow it to use long-range missiles against Russia.

The top diplomats reached the Ukrainian capital by train hours after the US presidential debate during which Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump sparred over the 2 1/2-year war in Ukraine. Blinken travelled from London, where he accused Iran of providing Russia with Fath-360 shortrange ballistic missiles, calling the move a "dramatic escalation" of the war. For months, Ukraine has been requesting approval to use long-range

weapons from the United States



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left) and Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy meet with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrijy Sybiha at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kyiv (Ukraine) on Wednesday.

gets in Russia, and is expected to press harder given Russia's latest reported weapons acquisition. "If we are allowed to destroy military targets or weapons prepared by the enemy for attacks on Ukraine, it would

and Western allies to strike tarcertainly bring more safety for our civilians, our people, and our children," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said at a news conference in Kyiv on Tuesday. "We are working towards this and will continue to push for it every day."

and banned by the government

Mexico's Senate approves contentious judicial overhaul



AP MEXICO CITY

Mexico's Senate voted early Wednesday to overhaul the country's judiciary, clearing the biggest hurdle for a controversial constitutional revision that will make all judges stand for election, a change that critics fear will politicise the judicial branch and threaten

Mexico's democracy. The vote came after hundreds of protesters pushed their way into the Senate on Tuesday, interrupting the session after it erning party of outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, had lined up the necessary votes to pass the proposal. The legislation sailed through

the lower chamber, where Morena and its allies hold a supermajority, last week. The Senate posed the biggest obsta-cle and required defections

appeared that Morena, the gov-

from opposition parties. One appeared to come Tuesday from the opposition National Action Party (PAN) after a law-

maker who had previously spoken out against the overhaul took leave for medical reasons and his father, a former gover-nor, suggested he would vote for the proposal.

The Senate voted twice on the bill, both times 86-41, with the second coming around 4 am. The legislation now needs to be ratified by the legislatures of 17 of Mexico's 32 states. The governing party is believed to have the necessary support after major electoral gains in recent elections.

Gunmen kill polio worker, policeman in Pakistan

PTI PESHAWAR

A polio worker and a policeman were killed on Wednesday after unidentified gunmen ambushed a team of polio vaccinators in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

Following the attack, a police team reached the site and cordoned off the area in Salarzai tehsil of Bajaur district.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Militants frequently target the polio workers in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attack and sought an urgent report on the attack from the district police.

This is the second attack on frontline polio workers in the current round of the national

vaccination campaign. On Monday, at least six people, including three policemen, were injured in a bomb explosion that targeted a vehicle carrying workers associated with the Pakistan Polio Programme in South Waziristan district's Wana town.

Pakistan last week reported its first polio case in the capital Islamabad in the last 16 years, a setback to the national efforts aimed at eradicating the crippling virus from the coun-

poliovirus cases in 2021 when only one infection was reported. So far this year, 12 cases have been reported

from Balochistan, three from Sindh, and one

from Punjab and Islamabad each.

The country came close to achieving zero

Flights grounded at Kenya's main airport as workers protest against Adani deal

Hundreds of workers at Kenya's main international airport demonstrated on Wednesday against a planned deal between the government and India's Adani Group.

Planes have remained grounded, with hundreds of passengers stranded at the airport. The government has said that the build-and-operate agreement with the Adani Group would see the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport modernised, and an additional runway and terminal constructed, in exchange for the group running the airport for 30 years.

Kenya Airport Workers Union, in announcing the strike, said that the deal would lead to job losses and

"inferior terms and conditions of service" for those who will remain. Kenva Airways on Wednesday announced there would be flight delays and possible cancellations because of the ongoing strike at the airport, which serves Nairobi.

The strike has affected local flights coming from the port city of Mombasa and the lake city of Kisumu, where delays have been reported by local media.

At the main airport, police officers had taken up security check-in roles with long lines seen outside the departure terminals and worried passengers unable to confirm if their flights would depart as scheduled. The Kenya Airports Authority said in a statement that it was "engaging relevant parties to normalise operations" and urged passengers to contact respective airlines to confirm flight status. The Central Organisation of Trade Unions' secretary-general, Francis Atwoli, told journalists at the airport that the strike would have been averted had the government listened to the workers. "This was a very simple matter where

the assurance to workers in writing

that our members will not lose jobs and their jobs will remain protected by the government and as is required by law and that assurance alone, we wouldn't have been here," he said. Last week, airport workers had threatened to go on strike, but the plans were called off pending discussions with the government.

UK signs 'improved' grant funding deal with Tata Steel

he UK government on Wednesday **L** announced that it had signed off on an "improved" grant funding agreement with Tata Steel, worth GBP 500 million, to support the Indian steel major's green transition towards a state-of-the-art Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) at the Port Talbot steelworks in South Wales. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan

Reynolds told the House of Commons that the Labour government had suc-Wales," said Reynolds. ceeded in going much further than the "We know that a cleaner, greener future

previous Tory government's pact, delivering a minimum voluntary redundancy payout of GBP 15,000 for full-time employees plus a GBP 5,000 "retention" payment. The pact also includes an offer of paid-for training to give workers a steady income and upskill them for the jobs of the future. "Port Talbot has always been and will always be a steelmaking town. This deal does what previous deals failed to do – give hope for the future of steelmaking in South

for UK steelmaking is vital to the industry's long-term economic stability. The road ahead is not without its challenges, but our steel strategy will set forth a positive vision for the future of the industry, backed by our manifesto commitment to GBP 3 billion of government investment," he said. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said alongside making the largest investment in the UK steel industry in decades, Tata Steel has also committed to work with the government to evaluate new invest-

Rupee settles flat against US dollar DGCA issues eVTOL guidelines

The rupee witnessed range-bound trade and settled for the day on a flat note at 83.98 (provisional) against US dollar on Wednesday as the support from the lower level of crude oil prices and soft US dollar was negated by a weak trend in domestic equities.

traders said Forex significant corrections in asset classes like the dollar index and crude oil prices supported the rupee, while a negative trend in domestic equities and concerns over global economic growth capped the upside.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit moved in a narrow range. It opened at 83.97

against the American currency and touched an intraday high of 83.93 and a low of 83.98 against the American currency.
The rupee finally settled for

day at 83.98 (provisional) against the US On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 3 paise to close at 83.98 against the

American currency.

Sharma,

"Indian rupee continued to remain range-bound stuck in a 83.90-84 range supported by active interventions from RBI at lower levels along with declining crude oil prices also capping the upside in same," said Maneesh

Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

AVP



Sharma further noted that rupee's minimal volatility is also attributed to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintaining long-term interest rate pauses and building record foreign exchange reserves. "Overall rupee is expected to maintain a trading range of ahead with minimal volatility with cues from US CPI & ECB interest rate decision in coming days to provide further direction to currency pair," Sharma

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.23 per cent to 101.39 points.

crude, Brent international benchmark, was trading higher by 2.44 per cent to USD 70.88 per barrel in futures trade.

Forex traders said crude oil level of USD 70 per barrel will act as a support for the domestic unit as India, the world's third-largest oil importer, stands to benefit from cheaper oil.

viation regulator DGCA Ahas issued guidelines for airworthiness certification of electric aircraft that are capable of taking off and landing in a vertical manner. An advisory circular outlining the baseline airworthiness criteria for the type certification of Vertical Take Off and Landing Capable Aircraft (VCA) has been issued.

These aircraft are powered by an electrical system and are known as eVTOLs.

"This significant step aims to streamline the certification process and ensure the safety and reliability of emerging eVTOL technologies in the Directorate India." General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a release on Wednesday. advisory circular The

provides comprehensive



safety requirements on the initiative also aligns with construction, design, structural strength, flight performance, equipment, power plant installation, flight crew interface and other information required for type certification of eVTOL aircraft. The latest move is part of efforts to promote advanced air mobility solutions. DGCA said the

global efforts to standardise eVTOL certification and encourages innovative efforts by the Indian industry in developing/ manufacturing eVTOL and its components. Last week, the regulator issued an advisory circular on vertiports that are to be used eVTOL operations.

Market pullback: Sensex, Nifty down

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex reversed lits early gains to close lower by 398 points while broader Nifty slipped below the 25,000 mark due to selling in Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and L&T amid weak global trends.

In a volatile trade, the 30share BSE Sensex dropped 398.13 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 81,523.16.

The index opened higher and touched the day's high of 82,134.95 points in the mid-session. However, selling pressure emerged in the preclose session and the index tanked 498.15 points or 0.60 per cent to hit a low of 81,423.14.

The NSE Nifty declined 122.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 24,918.45. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Motors was the biggest loser, tumbling nearly 6 per cent, followed by NTPC, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank Baiai Finance. Hindustan Unilever and Bajai Finserv were among the gainers.

domestic market experienced

NSE NIFTY SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 Today's 24,918.45 SEPTEMBER 11, 2024



and Titan. In contrast, Asian Asian peers due to correction CPI and domestic inflation of commodity prices like crude which has collapsed to USD 70 per barrel. "Market sentiment remained cautious due to the slowdown in the minor Chinese economy. Investors consolidation in line with await the release of the US by 0.52 per cent.

data," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent and midcap index went lower

India aims to become global aviation hub: Naidu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $H^{ighlighting}$ the aviation sector's growth potential, Union minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said efforts are on to make Índia a global aviation hub as well as start manufacturing aircraft in the country.

With Asia-Pacific region poised to lead global aviation growth, Naidu said strategic investments in infrastructure and collaboration amongst the regional stakeholders is achieving critical to sustainable growth across the sector. Speaking at the second Asia

Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in the national capital, Naidu emphasised on three elements infrastructure, integration and innovation for the sector's growth. "My ministry is working with the vision of establishing a seamless aviation landscape in the country, integrating helicopters and seaplane operations alongside widebody aircraft under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN," he noted. India is one of the world's looking at ways to boost

fastest growing civil aviation markets and the fleet size of domestic carriers has increased to around 800 from 400 in 2014 while the number of domestic passengers climbed from 67 million to 152 million during the same period.

The number of operational airports have grown from 74 in 2014 to 157. "We have an ambitious plan of scaling this up to 350-400 airports by 2047," the civil aviation minister said. The country is also well-positioned to offer cost-effective and high quality MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) services to domestic and international airlines, he noted.According to him, the government is

indigenous production capabilities and also start manufacturing aircraft in the country. While noting that the aviation industry has long been recognised as significant contributor to global carbon emissions, the minister said India promoting adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). "The target is to blend 1 per cent of sustainable aviation fuel with jet fuel in 2027, 2 per cent in 2028 and 5 per cent by 2030 for all international flights," he added.

Around 250 representatives from 41 countries are expected to participate in the two-day conference that began on Wednesday.



Uber Black returns to Mumbai

PTI NEW DELHI

Ride-hailing app Uber on Wednesday announced the return of its upscale 'Uber Black' category in India, starting with Mumbai.

The move is a step towards addressing the growing preference of Indian customers towards premium offerings and Uber's ability to deliver a new standard of ondemand mobility in premium cars, the company said in a release.

"Uber brings Black back to India... Reintroduces its highend category starting with Mumbai," the release said, adding that Uber Black allows for a personalised ride with customisable features like quiet mode, temperature luggage. Riders will get to enjoy in-car amenities and on-trip preferences, ensuring high-quality consistently experience, it added.

"We are thrilled to bring Uber Black back in an all new avatar to meet the evolving aspirations of Indian customers and introduce the business class of back seats on Indian roads," Prabhjeet Singh, President, Uber India and South Asia, said. As India's leading multimodal

mobility service, Uber endeavors to cater to the full spectrum of riders, from those seeking affordable rides on two-wheelers or threewheelers to those who desire a trulv well-appointed experience in premium control, and help with vehicles, Singh added.

Arunachal to add 12,500 MW of hydropower capacity in two years says Deputy CM

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said hydropower Mein said hydropower projects with a combined installed capacity of 12,500 MW in the state will commence operations in the next two years, according to a statement issued on Wodpoeday.

a statement issued on Wednesday.
The projects will be taken up by CPSUs, including NHPC, NEEPCO, THDC and SJVN, he said during the Solung festival celebrations at Roing in Lower Dibang Valley district on Tuesday, it said. Five such projects will commence next year, while three each will be taken up in 2026 and 2027, Mein was quoted as saying in the quoted as saying in the official communiqué.



"These will meet the power needs of the state as well as the nation and will foster rapid economic development in the state," the deputy chief minister said, adding that large dams would also bring multiple benefits to the state as they are all multipurpose

projects. of Rs 1,836 crore annually as "We will not only harness power from these projects projects. of projects."

but also regulate water flow

downstream and harness water for irrigation purposes and fisheries," he said. These projects will boost tourism and employment generation in the state.

Mein said the state would generate income to the tune of Rs 1,836 crore annually as

The revenue accrued from The revenue accrued from the hydropower projects in the state will benefit the young generations, he said. The deputy chief minister claimed that the government is also committed to develop small hydro projects in border villages of the state. "These hydro projects will benefit remote villages, defence personnel and

benefit remote villages, defence personnel and military set-up stationed in far-flung areas," he said. Mein also highlighted the state government's initiatives to boost economic activities, including advancements in the tourism sector through the construction of the 218-kilometre Assam-Arunachal railway line passing through the sacred pilgrimage site of Parsuram Kund.

APSEZ to develop multipurpose berth at Kandla Port

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) on Wednesday said it has signed a concession agreement with DPA to develop Berth No 13 at Deendayal Port, Kandla,

Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat.

APSEZ has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, DPA Container and Clean Cargo Terminal Limited (DPACCCTL) that will carry out operations at the berth it said in a statement.

Berth will handle multipurpose cargo and is expected to be commissioned in FY27.

In July 2024, APSEZ had

In July 2024, APSEZ had received the LOI for the development, operation and maintenance of the berth for a 30-year concession period. According to the statement, APSEZ will develop the berth under DBFOT (Design,



Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer) model for multipurpose clean cargo, including container cargo.
Berth No. 13 is 300 metres long and offers 5.7 MMT capacity annually.
It is likely to be commissioned in FY27.

APSEZ CEO and whole-time.

"Berth No. 13 will diversify our presence at Deendayal multipurpose clean cargo at the port, in addition to dry bulk cargo that we already handle.

"The statement said the berth will further consolidate the company's position on the

APSEZ CEO and whole-time director Ashwani Gupta said,

Honda collaborates with IITs on AI technologies

company's position on the western coast and enhance its

ability to service customers in Gujarat and north India. APSEZ, a part of the globally diversified Adani Group, is the largest port developer and operator in India with 7 strategically located ports and terminals on the west coast and 8 ports and terminals on the

Apple drops prices in India with the launch of 16 series

ABHI SINGHAL ■ NEW DELHI

Apple on Monday has launched their new iPhone 16 series in India and markets globally. For the first time the prices of the new iphone have been cheaper by Rs 15,000 for the pro models (pro and pro-max) due to their manufacturing in India. The Union Budget cutting of the customs duty on smartphones by 5% has also been a factor for the cheaper smartphones by 5% has also been a factor for the cheaper price of the imported models. Apart Apple has also cut down the prices of their non-Pro models of iPhone 15.

In India, the iPhone 16, the

entry level iPhone is priced at Rs 79,900 and the iPhone 16 Rs 79,900 and the iPhone 16 Plus is available at Rs 89,900. Following these, the iPhone 16 Pro comes with a starting price tag of Rs 1,19,900 and the iPhone 16 Pro Max, will cost Rs 1,44,900 in the Indian

The 16 series of the iPhone will be the first series to have artificial intelligence as their game changer. With that Apple has introduced the new camera "shutter button" which is the addition of the Action button (previously exclusive to the Pro). The iPhone 16 and its Plus model are powered with Apple's latest A18 chipset, which uses second-generation 3nm technology. The A18 chip comes with a 6-core CPU, featuring 2 performance cores and 4 efficiency cores. Apple has also cut down the prices of their non-Pro iPhone15 models by Rs 10,000 in comparison with iPhone16 with higher storage. The 15 series of the iPhones are short of the advanced artificial intelligence as their

are short of the advanced features like Apple intelligence AI and the newly launched shutter button.



The iPhone 16 will still be cheaper in the US like before. cheaper in the US like before. The new iPhones are priced at \$799 (around Rs 67,000) with a starting price tag, whereas the iPhone 16 Plus is priced at \$899 (around Rs 75,500). The iPhone 16 Pro price starts at \$999 (around Rs 83,870) for 128GB and \$1199 (around Rs 128GB, and \$1199 (around Rs 1 lakh) for iPhone 16 Pro Max

The pre-order for the iPhone 16 series starts on September 13, at 5:30PM in India. The first sale will take place

on September 20. The new iPhone has been launched in four models iPhone 16, iPhone 16 plus iPhone 16 pro, iPhone 16 pro-

Japanese auto major Honda on Wednesday said it has started joint research on AI technologies with IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay with plans to develop driver assistance and automated driving technologies applicable in various regions of the world, including India. The joint research is aimed to

including India.

The joint research is aimed to further advance Honda CI (Cooperative Intelligence)-the original Honda AI that enables mutual understanding between machines and people, the company said in a statement. Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), a Honda subsidiary in India, will sign a joint research contract with the two IITs.

and through the joint research with those institutes, Honda will strive to advance the underlying technologies of CI, with an eye toward the future applications for technologies that reduce traffic collisions and enable automated driving," it said.

With an aim to achieve for the collisions and enable automated driving, and the collisions are the collisions and the collisions are the collisions. further advancement of CI, further advancement of CI, Honda and IITs have set joint research themes such as recognition of the surrounding environment and cultivation of cooperative behaviour, and will conduct research and development while utilising the cutting-edge AI technologies, it added.

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), a Honda subsidiary in India, will sign a joint research contract with the two IITs.

"The IITs are a home to a large number of excellent researchers and engineers,"

Honda Cars India Ltd added.
Under the partnership, for each research theme, Honda associates and IIT professors will engage with IIT students for planning, designing, developing and testing technologies which work



beyond the confines of the and thereby laboratory proceed with the research and development more flexibly and with a high degree of freedom, Honda said.

"This will enable Honda and IITs to work in a more flexible environment with deeper exchange of academic and industry insights," it added.
In addition, as part of this research, Honda with the help

of IITs is aiming to conduct verification of driving assistance and automated driving technologies in the suburbs of Delhi and in Mumbai.Due to numerous variations in the road systems and a large number of road users, India has a complex traffic environment where situations that occur frequently are difficult for AI to predict.

RAJ KUMAR'S HAT-TRICK HELPS **INDIA THRASH MALAYSIA 8-1**

Young striker Raj Kumar Pal struck a hat-trick as title-holders India sealed a semifinal spot after thrashing Malaysia 8-1 for their third consecutive win in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy, here on Wednesday. Apart from Raj Kumar (3rd, 25th and

33rd minute), Araijeet Singh Hundal (6th and 39th minute), Jugraj Singh (7th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (22nd minute), and Uttam Singh (40th minute) sounded the board for India.

For Malaysia, Akhimullah Anuar (34th minute) managed the solitary

India are currently on top of the standings with nine points from three

The six-team tournament is being played in a round-robin format and the top four will advance to the semifinals on September 16 followed by the final on September 17.

India had earlier defeated hosts China 3-0 in their tournament-opener before getting the better of Japan 5-1. Paris Olympics bronze-medallists India will next take on Korea on Thursday before finishing their league engagements against archrivals Pakistan on Saturday.

Retired Indian hockey star P R Sreejesh has shared a letter that

he received from Prime Minister

Narendra Modi recently in which

the leader has lauded the former goalkeeper for his service to the

game and expressed confidence in his ability to be "impactful" as the

Sreejesh called time on his

illustrious 15-year career after

India's bronze-winning Paris Olympic campaign, which was the

his and the team's second successive

Games medal after the bronze in

Known as 'The Wall' for his

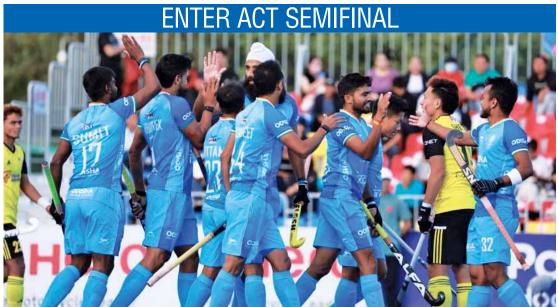
impeccable skills in front of the

goalpost, Sreejesh was instrumental

new national junior coach.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokvo.



The Indian strikers continued their fine form in the tournament and scored five field goals and three penalty corners, converted by Jugraj,

Against Malaysia, the Indians started on the front foot with relentless attacks in the first quarter.

hand India the lead, scoring a solo goal displaying incredible stickwork, thereby making a mockery of the

the Malaysian post.

"Received this heart-warming letter

from @narendramodi Sir on my

retirement. Hockey is my life and I'll

continue to serve the game and work towards making India a power

in hockey, the start of which has been made with the 2020, 2024

Olympic medals. Thank You PM Sir

for your faith in me," Sreejesh wrote

in X sharing PM Modi's letter. On Sreejesh's illustrious career,

Modi recalled the goalkeeper's heroics in the triumphant Asian

and the bronze wins in Tokyo and

'There are countless such memories

conversion with a powerful drag-flick. The team headed into the first quarter with a dominant 3-0 lead. Down by three goals, Malaysia started on an aggressive note in the second quarter and soon earned a penalty corner but the Indian defence stood India secured back-to-back penalty

corners in the 22nd minute and Harmanpreet, one of world's the best drag-flickers, buried the ball into the Malaysian goal with a vintage flick to extend the lead.

Minutes later, Raj Kumar scored his second goal after being set up by Araijeet and Uttam as India went into half-time with a commanding 5-0

Three minutes after the change of ends, Raj Kumar scored his first hattrick at the senior level from a rebound after vice-captain Vivek Sagar Prasad's initial strike was saved

by the Malaysian goalkeeper.
Malaysia managed to pull a goal back soon through Anaur.

But there was no stopping India as Araijeet scored a field goal, tapping in Nilkanta Sharma's pass and then a minute later, Uttam scored from a rebound from a penalty corner.
In the first match of the day, Pakistan

beat Japan 2-1 to improve their chances of reaching the semifinals.

Colombia edges defending

champion Argentina 2-1 in South American World Cup qualifiers

AP ■ BOGOTA (COLOMBIA)

ames Rodríguez scored from the penalty spot and had an assist to help Colombia edge defending champion Argentina 2-1 on Tuesday in a South American World Cup gualifier.

The Argentina attack missed Lionel Messi, who was sidelined because of injury for the between the teams since the Copa America final.

Yerson Mosquera opened the scoring in the 25th minute but Argentina equalized in the 48th when Nico Gonzalez capitalized on a defensive blunder from the Colombians. Rodríguez' 60th-minute penalty, which was awarded after a video review, secured Rodríguez' the win at the Metropolitano Stadium.

"It is a great win against an Argentina team that has won it all," Rodríguez said. "The weather was tough, it was so hot, but we had an excellent

match. It is a fair win."
World Cup champion
Argentina lifted the Copa America trophy after a 1-0 overtime victory over

Colombia in July.
Colombia, which hadn't triumphed over Argentina since 2019, is still unbeaten in South American World Cup qualifying. Also on Tuesday, Bolivia upset

Chile 2-1 at Santiago; Ecuador beat Peru 1-0, and Venezuela

drew 0-0 with Uruguay. Paraguay vs. Brazil were still to

play. Argentina leads the round-robin competition with 18 points after eight matches, two points clear of Colombia. Uruguay is in third position with 15 points, followed by

Ecuador with 14.

The top six teams in South American qualifying will get automatic spots at the 2026 World Cup.

Colombia once again had the 33-year-old Rodríguez to thank after he gave a perfect cross for Mosquera to nod in and opening the scoring. That equalized Carlos Valderrama's record of 11 assists in South World American

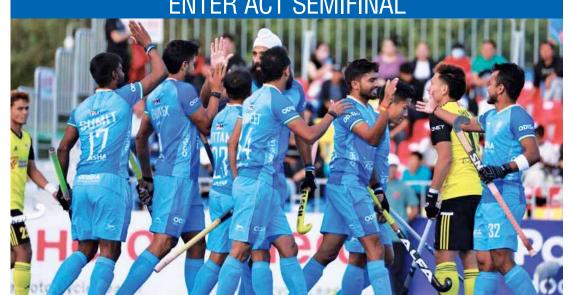
qualifying. A mistake by Rodríguez allowed Argentina to equalize, with Nico González stealing the ball from him and shooting past goalkeeper Camilo Vargas.

But Rodríguez made amends when he beat Dibu Martínez, a prolific penalty stopper, and equalized Falcao García's mark of 13 goals in World Cup qualifying. Argentina's strikers Lautaro

Martínez and Julián Álvarez failed to offer as much danger as they do when veteran Messi is there to create opportunities for them.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said the heat had an impact on the match.

'The heat is the same for both. but it is evident that there were not good conditions for us to see a spectacle," the coach said.



Against Malaysia, the odds were against India going by recent results. The last match between these two sides was the final of the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy where India were trailing 1-3 at half-time.

In that game, the Indians came roaring back to eventually register a 4-3 win to claim the title.

in guiding the team through remarkable successes, including two

Asian Games gold medals, and two

Champions Trophy silver medals. Following his retirement, Hockey

India appointed Sreejesh as the head

coach of the junior men's team and he vowed to make India a

Confident of Sreejesh's impact as

junior team coach, PM Modi wrote:
"I am sure your work in the new role
will be as impactful and
inspirational."

"As you call it a day on your playing career, I wish to convey my heartfelt

appreciation for your monumental

contributions to Indian hockey,"

Modi wrote in the letter dated

Sreejesh thanked Modi for his

"powerhouse in hockey".

August 16.

Harmanpreet and Uttam.

And Raj Kumar didn't take long to

Modi thanks Sreejesh, supports him as junior hockey coach

Malaysian back-line. Three minutes later, Araijeet doubled India's lead by finding the corner of

A minute later, Jugraj extended the lead with a perfect penalty corner

that one can recall and one letter would never be sufficient!

The Prime Minister also hailed

Sreeiesh's humility. 'Various awards, national and international medals that came your way reflect the heights you have achieved. But what has always stood out about you, Sreejesh, is your humility and grace, both on and off the field," Modi wrote.

"I am confident that your passion, dedication and commitment will help nurture the next generation of world-beaters.

Games campaign in 2014. Modi also talked about Sreejesh playing an instrumental role in India's quarterfinal finish in Rio Olympics "I want to thank you for your tireless dedication, your remarkable career and for being a source of immense pride for India. Thanks for all the lovely memories and all the best for the future," he added.



Australian field hockey player suspended over attempted cocaine purchase at Paris Olympics

 $F^{\mathrm{ield}\,\mathrm{hockey}\,\mathrm{player}\,\mathrm{Tom}\,\mathrm{Craig}}_{\mathrm{has}\,\mathrm{been}\,\mathrm{suspended}\,\mathrm{for}\,12}$ months by the sport's Australian governing body for attempting to purchase cocaine at the Paris Olympics.

Craig was arrested but released without charge after trying to purchase the drug in Paris on Aug. 7 during a night out after his Olympic campaign ended. He faced Australian media in Paris after French prosecutors issued a statement confirming the now 29-year-old Olympian - a silver medalist at Tokyo three years ago - was given a criminal warning and released after spending a night in custody.

"Following an investigation into the arrest involving national men's hockey team athlete Tom Craig at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, Hockey Australia's Integrity Unit has imposed a 12-month suspension," the Hockey Australia statement said Wednesday. "Six months of this suspension

will be served fully, with the remaining six months fully suspended, contingent upon meeting conduct and behavioral requirements."

Hockey Australia said Craig would remain eligible for selection to the 2025 national men's squad which is expected to be announced at the end of this

Germany, Australia, Canada and Belgium earn victories in Davis Cup openers

AP VALENCIA (SPAIN)

rmany beat Slovakia 3-0 despite the absence of No. 2-ranked Alexander Zverev, and 2023 runner-up Australia came out on top in its duel with France on Tuesday as the group stage of the Davis Cup Finals kicked off.

Four groups play across four cities this week to qualify for the Final 8 knockout stage to be held in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group will advance.

Germany and Slovakia were the first teams in action on Tuesday playing in China in Group C, which also includes the United States. The U.S. Plays Chile on Wednesday.

Germany sent out Maximilian Marterer in the first singles match and the 104th-ranked player won 6-4, 7-5 against Lukas Klein. Yannick Hanfmann then saved a match point and rallied from a set down to win 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3) against Jozef Kovalik in the second singles match.

U.S. Open doubles finalists Tim Pütz and Kevin Krawietz completed the German win by claiming a 7-5, 6-3 against win over Klein and Igor Zelenay. After finishing runner-up the past two years, Australia is



Paris.

again among the favorites and beat France 2-1 in Group B in the Spanish town of Valencia. Thanasi Kokkinakis gave Australia a 1-0 lead with a 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) win over No. 25ranked Arthur Fils.

Kokkinakis, ranked 78th, fought back from a 4-2 deficit in the second set to record a first top-30 win in the team competition.

"Arthur is a great player, he's going to be leading the French team for a while, so I knew it was a tough challenge," Kokkinakis said. "I just tried to hang in there and I think I played steady on the big moments. There wasn't much

Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Edouard Roger-Vasselin saved a match point then took the second set of the decisive doubles match but ultimately lost to Matthew

Ebden and Max Purcell 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. Purcell and fellow Australian Jordan Thompson won the men's doubles title at the U.S. Open last weekend.
Among the big names competing this week are Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and British player Jack Draper, who made it to the U.S. Open semifinals last week. Italy beat Australia for the

2023 title. Playing in Group D, Denis Shapovalov converted all four break points to defeat Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-3

and give Canada an early lead. Felix Auger-Aliassime then beat Sebastian Baez 6-3, 6-3 to clinch Canada's victory. It ended 2-1 after Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni came from behind to beat Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in doubles.



Krishna Khaitan All India Junior tourney set to start with qualifiers

The 31st edition of the Smt. Krishna Khaitan Khaitan Memorial India Badminton Tournament, a premier competition for the country's junior shuttlers, will start here on Thursday with a prize purse of Rs four lakh at

The tournament, which is organised by the Express Shuttle Club Trust in association with the Haryana Badminton Association, will be held at the Tau Devi Lal Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, here.

Sports goods brand Yonex Sunrise has also tied up with the host body for the conduct of the event, taking forward an association that goes back to more than two decades.

The qualifying rounds will be held from September 12 to 15 followed by main draw matches from September 16 to 19. Players born on or before Jaunary1, 2006 are eligible to participate and over 1,000 are expected to enter their names in the competition. Viveck Goenka, Chairman of

The Indian Express group, is the sponsor of the tournament, which he started in 1991 in memory of his mother Krishna Khaitan. "We are also grateful to Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, President, Badminton Association of India, for

sanctioning prize money of Rs for 4,00,000/tournament," the organisers stated in a press release. The event has been a stepping stone for India's shuttlers with

prominent past winners being Olympic medal-winning superstars Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Satwiksairai Rankireddy. While London Games bronze

medallist Saina won the event in 2005, Sindhu, who has two Olympic medals to her credit, claimed this title back in 2010. "We are certain that many more champions will emerge from this edition of the tournament," stated the release from the tournament organisers.

Last year's winner in the women's competition was Anmol Kharb, who made quite a splash earlier this year with her gutsy performances in India's gold-winning run at Asian Team Championships

US concedes late goal in 1-1 draw vs New Zealand; Pochettino hiring announced

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Christian Pulisic stared in frustration after the final whistle and made clear how work Mauricio Pochettino has ahead.

An 89th-minute defensive mix-up had dropped the United States into a 1-1 tie with New Zealand in a friendly on Tuesday night, a match that kicked off 30 minutes after the U.S. Soccer Federation announced it hired Pochettino to coach the Americans through the 2026 World Cup. "It's time to turn the page and we really have to pick it up a level," Pulisic said. "Everyone

there's better times ahead." Mikey Varas led the team for

the second game as interim coach following the firing of Gregg Berhalter, let go after the Americans' first-round elimination in the Copa America. The U.S. Was coming off Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Canada, the Americans' first to the Canadians on home soil since

Pulisic put the U.S. Ahead in the 69th minute, 12 minutes after entering, and with 31 international goals moved past Brian McBride for fifth on the U.S. Career list. But sloppiness by Caleb Wiley and Mark McKenzie led to Ben Waine's is part of this and it feels pretty low right now, but I know 89th-minute goal.

Before a crowd of 15,711 in 26,000-capacity TQL Stadium, the U.S. Stretched its winless streaks to four games overall and four consecutive home games for the first time since a seven-game stretch in 2010-

Pochettino arrives in the U.S. On Wednesday and takes over ahead of exhibitions on Oct. 12 against Panama at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later.

"Everybody is excited for this next chapter. He brings tremendous quality," Varas said. "I'm proud that we moved the program forward a little bit. And Mauricio coming, now it's going to be accelerated, and I think really



good things are ahead of us." Pulisic scored following an 11another attempt to clear, and the ball ricocheted off Waine pass buildup that included Chris Richards, McKenzie, and over goalkeeper Matt Turner, who was about 8 yards Aidan Morris, Marlon Fossey, Luca de la Torre, Ricardo Pepi off his line. Turner, playing his first match in 10 weeks, put hands on hips and slapped them on his side. and Folarin Balogun. After Pepi played the ball to him, Pulisic took touches with his left foot and his right, then slid

referee

Pulisic glared when the final whistle blew after almost 10 minutes of stoppage time. Pepi, among six changes in the

U.S. Lineup, appeared to put the U.S. Ahead in the 19th minute off a toe-poke feed from Fossey, a right back who made his national team debut one day after his 26th birthduay. But Pepi shoved defender Liberato Cacace just before the shot and Honduran

Selvin

Brown

disallowed the goal after consulting with an assistant. No MLS players started for the seventh time in eight matches. Just eight of 209 starting positions have been been filled with MLS players in the 19 games the full pool has been available since the 2022 World Cup. Pulisic anticipates Pochettino

to institute change.

"Hopefully a culture that is willing to fight, that is willing to take risks," he said. "There's a lot of things that need to change, just the mentality and the culture of the group. I think we have the quality but I know hopefully that's the first thing that he is going to want

2023 ODI World Cup in India generated economic impact of USD 1.39 billion: ICC

⊣he 2023 ODI World Cup in India created an "economic impact" of USD 1.39 billion with tourism among the biggest beneficiaries, according to a report released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday.

The Economic Impact Assessment conducted by Nielsen for the ICC, claimed that the mega-event held in October-November last year was the

biggest ever ODI World Cup.
"The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup
2023 has demonstrated the significant economic power of cricket, generating economic benefit of USD 1.39 billion (Rs 11,637 crore) for India," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice said in a statement. Australia ended India's unbeaten run in the tournament to win the trophy for a record-extending sixth time.

'The impact of tourism across the mThe impact of tourism across the host cities amounted to USD 861.4 million of revenue generation, through accommodation, travel, transportation and food and beverage because of a massive influx of domestic and foreign tourists attending the matches," read an ICC statement statement.

'The secondary and incremental spends within the economy was a key driver, generating USD 515.7 million, which was approximately 37 per cent of the total impact." However, the ICC did not specify



the report is actual revenue.

A record-breaking 1.25 million spectators attended the mega event, of which nearly 75 per cent were attending an ICC 50-over match for the first time ever, the report

"Nearly 55 per cent of the international respondents had previously visited India regularly, whilst an injection of new visitors thanks to the World Cup saw 19% of

international attendees making their first ever visit to the country.

"International travellers visited multiple tourist destinations during their stay which amounted to an economic impact of USD281.2 million and nearly 68 per cent of international attendees said that they would recommend India as a tourist destination to friends and family in the future further enhancing India's global image," read the statement from the

governing body. Over 48,000 full and part time jobs were created by the event through direct involvement in delivering the tournament, as well as other organisations across the hospitality sector, added the report.

The event created thousands of jobs and showcased India as a premier tourist destination, proving that ICC events not only engage fans passionately but also contribute significantly to the economies of our host nations," Allardice said.



Rohit, Kohli, Pant are probably going to be really big ones: Lyon ahead of Border-Gavaskar Trophy

added.

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon has identified Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant as the three "big ones" to said, if we, as a bowling group, watch out for in the upcoming are good enough for long Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series.

The five-Test series between India and Australia gets underway Down Under from November 22, part of the World Test Championship.
Besides the big ones, Lyon has also warned that the visitors

have an 'amazing line-up', making things massively challenging for the hosts. "Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Rishabh Pant are probably going to be the three really big ones. But then, you've still got (Yashasvi) Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, (Ravindra) Jadeja, and

who else will come out-

another five, I'm not sure," he

However, Lyon was confident that if the Australians retention.

delivered as a bowling unit would be beneficial for them. "But, it's a pretty amazing lineup they've got, so it's going to be a massive challenge. As I periods, hopefully, we can challenge their defence," he

The Aussies have failed to win the title since their last series victory in 2014-15 at home. The Indians have won the title on four consecutive instances since then, winning twice each at home and away, a

Gavaskar Trophy. Besides, they also became the only Asian team to win a Test series in Australia, and also winning it on multiple occasions.

record for the Border-

Overall, India is the most successful side when it comes to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, winning it on 10 instances, along with

will be harder to face SG balls: **Bangladesh batter Litton on India Tests**

PTI DHAKA

He was Bangladesh's batting star during their historic 2-0 away Test series win in Pakistan but Litton Das believes that facing the red 'SG Test' in India would present an entirely different and more difficult test for the

Litton, who scored 56 and 138 in the two Tests, along with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan and young Shadman Islam will once again form the core of the Bangladesh batting line-up during the Test series starting September 19 in Chennai.

In Pakistan, Test matches are played with Kookaburra balls, which is also used at home by Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa. Stitches of the Kookaburra balls aren't as thick and pronounced as the Indian manufactured 'SG Test', which

can aid reverse swing.
"The ball will be a different one in India," Litton was



quoted as saying by ESPN Cricinfo.

"It is a little harder to play against the SG ball. The Kookaburra ball is easier to play when it gets old. It is the opposite with the SG ball. It is harder to get away against the old ball when it's the SG."

The right-handed keeperbatter's 138 after Bangladesh were reduced to 26 for 6 in the

second Test is considered as one of the finest knocks under pressure but Litton doesn't want to rest on past laurels. "We played good cricket against Pakistan but it is already in the past," Litton

"It is important for us to look forward. We will need your said. "There's nothing better

for me," he said. For Litton, Bangladesh's improvement in traditional format has been gradual and

the Pakistan series. As a

player, it is already in the past

inspiring.

Tests, so we have to become more consistent in the format. That's the main challenge."

Having played 223 international games across three formats for the 'Tigers' in past nine years has given him enough experience to tackle various situations.

"I have to take responsibility now," he said. "It is the right time. I have been playing for ten years, so there has been some experience. I try to score off deliveries that I believe are there to hit. Scoring runs is more important these days. I think I bat in the same way that most batters approach the

game." Batting with lower-order is another expertise that he has acquired in recent years.

"I usually get to bat with (Mehidy Hasan) Miraz. Sometimes I bat with Shakib bhai (Shakib Al Hasan) or shots, the team score won't go anywhere. I want to play like (media's) help. It would be than that. I don't think it is helpful if you don't talk about pressure. We are improving in in training," he said.

Hope GCL makes big impact on chess like IPL did on cricket: Arjun Erigaisi

PTI ■ LONDON

Tndian Grandmaster Arjun ■Erigaisi hopes the Global Chess League will have a transformative effect on the sport similar to the revolutionary impact IPL had on cricket.

The GCL is the world's first and largest official franchise league of its kind, with chess players from all over the world competing in a unique joint team format

"It's definitely a great thing that we now have Global Chess League in the chess circuit. I really hope it makes a big impact in the chess world like IPL did to cricket," The 21-year-old chess

prodigy from Warangal has been creating waves this year. He ascended to World No.4 in Mushfiq bhai (Mushfiqur the FIDE world ratings in Rahim). If I don't play my France's Loic Travadon in the Team French

Championship 2024. Having watched the 2013 World Championship match between the legendary Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen, Erigaisi is delighted to get a chance to be on the same as the two veterans.

"Last year, I was on the same team as Magnus Carlsen, and now I am on the same team as Vishy Anand, sir, I remember following the 2013 World Championship Match as a fan, and after 10-11 years, I got the chance to be in the same team as them. It's a big delight," said Erigaisi. The second season of GCL

begins in London on October

of team chess tournaments, but I love it whenever I get a chance to participate in a team event.

Punjab FC announce squad for 2024-25 Indian Super League season

PTI MOHALI

 $P_{\mbox{from north India in the top-tier}}^{\mbox{unjab FC}, \mbox{ the only representative}}$ Indian Super League, on Wednesday announced their 26-member squad for the upcoming season.

The team's home, away and third kits were also unveiled at an event here. The Shers will start their ISL campaign against Kerala Blasters on September 15 in Kochi and will play their first home game on September 20 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Head coach Panagiotis Dilmperis has picked a squad that has a balance of youth and experience. Luka Majcen, Mushaga Bakenga, Ezequiel Vidal, Ivan Novoselec, Asmir



Suljic and Filip Mrzljak are the foreign signings of the squad. The new Indian signings include Vinit Rai, Ninthoinganba Meetei, Muheet

Likmabam Rakesh Singh (on loan). Mohammed Suhail F. And Shami Singamayum from the academy have been promoted to the senior side, joining Tekcham Abhishek Singh, Shabir, Nihal Sudeesh (on loan) and

Manglenthang Kipgen and Ayush Deshwal. Dilmperis said, "We have named a

squad that can challenge for the top spots in the league this season. The foreign signings have plenty of experience and we have an exciting pool of Indian players.

We have also maintained the core of our Indian players from last season. Our pre-season has been good, and we hope we start our season well and perform to our best capacity."

Dilmperis will have Konstantinos Katsaras and Sankarlal Chakraborty as his deputies along with Papaioannou Ioannis as the strength and conditioning coach and Manish Timsina as the goalkeeping coach.

"There are a limited number

Duleep Trophy: Focus on Rinku, Iyer, Washington in round two

told Star Sports.

 $F^{\text{ringe players like Rinku}}_{\text{Singh along with some seasoned names who have}$ been ignored by the national selectors will be aiming to attract their attention when round two of Duleep Trophy begins here on Thursday.

The star power in the seasonopening red-ball event will be reduced significantly for round two with India squad players released for a national camp ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai from September 19. Sarfaraz Khan is the lone India squad member who will

competition. In the absence of national

be featuring in the domestic

on the likes of Rinku, who was surprisingly not picked for the first round despite having an impressive first-class record. The spirited southpaw has also done well for India in T20 cricket. Shubman Gill joining the

national team has led to Mayank Agarwal captaining the India A unit. Having played his last Test in March 2022, Agarwal needs a bagful of runs to get back into national reckoning.
Pacer Prasidh Krishna, who

missed the Duleep Trophy opener having not fully completed his rehab for a left quadriceps tendon, has been named in the India A squad. With the Australia tour on the

regulars, the focus will shift horizon, the performance of the lanky pacer will be keenly observed.

In the India B squad, captain Abhimanyu Easwaran will need to lead from the front following a forgettable outing in Bengaluru last week.

Sarfaraz, who made a successful Test debut against England earlier this year, was upstaged by his brother Musheer in the opening game, the latter's 181 taking India B to a fine win over India A.

The elder brother will be eyeing a big knock before joining the national team in Chennai.

Washington Sundar also features in the India B squad and his all-round abilities



will have a point to prove. India C openers Sai keep him in the mix for all formats. Pacer Mukesh Kumar, who was pipped by Gaikwad will be looking to Akash Deep for the first Test,

case for the reserve opener's role in the India setup.

Left-arm spinner Manav

Suthar will be aiming to build

on his match-winning performance against India D. Rajat Patidar, dropped from the Indian team following a disastrous debut series against England, will need to show the hunger for red-ball runs. Shreyas Iyer, captain of India D, is another player who has been sidelined from the Test squad and only a mountain of runs can bring him back into the national reckoning.
The same goes for Devdutt

Padikkal and Sanju Samson, who was a notable name Sudharsan and Ruturaj missing from India D's playing eleven against India

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh too needs to do a lot more to enhance his red-ball credentials.

SQUADS:

India A squad: Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed. Khan, Avesh Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan.

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). India C: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat

Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier India D squad: Shreyas lyer

(C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

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