



OPINION 6 SHOWDOWN OVER RAHUL'S REMARKS IN THE US

WORLD 9 'EXPLODING PAGERS WERE MANUFACTURED IN HUNGARY'

MONEY 10 PM-AASHA SCHEME EXTENDED WITH ₹35,000 CRORE OUTLAY

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HARRY KANE SCORES 4 GOALS IN BAYERN'S 9-2 11 SPORTS

## Centre approves 'One Nation, One Election'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has geared up to realise the dreams of having simultaneous polls as it went ahead in approving the high-level panel's recommendations on "one nation, one election" plan for holding the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and Local Bodies elections simultaneously in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise. The recommendations could be tabled in the Winter Session of Parliament and sources indicate that the Government would implement it in its current tenure.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it was an important step towards making our democracy more vibrant and participative, Opposition parties shared a mixed response. The high-level committee approached 62 political parties, of which 47 responded -- 32 voicing support to holding simultaneous polls and 15 opposing it. Fifteen political parties did not submit a response. "I compliment ex-President Ram Nath Kovind for spearheading effort," Modi expressed through social media after Cabinet nod for simultaneous polls recommendation. Among the national parties, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the



President Droupadi Murmu being presented a report on simultaneous elections in the country by former President Ram Nath Kovind who heads High-Level Committee (HLC) on 'One Nation, One Election', and Home Minister Amit Shah, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

Communist Party of India (Marxist) opposed the proposal, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National People's Party (NPP) supported it. The country had simultaneous elections between 1951 and 1967 but thereafter, polls started getting dispersed due to various reasons, including mid-term elections. Holding all polls simultaneously will require a lot of manoeuvring, including advancing some

elections and delaying some others. While the Lok Sabha polls were held in May-June this year, States like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh also went to polls along with the parliamentary election. The Assembly election process for Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana is currently underway, while Maharashtra and Jharkhand are also scheduled to go to polls later this year. Delhi and Bihar are

among the States that are scheduled to go to polls in 2025. The terms of the current assemblies in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry will end in 2026, while the terms of the Goa, Gujarat, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand assemblies will end in 2027. The terms of the State assemblies in Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Telangana will end in 2028.

The terms of the current Lok Sabha and the State assemblies that went to polls together this year will end in 2029. Asserting that several political parties are already on board, the Union Government said even those parties that are opposed to it may now feel pressure from within to change their stand due to the widespread support on the issue from the people of the country.

Continued on page 8

## About 60 per cent voting in J and K

This is first Assembly election after removal of Article 370

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Close to 14 lakh electorate (around 60 per cent), belonging to different age groups and political beliefs, dressed in their traditional attire, demonstrated the superiority and priority of 'ballot over the bullet' on Wednesday as they queued up outside the polling stations. The voters exhibited the vibrant colors of Indian democracy, for the first time after the Abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, to elect their public representatives after a gap of 10 years in 24 Assembly constituencies spread across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir amid unprecedented security arrangements. Barring a few incidents, the polling passed off peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir. Briefing media persons, Chief Electoral Officer PK Pole said that approximately 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 6 pm.

During the 2014 Assembly polls, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 65.91 per cent voter turnout. PK Pole said the overall polling percentage may witness marginal correction as several polling parties from remote areas were yet to report to their headquarters. Overall voter turnout of



Shopian: Voters wait in a queue at a polling station during the first phase of Assembly elections, in Shopian district of south Kashmir, Wednesday PTI

S. No.	DISTRICTS	No. of ACs	Approximate Voter Turnout %
1	Anantnag	7	54.17
2	Doda	3	69.33
3	Kishtwar	3	77.23
4	Kulgam	3	61.57
5	Pulwama	4	46.03
6	Ramban	2	67.71
7	Shopian	2	53.64
Above 7		Districts 24	58.85 (7pm 02:30pm)

58.46 percent was recorded across five Parliamentary segments in Jammu and Kashmir in May 2024. CEO PK Pole said after the 2008 Assembly/ Lok Sabha polls, the voter turnout across 24 Assembly constituencies was the highest so far. Kashmiri migrants also participated in the voting across different polling booths in New Delhi and Jammu.

The fate of Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP Chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Shagun Parihar, daughter of BJP leader Ajeet Parihar killed by terrorists in Kishtwar, former JKPC Chief and Minister GA Mir from Doorur, Sunil Sharma, BJP general secretary contesting from Padder Nagseni is sealed in the EVMs.

Continued on page 8

## Government announces Chandrayaan-4, Venus Orbiter missions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed over the success of earlier Space missions, the Centre on Wednesday approved a new moon mission "Chandrayaan-4" to develop and demonstrate technologies needed for landing of Indian astronauts on the moon and safely bring them back to Earth. The Government also approved the development of Venus Orbiter Mission for exploring and studying the planet.

Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies for the landing of Indian astronauts on the moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth, a Government statement said. "Major technologies that are required for docking/undocking, landing, safe return to earth and lunar sample collection and analysis would also be demonstrated," it said.



FILE PHOTO

While the total fund requirement for the technology demonstration mission "Chandrayaan-4" is Rs 2,104.06 crore, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has allocated Rs 1,236 crore for the mission, of which Rs 824 crore will be spent on the

development of the spacecraft by the Indian Space Research Organisation. ISRO will be responsible for the development of spacecraft and launch. The mission is expected to be completed within 36 months of approval with the

participation of industry and academia. All the critical technologies are envisaged to be indigenously developed. The 'Venus Orbiter Mission' to be helmed by the Department of Space will involve placing a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of Venus for better understanding of its surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of the Sun on the Venusian atmosphere.

Venus, the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently, a statement said. The study of the underlying causes of the transformation of Venus, which is believed to be once habitable and quite similar to Earth, would be an invaluable aid in understanding the evolution of the sister planets, both Venus and Earth, it said.

## Doctors refuse to work, say two demands still not met

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of Bengal refused to end their cease work even two days after their talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee bringing "fruitful results" that included among other things removal of two senior IPS officers and health department directors who allegedly misled the investigation in RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case. The doctors' Wednesday morning demand of meeting with the State Government -- was readily granted by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant. Doctors said that the administration had not fulfilled all their demands including the removal of State Health Secretary NS Nigam and ensuring an atmosphere free of fear inside the Government hospitals and medical colleges.

A letter written to the Chief Secretary read, "We were assured in the meeting (held on Monday), that a special task force presided by you will be formed to address these



A delegation of junior doctors leaves for Nabanna (State Secretariat) by bus to meet West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant for a discussion on certain 'key unresolved issues' like security in hospitals, from their 'dharna' site outside Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata, Wednesday PTI

issues and further discussions with us would take place regarding its formulation and function. We would like to sit in a meeting with you and other members of the task force today regarding the same."

Continued on page 8



NDRF and Fire personnel conduct rescue operation as a house collapsed at Bapa Nagar (Karol Bagh) in New Delhi, on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri

## Four die, 14 injured as building collapses in Bapa Nagar

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Four people died including two teenagers, two are in critical condition and 12 others suffered injuries following the collapse of a six-storey house in central Delhi's Bapa Nagar on Wednesday morning with the rescue operation lasting for more than eight hours. Delhi Chief Minister-designate Atishi announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the four people who died and visited the RML Hospital where the injured are undergoing treatment. During her visit, Atishi stated, "The families of the deceased will be provided a compensation of Rs 10 lakh by the Delhi Government," adding that the compensation will also be given to the injured based on the severity of their injuries. She said that strict action will be taken against those responsible for this tragedy. Meanwhile, New Delhi BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj also visited the victims.

The rescue operations were initiated by local police and other agencies like Delhi Fire Services. However, later NDRF was also called to join the rescue operations which ended around 5:30 am. DCP M Harsh Vardhan said the building was old and located in narrow lanes of a residential locality in Bapa Nagar of Prasad Nagar. "We cannot take heavy machines or cranes inside for the operation but the teams of fire department, local police and NDRF are conducting the rescue work," he said.

Continued on page 2

## India serves notice to Pakistan for review of Indus Water Treaty



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has served a formal notice to Pakistan seeking a review of the Indus Water Treaty inked in 1960, arguing that "fundamental and unforeseen" changes in the circumstances require a reassessment of the pact.

The notice was issued to Pakistan on August 30 under Article XII (3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). Government sources said on Wednesday.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory to the pact, which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information

exchange between the two sides on the use of the waters of a number of cross-border rivers. India's notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of obligations under various articles of the treaty, the sources said.

Among various concerns, the important ones include a change in population demographics, environmental issues and the need to accelerate the development of clean energy to meet India's emission targets, they said. India has also cited the impact of persistent cross-border terrorism as one of the reasons for demanding the review.

"The notification was issued in the background of a separate prolonged controversy with respect to the Kishanganga and Ratle hydro projects," a source said.

"In this regard, the World Bank has simultaneously activated both the neutral-expert mechanism and the Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues," the source added.

Continued on page 8

## EAC report on relative economic performance of states reflects Vaastu



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Country's Vaastu seems to be reflected in a report titled "Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24" by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) which clearly shows that western and southern Indian States are more prosperous.

The report says western and southern States -- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka "performed notably better" than the rest of the country in over six decades. Authored by EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal, the paper 'Relative

Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24' said the development of eastern part of the country remains a concern. Ancient Indian tradition mentions that south corner, even of the cities flourish more when compared to other periphery. "Maharashtra and Gujarat have consistently demonstrated strong economic performance over the years. Goa's relative per capita income has doubled over the period of study. Additionally, the southern States have significantly outpaced others after economic liberalisation, with the five States collectively accounting for approximately 30 per cent of India's GDP".

"In the north, States like Delhi and Haryana also stand out. Delhi has one of the highest per capita incomes throughout the study period. The divergent performance of Haryana and Punjab warrants further investigation to understand the underlying policy implications. Punjab's relative per capita income has declined after 2000s, while Haryana, which was once behind, has surpassed Punjab on both economic indicators. The eastern part of the country remains a concern," paper noted.

To the much disappointment, West Bengal has experienced a continuous decline in its relative economic performance over several decades. Although Bihar's relative position has stabilised in the last two decades, it remains significantly behind other States and requires much faster growth to catch up. Since the 2000s, Bihar's per capita income growth has slightly exceeded or matched the national average seven, leading to a relative per capita income that has remained relatively stable. Bihar will need to accelerate its economic growth considerably to make progress toward closing this gap, the paper noted.

Continued on page 8



## Trump: PM Modi will meet him during US visit

FORMER PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet him next week during his upcoming three-day visit to the US. Speaking on Tuesday at his first public appearance following the recent apparent assassination attempt, Trump said Modi will meet him next week when he is in the US. PM Modi will be visiting the US from September 21 to 23.

Detailed report on Page 9



# 5 members of gang which duped SGPGL professor arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Special Task Force of Uttar Pradesh has arrested five members of the gang which duped an associate professor of the Sanjay Gandhi Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences of over Rs 2 crore by digitally arresting her at her home. They were arrested from Lucknow district on Wednesday. The accused were identified as Rishikesh Kumar alias Mayank of Sitamarhi in Bihar, Gopal Kumar alias Roshan alias Rahul of Patna in Bihar, Ganesh Kumar of Samastipur in Bihar, Manikant Pandey alias Mishra ji of Chandauli and Rajesh Gupta of Varanasi. The STF team recovered Rs 2.42 lakh in cash, 15 cheque books, 18 ATM cards, eight UPI scanners, seven mobile phones and two laptops from the arrested persons. The STF was working on the case after it came to light and had nabbed techies and the gang's woman kingpin in the past. During their interrogation, the names of other gang members had surfaced and the STF sleuths were looking for them. STF Deputy Superintendent

## Cyber thug targets student

**Lucknow (PNS):** A cyber thug duped a Class VII student by luring him with the promise of a reward in an online game and withdrew all the money in the bank account of his parents in Lucknow. The cyber thug lured the child into talking about going to a new stage in an online game. After that, the thug got about five lakh rupees transferred from the accounts of the victim's parents to his account in the name of creating the next stage ID of the game. On the complaint of the minor's mother, the Indira Nagar police are gathering information about the accused with the help of the cyber cell. The police have registered an FIR and are gathering information about the accused. Vantika Vihar Chandan, a resident of Indira Nagar, told the police that her son, who studies in Class 7, plays online games. About a month ago, while playing an online game, her son received a message from a man who introduced himself as Prakash Mehra. He asked the child to create a gaming ID to play the new stage of the game. Also, the accused talked about giving many prizes on winning the game at that stage. The child fell into the trap and transferred Rs 2.30 lakh from his mother's bank account and Rs 2.59 lakh from his father's account to the miscreant's account between August 24 and September 4. On getting information about the transactions, a complaint was filed with the cyber cell.

of Police Deepak Kumar Singh, who was leading the operation from the front, said they were trailing the gang members after their names came to light. The arrested accused told the police during interrogation that they work together in cyber fraud. As per their confession, they

had duped the associate professor by digitally arresting her. After getting the money from the associate professor, the accused immediately transferred it to different accounts and got it back by buying USDT. USDT stands for a kind of cryptocurrency that is pegged to the value of the US

dollar. It is a stable coin, which means that it is designed to maintain a stable price point at all times. In this way they converted the money into USDT. I get it encashed anytime without their names coming to fore. Rishikesh alias Mayank, Gopal alias Roshan alias Rahul and Ganesh talk to different people while doing fraud. Manikant Pandey alias Mishraji and Rajesh Gupta arrange SIM registered with the bank account, current account, corporate account cheque book, internet banking ID password from different people for this work. So that maximum money is transferred to those accounts. This gang had called on the mobile number of the SGPGLS associate professor and threatened her by introducing themselves as police/CBI officers and by taking her personal information, transferred money from her account and later transferred this money to the accounts of different people provided by our gang members. The data of the people who have to be digitally arrested is obtained by them through various accounts and channels created by scammers and hackers on the Telegram app.

## Apna Dal (S) MLA Vinay Verma calls off protest

**Siddharthnagar:** Bharatiya Janata Party ally Apna Dal (S) MLA Vinay Verma called off his indefinite strike on Wednesday afternoon after the in-charge of Shohratgarh and Dhebarua police stations were transferred and sent to reserve police lines. Verma, the MLA from Shohratgarh constituency, started the indefinite protest on September 10 against the alleged "biased" attitude of Siddharthnagar Superintendent of Police Prachi Singh towards him and demanded her transfer. "The government has accorded me respect by transferring the two police officials and in respect of the government I have called off my protest. Their shunting was among my demands," Verma told PTI over the phone. "The other demand was for removal of the Superintendent of Police. Now I have called off the protest but I will take up this matter with the chief minister when I meet him next. First I will meet the people of my constituency," he added. Verma said that by removing the SHOs, the government had respected the public sentiments and expectations of the common voters. He said the government's intention to eradicate corruption has also been strengthened with this move. PTI

# Exciting water excursions coming up in UP

## Four open catamaran boats to arrive soon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is coming up with a new era in tourism, with plans to introduce water excursions that rival those of Goa and Kerala. Open catamaran boats, equipped with modern facilities, will soon be operational in the iconic cities of Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. The Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Corporation has formally requested the supply of these boats from the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), marking another milestone in the state's expanding tourism offerings. Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh emphasised the state's rapid progress in the tourism sector, noting that more than 480 million tourists visited its world-renowned religious, spiritual, eco and other attractions last year. "We are actively working on various tourism projects like rural tourism, agri-tourism and water sports. The potential for water sports in Uttar Pradesh is immense and we are making significant strides in developing it," he said. Efforts are in full swing to pro-

vide facilities comparable to those found in Goa, Kerala and other states known for their water sports. As part of this initiative, an agreement has been signed with the IWAI for the supply of six catamaran boats, with two boats each planned for Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. Currently, one catamaran boat each has been delivered to Ayodhya and Kashi, each with a seating capacity of 50 passengers. To enhance the tourist experience, the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Corporation has requested that future catamarans be open-air, complete with a deck, pantry, toilets and other essential amenities. These features will allow visitors to fully enjoy the scenic beauty of the rivers and their surroundings. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh also affirmed that "tourists from across India and the globe will have a plethora of options to explore in the state". He said with the arrival of the open catamaran boats, visitors would soon be able to enjoy refreshing water excursions while basking in the scenic landscapes of Ayodhya, Kashi



and Mathura. In addition to the catamarans, electric boats were recently handed over to Prayagraj by the IWAI, further expanding the state's water-based travel options. These include two mini cruise boats seating 30 passengers each, and six motorboats, each accommodating six tourists, along with two rescue boats. All boats are expected to be operational following the monsoon season. With these new developments, Uttar Pradesh is set to offer a one-of-a-kind water tourism experience, continuing its trajectory as one of India's top destinations for both domestic and international travelers.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

NOTICE

The swearer of elderbrother, Balwant yadav, In the Army's record printed date of birth 07/06/2003 that was incorrect, while or Educational certificate and Adhar card printed date of birth 07/01/2007, is correct. Please noted it in the record. Yashwant Yadav s/o shobha nath yadav, vill-post- Rasulpur pachraisi, police station-Nandganj 'Dist-Ghazipur.

NOTICE

I have lost my original sale deed house number 13E /5, Barra 2 kanpur Nagar. While going to photo copy from house dt.15.05.24. It's been not recovered yet. If its used by someone will illegal act. Santosh Kumar Soni S/o Late Pannalal Soni R/o13E/5, Bara- 2, kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my name from HAR PRIIT SINGH to HAR PREET SINGH S/O KUL BIR SINGH for future purpose. Add-10 ZERDUS UNNAO.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the deponent Mrs. Sakina Bano Rizvi, W/o- Syed Nuzhat Hussain, R/o- 450/77/211, is a permanent resident of the given address. It is stated that due to an error in some documents, her name has been written as Sakina Bano Rizvi, while in all other educational certificates, her full name is written as Rizvi Sakina Qamar Abbas. Sakina Bano Rizvi and Rizvi Sakina Qamar Abbas refer to the same individual.

NOTICE

I lost the Stamp certificate No. 13AE069738 Dated 13.08.2020 and 38AE353521 Dated 06.01.2021 in total value of Rs. 3,18, 840/- which was the part of sale deed executed by DLF Limited in favor of me vide registration no. 1676/2021 for the plot no D-295, DLF Garden City Raibareilly Road Lucknow-226301. Use of this by anyone else will be invalid. Ankit Pandey-9999023077

NOTICE

सूचना  
सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे पुत्र का सही नाम आरुष त्रिक्खा पुत्र मयंक शर्मा है। जो उसके शैक्षिक अभिलेख में अंकित है। जूटिवश मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड संख्या 381046003792 में उसका नाम सार्थक शर्मा अंकित हो गया है। जो कि गलत है। सविध में मेरे पुत्र को उसके सही नाम आरुष त्रिक्खा पुत्र मयंक शर्मा के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। एतद द्वारा यह भी प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि उपर्युक्त के सम्बन्ध में समस्त विधिक औपचारिकतायें स्वयं मेरे द्वारा पूरी की गई हैं। मयंक शर्मा पुत्र-मनोज शर्मा 108/167 पी. रोड, जिला-कानपुर नगर- 208012

# Youth accused of harassing girl

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was accused of harassing an intermediate student living in Saadatganj area of Lucknow while going to college and returning home. On Saturday, the accused caught the girl by her hand near the college and behaved indecently with her in front of her classmates. When the girl student protested, he threatened her with dire consequences and to abduct her. On the complaint of the family, the Saadatganj police registered an FIR and are investi-

**CLASSIFIEDS**

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Akhtar Hussain to Akhtar Husain S/o Tauhidur Rahman, R/o LIG-236, Ganga Vihar KDA Colony Jainau Kanpur Nagar, in future I will now be known and identified by this name

NOTICE

I have changed my son's name from Najeab to Nazeeb Khan S/o Nafees Khan, R/o 17/125, Ram Narayan Bazar, Kanpur Nagar, he will be known and recognised by the new name in future

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Anes to Mohammad Anees Khan S/o Mashooq Ali, R/o 17/125, Ram Narayan Bazaar, Kanpur Nagar, in future I will now be known and identified by this name

NOTICE

I, Shailja D/o Vijay Singh Residing at H.No- 299/6, Sector-3, Awasth Vikas, Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar-208021 have changed my name from Shailja to Shailja Singh vide affidavit No-95AE242822 dated 28/06/2024 at Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I, Sushma Devi W/o Late Ram Kishore Tripathy Residing at Siromanpur, Patara, Kanpur Nagar, UP- 209308 have changed my name from Sushma Devi to Sushma Tripathy vide affidavit No-95AE491694 dated 29/08/2024 at Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I SUMAN DEVI W/o SUB Ranveer Singh Army no. JC482129L R/o gwalior MP. In my husband army service record my name is wrongly mentioned as SUMAN, whereas in other documents my correct name is SUMAN DEVI. Which is true and correct.

NOTICE

I ANJALI D/o SUB Ranveer Singh Army no. JC482129L R/o gwalior MP. In my father's army service record my name is wrongly mentioned as KUMARI ANJALI, whereas in other documents my correct name is ANJALI. Which is true and correct.

gating the case. The Class 11 student alleged that the accused, Abhishek of her neighbourhood, had been harassing her for the past month. She said Abhishek used to stop her on her way to school and make obscene comments. The student alleged that one day Abhishek held her by her hand and pressured her to elope with him. While the girl kept mum fearing social stigma, her silence encouraged the accused who stopped her on the way on Saturday when she was going to her college. He also harassed her and pressured her to meet him alone after the school was over. According to the victim, the accused threatened her that he

had her photos and he would morph them and make them viral on social media. He had also been threatening to implicate the girl in a false case if she complained to the police. Inspector Brijesh Singh said that the victim's statement had been recorded before the magistrate and the accused was being searched for. Meanwhile, a case of making an attempt to 'hush up' a rape crime by paying money to the victim has come to light in Chinhat police station area. A youth first raped the girl and then offered her Rs 2 lakh as compensation for his crime. The girl, who is not in a good mental state, was subjected to sexual assault when she was alone at her house after her family members went out of the city for some work. When the family members returned home, she told them the whole story. After a complaint was filed by the family, the police registered a case. The matter is being investigated.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Jaiswal to Rajesh Jaiswal for all purposes & records. Rajesh Jaiswal S/o Saligram Jaiswal R/o 243/25, Bagh Lalji, Yahiyaganj, Chowk, Lucknow

NOTICE

I am Sarthak Singh s/o Jai Singh R/o Ekta Nagar Govind Puram, Campbell Road Thakurganj Lko. Informed that my High School Passing Certificate year 2020-21 bearing index No. 1212738/102 by ICSE Board through Lucknow Public School has been Actually Lost.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Mohammad Nasir To Nasir Shafi for future purpose, Nasir Shafi S/o Hazrat Shafi R/o 44/267, Machli Tola, Moolganj Kanpur

NOTICE

It is to inform that the applicant's name on school documents is written as MOHD SAFDAR ALI RIZVI whereas in Aadhar card and PAN card it is written as SAFDAR RIZVI. MOHD SAFDAR ALI RIZVI and SAFDAR RIZVI both are the same person MOHD SAFDAR ALI RIZVI son of SAADAT ALI RIZVI resident of Plot No. 246, SAJJADIYA COLONY, Alamnagar Lucknow-226017

NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
It is notified to the general public that Mr. Aniruddh Singh s/o Mr. Arimardan Singh had availed loan from Indian Bank Mahoba Branch in which he has mortgaged his sale deed no 1985/99 in bank which has been missing due to some unforeseen reasons. In lieu of which certified copy of missing title deed is being issued if anyone has any objection in relation to this he may raise his objection within prescribed timeline or else after expiry of this timeline it will be accepted as flawless and necessary documents will be returned to customer as prescribed in bank guidelines.  
**Branch Manager**  
**Indian bank Mahoba**

had her photos and he would morph them and make them viral on social media. He had also been threatening to implicate the girl in a false case if she complained to the police. Inspector Brijesh Singh said that the victim's statement had been recorded before the magistrate and the accused was being searched for. Meanwhile, a case of making an attempt to 'hush up' a rape crime by paying money to the victim has come to light in Chinhat police station area. A youth first raped the girl and then offered her Rs 2 lakh as compensation for his crime. The girl, who is not in a good mental state, was subjected to sexual assault when she was alone at her house after her family members went out of the city for some work. When the family members returned home, she told them the whole story. After a complaint was filed by the family, the police registered a case. The matter is being investigated.

The victim's parents told the police that they had gone out for some work and their 24-year-old daughter was alone at home. The tenant, Rajkumar, finding her all alone threatened and raped her. When we confronted him, the accused offered Rs 2 lakh "to end the matter", the parents alleged. Rajkumar (31) is a resident of Mahmudabad in Sitapur and had been arrested by the police.

had her photos and he would morph them and make them viral on social media. He had also been threatening to implicate the girl in a false case if she complained to the police. Inspector Brijesh Singh said that the victim's statement had been recorded before the magistrate and the accused was being searched for. Meanwhile, a case of making an attempt to 'hush up' a rape crime by paying money to the victim has come to light in Chinhat police station area. A youth first raped the girl and then offered her Rs 2 lakh as compensation for his crime. The girl, who is not in a good mental state, was subjected to sexual assault when she was alone at her house after her family members went out of the city for some work. When the family members returned home, she told them the whole story. After a complaint was filed by the family, the police registered a case. The matter is being investigated.

# LU to develop SWAYAM, MOOCs courses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a major step towards enhancing digital education and expanding access to quality learning, Lucknow University has constituted a dedicated committee to spearhead the development of online content and courses for the national platforms SWAYAM and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). This initiative is a testament to the university's commitment to integrating cutting-edge educational technology and creating flexible learning opportunities for students across the country. LU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai has appointed this committee, which consists of prominent faculty members from various departments. The committee will play a pivotal

role in guiding faculty members through the process of designing and delivering high-quality online content aligned with the national educational framework. Chairperson of the committee, Dr Kiran Lata Dangwal, herself is well versed in computer education and technology and has created a variety of e-content, MOOCs and OERs for teachers and students. She has developed many MOOCs in UNESCO's international mentoring online programme, OE4BW. Currently, LU has received a project from the Uttar Pradesh government to develop a MOOC on 'Potential of digital tools in research'. Dr Pravish Prakash, Dr Shambhavi Mishra, Dr Bhawna, Dr Rishi Kant are the

members of the committee. Each member brings a wealth of expertise in their respective fields and a deep commitment to academic excellence. The key responsibilities of the committee are to provide guidance and support to faculty members in the creation of online courses, ensure that the content aligns with the guidelines and quality benchmarks set by SWAYAM/MOOCs, facilitate collaboration between departments for interdisciplinary courses and encourage the use of innovative teaching tools and techniques to enhance the digital learning experience. By leveraging MOOCs, Lucknow University will not only contribute to this national effort but also ensure that students gain skills that are relevant in today's digital world.

"With the establishment of this committee, Lucknow University aims to become a leading institution in the development of digital courses. The committee's efforts will support both students and educators in adapting to the evolving educational landscape. This initiative will strengthen the university's role in the global educational ecosystem by providing opportunities for lifelong learning," said spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the university's ongoing journey towards enhancing education through digital innovation, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow, and contributing to India's growing presence in the global online education space.

# 10 Lucknow dist CHCs get Kayakalp Award

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ten Community Health Centres of the Lucknow district have received the Kayakalp Award for the year 2023-24. All these CHCs get a prize money of one lakh rupees. Chief Medical Officer Dr Manoj Aggarwal said that Bal Mahila Hospital, Aliganj, Indira Nagar, Silver Jubilee, Tudiaganj, Gudamba along with rural CHC Bakshi Ka Talab, Mohanlalganj, Chinhat, Malihabad and Kakori were awarded the Kayakalp Award.

Bal Mahila Hospital, Aliganj secured the highest 86.43 marks and stood first in the district. The chief medical officer praised all the CHCs that have received the award. BMC Aliganj and Urban CHC Gudamba have received the Kayakalp Award for the first time while all other BMCs and CHCs have received the Kayakalp Award even for the year 2022-23. Kayakalp Awards are given for cleanliness and strengthening of the systems in health units. The chief medical officer said that recently Urban Ayushman

Arogya Mandir at Chitwapur received NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standard). Apart from this, CHC Bakshi Ka Talab was the first NQAS receiving CHC of the state, he added. "It is our endeavour that all the health units of the district get quality certificates," he said. District Health Education and Information Officer Yogesh Raghuvanshi said that increasing patient satisfaction by providing quality services at medical units, biomedical waste management, improving the working style and efficiency of

hospital staff, cleanliness, hygiene promotion, sanitisation, infection management etc. were inspected by the team coming from outside and only those CHCs which got more than 70 per cent marks were awarded. Seventy-five per cent of the amount provisioned for the award is used for gap closure, strengthening, maintenance and cleanliness as identified under National Quality Standard Assurance and 25 per cent of the amount is given as incentive to encourage the employees.

# Flower decorator, brother attacked with scissors

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth in flower decoration work was allegedly attacked by his rivals during the immersion of Lord Ganesha's idol near Jhulelal Park under Hasanganj police station. The youth, identified as Sumit Kashyap of Hasanganj, was attacked with scissors and sustained deep wounds on many parts of his body. After getting treatment at Balrampur Hospital, the victim returned home and told his parents about the attack and they filed a complaint with the police. According to information, Sumit Kashyap works as a flower decorator near Mankameswar temple. He had gone to Jhulelal Park with

his brother, Golu, for immersion of Lord Ganesha's idol at around 8 pm on Sunday. Everyone was busy in the immersion of idols when Sumit's rivals Deepak, Rahul and Himanshu from the neighbourhood also reached there and saw him standing alone. They started abusing Sumit over an old dispute and when he confronted them, they started beating him up. During this, the miscreants attacked him with scissors, causing deep cut wounds in the stomach and hand of Sumit. Seeing his brother surrounded by miscreants and being attacked by them with scissors, Golu tried to intervene but he too was attacked. The assailants later threatened

to kill Sumit and ran away, the victim alleged.

Police registered a case under relevant sections of BNS but the family of the victims is not satisfied with this. They alleged that the miscreants attacked Sumit with scissors with the intention of killing but the police registered the case under minor sections of the BNS.

## YOUTH DIES IN MISHAP

A 28-year-old motorcyclist lost his life on Santa Mulak crossing-Banda road in Gonti Nagar on Tuesday. As per Lucknow police press note, the speeding motorcycle collided with a divider and crashed into a tree resulting in fatal injuries to the youth who later died in hospital.

According to police, the youth was not wearing a helmet when the accident took place at around 5 am on Tuesday. The deceased, identified as Mohammad Vaish of Khurrannagar in Indira Nagar, was in the fruit business. He was moving from Samta Moolak crossing towards Bandha road when due to the high speed the motorcycle went out of control. The motorcycle collided with the divider and rammed into a tree at the roadside. Vaish suffered serious head injuries. Morning walkers informed the police about the mishap and the cops who reached the spot took him to SPM (Civil) Hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead.

According to the victim's family, Anil had objected to the drunken behaviour of their two neighbours on Monday evening, following which they assaulted him and also set their pet dog on him.

## Neighbours set pet pitbull on disabled man, assault him

**Baghpat:** A disabled man was locked in a room, brutally assaulted and had a pitbull dog set on him by two of his neighbours in Khekra town here after he objected to their drunken behaviour, police said on Wednesday. They said police took the man to a hospital, registered a case based on a complaint and arrested one of the two accused. According to the victim's family, Anil had objected to the drunken behaviour of their two neighbours on Monday evening, following which they assaulted him and also set their pet dog on him.

# Forest dept employs 'howling' tactic to capture elusive wolf

(DFO) Ajit Pratap Singh said, "This time, we are trying a new method. The pre-recorded sounds are designed to mimic the actual call of a female wolf, with a pitch that is neither too loud nor too soft." Singh hopes the male wolf will be drawn to the sound and come closer to the traps set by the department. Previously, the Forest department had attempted to capture the wolf using various methods, including using elephant dung cakes, spraying children's urine on colourful teddy bears and deploying fireworks to deter the animal from residential areas.

However, the rogue wolf has not been captured. Eight people — seven of them children — have lost their lives in Bahraich's Mahasi tehsil, while around three dozen people were injured in wolf attacks since mid-July, according to officials. DFO Singh said on Tuesday morning, the wolf attacked and killed a pet goat in the Saisiya Chooramani village. "Despite attempts to corner the wolf, it escaped when a large crowd gathered at the scene," he added. The DFO said the wolf has been active in an area of about

20-25 kilometres, with increased movement detected near the Saisiya Chooramani and Kolaila villages. The local populace has been living in fear with reports saying eight individuals, including seven children, have died in wolf attacks since July 17, while around three dozen others have been injured. To address safety concerns, over 165 forest personnel, 18 sharpshooters, and police forces are actively involved in the ongoing operations to capture the wolf. District Magistrate Monika Rani said many of the attacks took place in homes without

doors or where doors were left open. She said more than 300 such homes have received door installations and efforts are underway to enhance village lighting with high-mast and solar lights to improve safety. In light of the incidents, the government is providing immediate financial assistance of Rs five lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 5,400 to the injured. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently conducted an aerial survey of the affected area and promised swift action to alleviate the residents' plight.

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# Yogi: SP a 'gang' committing atrocities against women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GHAZIABAD

In a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the party had become a 'gang' of those committing atrocities against women.

He also remarked that the Congress and the SP are like the 'Bhramasur', as they harm the very people who grant them power.

Chief Minister Yogi made these remarks while addressing a gathering at a mega Rozgar Mela held at Ramliya grounds at Ghantaghar in Ghaziabad. During the event, he distributed appointment letters to over 10,000 youth, loans exceeding ₹327 crore to 632 beneficiaries, and tablets/smartphones to more than 6,000 young individuals. Chief Minister Yogi pointed out that all the individuals recently apprehended for endangering the safety of the daughters had links to the SP.

Reflecting on their values, Yogi said, "SP leaders are labelling India's religious leaders and cultural icons as mafia, suggesting that the 'soul of Aurangzeb' has taken hold of them."

He further added that Congress and SP have become like Bhramasur — whenever entrusted with power, they misused it to undermine the people's faith.

The chief minister emphasised that the ongoing Rozgar Melas in the state are elevating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission Employment to new heights. He also reminded the gathering that the people of Uttar Pradesh still recall the misdeeds of the pre-2017 governments.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "The mafia and rioters were a primary source of income for the opposition. He remarked that when someone's income stream is threatened, their leaders lose composure and resort to irrational outbursts. "Today, these political patrons are distressed by the disappearance of the mafia and rioters," he added.

He further commented that SP and Congress aim to incite class conflict under the guise of caste, giving rioters the freedom to loot. However, the double-engine government is committed to dismantling this model of the Samajwadi Party, he added.

Chief Minister Yogi emphasised that the next three years are crucial, as Uttar Pradesh must become the nation's top economy within this timeframe.

Reflecting on past governance, Chief Minister Yogi said,



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handing over appointment letter at the mega employment fair and loan distribution programme organised in Ghaziabad on Wednesday

"Before 2014, the Congress-led Central government enacted laws to suppress Hindus, sought to dismantle the Ram Setu, obstructed the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and promoted terrorism in Kashmir. Congress undermined the nation's security." "Similarly, before 2017, SP followed in Congress' footsteps in Uttar Pradesh, fostering lawlessness and chaos. Riots were frequent, and SP leaders were seen submitting to dangerous criminals, forest mafias, animal mafias, and land mafias," he added.

Chief Minister Yogi also emphasised how previous governments exploited the state's youth, resulting in widespread suffering, with farmers pushed to the brink of suicide and traders compelled to flee the state.

Due to the Samajwadi Party's actions, Hindu traders were displaced from Kairana and Kandhla, and the safety of daughters was compromised, he added. In contrast, in the new Uttar Pradesh of a new India, daughters are now safe, traders are respected, youth have access to employment, and farmers are moving forward with dignity, the chief minister pointed out. Chief Minister Yogi affirmed that if anyone dares to jeopardise the future of the youth, the government will take action against them, impounding their properties and distribut-

ing it among the poor. He assured that any obstacles to the dreams of the youth will be removed. Chief Minister Yogi highlighted that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is on the path to becoming the world's third-largest economy. He noted that the double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh has provided government jobs to more than 6.5 lakh youth over the past seven and a half years. For the first time in Uttar Pradesh's history, investment proposals exceeding ₹40 lakh crore have been received, which are expected to create employment opportunities for around 1.5 crore youth in the state, he added.

He said, "Under the Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Yojana, the government will offer interest-free loans of ₹5 lakh in the first phase and ₹10 lakh in the second phase to 10 lakh youth over the coming years." Targeting the opposition in a poetic way, Yogi stated, "Nazar nahin hain, nazaron ki baat karte hain, Jamin pe chand-sitaron ki baat karte hain. Wo haath jodkar lootne wale, bhari sabha mein sudharon ki baat karte hain. (They talk of visions without sight, speak of moon and stars while standing on the ground. Those who looted the people with folded hands now speak of reforms in full gatherings)." He further remarked that Congress and SP have only exploited Uttar Pradesh. "Now, a pair of boys has

emerged, trying to mislead the state, but their benefits have never extended beyond their own families," he said. Reflecting on Ghaziabad's transformation, Chief Minister Yogi said that seven and a half years ago, the city was plagued by chaos, heaps of garbage, anarchy, and mafia running a parallel government that extorted 'goonda tax' nut today, under the double-engine government, Ghaziabad has evolved into a smart city.

"It now boasts a 12-lane highway, the country's first rapid rail system, and a metro. Soon, a satellite centre of AIIMS Delhi will also be operational here. Ghaziabad is emerging as a hub of potential in Uttar Pradesh, offering investment, employment and modern infrastructure. Even the iconic Dudheshwar Mahadev has been beautified as part of this transformation," he asserted. In the programme, along with Chief Minister Yogi, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Sunil Kumar Sharma, Minister of State for Vocational Education (Independent Charge) Kapil Dev Agarwal, Minister of State for Public Works Department Brijesh Singh, MP Atul Garg, former Union minister General (Retired) VK Singh, district panchayat chairperson Mamta Tyagi, Mayor Sunita Dayal and other dignitaries were present.

## CM thanks PM for approving 'One Nation, One Election' proposal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union cabinet for approving the historic 'One Nation, One Election' proposal.

He hailed the decision as a significant step toward strengthening democracy and promoting political stability. In a post on X, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised, "Political stability is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. The approval of the One Nation, One Election proposal, led by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is truly commendable. This decision will serve as a milestone for ensuring political stability, sustainable development, and a prosperous democracy in India. On behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the prime minister for this groundbreaking decision."

The Union cabinet's approval paves the way for holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections. The Central government is expected to introduce a bill on this matter during the upcoming winter session of Parliament, slated for November-December.

## Yogi to inaugurate floating restaurant in Gkp today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate a floating restaurant equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and named 'Float' at Ramgarh Tal, a scenic location in Gorakhpur, on Thursday.

In the past seven years, the Yogi government has significantly transformed the Ramgarh Tal area, making it a popular destination known as the 'Marine Drive' of Gorakhpur. Already established as a premier tourist hotspot in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Ramgarh Tal offers attractions like the Lake Queen Cruise, and now visitors will be able to experience dining also at the floating restaurant. The Ramgarh Tal area has emerged as a key centre for both tourism and culinary experiences, with several renowned hospitality brands already setting up in the vicinity. The introduction of 'Float' adds another exciting element to the region, enhancing its appeal as a top tourist destination. The Yogi government has completely transformed Ramgarh Tal, once neglected and notorious for its filth, into a stunning tourist attraction in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi, Ramgarh Tal has emerged as a vibrant hub for tourism and employment, showcasing a new model of development. Once an eyesore, this 1,700-acre natural lake used to serve as a dumping ground for the city's waste, but is now a picturesque destination drawing



visitors from far and wide, thanks to Chief Minister Yogi's vision and the comprehensive development efforts undertaken. Tourists now flock to Ramgarh Tal to enjoy the Lake Queen Cruise, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi on December 15, 2023, and they can now savour delectable meals at the newly constructed floating restaurant.

Notably, the construction of this floating restaurant began on August 17, 2022, and it is now ready to welcome guests. Designed with an attractive interior, this three-floor, 9,600 square-foot restaurant can accommodate between 100 to 150 visitors at a time.

According to Alok Aggarwal, Managing Director of the company operating 'Float', the restaurant boasts modern facilities, including a lift that connects all three floors. The ground floor houses a food court offering a variety of pure vegetarian dishes, while the first floor serves as a venue for musical parties.

The second floor features an open rooftop, allowing guests to enjoy breathtaking views of the lake while dining. The entire design ensures that visitors fully experience the beauty of Ramgarh Tal from every angle. The floating restaurant, built at a cost exceeding Rs 10 crore, meets the standards of the Indian Registrar of Shipping and is set to become a major highlight for tourists and locals alike.

The Gorakhpur Development Authority (GDA) is set to generate a monthly revenue of Rs 4.5 lakh from the newly constructed floating restaurant at Ramgarh Tal, with an agreement already signed with the operating company for 15 years. If the company's performance meets expectations, the contract may be extended for an additional five years. GDA Vice-Chairman Anand Vardhan announced that the formal inauguration ceremony will take place at the jetty of Ramgarh Tal. During the event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also hand over allotment certificates to the beneficiaries of GDA's prominent housing project, Greenwood Apartment, which is being developed near Ramgarh Tal. The Greenwood Apartment project, spread across 5.20 acres, is a ₹374.49 crore residential initiative that will offer 300 three-bedroom HIG flats and 179 four-bedroom HIG flats. The project aims to be completed by July 2027, contributing to the overall development of the Ramgarh Tal area as a modern and thriving residential and tourist hub.

## Cong dharnas against deteriorating law, order

Lucknow (PNS): On the call of the party high command, hundreds of Congressmen led by All India Congress Committee general secretary and in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, Avinash Pandey, UP Congress president Ajay Rai, and Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra on Wednesday staged a dharna at Shaheed Smarak to protest against the deteriorating law and order and police oppression in the state.

The dharnas were staged in all the 18 divisional headquarters of Uttar Pradesh. The party planned to march and gearhead the commissioner's office to highlight their "concern" but due to the presence of heavy police force, they completed their protest by just staging a dharna at Shaheed Smarak and later handing over a memorandum. Addressing the Congressmen present at the dharna venue, Avinash Pandey said that the law and order of the state had completely col-



lapsed. "Just a few days ago, one of our young colleagues, Arjun Pasi, was shot dead in Rae Bareilly district and the police made every effort to save the main accused. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, himself reached Rae Bareilly and met the victim's family and assured the support of the Congress Party and urged the state government to give the strictest punishment to all the accused," said. Pandey said that rape incidents were happening every day in the

state and in such circumstances women were not feeling safe. He alleged that police harassment was at its peak, whether it be a case of murder in custody or a fake encounter. "The encounter of Mangesh Yadav is a slap on the face of any civilised society," the Congress leader said. In his address, Ajay Rai said that the way crime had increased in UP was a matter of great concern. "The Yogi Adityanath government has completely failed in discharging its role. Today, Congress workers have come

out on the streets in 18 divisions of the state and are raising their voice against the collapsed law and order in the state. If the government does not wake up even now, we will launch a massive state-wide movement," he said. CLP Leader Aradhana Mishra said that the Yogi Adityanath government, which was in office in the state for the last seven years, talked about zero tolerance but the truth was quite the opposite. "The truth is that UP has become the crime capital of India and 25 per cent of the crimes against women in the whole of India take place in Uttar Pradesh alone," she said. She said the way the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and workers were making indecent and uncivilised comments against the leader of the people, Rahul Gandhi, showed the moral degradation of the saffron party. Prominent Congressmen present in the dharna included MPs Kishori Lal Sharma, Rakesh Rathore and Tanuj Punia.

## Use of bulldozer undermines rule of law, says Mayawati



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sharp criticism of the state's 'bulldozer politics' under the Bharatiya Janata Party and Yogi Adityanath governments, Bahujan Samaj Party president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, on Wednesday condemned the trend, saying that it undermines the rule of law rather than serving any sense of justice.

Her comments come in response to the Supreme Court's recent directive halting demolitions without prior judicial approval until October 1. There has long been both a political and a legal tug-of-war over the controversial practice. In a post on X in Hindi, Mayawati expressed her concern over what she termed the erosion of constitutional principles. "The bulldozer is not a symbol of the rule of law," she said, stressing that its growing use for demolishing properties of those accused of crimes reflects a worrying departure from norms.

## BSP to discuss poll strategy today

Lucknow (PNS): To draw a roadmap to contest all the ten assembly seats in the coming bypolls in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has called a big meeting here on Thursday. All senior leaders from divisional level to district level have been called in this meeting of the party.

Before entering the Haryana elections, the BSP chief is going to give guidelines to all the leaders after holding discussions with them. At the same time, there can be a review in the meeting

regarding the by-elections of the assembly in UP to be held in the coming days. Sources said that guidelines could also be given in this meeting regarding Kanshi Ram's Parinirvana Diwas. To retain the status of the party as a national party, BSP is already contesting the ongoing assembly elections in three states including Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir. In Haryana, the BSP has formed an alliance with Indian National Lok Dal and Haryana Lokhit Party. The BSP has fielded candidates on

37 seats on its symbol in this election. The BSP chief herself is going to Haryana on September 25 to campaign. She will hold four rallies beginning from Jind in Haryana followed by a second rally in Faridabad on September 27. The third rally will be held in Karnal on September 30 and the fourth in Yamunanagar on October 1. Mayawati has also engaged her nephew Akash Anand in this election. Akash Anand will work to strengthen the cadre by holding small public meetings that started on Wednesday.

Her statement also urges both the Centre and the state government to uphold the Constitution rather than resorting to arbitrary actions that threaten the rights of citizens. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court had ruled that no properties, including those of individuals accused of crimes, could be demolished without its express permission at least until October 1, adding that even a single instance of unlawful demolition violates the "ethos" of the Constitution. Mayawati agreed that this intervention by the judiciary was a necessary response to the Centre's failure to regulate the practice and create uniform guidelines.

"Had the Centre acted earlier, the Supreme Court would not

have been forced to intervene and shoulder what should have been the government's responsibility," the BSP chief said, suggesting that the government's inaction had led to judicial overreach.

In Uttar Pradesh, bulldozers have become almost symbolic of Yogi Adityanath government, and have been invoked in other states by BJP leaders desirous of "setting an example" of stringent law enforcement, and also often invoked in hate speech directed at the Muslim community.

Mayawati's criticism not only targets the BJP-led Centre but also reflects broader concerns over the "weaponisation" of administrative procedures for political ends, often to target marginalised communities.

The use of bulldozers by the Yogi government and its heavy-handed approach to communal conflict and petty crimes alike has drawn widespread criticism from opposition parties, civil rights groups and legal experts, who see it as a violation of due process and human rights.

### BACKS ONE NATION ONE ELECTION POLICY

Meanwhile, Mayawati also took to social media platform 'X' and said that her party would fully support the One Nation, One Election policy cleared by the Central cabinet on Wednesday. The former chief minister of UP, however, said that it should be implemented in the interest of the country and people at large.

## e-auction of 45 industrial plots completed in YEIDA region

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GREATER NOIDA

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has successfully completed the e-auction of 45 industrial plots, each spanning 1,000 square metres, thus ensuring an investment of ₹500 crore in the YEIDA region.

Once the projects associated with these plots become operational, they are expected to generate over 5,000 job opportunities, further stimulating economic growth in the area. The success of this e-auction is poised to bring new dynamism to the industrial landscape along the Yamuna Expressway. YEIDA organised an e-auction on Tuesday under its institutional plots scheme, attracting remarkable bids. A total of 45 plots, each measuring 1,000 square metres, were auctioned for corporate office spaces in the YEIDA region. While the reserve price for each plot was set at ₹2.50 crore, amounting to a total bid price of ₹112.50 crore, it fetched an impressive revenue of ₹265.14 crore through the auction — an excess of ₹152.64 crore, or 134 per cent above the original bid price.

Among the standout bids, Challenger Computer Ltd. secured plot number 64 for ₹28.28 crore, Alexis Global Pvt. Ltd. bid ₹26.64 crore for plot number 69, and Sanash Impex Pvt. Ltd. offered ₹25.84 crore for plot number 59. Together, these three companies alone contributed ₹80.76 crore — nearly one-third of the

total bid. YEIDA officials expressed their satisfaction with the successful e-auction, emphasising that the establish-

ment of corporate offices in the area will drive large-scale investments and create thousands of new job opportunities.

**IIM Ranchi** भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान, राँची  
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Recruitment for Various Positions  
(Teaching-SRD and Non-teaching) at IIM Ranchi  
IIM Ranchi, invites applications for various Teaching-SRD and Non-teaching positions.  
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Last date for receiving online application is 23 September 2024.

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Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

**Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	12938996 & 18736190	HOME LOAN	1. RAM SAKAL TIWARI 2. ANAND KUMAR TRIPATHI	17.08.2024	16,02,857.42/-

**PROPERTY ADDRESS :** ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF HOUSE NO. 3/479 E.W.S, ADMEASURING 41.94 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED AT AWAS VIKAS YOJNA-2 HANSPURAM, PARGANA, DISTRICT: KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-208021, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: 9 MTRS. ROAD, WEST: HOUSE NO. 3/477/7, NORTH: HOUSE NO. 3/478, SOUTH: HOUSE NO. 3/480

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
2	34360245	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. VINOD KUMAR OBEROI 2. ANNU OBEROI	25.04.2024	10,37,760.13/-

**PROPERTY ADDRESS :** ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SITUATED ON ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR CONSTRUCTED OVER PRIVATE PLOT NO. 18, CARVED OUT FROM COVERED AREA 69.95 SQ. MTR., WITH UNDIVIDED LAND SHARE 27.87 SQ. MTR., SITUATED AT BLOCK C, INDUSTRIAL AREA, GOVIND NAGAR, KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH - 208006, AND, BOUNDED AS: EAST: PART OF PLOT NO. 2 (ROCHIRAM), WEST: 4.57 MTR. WIDE ROAD, NORTH: PRIVATE PLOT NO. 17, SOUTH: PRIVATE PLOT NO. 19

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Date: 19.09.2024  
Place: UTTAR PRADESH

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)



# Digital India scheme has dealt severe blow to corruption: MLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former UP Minister and MLA of Varanasi South Dr Neelkanth Tiwari said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India scheme has dealt a severe blow to corruption. The MLA was speaking as the chief guest at a tablet distribution function held at PN Singh Yadav Smriti Auditorium of DAV PG College here on Wednesday. Dr Tiwari said that the youths will play an important role in the resolution taken by the PM Modi to develop India in 2047. The MLA said both the central and state governments are committed to empowering the youth digitally. "After the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), it is very important for the students to be digitally competent, so the government is providing tablets and smartphones to every stu-



MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari addressing tablet distribution function at DAV PG College in Varanasi on Wednesday.

dent", he said. Under the Digi Shakti Project run by the state government, tablets were distributed to the students of DAV PG College. Dr Tiwari, who along with Dean of Students, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Anupam Kumar Nema, College Manager Ajit Kumar

Singh Yadav and Executive Principal Prof Satyagopal Ji provided tablets to more than 220 beneficiaries. Presiding over the function, Prof Nema said that technical-skilled youths are becoming the strength of the country and the aim of the government is also to make these youths self-

reliant by empowering them digitally. The college manager wished the beneficiaries a bright future. The function was also addressed by Prof Satyagopal Ji. The function started with Vedic Mangalacharan by the students of Panini Kanya Mahavidyalaya. The welcome address was delivered by Dr Rahul and vote of thanks was proposed by Prof Mishrilal. The programme was conducted by Dr Deepak Kumar Sharma. On the occasion Prof Richarani Yadav, Prof Anoop Kumar Mishra, Prof Madhu Sisodia, Dr Habibullah, Prof Vijaynath Dubey, Prof Satish Kumar Singh, Prof Sangeeta Jain and others apart from BHU Prof Alok Pandey, student counselor Nityanand Tiwari, Nikhil Jain, Kunwar Shashank Shekhar, Sunandan Bhattacharya, Surjeet, Vipin Kumar, Saurabh Singh etc were also present.

# Varanasi DM visits flood-affected area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam visited flood-affected Rampur Dhaab area here on Wednesday and instructed the officers concerned present on the spot to ensure regular cleaning of the village and spraying of insecticides to prevent spread of communicable or other diseases especially when the flood water recedes. The district magistrate also inspected the flood relief camp of Primary School, Rampur Dhaab and took information about medical arrangements, ration distribution and other relief works from the flood victims of Rampur Dhaab area. The district magistrate promised the flood-affected people residing in the relief camp that they would not face any kind of inconvenience. He instructed the officers present on the spot that breakfast, food etc should be given to the people in the relief camp on time apart from milk to children. There should not be any



District Magistrate S Rajalingam inspecting the flood-affected Rampur Dhaab area in Varanasi on Wednesday.

kind of negligence in this, he said, directing the officials to keep an eye on the flood-affected areas. During the inspection, the district magistrate also talked to the people residing in the flood relief camp and enquired about the facilities being provided to them. He also asked the flood-affected people if

they were facing any kind of inconvenience, the latter expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. Meanwhile, flood situation in this holy city continued to remain grim though the Ganga river after several days of rising trend has started receding during the day as per the report of Middle Ganga

Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC). The river was recorded at 70.6 metres at 8 am and is expected to decline to 70.3 metres by Thursday morning, against the warning level of 70.262 metres. The water level of the river was recorded steady upstream right from Phaphamau to Mirzapur, including Prayagraj. However, the flood situation in downstream Ballia continued to remain grim as the water level is already above the danger mark again and continued to rise 20 mm per hour. The Ganga is flowing in Ballia at 59.63 metres against the danger mark of 57.615 metres in the morning and is expected to reach 59.8 metres by Thursday morning, closer to the all-time high level of 60.39 metres recorded on August 25 in 2016. In downstream Ghazipur the river was recorded steady at 63.67 metres against the red mark of 63.105 metres and expected to decline to 63.5 metres after 24 hours.

# Diphtheria vaccine completely safe: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that the diphtheria (galgontu) germ damages the respiratory tract of children and can spread throughout the body. "Common symptoms include fever, sore throat and swelling in the neck glands", he said, appealing to all the residents of the district that it is most important to get children vaccinated on time to prevent this disease. "The diphtheria vaccine is completely safe and helps the body fight infection", he said, adding that the public is being made aware to avoid this disease. "If symptoms of the disease appear, immediately contact the ASHA worker, ANM or CHO and get consul-

tation and treatment from the nearest government hospital", he advised. District Immunisation Officer and ACOMO Dr AK Maurya said that diphtheria is an infectious disease spread by a bacterium (Coryne Bacteria Diphtheria) which usually affects the throat and tonsils. "Children who have not been vaccinated against diphtheria are likely to get this disease. In this, a membrane is formed in the throat which causes obstruction in breathing, which can cause serious problems. Its symptoms include sore throat, loss of voice or pain while swallowing food and formation of membranes in the pharynx and nose. Diphtheria bacteria live in the mouth, nose and throat of the infected person. This disease spreads from one

person to another through coughing and sneezing", he said. According to the National Vaccination Programme Table, Dr Maurya said Pentavalent 1 vaccine is administered at six weeks, Pentavalent 2 at 10th week and Pentavalent 3 at 14th week. Those children who do not get any vaccination for one year due to some reason and come for vaccination after one year, they are given three doses of DPT vaccine at an interval of one month each. Apart from this, DPT-1 booster is given to children at 16 to 24 months and DPT-2 booster at 5 years. Apart from this, mother and newborn baby are also protected from tetanus and diphtheria through TD1, TD2, and TD booster given to pregnant woman.

# Placement drive held at SHUATS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A placement drive was organised by different companies at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science (SHUATS) here on Wednesday. Director Career Planning and Placement Prof Dr Ashok Tripathi said that after several rounds of interviews in the placement drive organised by the companies, a total of 26 students got selection in the final round. According to Prof Tripathi, four students of BSc Agriculture and one student of BSc Horticulture were selected in IDBI Bank. One student of B.Tech Mechanical was selected in Tractor & Farm Equipment (TAFE). Besides, four students of MBA

Agribusiness were selected in HDFC Life Insurance company. One student each of B.Tech Agriculture and MBA Agribusiness were selected in Corizo. Two students from B.Tech Agriculture and one student from MBA Agribusiness were selected in Indo Farm Equipment Ltd. Professor Tripathi further said discussion is going on with many nationalised companies and campus interviews are likely to be conducted by other companies soon. The selected students attributed their success to the academic environment of the university and the quality education provided by the faculty members. Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Rajendra B Lal congratulated all the successful students and wished them a bright future.

# Two killed in house collapse incidents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two youths were killed when their kutcha houses collapsed on them in separate incidents in Derapur police station area of Kanpur Dehat during incessant rain late on Tuesday night. Over eight dilapidated houses collapsed in Derapur and Sikandra tehsil areas of Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday night. The tehsil and district administration officials rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation on Wednesday. According to a report, Sandeep alias Deepak (28), son of Kamesh, was killed when the verandah of his kutcha house in Antapur village caved in on him while in Bhupatiapur village, Yogendra Sankhar (35) was crushed to death under the

debris of his kutcha house which caved in on him. Besides, eight goats were also killed after they were crushed under the debris of Ashok Yadav's kutcha house which caved in on them in the same village. In another incident a woman was killed while her husband and son were injured when their kutcha house caved in on them during heavy rains in Tikra village under Kalyanpur police station area late on Tuesday night. The injured labourer and his son were undergoing treatment at the hospital. According to a report, Chhanna Kamal (42) of Tikra village is a labourer and lives in a kutcha house with family members. Late on Tuesday night during the incessant rain his kutcha

house suddenly caved in crushing wife Rani Devo (36), son Rajat (13) and him under the debris. Chhanna somehow rescued himself and raised an alarm following which the villagers rushed to the spot and extracted Rani Devi and Rajat from the debris. Tikra outpost incharge sent all the injured to Kalyanpur community health centre (CHC) where Rani Devi was declared dead by the doctors. Injured Chhanna and Rajat were undergoing treatment at the hospital. On the other hand, Chandrakali (70) wife of late Brijlal was killed when the ceiling and walls of her kutcha house suddenly caved in on her in Shahpur village of Bhitargaon, Ghatampur on Tuesday night.

# Oath taken to be alert towards cleanliness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign was launched in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) with Swachhata pledge here on Wednesday. General Manager (GM) Sushil Kumar Srivastava administered the Swachhata pledge to the officers and employees in the Reception Hall of BLW Administration Building. During this, all the officers and employees present took an oath to be alert towards cleanliness and to fulfil their responsibility with honesty regarding cleanliness. Thereafter, all the officers and employees present took a pledge to ensure their participation in the cleanliness drive by putting a handprint with their names on the Swachhata tree made for everyone's participation in cleanliness. There was great enthusiasm among the women railway employees in this programme. Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar said that the theme of SHS-2024 is 'Swabhava Swachhata, Sanskar Swachhata' and under this, the spirit of citizen participation and collective work will be ignited in the cleanliness efforts across the country. During this campaign which will continue till October 2 BLW will



organise various programmes, including painting contest among railway employees, officers and their family members as well as common people, mass plantation under the name of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', cleanliness awareness campaign, huge human chain with slogan placards by students of schools situated on the campus, marathon, cyclothon, walkathon by members of sports department and players, putting up artwork made of scraps at prominent places of the workshop, putting up cleanliness mascots, banners, hoardings, standees at various places in BLW campus, health camps, organising street plays and cultural programmes related to cleanliness, massive cleaning of public places, organising sports tournaments for cleanliness awareness among players, essay, poetry, painting competition, live demonstration, poster, promoting the concepts of RRR

(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) at work places through capacity building, honoring of safai mitras, awards to best performers, etc. In the cleanliness pledge programme, BLW's Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCMM) Rajneesh Gupta, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Subrata Nath, Principal Financial Advisor (PFA) Neeraj Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Janardan Singh, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Devesh Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Ankur Chandra, Chief Safety Officer (CSO) SB Patel, Deputy General Manager Anuj Katiyar along with a large number of BLW's department heads, officers and employees participated. The programme of SHS was conducted under the leadership of Subrat Nathl.

# Congmen stage protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Congressmen protested here and raised slogans against the UP government on Wednesday. They came out to protest against the state government over the deteriorating law and order and corruption in the state. The protesters warned of agitation if the law and order situation did not improve and 'corruption' prevailing at the police station level is not curbed soon. They also expressed displeasure over the remarks against Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi. The office-bearers and workers of Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur District City Congress Committee gathered in large numbers at the protest site in Civil Lines and raised slogans against the Yogi government and expressed their anger. The protesters also raised slogans against the police administration. MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said the law and order has completely collapsed under the BJP rule and corruption is at its peak at the police station level. The MP alleged that the police is constantly bent on fake encounters at the behest of the state government. He demanded a judicial inquiry of the encounters in the state by a sitting Justice of the Supreme Court. Under the leadership of former MLA Vijay Prakash, the



leaders handed over a two-point letter addressed to the President to the Additional City Magistrate. District president Suresh Yadav, Arun Tiwari, Pradeep Mishra, Mukund Tiwari, Fujail Hashmi, Harikash Tripathi, Kishore Varshney, Haseeb Ahmed, Gaurav Pandey, Talat Azim, Sanjay Tiwari, Arshad Ali, Anil Kushwaha, Rajesh Sahni, Uday Yadav, Tabrez Ahmed, Vinay Pandey, Anoop Tripathi, Rajesh Rakesh and others were present. MEETING: District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mander held the first review meeting with the concerned officers in the Sangam auditorium. While reviewing the projects under construction worth more than ₹50 lakh, he got to know the reality. The officers of the departments concerned have been instructed to complete the construction works with quality within the stipulated time frame.

# Community ambassadors felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The members of Ekjut Kanpur felicitated community ambassadors from informal settlements located near the Ganga and Pandu rivers on Wednesday. The event acknowledged the work that is being done to create a healthy riverine ecosystem and was attended by dignitaries including Municipal Commissioner Sudhir Kumar, City Health Officer, Swachh Bharat Mission (U) Dr Chandra Shekhar and Zonal Sanitation Officer Ram Chaurasia. Speaking on the occasion, MLA and former state minister Neelima Katiyar said, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan from the ramparts of the Red Fort, there were many who wondered why he was doing that. Today we see the impact of his vision. I truly admire the efforts and the transformation that Ekjut Kanpur has managed to

bring about. I commend Shramik Bharti for organising Ekjut Kanpur and have witnessed the dedication of the people involved. This is truly commendable. We need to recognise that waste is not just something to be discarded; it should also be recycled. Your efforts to promote cleanliness and health awareness in our community are commendable." On the occasion the members of Ekjut Kanpur shed light on community work, including audits of the solid waste situation, community workshops and solution planning, household composting initiatives etc. ACHIEVEMENT: Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor in the Department of Life Science at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU) has earned a prestigious place in Stanford University's recently updated list of the world's top two per cent of the most influential scientists. This recognition is based on Scopus citation data, one of the most renowned global databases of academic and research publications. Dr Sharma has been acknowledged for his significant contributions in the field of biotechnology, specifically in the subcategory of Microbiology. Stanford University's ranking, released annually, identifies and honours scientists from across the globe who have made substantial contributions to their respective fields based on citation impact, H-index, co-authorship-adjusted Schreiber index and other key performance indicators. Dr Sharma's inclusion on this elite list underscores his outstanding research work and the wide-reaching influence of his scientific publications. His innovative work has led to the publication of numerous highly cited papers in international journals, advancing scientific understanding in both theoretical and applied microbiology. Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma said, "I am deeply honoured to be recognised among such a distinguished group of scientists. I believe this recognition is a testament to the cutting-edge research being conducted in India, and I hope it will inspire young scientists in our country to pursue innovative and impactful research." CSJMU V-C Professor Vinay Kumar Pathak, congratulated Dr Sharma on this remarkable achievement.



'Ekjut Kanpur' felicitating community ambassadors on Wednesday.

# DRM plants sapling at Banaras Coaching Depot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Participating in the Swachhata Abhiyan (cleanliness drive), Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vineet Kumar Srivastava planted a sapling for the purity of the environment under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in the premises of Banaras Coaching Depot here on Wednesday. It was the second day of Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS-2024) fortnight campaign being organised on the theme 'Swabhava Swachhata - Sanskar Swachhata'. During the day, Safai Mitra Suraksha and health camps were organised at all the major stations of the division and railway units of railway colonies and PPE kits were provided for the safety of cleaning staff and health workers. Besides, working knowledge of operating



DRM VK Srivastava planting a sapling at Banaras Coaching Depot in Varanasi on Wednesday.

(ADRM/Infrastructure) Roshan Lal Yadav, ADRM (Operations) Rajesh Kumar Singh, Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr RJ Chaudhury, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage & Wagon) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Abhishek Rai and other divisional officers also planted saplings. Along with this, cleanliness was done in Banaras Coaching Depot under Swachh Gaadi and Swachh Depot Drive, in which machines, materials used in cleaning, materials used for the care of cleaning staff and dustbins at stations were checked. Under this drive, special attention was given to cleaning drainage and toilets. Apart from this, the condition of hydrant pipes, repair painting, vehicles used for waste was also taken care of.

In the same sequence, under the SHS-2024 campaign, PPE kits were distributed to the sanitation guards at Banaras station and passengers were made aware by giving information related to the use of dustbins and cleanliness. PPE kits were also distributed among housekeeping assistant employees in Varanasi City Railway Colony. Along with this, the health check-up of employees working in housekeeping and cleaning at Banaras and Varanasi City railway stations was done at a camp was organised at Divisional Medical Hospital, Labartara. Besides, shramdaan was done at various places, which include various railway stations, Railway Protection Force (RPF) posts, health centres, railway colonies, train set depots, TRD depots, railway tracks, level crossings, gardens and various units of railway.

# SHS programme organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of SHUATS organised the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) programme sponsored by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India. A total of 173 National Service Scheme volunteers were present in the programme. The National Service Scheme volunteers took the oath of cleanliness and also discussed various activities to be done till October 2. Programme Coordinator Dr. Deepak Kumar Bose, Assistant Coordinator Satyam Kumar Kesari, Programme Officer Dr. Reena Mehta and Dr Alka Gupta etc were present in the programme. MAN KILLED: A 45-year-old man was killed after falling from a train during a journey near Kukhudi village of Manda.

# Importance of Hindi highlighted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

State Manager (Estate & Office Service) P Vijaylaxmi inaugurated the Hindi Divas celebrations by lighting the lamp at the main gate of North Central Zonal Office of LIC of India here on Tuesday. On the occasion state manager (Personnel & IO) Kavita Manmohan, state manager (HRD) Navin Kumar, Deputy Chief Engineer Vilas Patrikar, state manager (Insurance) Balraj Malik, state manager (IT) Monika Jagdhari, state manager (Pension & Group Insurance) Veena Bisht, state manager (F&A) Upasana Chandhok, state manager (Legal) Rajesh Kumar Sonkar, state manager (CC) Babadin Rawat, all officers and employees were present. The messages of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, CEO/MD LIC Siddhartha Mohanty and Zonal Manager (North Central Zone)



State Manager (Estate & Office Service) P Vijaylaxmi inaugurating the Hindi Divas/Hindi fortnight celebrations on Tuesday.

PS Negi were also read. Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Manager PS Negi, while highlighting the importance of Hindi language, he called upon all the officers, employees, development officers and agents to pledge to not only do their work in Hindi but also actively contribute towards its promotion. State Manager (P&IO) P Vijaylaxmi appealed staff members to take part in various competitions being organised during Hindi

Pakhwada in large number. State Manager (HRD)/Zonal Rajbhasha Sampark Adhikari Navin Kumar and Zonal Rajbhasha Adhikari Sanjiv Kumar Singh also addressed the gathering and appealed for maximum use of the official language. Deputy Chief Engineer Vilas Patrikar administered Rajbhasha oath to all officers and employees. Assistant Secretary (HRD) Anil Kumar Bajpai proposed the vote of thanks.



# Opposition opposes 'One Nation, One Election' proposal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday opposed the "one nation, one election" proposal as a report of a panel on simultaneous elections, headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, was approved by the Union Cabinet.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said "one nation, one election" is not practical and alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes up with such things to divert attention from real issues when polls approach.

"It is not practical, it will not work. When elections come and they (BJP) do not get any issue to raise, they divert attention from real issues," Kharge told a press conference here.

"Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Derek O'Brien called it a "cheap stunt" of the BJP and questioned why the Maharashtra polls were not announced with those in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir if the government wants simultaneous elections.

"One nation, one election is just another cheap stunt by the anti-democratic BJP. Why were the Maharashtra elections not announced along with the elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir?" he asked. "The Maharashtra



government announced the Ladki Bahin scheme in the Budget in June. The first tranche reached the bank accounts of women in August and the second tranche will reach the beneficiaries in October," he said. "You cannot do three states in one go and you talk about one nation, one election," O'Brien said.

"He also sought to know how many Constitution amendments and curtailments of the terms of state Assemblies would be required for the implementation of the proposal.

"And also tell us, how many Constitution amendments, including curtailing or extending terms of state

Assemblies, will be done! Classic Modi-Shah jumla," the TMC leader said in a statement. He also took to social media to share a letter written by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in January, opposing the proposal. "All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the proposed move will destroy federalism.

"I have consistently opposed One Nation One Election because it is a solution in search of a problem. It destroys federalism and compromises democracy, which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution," he said in a social media post. Owaisi said multiple elections are not a problem for anyone

except Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as they want to campaign in every election.

"Multiple elections aren't a problem for anyone except Modi and Shah. Just because they have a compulsive need to campaign in even municipal and local body elections does not mean that we need simultaneous polls.

Frequent and periodic elections improve democratic accountability," the member of Parliament from Hyderabad said. "Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sandeep Pathak wondered how all elections would be held together when the Maharashtra polls could not be held with those in Haryana

and Jammu and Kashmir.

"They were incapable of holding simultaneous polls in four states and managed to hold elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. My submission is that when they are unable to hold simultaneous polls in four states, how is one nation, one election even possible?" he asked.

"Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MP Mahua Maji alleged that the BJP is pushing for simultaneous polls as it wants to be the only party to rule in India.

"The BJP has been trying this since long. It wants only one party to rule the country. Recently, it broke the NCP and the Shiv Sena while the BJD has nearly been wiped out in Odisha. Similarly, it is trying to destroy the JMM in Jharkhand and it will try to destroy the regional parties using one nation, one election," she said.

"Congress leader Harish Rawat said the BJP has realised that it is going to taste defeat in the ongoing and upcoming state polls, including in Maharashtra, and thus, is scared.

"The BJP has realised that it will be defeated in the elections in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. After losing one state after another, the BJP is not in a position to sustain that pressure that

would result in the collapse of their coalition government (at the Centre). That is why the 'ghabrayi hui' (worried) government has opted for the one nation, one election formula," the former Uttarakhand chief minister said.

"Senior Congress leader T S Singhdeo said, "It is only a strategy of political convenience, and what I can see is nothing beyond that. The same party which is governing the country as part of the NDA has been talking about this for the past few years."

"You see their intent. Had they really been proponent of this view that this will be a great benefit to the country and the society...What attempt did they make to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections take place at the same time," he said.

"The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal for "one nation, one election" as recommended by the Kovind panel, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

"The high-level committee has recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies as the first step, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.



## Over 5.56 lakh FIRs filed under new criminal laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over 5.56 lakh First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered across the country under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) ever since its introduction on July one, a senior official said on Wednesday.

For smooth implementation of the new criminal laws, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also developed several mobile applications, including e-Sakshya for capturing, storing and retrieving evidence through videography and photography.

The app has been adopted by 22 states and Union Territories and tested by 24 states and UTs. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act

replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

"Since July one till September three, a total of 5.56 lakh FIRs have been registered in the country under the BNS, the officer said, highlighting the achievements of the home ministry in the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government. "Software patches have been designed and deployed in the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) pillar applications to incorporate the new criminal laws.

The key changes in the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) include e-Prisons, e-Forensics, e-Prosecution, use of audio-video electronic means and electronic communication among others as per the new criminal laws.



## India faces second hottest summer since 1970, one third population at risk

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Between June and August, India endured its second-hottest summer since 1970, with extreme heat impacting over one-third of the population, disrupting not only daily life and claiming countless lives but also posing serious risks to public health across the nation, according to a report by Climate Central.

This analysis coincides with official data revealing 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths during one of the longest and most intense heat waves in the country's history.

Analysing temperature impact on more than one billion residents in 72 countries that recorded their hottest June-August since at least 1970, the report by the Climate Central found that in India alone, over 426 million people encountered extreme heat for at least a week. It said, temperatures exceeded 90% of usual highs from 1991 to 2020. Over 20.5 million experienced at least 60 days.

Scientists say that human-caused climate change and the El Niño natural weather phenomenon both have pushed temperatures to record highs in the year so far.

Climate Central's latest analysis sheds light on the local impacts of rising temperatures, detailing how states and cities are confronting an alarming increase in dangerous heat days.

For instance, in India, several cities witnessed many days where temperatures were heavily influenced by climate change. Cities such as Thiruvananthapuram, Vasai-Virar, Kavaratti, Thane, Mumbai, and Port Blair were among the hardest hit, each enduring over 70 days of temperatures significantly intensified by climate change. Mumbai alone recorded 54 days of extreme heat linked to these changes.

Additionally, Kanpur and Delhi faced prolonged spells of dangerously high

temperatures, with average readings exceeding 39 degrees Celsius, a scenario made four times more likely due to climate change, the report indicated.

Globally, more than 2 billion people worldwide faced at least 30 days of climate-change attributable temperatures above established health risk thresholds.

These temperatures were made at least three times more likely by climate change. "High temperatures that were clearly influenced by climate change jeopardised the health of billions around the world during the past three months," said Andrew Pershing, vice president for science at Climate Central.

Vaibhav Pratap Singh, Executive Director, Climate and Sustainability Initiative (CSI), warned that the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident for people and businesses across the country. "Each year, we are experiencing more severe climate-related events such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, which are causing significant harm to lives and livelihoods.

"It is crucial to conduct assessments of how different levels of global warming are affecting our environment and combine this with an understanding of how it impacts people, jobs, and industries, including agriculture. This will help us identify the specific adaptation needs for different regions," he said.

According to a few reports, the extreme heat has jeopardized the health of billions, with India recording 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths this summer.

As the world grapples with increasing weather extremes, the combined effects of human-caused climate change and phenomena like El Niño are expected to continue to elevate temperatures globally, as per the report.

## Israel Ambassador condemns Khamenei remarks on Indian minorities as hypocritical

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, on Wednesday strongly condemned Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments on the treatment of minorities in India, calling the remarks "ridiculous" and hypocritical. Azar pointed out that while Khamenei lectures other nations, Iran itself is accused of suppressing freedoms and violating human rights.

"It is really ridiculous that this radical leader is trying to lecture others while he is killing his own population oppressing freedoms like freedom of religion, freedom of speech, human rights that

is completely outrageous and we hope Iranian people are going to be free one day from such oppression and tyranny coming from Khamenei," Azar told PTI.

The Iranian leader, addressing a gathering of clerics in Tehran on Monday, talked about what he described as "suffering" of Muslims in Gaza, Myanmar and India.

"The enemies of Islam have always tried to make us indifferent with regard to our shared identity as an Islamic Ummah. We cannot consider ourselves to be Muslims if we are oblivious to the suffering that a Muslim is enduring in #Myanmar, #Gaza, #India, or



any other place," he posted on 'X' as part of series of posts on the event.

India on Monday strongly deplored the comments made by Iran's supreme leader on the condition of minorities in India, calling the remarks "misinformed" and

unacceptable". Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the countries commenting on minorities in India should look at their "own record" before making any observations about others.



## ICGS Sujay to strengthen ties with Indonesian Coast Guard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Sujay with integral helicopter made a port call at Bali, Indonesia on Wednesday as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to East Asia, officials said here.

Giving details, they said during the three-day visit, while undertaking the Operational Turn Around (OTR), the crew of ICGS Sujay will engage in professional interactions with BAKAMLA (Indonesia Coast Guard), focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Maritime Law Enforcement. "Activities include professional interactions with BAKAMLA, cross deck training, joint yoga sessions and friendly sports events. The visit aims not only to strengthen ties between the Indian Coast Guard and their Indonesian counterparts but also to showcase India's ship building capabilities, supporting the concept of 'Atamirbhar Bharat'.



## Centre sanctions ₹12,554 crore to States for disaster relief, fire services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has sanctioned Rs 12,554 crore to various states this year so far for providing relief and rehabilitation to people affected by different natural disasters, officials said on Wednesday.

Rs 890.69 crore has also been sanctioned to five states by the Union Home Ministry to help them in expansion and strengthening of their fire services under the Scheme for Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services.

"Approximately Rs 12,554 crore has been sanctioned so far from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund, National Disaster Response Fund, State Disaster Mitigation Fund and State Disaster Response Fund to various states for urban flood management, fire services, glacial lake outburst flood risk mitigation and other disaster mitigation, a senior official of the Union Home Ministry said listing the highlights of the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government.

"Besides, under the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Mitigation Programme for four states, Rs 150 crore has been given to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh to adopt various structural and non-structural mitigation measures to address the risks of GLOF

(Glacial Lake Outburst Flood).

An amount of Rs 2,514.36 crore has been sanctioned under the integrated urban flood management project and urban flood risk management programme to help the states in preparing the integrated solutions for urban flood management in cities and urban areas, the official said.

"The Central government has also approved 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme' as an extension of existing programme of 'Upscaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme' with an outlay of Rs 470.50 crore.

"As part of an ambitious plan, 2.31 lakh volunteers exclusively from the National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) and 1,300 trainers will be given training in disaster response under 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme', another official said.

"Major outcomes under the ongoing schemes are: approximately 1,00,000 community volunteers will be trained and equipped in 350 multi-hazards disaster prone districts covering all the states and UTs under 'Aapda Mitra Scheme'.

"The Central government has also provided geographical based, instant alert on impending emergency and disaster through mobile phones.

## CDS General Anil Chauhan: India's position is of a Vishwa Mitra, Vishwa Bandhu in global world order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has stated that India's position is of a 'Vishwa Mitra' and a 'Vishwa Bandhu' in the global world order.

He made this assertion while addressing a conclave for Foreign Service Attaches (FSAs) hosted by the Defence Intelligence Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff here on Wednesday. The CDS articulated the importance of Military Diplomacy, wherein the FSAs have a pivotal role to play.

"In the most violent decade since World War II, there is a growing propensity amongst nations to use force to contain conflicts. The growing uncertainty and insecurity is



leading nations to renew their National Security Strategy and increase expenditure on Defence", the CDS said while highlighting four distinct areas of India's Defence viz operational preparedness, modernisation and indigenisation.

"He emphasised the significance of Data Centric Warfare and the role of

Artificial Intelligence in revolutionising warfare. The CDS gave an insight into India's Atmanirbharta for defence capability development and strategic autonomy.

"Director General Defence Intelligence Agency (DG DIA) Lt Genral D S Rana apprised the FSAs that India's Defence Diplomacy was expanding steadily in terms of the nature of activities as well as geographic coverage wherein security cooperation was a key component.

"He highlighted the vision of Atmanirbharta and indigenization in Defence and implored upon FSAs to gain first-hand experience in modernisation programmes. A holistic overview of India's strategic perspective was given to the FSAs by Defence Subject Matter Experts.

## Congress files complaint against NDA leaders targeting Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday filed a police complaint over the recent statements of leaders belonging to the ruling NDA targeting Rahul Gandhi, alleging that they were aimed at jeopardising his security and disturbing peace in view of the polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and Haryana.

In the complaint submitted to the SHO of the Tughlaq Road police station here by AICC treasurer and general secretary Ajay Maken, the Congress cited the recent remarks by BJP leaders Tarvinder Singh Marwah, Ravneet Singh Bittu and Raghuraj Singh, as well as that of Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad.

Maken sought registration of

FIRs against the leaders. "Speaking with the media after filing the complaint, Maken said, "We all know that late Indira Gandhi ji and late Rajiv ji have sacrificed their lives for the country. Even after that, they are giving such threats."

"Politics in India cannot stoop to a lower level than this, he said. Not just one BJP leader, but many leaders have said such things, but BJP did not take any action, he said.

"Rahul Gandhi talks about SC, ST, OBC, tribal and minority people. That is why BJP people do not like his words. This is the reason why they are threatening him," he said. "But let me tell you -- this is the Congress party and we are not going to be scared or cowed down," Maken said. "In the police complaint,



"It also cited Sena MLA Gaikwad's announcement of a bounty of Rs 11 lakh for anyone who will cut the tongue of the Leader of Opposition.

The complaint cited Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Bittu's remarks, calling the Leader of Opposition the "number one terrorist of the country".

"Bittu deliberately made the statement to provoke public hatred and outrage against Mr Gandhi, with the aim to incite violence and breach of peace. The said statement was widely publicised on TV channels and social media," the complaint said.

"It cited Uttar Pradesh government minister Raghuraj Singh's remarks that Gandhi was the "number one terrorist of India".





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The next gen chief minister

By naming Atishi as Delhi's new CM, Kejriwal seeks to appeal to women voters and refresh the party's leadership

In a surprising but strategic political manoeuvre, Atishi, the dynamic and well-regarded education reformist, has taken over as the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi. This shift marks a significant moment not only in Delhi's political history but also in the larger context of Indian politics. Arvind Kejriwal's decision to pass the baton to Atishi is being viewed as a calculated move, one that signals both a generational shift and a fresh approach to governance. Kejriwal's choice of Atishi is rooted in multiple factors, each with its own political and administrative logic. Atishi has been one of the brightest stars in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) since its inception, known for her innovative ideas and hands-on approach to public administration, especially in the education sector. Her work as the education minister has drawn national attention, with Delhi's government schools undergoing a transformative makeover under her leadership. Kejriwal's decision to elevate her comes at a time when AAP is facing multiple challenges. From managing Delhi's growing urban infrastructure needs to balancing the delicate relationship with the central government, the city requires fresh energy and innovative solutions. Atishi, with her administrative experience and public image as a reformer, presents a candidate who is capable of steering Delhi through these complex issues. Moreover, Kejriwal's move signals his willingness to let the younger generation of AAP leaders take charge. By elevating Atishi, he is not just preparing for Delhi's immediate future, but also laying the groundwork for the party's long-term vision, positioning AAP as a progressive and youth-centric force in Indian politics.



Atishi's rise to the position of Chief Minister brings with it a new wave of expectations. Her track record suggests that education and public welfare will remain key priorities. Delhi's residents can expect an expansion of the initiatives that have already borne fruit, such as the Mohalla Clinics, water and electricity schemes and the focus on improving healthcare and education. One of the most significant aspects of Atishi's leadership could be her ability to bring a new perspective to governance—one that is less confrontational and more collaborative. Atishi's rise to the highest political office in Delhi is a momentous event. But make no mistake, the real power still remains with Arvind Kejriwal. He is the one who would be making all the key decisions. But Atishi's rise in the party is for real. It does not matter that she would be the chief minister for only few months as Delhi elections are round the corner and her tenure would be a talking point with women voters. Besides, for Delhi, it signals a continuation of the reforms initiated over the past decade, with the added promise of new energy and ideas that could redefine the city's future. It would indeed be a test of Atishi's leadership quality as she will be under constant scrutiny, with both her supporters and detractors closely watching her every move. Her ability to navigate these pressures will be crucial in determining the success of this bold experiment by Kejriwal.

### PICTALK



People perform 'pind daan' rituals at the bank of Falgu river on the first day of the Pitra Paksha, in Gaya

## Ozone: The earth's protective shield but also a threat

Ozone is a paradoxical element — it shields life from harmful UV radiation in atmosphere but is also a big pollutant on the ground

People often think of two different things when they hear the word "ozone": on the one hand, an essential shield in the atmosphere that protects life on Earth from the Sun's dangerous ultraviolet radiation; on the other, a pollutant that causes health problems and damage to the environment. Ozone is indeed a double-edged sword because its effect on human life depends on where it is and how much of it there is. The "good" ozone in the upper atmosphere is significant, but the "bad" ozone at ground level is very bad for people and the world. This dual nature needs immediate care, new ideas, and cooperation worldwide so that people can continue to live. Ozone creates the well-known ozone layer high in the stratosphere, between 10 and 30 miles (16-48 km) above the surface of the Earth. This protective layer absorbs the bulk of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation UV-C and UV-B. Ecosystems would almost certainly be unable to survive as they do now without this natural shield, which exposes life on Earth to haz-



ardous radiation levels. Although life depends on the ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground-level ozone, found in the troposphere, is a hazardous contaminant. This ozone, created by sunlight-induced chemical interactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), is mainly caused by human activity, including certain chemicals, industrial processes, and automobile emissions. This ozone will affect crop productivity and ecosystem dynamics. In the mid-20th century, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were causing the systematic depletion of the ozone layer. In response to the pressing need, a global accord, the Montreal Protocol, was

adopted in 1987 to gradually eliminate the manufacturing of chemicals that cause the depletion of the ozone layer. The main objective of this accord was to eliminate progressively chemicals that cause erosion of the ozone layer, notably chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are extensively used in refrigeration, aerosols, and other industrial uses. India is also a signatory to this accord. Indian industries, especially those in the refrigeration, air-conditioning, and foam production sectors, were compelled to transition to ozone-friendly alternatives. The phasing out of CFCs initially led to the adoption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), but attention soon shifted toward more environmentally friendly solutions, such as natural refrigerants, hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), with lower global warming potential. Since the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, global emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) have dramatically decreased. The ozone layer has shown signs of recovery, particularly over Antarctica, where the famous

"ozone hole" is gradually closing. This recovery is essential for shielding the planet from harmful UV radiation. In addition, the phase-out of CFCs and other ODS has had a measurable impact on global temperature regulation. This is significant when considering the urgency of limiting temperature rise to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. The Protocol has become a symbol of what international cooperation can achieve if people unite and work together to protect the environment. The illegal production of CFCs and incomplete phase-outs in some regions could slow progress. While ozone protects life and poses risks, its dual nature demands vigilant global action. Striking the right balance between preserving the protective ozone layer and mitigating harmful ground-level ozone is essential for humanity's and the planet's health. We can ensure a safe future only through international cooperation and innovative solutions. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

## Showdown over Rahul's remarks in the US

Rahul Gandhi's recent trip to the US has reignited the debate over whether Indian leaders should criticise their government while abroad



KALYANI SHANKAR



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent he United States has provoked a war of words between the ruling BJP and the main opposition Congress in India. Should the Indian leaders refrain from bad-mouthing the ruling BJP while abroad? Is there a red line, and has Rahul crossed it while he was in the US? The BJP claims yes, and the Congress says no. Gandhi has taken potshots at the Indian government and PM Modi. Congress claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also bad-mouthed the Congress not once but continuously since he took over in 2014 and visited over 80 countries. The Congress cites many examples. Also, the BJP has misrepresented Rahul's statements. Rahul aims to engage the Diaspora through programs with the Diaspora, students, officials, and lawmakers in the US, demonstrating the strategic nature of his approach. Why does he want to woo the Diaspora? Modi also has never missed an opportunity to address the Diaspora in whichever country he visits. Rahul, too, wants to connect with the Indian American community. The influence of the Indian American community has increased. A decade ago, there was one Indian-American in the House of Representatives; now, there are five and one senator. The US has

an Indian-origin Presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, and a vice-presidential candidate, JD Vance, who has an Indian wife. Education, affluence and awareness of the influence in the past two decades are behind the rise of Indian Americans, whose population is one per cent, and their representation in US Congress is now one per cent. Rahul commented on the RSS, India's democracy, Modi's China policy, and religious freedom in India, among other things. On the RSS, Gandhi said that the BJP's parent organisation believes India is "one idea", but the Congress considers it a "diversity of ideas. This criticism of the RSS, a critical ideological force behind the BJP, upset the BJP. In India, the BJP slammed Rahul's adverse comments and meeting with anti-India US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. The BJP claims that it can be used for anti-India propaganda. Gandhi counters that she was part of the lawmaker's delegation, and how he could have declined to meet with the delegation. Rahul noted that Indian democracy has struggled for the past ten years but is improving. He also observed that 90% of India's population, including OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis, are



IN INDIA, THE BJP SLAMMED RAHUL'S ADVERSE COMMENTS AND MEETING WITH ANTI-INDIA US CONGRESS WOMAN ILHAN OMAR. THE BJP CLAIMS THAT IT CAN BE USED FOR ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA

not able to take an active part in the democratic process. This has upset the BJP. While Rahul agreed with Modi's policies on Pakistan and Bangladesh, he felt Modi's China policy was flawed. Rahul pointed out, "We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster." The BJP fielded top leaders to refute Rahul's allegations, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leading the response. He rubbished Rahul's claim on China policy. He observed it was "extremely shameful" that the LOP is hurting the dignity of India by saying "misleading, baseless and factless things." Another controversial subject was the caste census. Rahul Gandhi supported the caste census and claimed that BJP was trying to end the reservation. Union Minister Amit Shah quickly responded that they would not allow anyone to abolish reservations or undermine the nation's security. Countering his remarks about the status of Sikhs in India, Senior Minister Hardeep Puri said, "I am a proud Sikh. I have been wearing a turban for over six decades and a kada for even longer..." The BJP takes Rahul's statements seriously, given that he is the LOP. His increased stature after leading the Bharat

Jodo' yatra and the Leader of the Opposition cannot be wished away. In the 2024 elections, much to the dismay of the BJP, Congress doubled its number. Second, after the 2024 polls, the opposition coalition INDIA was strengthened. The BJP had to form the government with the help of allies. Third, Rahul visited the US before Modi's scheduled visit on September 22. His trip was well received, which did not please the BJP. But Modi would have a grand welcome at the official and the community levels. At the end of his visit, Rahul clarified, "The fight for democracy in India is an Indian fight. It has nothing to do with anybody else. It's our problem. And we'll take care of it. We will make sure that democracy is secure." This clarification prevented the idea that he was inviting a foreign power to resolve Indian problems. There is some merit in the BJP saying dirty linen should not be wasted abroad. On an earlier occasion, foreign minister S. Jaishankar said, "I don't think taking national politics out of the country is in the national interest." But this is good for both sides, and both should follow it. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### MYANMAR: CHALLENGES FOR INDIA

Madam — Apropos of the well analysed article 'Myanmar Junta on the Blackfoot' (18th Sept), India faces multiple challenges in the existential crisis of the military junta in Myanmar for more than a decade. The worst crisis of refugee influx, the consequential fallout, unrest and instability in North Eastern states particularly Manipur and security threats from China along its North-eastern borders need top priority from security angle as diplomatic channels with the National League for Democracy or the Junta have not served our country's strategic interests. UNO does not appear and is no more an International Organisation capable of dealing with the crises in the countries having multiple stake holders. All its permanent members in Security Council have substantial stakes in all the wars and coups presently. The refugees crisis emanated from Myanmar is the most disturbing and destabilising factor for India. India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. India has chosen not to sign the refugee conventions and protocol, and has historically cited national security interests and challenges to its sovereignty as key concerns. India, along with the governments of other South Asian countries, asserts that migration is a matter of bilateral and not multilateral relations, which should not be governed by international agreements. Sometimes it appears that refugee influx in India is a deliberate outcome of military coup in neighbouring countries. Peace and political stability in Myanmar appears a distant possibility and multiple stake holders namely China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar itself know the vulnerability of Indian borders and some strategic areas sandwiched between some of these countries. Therefore, for the time being till political normalcy is restored in Myanmar, military options should be prioritised over diplomatic adventures. Vinod Johri | Delhi

#### Atishi is the new Delhi CM



The selection of Atishi Marlena Singh as Delhi's new chief minister does not come as a surprise. Infact, any name as chief minister would not have turned heads because it is amply evident that the man holding all the aces, is still Arvind Kejriwal. Make no mistake, Kejriwal may have just returned from prison, but the clever former bureaucrat intends to turn the politically tricky situation into a massive support of strength. Since the Delhi assembly elections

are only a few months away, Kejriwal aims to divert the excise policy corruption issue by pitch-forking a party leader, with no real mass base, as the executive head of the state. However, Atishi's comparatively clean image, administrative experience and fighting spirit should come in handy for the AAP supremo who is sure to go the whole hog to retain power for the party in Delhi. That way, Kejriwal can intensely focus on the election campaign with little to answer on a "corrupt chief minister" holding on to his chair. Of course, the opposition will vociferously target the former chief minister who is perhaps the principal vote-getter for his party besides a handful of leaders like Manish Sisodia. The chief minister's seat will beckon Kejriwal if the party wins, and Atishi shall be relegated to the list of those chief ministers who held the post of chief minister for a few months. Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

#### ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF MODI GOVT

Madam — For a government in power for the past 10 years now talking about its feats in 100 days is incorrect. It gives room for posing questions like why such actions were not done in the last 10 years and how just allocation of funds can be claimed as a feat and so on. If any assessment be made on the performance of the present government it should be for the period in power since 2014. Because nothing could be achieved in a short period of time like 100 days. In the case of the present government the claim on employment is not correct. Because it is only a matter of allocation of funds and announcement of a project. The working and success of the project needs to be assessed only after its completion. It is also to be noted that it is only a project to improve the skill and not a project to provide employment. Farmers' basic woes are not addressed and they continue to feel let down and the consumers also feel the same with the growing food inflation. Healthcare continues to be a commodity. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### TRAGEDIES AT GANESH VISARJAN

Madam — Ganesh immersion in the country turns tragic in several parts of India. Similar incidents have occurred throughout the country. While immersing an idol of Lord Ganesha, devotees got swept away by the river's powerful currents. Divers recovered his body afterwards but it was a sad end to a religious celebration. In another incident in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, eight people drowned while taking a dip in the Meshwo River. It is time for the people to exercise caution during religious events like Ganesh Visarjan. This tragic series of events serves as a reminder of the importance of safety precautions during religious ceremonies. It is crucial to take necessary measures to avoid such incidents in the future. Let us not take undue risks in the name of God and pay heavy price for that. Besides, there must be adequate security arrangements by the government to avoid such accidents. Nikhil CK Maniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## EMBRACING DIVINE SHELTER

God can help us succeed in life but we must seek his shelter by adhering to dharma



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What a wonderful prospect! Yes, it is possible, if we take shelter of God and remain in it. Because God is everything. (Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Geeta 7.19) For that, we have to be engaged in activities according to the instructions of God. And we will benefit in many ways. How else can one remain motivated to pursue the spiritual path? In this process, God is pleased but does not benefit personally in any way, because God is 'purna' (complete in all respects).

I will cite three examples and a few reasons to substantiate this. But I will begin with some of the benefits of taking shelter from God and remaining there. God's instructions promote 'dharma' (highest moral and religious principles). Because dharma is the bedrock upon which the Creation is based. God even incarnates when there is a decline in dharma. (4.7) Those, who follow dharma in their behavior are rewarded by God's Divine Authority.

This is done according to the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is: "What we sow we reap." If one pleases God by spiritual practices additionally, God gets personally involved in the life of His devotee. His very first act is to begin guiding. I am experiencing it. It is simple. I face a challenge/problem. I pray for guidance and help. God gives me intuitions. As the connection with God becomes stronger, God begins helping too. This is a quantum jump because God is omnipotent. Problems get solved and life can go on smoothly. (18.58) Sometimes, we face non-cooperation from others; God even changes the hearts of people. Further progress on the spiri-



tual path helps us to qualify for becoming 'nimitta' (instruments) of God, as Arjuna did in the Mahabharata. (11.33) God, as Karta, begins to micromanage the lives of His dear devotees. Reformations begin; because we must help ourselves. And credit for success must also come to us; God does not need it.

Only rarely did God intervene directly, as Lord Krishna did to protect Draupadi from getting humiliated; no one had come forward. Similarly, Lord Krishna had to protect His devotee and friend (4.3) Arjuna after he was about to enter the fire for not being able to kill Jayadratha before sunset, as vowed him.

Lord Krishna brought the sun back and Arjuna was able to kill Jayadratha before the sunset. In these two instances, though the Lord got credit, He did not gain anything, Draupadi and Arjuna gained. God has a plan for whoever takes His shelter. How did the Lord help Goswami Tulsidas? His wife opened his eyes when she told him, "You will attain success in life if you become devoted to Shri Rama instead of to me." Because Tulsidasji was at the threshold of becoming great by writing epics like Ramacharitmanasa. The conclusion is: get linked with God urgently.

There is so much to gain from God, who has plenty to give. Isn't God the owner of everything? God is self-sufficient. He creates without any help from anyone. God never gets attached to anyone. If He did, God would become dependent on others to do what He must to keep the Creation going.

I am gaining everything desirable. I could not have imagined what God can and does for me. The quality of my life is steadily improving. Please get started on the spiritual journey; you will never look back.

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

## Reclaim water bodies to ward off water crisis



SRIRAJ KOTA

India's lakes and wetlands, once lifeline for its cities, are vanishing at an alarming rate, driven by rampant corruption and unchecked construction



Urban lakes and wetlands are an integral part of our ecosystem. They perform critical environmental, social, and economic functions as they are a source of drinking water, recharge groundwater and support biodiversity besides providing livelihoods. But the life of these indispensable water bodies is ebbing under the relentless onslaught of population, corrupt administrations, and construction mafia. A study by Wetlands International has shown that two out of every five wetlands in India have been lost in the last 30 years, and of the remaining water bodies 40% are unable to support aquatic life due to loss of water quality. But this plunder of water bodies of India did not happen overnight but over some time.

Take the case of Bengaluru for instance. In the late 18th century, a British expedition tasked by Governor General Cornwallis to find an alternative route between Madras and Srirangapatna stumbled upon Bengaluru which was full of lakes and water bodies. The captain heading the expedition thereafter referred to it as the Land of Thousand Lakes in his reports. However, today Bengaluru is a pale version of its once illustrious past. In 1960 Bengaluru had 262 lakes but today only 10 of them hold water.

The city saw a shocking decline in its water bodies as exploitation and population grew in equal measure. Lakes and water bodies are disappearing at an alarming pace at the city level and state level as well. According to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry report, Karnataka lost an astounding 13,000 water bodies in just one year between 2021 and 2022.

This is the case with every city in India. Ahmedabad for instance had 137 lakes in 2001 but as per recent reports, construction has been seen on 65 of them now. The national capital Delhi too is being robbed of its water bodies. According to a Delhi government report, nearly half

(49.1%) of Delhi's official water bodies do not exist anymore - they have either gone "missing" or have been encroached upon.

The entire nation more or less presents the same depressing scenario. But recently a state government sat up, took notice, and acted. The Telangana state government's Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) initiative to reclaim encroached land of water bodies in Hyderabad and surrounding areas has made national headlines. The HYDRAA team created in July this year and headed by an IPS officer was given a clear-cut mandate by the state chief minister Revanth Reddy to free the city water bodies of illegal encroachments and construction.

The Full Tank Level (FTL) was kept as the parameter by HYDRAA and any construction or encroachment within 30 meters of FTL was made subject to demolition. The agency has been given a free hand and made immune to political pressures with zero tolerance being practiced even if the encroachment belongs to prominent politicians or businesspeople of the city. Notably, even the chief minister's brother was served notice for demolition.

This drive conducted diligently and without bowing to any pressure was able to remove 262 unauthorised encroachments built in water bodies, government lands, urban canals and parks in 23 locations in the city have been removed and 111.72 acres of land have been reclaimed to date. The state government has issued further instructions making it compulsory to take

HYDRAA NOC before commencing any construction near lakes.

The actions of HYDRAA have instilled a sense of confidence among the environmentalists not only in Telangana but also across India and are being seen as a case study in governance especially about safeguarding environmental assets such as water bodies. But as is expected with any groundbreaking initiative, the step taken by the Telangana government too has off late been soundly criticised for being inhuman due to the demolishing of houses of the poor and those who were paying loans for the same. Given this adverse feedback, the state government has issued clarifications to the effect that occupied houses will not be demolished.

The HYDRAA initiative is an example and a clarion call for the rest of the nation to wake up rescue and reclaim its water bodies. This is crucial in light of reports released by the United Nations and Niti Ayog which state that water demand will reach twice the available supply, and 40 per cent of India's population will not have access to clean drinking water by 2030. To prevent a grim and parched future, the central government in collaboration with state government and local environmental groups must establish a Wetland Task Force for every state.

The state-specific task force must have a clear mandate to reclaim every water body in its jurisdiction by clearing out encroachments, demolishing illegal construction and preventing changes in land use. Apart from enforcement duty, the task force must also have an enabling role that is

focused on replenishing and rejuvenating the wetlands and water bodies in its jurisdiction. For instance, the task force can encourage urban households and businesses to implement rainwater harvesting practices on their premises. The water harvested can be channelled towards improving the groundwater table and recharging the aquifers. Additionally, the government can, through the task force regulate the borewells in the urban areas.

Indiscriminate and unregulated drilling for water in metropolitan areas has caused the drying up of the groundwater table. The task force team can save the city's water resources by ensuring that prior permissions are taken to drill borewells. Furthermore, the task force team can install water meters to ensure that water extraction is done in a measured and quantified manner. Currently, there have been many instances where local leaders, with political affiliations "adopt" lakes and water bodies in the name of preserving them and slowly encroach the property.

After that, in connivance with builder mafia construction is done on the property which is then sold to unsuspecting citizens. The wetland task force can prevent this and play a pivotal role in ensuring that no individual or commercial company is entrusted with safeguarding the lakes and water bodies as this can result in manipulation.

Water bodies are India's lifelines. Reclaiming the lost ones and preserving the remaining can alone ensure a water secure future for our nation.

(The writer is a policy analyst, views expressed are personal)



TODAY BENGALURU IS A PALE VERSION OF ITS ONCE ILLUSTRIOUS PAST. IN 1960 BENGALURU HAD 262 LAKES BUT TODAY ONLY 10 OF THEM HOLD WATER

## India's untapped ocean energy: A blueprint for powering the future

India's 8,000 km coastline holds the potential to generate a staggering 9.2 lakh TWh of clean energy annually

The 8000 km long Indian coastline has the potential to generate 9.2 lakh Trillion Watts hour per annum (TWh/annum) electricity, which is a manifold of what is generated as of date. This is at a time when India is struggling to meet its requirement of 4.5 Lakh MW power utilizing all sources of energy production.

According to Ocean Energy Atlas prepared by Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), a premier research and development organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are the nation's



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

entist, INCOIS, told The Pioneer. A bouquet of offshore renewable, offshore solar, offshore wind, wave, tidal, ocean thermal energy conversion, and salinity gradient represent the hitherto untapped potential of renewables. India's Ocean Energy Atlas has been released following the International Renewable Energy Agency's finding that the G-20 countries collectively account for 81 per cent of total renewable energy and about 100 per cent of ocean energy. India's offshore wind energy remains untapped even as countries like Denmark, Britain and China have made giant strides in this sector. Dr Nair says there is wide scope to set up renewable energy power stations to tap salinity

gradients. Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, director, of INCOIS, said that the atlas would serve as a key resource for guiding policy and investment decisions in the energy sector. An important element in this form of energy generation is that there would not be any kind of apprehension in the minds of the people about land acquisition, pollution and discharge of effluents. "This is the cleanest form of energy and many public and private sector enterprises have shown their interest in setting up renewable energy units," said M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of earth sciences, Govt of India. INCOIS is playing a major role in the country's blue

economy sector by providing information to fishers about potential fishing zones and sharp weather forecasts. Dr Srinivasa Kumar and his team have developed a state-of-the-art tsunami warning system with which they alert countries along the rim of the Indian Ocean. Since its inception in 1999, INCOIS has been contributing to India's blue economy through its flagship pro-



grams like Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ), Ocean State Forecasts (OSF) and Tsunami Early Warning Services (TEWS). INCOIS has also been the national and regional warehouse for oceanographic data spanning in-situ platforms, satellite sensors, and model-simulated products.

Taking advantage of the availability of such long-term scientific datasets, INCOIS has taken up the challenge of estimating the ocean energy potential from the Indian EEZ and prepared an Atlas for the first time in the country. The satellite data collected through hi-tech sensors about the regions where there are good catches are disseminated to fishers and this has made the job of fishermen

quite easy. All they have to do is rush to the areas identified as fishing zones by the INCOIS scientists. The Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas prepared by Team INCOIS is the first of its kind in the world. Ocean energy assumes significance as scientific reports are galore about the fluctuations in solar power generation capabilities because of climate change. G M Pillai, director general, of the World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE), Pune, says that as of this date, solar power output is not encouraging because of changes in rain patterns. "The Rajasthan deserts could have been the powerhouse of states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat but the solar power

potential has come down and the deserts are becoming evergreen garden," said Pillai. The thorium-based nuclear reactor is yet to take off and the picture from nuclear power reactors is dismal. There was a time when former directors of the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam had claimed that India was the world leader in Fast Breeder Reactor technology, it all ended up as chest beating. The only hope is integrated ocean energy. India has a vast coastline of nearly 8000 km and this could offer a permanent solution to our energy needs.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)



# India to spend ₹31,000 crore to fence entire India-Myanmar border

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The entire 1,643 km porous India-Myanmar border, known for the smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics, will be fenced at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore, officials said on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said fencing work had been completed in 30 km of the border, which he termed the root cause of the ethnic violence in Manipur. The Cabinet Committee on Security has, in principle, approved the construction of border fencing and roads along the 1,643-km international border between India and Myanmar at an approximate cost of Rs 31,000 crore. About 10 km of fencing



Representative Photo

has already been completed near Moreh and work is underway to fence another 21 km of the border in other areas of Manipur. The India-Myanmar border

passes through Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. The Central government has already scrapped the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. It was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy. Home Minister Shah has been regularly reviewing the security situation in Manipur and necessary actions are being ensured, said officials. Two battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have already been deployed in Manipur. In addition, around 200 companies (about 100 personnel in one company) of central police

forces were deployed in the restive states. The Manipur Government has started using 25 mobile vans as shops to provide essential commodities at fair prices to the general public. These shops on wheels are operating in all districts of Manipur, sources said. As a new initiative, the Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandars (KPKB, police canteens) have been opened from Tuesday to provide essential commodities to the people of Manipur at fair prices, they said. In addition to the 21 existing such police canteens, 16 new stores are being opened. Of the 16 new police canteens, eight will be in the valley districts of Manipur, and the remaining eight in hilly areas.

## Indian army inks MoU with TMR to boost rescue operations in mountains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army on Wednesday sealed a pact with a premier organisation as part of efforts to boost its rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked with Tiranga Mountain Rescue (TMR) at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) in the presence of Army Chief General Upenendra Dwivedi. "This understanding marks a pivotal step in advancing the Indian Army's rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains," an official readout said. "The MoU stipulates that TMR will collaborate with the Indian Army in conducting customised training programmes for Army instructors, aimed at improving their ability to mentor troops in avalanche rescue and survival skills," it said.

In his remarks, the Army Chief commended the efforts of TMR and appreciated its collaboration with his force. General Dwivedi acknowledged the TMR's efforts by awarding Chief of Army Staff Commendation Cards to two team members of the organisation. This MoU builds on the initial agreement made with the Northern Command in 2016 that established dedicated avalanche and rescue support by the TMR. Subsequent agreements with Eastern and Central Commands in 2021 and 2024 further expanded this collaboration, the Army said in the readout. The latest MoU will further utilise the TMR's expertise to boost the Indian Army's capabilities in executing effective rescue operations under demanding conditions, it said. "This partnership highlights a commitment to further enhance the readiness of personnel operating in mountainous terrain besides

enhancing the standards of training and rescue operations in high-altitude environments," the Army said. Major General Manish Luthra, Additional Director General Military Operations, signed the MoU on behalf of the Army, while Hemant Sachdev, a dedicated mountaineer inked it for the TMR. Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy), lauded the collaboration as a mutually advantageous agreement for both organisations. He further said for the past nine years, the TMR has done yeoman service in saving numerous lives by providing unwavering support in training and rescue efforts. In his remarks, Sachdev highlighted that 15 teams of TMR are already deployed in various regions alongside the Indian Army. He also mentioned that the rescue teams of TMR have been able to save a large number of precious lives in avalanche-prone areas.

## Centre created manmade flood in Bengal: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday slammed the Centre for creating a "manmade" flood in Bengal even as she complained how the Damodar Valley Corporation had released huge amount of water inundating several districts of South Bengal. Banerjee who travelled extensively the Hooghly district said how, "the Centre is responsible for this man made flood I have repeatedly told them for dredging the

river bed instead of doing that they release water when the barrages in Jharkhand brim over ... this time they have released 3.5 lakh cusecs of water which is unprecedented this is clearly a man made flood ... the lower regions of Hooghly, Howrah and Burdwan are going under water due to this. "Many areas of Howrah, Hooghly, East and West Midnapore districts had been flooded following the release of water by DVC. The worst-affected blocks are Amta and Udaynarayanpur in Howrah,

Pursura in Hooghly, Ghatil in West Midnapore and Panskura in East Midnapore, sources said. Eastern parts of India including Bengal and Jharkhand had been witnessing heavy rains for the past one week or so leading to the rivers and barrages in the higher regions in Jharkhand to brim over. As a result the DVC which controls a network of dams released 3.5 lakh cusec of water. Though the rains had stopped on Wednesday the

waters continued to flood the Bengal districts. "I have requested the DVC to release water slowly when they 79 or 80 per cent full ... but they wait till the waters rich the danger level and then release them at once without warning they save their own States but inundate Bengal," an angry Chief Minister said. Meanwhile, several thousand people had been shifted to the safer areas including schools and other government offices, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister Alapan Bandopadhyay said.

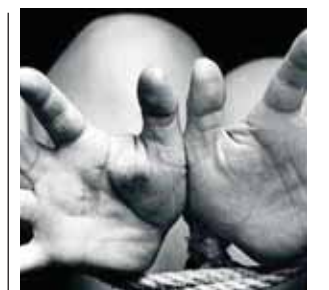
## Indian scientists develop sustainable pheromone dispenser for pest control

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists have developed a sustainable pheromone dispenser with a controlled release rate which could act as an innovative solution to substantially reduce the costs of pest control and management. To ensure that the innovation benefit farmers directly on a large scale, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research JNCASR, Bengaluru and ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR) have entered

into a Know-how license pact with Krishi Vikas Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (KVSSL), Haryana, recently. JNCASR is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology. Prof. M. Eswaramoorthy from JNCASR and Dr. Kesavan Subaharan from ICAR-NBAIR led the signing of the pact. Prof. Eswaramoorthy said, "This exercise will enable the spread of technology across the country and at global level too. The benefit of the research moves from the lab to the field to benefit the farming community for pest

management." "Currently, emphasis is laid on developing technologies that are clean and green. On this line, the technology developed on controlled release of semiochemicals (signalling substances such as pheromones) on transfer to firms will enable to scale up the production to cover a large area," Dr. Subaharan added. Sustainable organic pheromone dispensers are not a new concept. In fact, polymer membrane or polypropylene tube dispensers that release pheromones already dominate the market.



## Child-lifting racket busted in Gurugram, three held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Gurugram police has busted a child-lifting racket and arrested three people, including two women, in the case, police said on Wednesday. The police also rescued a 5-year-old boy from the accused. The boy was kidnapped on Tuesday, they said. According to the police, on Tuesday evening, a resident of Behrampur village filed a complaint that an unknown woman took his 5-year-old son while he was playing on the street. Based on his complaint, an FIR was lodged under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Two special police teams were formed to look for the boy, they said. The police arrested the three accused, including two women, late Tuesday night from the Sector 52 area. The accused were identified as Varsha (27), Ashah alias Sapna (23), and her husband Mukul (27), a senior police officer said. "During interrogation, the accused revealed that both the women had come to Behrampur village to kidnap the child on Tuesday. Varsha kidnapped the boy while he was playing on the streets. She brought the child to Ghata village, where Mukul and Sapna brought the child to their rented room. They had planned to take the child to Bihar but police rescued him in time," he said. The accused confessed that they had kidnapped the boy to make him beg on the streets, the officer said. He added that the accused confessed that they had kidnapped the child for begging. Further investigation is underway, he added.

## About 60 per cent voting...

From page 1

Out of seven districts, Kishtwar recorded the highest voter turnout of 77.23 per cent followed by Doda 69.33 per cent and Ramban 67.71 per cent, PK Pole added. BJP is locked in a straight fight with the alliance partners — National Conference and the Congress party in the Chenab valley region. Out of eight Assembly segments, the three Assembly seats of Indrawal, Kishtwar, and Padder Nagsent witnessed a tough fight on ground zero. Indrawal Assembly segment recorded over 80 per cent voter turnout while the Kishtwar seat saw over

75 per cent and Padder Nagseni 77 per cent voter turnout. A polling station in Bagwan Mohalla in Kishtwar witnessed some clashes between the two rival candidates and their supporters during the polling. "There was some issue regarding identification, one person did not have an identity card. The situation is normal, voting has resumed," Kishtwar DM Rajesh Kumar Shavan said. In Kashmir valley, the South Kashmir district of Kulgam recorded over 61.57 per cent voter turnout followed by Anantnag where 54.17 per cent voter turnout was reported till

6pm. Shopian and Pulwama, which remained hotbeds of militancy, recorded 53.64 per cent and 46 per cent polling. The highest voter turnout was attributed to the safe and secure environment prevailing across Jammu and Kashmir, the participation of a large number of candidates and reach out by the different political parties during the campaign, and the presence of independent candidates supported by the banned Jamaat-e-Islami. One of the new entrants in the fray Sayyar Ahmad Reshi, an independent candidate supported by the banned Jamaat-e-Islami said. "I want to see a

peaceful environment in Kashmir. I want to end the barbarism and give a better platform to the youth. I urge voters to use their conscience while voting for your candidate." PDP candidate from Pulwama Waheed-Ur-Rehman Para said this assembly election is a fight to reclaim whatever we have lost in August 2019 at the time of reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the message is clear that the Kashmiris want to fight democratically and within the Indian constitution and through voting. They want to express their anguish, anger and dissent.

## Doctors refuse to work...

From page 1

The doctors we on way to the State secretariat Nabanna when reports last came in. "We had a meeting with the Government led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at her residence in Kalighat where we place some specific demands ... while some of these have been fulfilled, some others are yet to be granted," Dr Debashis Haldar one of the leaders of the Junior Doctors' Forum said. Doctors' cease work entered its 40 days on Wednesday. "Besides the removal of the Health Secretary we had also demanded an atmosphere free of fear and an improved infrastructure including a central referral system, adequacy of beds, installation of CCTV cameras, well-

guarded rest rooms for doctors and panic buttons so that the system is made nearly foolproof," the doctor said. "We are not in the movement only for the doctors' interests but for the people's interest also as the inadequate infrastructure like lack of X-Ray and CT Scan machines, MRI, inadequate beds and lack of other infrastructural facilities often leads to misunderstanding between the doctors and the patients ... lack of centralised referral system only gives impetus to a dalal (broker) raj which involves selling hospital beds to patients ... the patients have to run from hospital to hospital for bed and lose vital time in treatment ... this often creates a misunderstanding between the public and the doctors ...

besides most hospital and medical college premises are controlled by (politicians) musclemen who with their contacts, exploit, extort and threaten the juniors and other doctors ... this system must end and we had raised all these issues in the Monday's meeting ... till these issues are solved we don't see the cease work ending," the doctor said. Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Wednesday appealed to the doctors to return to their work saying he too supported their demands. "Since day one, I have supported the doctors in their concerns regarding safety and security, and I have always maintained that most of their concerns, barring a few, are valid, sensible and justified," he said.

## EAC report on relative economic...

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Conversely, Odisha, traditionally a laggard, has shown marked improvement in recent years. Overall, maritime States have clearly outperformed the other States, with the exception of West Bengal. "Southern States emerged as top performers in terms of per capita income as well since the 1990s. The group of southern States - including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu - has seen their per capita incomes grow faster than the national average, leading to a significant increase in their relative income levels. In 1990-91, all these southern States had per capita incomes below the national average, resulting in relative per capita incomes of less than 100. However, within the first decade following economic liberalisation, the relative per capita income of each of these States surpassed 100 and continued to rise rapidly thereafter", it said. According to the paper, the trajectory of Uttar Pradesh has been similar. The relative per capita income of Uttar Pradesh has stabilised only in last few years after being on a downward trend since 1960s. It was 82.4 percent in

1960-61 for undivided UP. It began to decline and continued to do so even after bifurcation. The relative per capita income for the divided State of Uttar Pradesh was 55.3 per cent in 2000-01, which further declined to 49.4 per cent in 2010-11. It then flattened out before improving marginally in last few years. In 2023-24, Uttar Pradesh's per capita income was only 50.8 per cent of the national average, indicating that the average person in the State earns about half of what is typical across India. As in the case of Bihar and Kerala, household incomes may be higher than implied here due to remittances. While Madhya Pradesh experienced a significant turnaround after 2010, reversing a five-decade decline in relative per capita income, Rajasthan's relative per capita income increased by 10 percentage points from 1960-61 to 1970-71, before experiencing a decline for the next three decades. Among small States, Sikkim and Goa have demonstrated remarkable improvements. Sikkim, which had a relative per capita income of just 93 per cent of the national average in 1990-91, has surged to 319 per cent by 2023-24.

## India serves notice to Pakistan...

From page 1

"The Indian side has, therefore, also called for a reconsideration of the dispute-resolution mechanism under the treaty," the source said. India has not cooperated with the Court of Arbitration process to resolve the dispute. New Delhi considers that the start of the two concurrent processes to resolve the dispute violates the provision of the three-step graded mechanism prescribed in the IWT. India has been pushing for the resolution of the dispute through the neutral-expert proceedings. With this notification, India has called on Pakistan to begin Government-to-Government negotiations in order to review the treaty under the provisions of Article XII (3), the sources said. These developments come in the wake of a prolonged controversy on the handling of the Ratle and Kishenganga hydel projects. Indian officials believe that Pakistan has been compulsively obstructive about all projects on the Indian side and has taken undue advantage of India's generosity under the IWT.

## Four die, 14 injured as building...

From page 1

Authorities rescued a total of 18 persons, who were shifted to hospitals. "Four of them have been declared dead in hospital, while two remain critical, 11 are under treatment and 1 person has been discharged after treatment," he said, adding that the collapse also led to damage to the adjacent building. "We are taking legal action under section 106 (Causing death by negligence) and 290 (Negligent conduct with respect to pulling down, repairing or constructing buildings etc) of BNS. Further

investigation is under progress," he said. A senior official of the MCD said that the area falls in Special Area category. "The reason of collapse could not be ascertained. The building had not been found to be under dangerous condition during the pre monsoon survey done by the Maintenance Department. Neither any new construction was being taken up nor any building material was found around or in the collapsed premises," he added. According to an official of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call reporting the collapse was

received at 9.11 am following which five fire tenders were sent to the spot. Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister-designate Atishi directed district officials to provide all help to the people residing in the locality. "I have also spoken to the MCD Mayor regarding the accident. There has been a lot of rain this year, my appeal to all the people of Delhi is that if there is any possibility of any accident related to construction, then immediately informs the administration, the government will immediately help you," Atishi stated.

However, this is not an isolated case as recently, on September 13, one person died and two others were injured after a portion of a building collapsed in Delhi's Nabi Karim area. On August 2, at least three people were reportedly killed after a portion of a two-storey building collapsed in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area. Lashing out at the AAP government and the civic body, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor demanded Rs. One crore compensation for the dead and Rs. 5 lacs for each of injured.

## Centre approves 'One Nation...

From page 1

Announcing the Union Cabinet's approval to the proposal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said an implementation group would be formed to take forward the recommendations of the panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind and detailed discussions would be held on various fora across the country over the next few months. After the discussions are completed, implementation would follow in steps and it would be the Government's endeavour to build a

consensus over the next few months, Vaishnaw said. Once the consultation process is over, the Government will draft a bill, place it before the cabinet and subsequently, take it to Parliament for simultaneous polls to come into effect, he added. In its report submitted to the Government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing "one nation, one election" in two phases -- simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and State assemblies in the first phase and elections for Local Bodies like panchayats and municipal bodies within 100

days of the general election in the second phase. It also recommended a common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State election commissions. At present, the ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body elections for municipalities and panchayats are managed by the State election commissions. The panel has recommended a total of 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by State Assemblies. However, these would require certain

Constitution amendment bills that would have to be passed by Parliament. Some proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the States. Separately, the Law Commission is also likely to come up soon with its own report on simultaneous polls, of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary. Sources said the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of the Government -- the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies

and Local Bodies like municipalities and panchayats -- starting 2029 and a provision for a unity Government in cases like a hung house. The Kovind panel studied election processes in seven countries including South Africa, Sweden and Belgium, before recommending simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in India, according to the committee's report approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday. The other countries where simultaneous elections are conducted are Germany, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.



# 'Exploding pagers were manufactured in Hungary'

AP ■ TAIPEI

A company based in Hungary was responsible for manufacturing the pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria in an apparent Israeli operation targeting Hezbollah's communications network, another firm whose brand was used on the devices said Wednesday. Pagers used by the militant group Hezbollah exploded near-simultaneously a day earlier in Lebanon and Syria, killing at least 12 people, including two children, and wounding nearly 3,000. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government blamed Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated remote attack. An American official said Israel briefed the United States on Tuesday after the attack, in which small amounts of explosive hidden in the pagers were detonated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information publicly. Hezbollah and Israeli forces have exchanged fire nearly daily since Oct 8, the day after a deadly Hamas-led attack in southern Israel triggered a massive Israeli counteroffensive and the ongoing war in Gaza. Since then, hundreds have been killed in the strikes in Lebanon

and dozens in Israel, while tens of thousands on each side of the border have been displaced. Tuesday's attack — and the fact that Hezbollah blamed Israel — renewed fears that the two foes could lead to all-out war. Despite periodic cycles of escalation, the two have carefully avoided that so far, but Israeli leaders have issued a series of warnings in recent weeks that they might escalate operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon. The AR-924 pagers used the attack were manufactured by BAC Consulting KFT, based in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, according to a statement released by Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm that authorized the use of its brand on the pagers. BAC appeared to be a shell company. "According to the cooperation agreement, we authorize BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in designated regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are solely the responsibility of BAC," Gold Apollo said in a statement. The company's chair, Hsu Ching-kuang, told journalists Wednesday that the firm has had a licensing agreement with BAC for the past three years. BAC Consulting

Kft, a limited liability company, was registered in May 2022, according to company records. It has 7,840 euros in standing capital, the records showed, and had revenue of \$725,768 in 2022 and \$593,972 in 2023. At the headquarters in a building in a residential neighbourhood of Budapest, Associated Press journalists saw the names of multiple companies, including BAC Consulting, posted on pieces of paper on a window. A woman who emerged from the building and declined to give her name, said the site provides headquarter addresses to various companies. BAC is registered to Cristiana Rosaria Bársony-Arcidiacono, who on her LinkedIn page describes herself as a strategic advisor and business developer. Among other positions, Bársony-Arcidiacono says on the page that she has served on the board of directors of the Earth Child Institute, a sustainability group. The group does not list Bársony-Arcidiacono as among its board members on its website. The AP has attempted to reach Bársony-Arcidiacono via her LinkedIn page and has been unable to establish a connection between her or BAC and the exploding pagers. The attack in Lebanon started Tuesday afternoon,

when pagers in their owners' hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding — leaving blood-splattered scenes and panicking bystanders. It appeared that most of those hit were members or linked to members of Hezbollah — whether fighters or civilians — but it was not immediately clear if people with no ties to Hezbollah were also hit. Hezbollah said in a statement Wednesday morning that it would continue its normal strikes against Israel as part of what it describes as a support front for its ally, Hamas, and Palestinians in Gaza. "This path is continuous and separate from the difficult reckoning that the criminal enemy must await for its massacre on Tuesday," it said. "This is another reckoning that will come, God willing." At hospitals in Beirut on Wednesday, the chaos of the night before had largely subsided, but relatives of the wounded continued to wait. Lebanon Health Minister Firas Abiad told journalists during a tour on hospitals Wednesday morning that many of the wounded had severe injuries to the eyes, and others had limbs amputated. Journalists were not allowed to enter hospital rooms or film patients.

## China sanctions US firms selling arms to Taiwan

Beijing (AP): China on Wednesday announced sanctions on American companies selling arms to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force. Chinese state media made the announcement, citing the Foreign Ministry, but gave no details on the companies involved. Taiwan is awaiting deliveries of F-16 fighter jets, Abrams tanks and a range of missiles from the US. China has been upping its threats to attack Taiwan, whose 2.3 million citizens overwhelmingly favour their current status of de-facto independence. Despite their lack of formal diplomatic ties, the US has long been a key provider of armaments and is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself. Along with buying weapons from the US, Taiwan has also been reviving its domestic arms industry. A fleet of submarines is underway, while mandatory military service for men has been extended to one year. China has previously demanded US companies end cooperation with Taiwan's armed forces, with no apparent effect.

## Portugal declares calamity as wildfires spread

AP ■ LISBON

More than 100 wildfires stretched thousands of firefighters to the limit in northern Portugal on Wednesday, with seven deaths since the worst spate of fires in recent years spread out of control over the weekend. Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro declared a state of calamity for the hardest-hit areas late on Tuesday, invoking powers to mobilise more firefighters and civil servants. He also called on police investigators to redouble their efforts to find those who started the fires and pledged help for those who have lost their homes or have been evacuated. "We are well aware that these difficult hours are not over yet," Montenegro told the nation in a televised address. "We have to continue to give everything we have and ask for help from our partners and friends so that we can reinforce the protection of our people and property." The hot, dry conditions behind the outbreaks in Portugal coincided this week with flooding in central Europe. The European Union said Wednesday that the juxtaposed extreme weather phenomena are proof of a "climate breakdown". Fellow European Union members Spain, France, Italy and Greece have committed two water-dropping aircraft each to



help Portuguese firefighters. Spain's military is also sending 240 soldiers and vehicles from its emergency response battalions specialised in combating fires across the border to its neighbour. Montenegro made a special call for security forces to pursue both arsonists and any individuals who started a fire out of negligence. Portuguese national police said that they have arrested seven men suspected of having started wildfires in recent days. Authorities have prohibited the use of heavy farming equipment to reduce the risk of inadvertently starting a blaze. Among the hardest hit areas is the district of Aveiro, south of the northern city of Porto, but several major blazes were also raging out of control in other wooded areas. Authorities have yet to release figures for property damage or the number of

evacuees, but Portuguese state broadcaster RTP has shown charred houses in rural villages and local residents trying to battle flames with buckets of water, hoses, and even large tree branches. Other televised images showed visibility reduced to a few metres as orange smoke enveloped the terrain. Three firefighters died in their vehicle on Tuesday, while another had succumbed to what authorities called a "sudden illness" while on duty over the weekend. Three civilians have also perished, according to civil protection authorities. Portugal was devastated by massive fires in 2017 that killed over 120 people. Experts link the fires to both climate change and the abandonment of traditional farming and forestry professions that helped keep rural areas clear of underbrush that is now fuel for fires.



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris is greeted as she during an unscheduled stop to make remarks at Community College of Philadelphia, Tuesday in Philadelphia. AP/PTI

# Donald Trump calls Modi 'fantastic'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/NEW YORK

Former president Donald Trump has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet him next week during his upcoming three-day visit to the US. While the Republican presidential candidate slammed India as an "abuser" on the issue of import tariffs, he described Modi as a "fantastic man". PM Modi will be visiting the US from September 21 to 23. Speaking on Tuesday at his first public appearance following the recent apparent assassination attempt, Trump said Modi will meet him next week when he is in the US. "So when India, which is a very big abuser. He (Modi) happens to be coming to meet me next week, and Modi, he's fantastic. I mean, fantastic man. A lot of these leaders are fantastic," Trump said, reiterating that India imposes heavy tariffs on imports.

The former president revealed the information as he spoke about trade and tariffs while responding to a question at a town hall meeting in Flint, Michigan. He went on to say, "These people are the sharpest people. They're not a little bit backwards... You know the expression, they're at the top of their game, and they use it against us. But India is very tough. Brazil is very tough... China is the toughest of all, but we were taking care of China with the tariffs." "So we're going to do a reciprocal trade. If anybody charges us 10 cents, if they charge us USD 2, if they charge us a hundred per cent, 250, we charge them the same thing. And what's going to happen? Everything's going to disappear, and we're going to end up having free trade again. And if it doesn't disappear, we're going to take in a lot of money," he said. In New Delhi, when asked about Trump's comment, the Ministry of External Affairs did not respond. Modi will begin his trip with the Quad Leaders' Summit being hosted by President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware.

# Secret Service again faces scrutiny after another gunman targets Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

For the second time in more than two months, the Secret Service that protects the highest echelon of American leaders is under scrutiny - this time after a gunman hid in the shrubs along the fence of former President Donald Trump's golf course for 12 hours. The man didn't get a shot off, but critics question how he could be just several hundred yards away from Trump - especially after the Republican presidential candidate's security was beefed up after his near-death experience in July. Biden administration officials praised the agency's response, and former Secret Service agents say there are key differences between what unfolded Sunday and the security lapses at an outdoor rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, when a gunman climbed onto an unsecured roof nearby and opened fire, clipping Trump's ear and leaving a spectator dead. Authorities say Ryan Wesley Routh camped with food and a rifle just outside the 27-hole Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida, where the former president was playing Sunday. A Secret Service agent ahead of Trump spotted the rifle's muzzle poking through the fence and opened fire. Routh fled and was later apprehended. It's long been known to law enforcement that places along the edge of the property leave Trump visible to those behind the fence, and some have questioned why it was not protected. But a sprawling golf course poses specific challenges, especially for a last-minute round, even with Trump's bolstered security, former Secret Service agents say. "A 400-acre golf course with miles of fence line is breachable. And the systems put in place to mitigate those threats worked. That's not to say they couldn't do more. But there are limits to what

## Ex-US Pres holds first event post-assassination attempt; Harris gives rare interview

Flint (AP): Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday made his first public appearance since Sunday's second apparent assassination attempt against him with an overflow crowd chanting "God bless Trump!" and "Fight, Fight, Fight!" as US Secret Service agents surrounded the stage to protect the Republican presidential nominee. "It's been a great experience," Trump said in an evening town hall in Flint, Michigan, about holding events with thousands of supporters. But he also went on to call running for president "a dangerous business" akin to car racing or bull riding. "Only consequential presidents get shot at," he said. Earlier in the day, Vice President Kamala Harris struck a measured tone, even steering clear of mentioning Trump by name in an interview with Black journalists that starkly contrasted with the former president's own highly contentious appearance before the same group. The two candidates briefly put their differences aside in a phone call Trump described as "very, very nice" even as crowds booed when he mentioned Harris by her first name. "It was very, very nice, and we appreciate that," Trump told his supporters. Harris said earlier in the day that she told Trump "there's no place for political violence in our country." Both sides are ramping up campaigning with no changes to Trump's calendar despite the apparent assassination attempt at one of his Florida golf courses, which has renewed accusations by Republicans that Democrats' criticism against Trump is inspiring violent attacks. Democrats have accused Trump in the past for his long history of inflammatory campaign rhetoric and advocacy for jailing or prosecuting his political enemies.

protecting him while expressing concerns about the agency more broadly, including that his detail isn't large enough given the threat level. But some have raised questions. During an interview Monday on Sean Hannity's Fox News show, Trump's son Eric questioned how the gunman was able to stay in that location for so long without being detected. "Those agents on the ground, they are remarkable," he said. "But there is a breakdown." Rowe a day earlier said, "The agent's hypervigilance and the detail's swift action was textbook." It's not possible for the Secret Service to shut down all traffic around the golf course, said Eckloff, who protected Trump while he was president, including at two of his golf courses in Florida. This course is in the middle of the city and taking such a step would have huge effects on residents. Trump loves to golf and owns three courses in Florida. Trump International is closest to his Mar-a-Lago home and is a place he likes to go with friends. While Trump was president, news photographers were often able to capture images of him on the green by finding gaps in the shrubbery. Security around Trump was dramatically beefed up after the July shooting. Trump now speaks from behind a bulletproof glass enclosure at outdoor rallies, and long guns are often spotted near locations where he's staying. The agency doesn't release specific information about his protection but Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Trump's detail now includes countersurveillance, a counter-sniper and counterassault resources. Before the Pennsylvania shooting, some of those assets were used depending on the event but now they're permanently part of his detail, Guglielmi said.

# US confirms Houthi rebels shot down 2 MQ-9 Reaper drones

AP ■ DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels shot down two American MQ-9 Reaper drones in under a week, the United States military acknowledged Wednesday, further highlighting the regional spread of the Israel-Hamas war. As the one-year anniversary of the war approaches, Houthis continue a campaign to target ships travelling through the Red Sea as US-led airstrikes pound their positions in Yemen. That's imperiled a waterway that typically sees USD 1 trillion of trade pass through it, as well as crucial shipments of aid to war-torn Sudan and Yemen. The US military said Houthis shot down the first Reaper on September 10, and the second on Monday. Online video showed the downing and the flaming wreckage on the ground afterward in Yemen's Dhamar province. General Atomics Reapers, which cost around USD 30 million apiece, can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet (15,240 metres) and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land. The aircraft have been flown by both the US military and the CIA over Yemen for years. US Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's press secretary, said authorities continue to investigate Monday's downing, but declined to elab-

orate. He added that a claim by the Houthis that they shot down 10 Reapers since the start of their campaign in November over the Israel-Hamas war was "not accurate." "For operation security reasons, I'm not going to be able to provide a specific number," Ryder said Tuesday. Since Houthis seized the country's north and its capital of Sanaa in 2014, the US military has seen Reapers shot down in Yemen in 2017, 2019, 2023 and 2024. Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels as well. The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the US or the United Kingdom to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. Those attacks include a barrage that struck the Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion in the Red Sea. Salvagers have towed away the burning oil tanker, hoping to avoid a catastrophic leak of its 1 million barrels of oil on board.

# Trudeau: More work to do, after by-election loss

AP ■ VANCOUVER

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he's focused on the work ahead after the ruling Liberals lost in another by-election, raising more questions about his ability to lead the party into the next federal election. For the second time in recent months the Liberals lost in a former stronghold when the Bloc Quebecois won the vote in the electoral district of LaSalle-Emard-Verdun Monday in Montreal in a tight three-way race with the New Democratic Party. "Obviously it would have been nicer to be able to win... but there's more work to do," Trudeau said in Ottawa.

"The big thing is to make sure that Canadians understand the choice they get to make in the next election," Trudeau said. "That's the work we're going to continue to do." Election Canada results show the Bloc candidate Louis-Philippe Sauve finished with 28% of the vote. Liberals' candidate Laura Palestini collected 27.2% and finished just 248 votes behind the winner. The NDP collected 26.1% and was about 600 votes behind the winner. It's the second time in three months that Trudeau's party has lost a by-election in a riding they held for years. In June, the Conservatives narrowly defeated the Liberals in Toronto-St. Paul's.

The Liberals won every seat in Toronto and almost every seat on the Island of Montreal on the last election. Monday's loss "is a major blow for the Liberals," said Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal. "This is a riding we would expect them to win under normal circumstances," Beland said in an email. "Not only did this not happen, they lost by nearly 16 percentage points in popular votes compared to their score in the riding back in 2021, when they had easily won there." Andrew Perez, a longtime Liberal supporter and strategist, posted on social media that the loss is "yet another nail

in Justin Trudeau's coffin." "If Trudeau's Liberals can't hold this safe seat, it will spell even bigger trouble for the party's prospects in Quebec and across Canada in a critical election year," Perez said in a statement before the final vote. Beland doesn't believe Trudeau will step down as party leader before the next election, which is scheduled for next fall. "Some Liberals might try to convince him to step down but it's not sure at all he would," said Beland. Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne was asked Tuesday if Trudeau should remain as prime minister. Champagne said there is "concern, there's anxiety" among Canadian voters. "They're

ready for a positive vision of the country," he said. "I think if there's someone who can really inspire Canadians, it's Justin Trudeau. Most polls show the federal Conservatives well ahead of the Liberals. Trudeau is also very unpopular with many Canadians. The NDP recently ended its supply and confidence agreement with the Liberals that helped keep the minority government in power. That led to speculation there could be an early federal election. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has said his party plans to put forward a non-confidence motion "at the earliest possible opportunity" in hopes of bringing down the Liberal government.

# Dutch govt, led by hard right, seeks to opt out from EU migration rules

Brussels (AP): The new Dutch government dominated by the far-right party of Geert Wilders officially asked the European Commission for an exemption from its migration obligations on Wednesday, seeking to fulfil a campaign promise to drastically reduce the number of immigrants in the nation. Dutch Migration Minister Marjolein Faber of Wilders' party wrote to the European Commission that the Netherlands wants out of regulations for accepting refugees. "I have just informed the EU Commission that I want a migration opt-out within Europe for the Netherlands. We need to be in charge of our own

asylum policy again!" Faber wrote in a letter Ylva Johansson, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, posted on social media. On Tuesday, the government, which came to power in July, announced its policy blueprint for the coming year, including stricter policies to hold back or kick out migrants who don't qualify for asylum. The announcement came just a day after party leaders were publicly bickering over their plans, underscoring divisions within the four-party governing coalition. Even before the plan was made public, the European Commission warned the Dutch government that its

approach wouldn't work. "We have adopted legislation. It's adopted. You don't opt out of adopted legislation in the EU," spokesman Eric Mamer said last Friday. Earlier this week, the Dutch refugee settlement agency COA announced it was expecting a shortage of beds at the overcrowded asylum centre in the tiny village of Ter Apel in the northeastern Netherlands. The government is planning to declare an "asylum crisis" to pave the way for tougher measures, including reining in visas for family members of people granted asylum and making it easier and quicker to deport migrants.



# PM-AASHA scheme extended with ₹35,000 crore outlay

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved continuation of the PM-AASHA scheme, with an outlay of Rs 35,000 crore, to provide better prices to farmers and also control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers," an official statement said. PM-AASHA is an umbrella scheme to ensure MSP (minimum support price) to farmers. The total financial outgo will

be Rs 35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26, it added. The government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed the Cabinet's approval to continuation of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme till 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs 35,000 crore. Welcoming the decision of subsidy on P&K nutrients, Chouhan said in a social media post on 'X', "this will ensure availability of fertilisers to farmers at affordable rates." "The Integrated scheme of PM-AASHA will bring in more effectiveness in the implementation which would



not only help in providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce but also control the price volatility of essential commodities by ensuring their availability at affordable prices to consumers," the government said. PM-AASHA will now have the components of Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme

(POPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Under the PSS, the procurement of notified pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP will be 25 per cent of national production from 2024-25 season onwards. This would enable states to procure more of these crops at MSP from farmers to prevent distress sale. "However, this ceiling will not be applicable in case of tur, urad and masur

for 2024-25 season as there will be a 100 per cent procurement of tur, urad and masur during in 2024-25 season as decided earlier," the government said. The Centre has renewed and enhanced the existing government guarantee to Rs 45,000 crore for procurement of notified pulses, oilseeds and copra at MSP. This will help in more procurement of pulses, oilseeds & copra whenever prices fall below MSP in the market. The purchases will be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture from farmers at MSP including pre-registered farmers on eSamridhi portal of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and eSamyukti portal of National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF).

# Indian economy size will double by 2030: NITI Aayog CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India could easily double the size of its economy by 2030, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said on Wednesday. At an event organised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Subrahmanyam added that climate change is an opportunity for India to become a leader in climate technology. "Our economy should easily double by 2030... India's ambition to become the third-largest economy by 2026-2027 necessitates a cohesive grand strategy," he said. Currently, in US dollar terms, India is the fifth largest economy with a size of about USD 3.7 trillion in nominal terms. "India will be a big dominant player, it already matters and it will matter much more in global affairs, by 2047," he said. Subrahmanyam said by 2047, India will be among the world's youngest nations demographically, poised for prosperity, with a projected per capita income of around USD 18,000 to USD 20,000. "This growth is significant as India is expected to emerge as a major global player, building on the substantial progress made over the past decade in addressing challenges such as natural disasters and poverty," he said.



Further, he said that there is a need to look at the green economy, and the Aayog is working on developing a pathway for net zero carbon emissions by 2070. "We have formed a task force and are working with the Central and state governments to achieve our targets," he added. The CEO of NITI Aayog stressed the importance of Global Value Chains (GVCs). He said that the government is working across sectors and services to build better strategies. Subrahmanyam added that urban development and infrastructure are crucial, with cities designed as economic hubs to drive growth. According to him, the private sector must lead in innovation and investment, supported by an enabling environment that attracts both portfolio and direct investments.

# Diamond industry faces severe crisis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's diamond sector is facing a severe crisis as both imports and exports have sharply declined in the past three years, which has triggered defaults, factory closures, and widespread job losses, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday. It said that while export returns have surged, a large inventory of unprocessed rough diamonds is piling up due to reduced orders and growing competition from lab-grown diamonds. "This has triggered defaults, factory closures, and widespread job losses. Tragically, more than 60 people in Gujarat's diamond sector have committed suicide, reflecting the severe financial and emotional strain India's diamond sector is facing," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said. He said that immediate action is essential to address these problems and safeguard the future of the sector. According to the think tank data, a 24.5 per cent drop in rough diamond imports from USD 18.5 billion in 2021-22 to USD 14 billion in 2023-24 shows weaker global markets and fewer processing orders. After adjusting for re-exported rough diamonds, net imports declined by 25.3 per cent, from USD 17.5 billion to USD 13.1 billion, indicating reduced demand for processing in India. Exports of cut and polished diamonds fell by a higher margin of 34.6 per cent, from



USD 24.4 billion in FY 2022 to USD 13.1 billion in FY 2024, it said. "Additionally, the share of unsold diamonds returned to India increased from 35 per cent to 45.6 per cent during this period," it said adding the net exports of cut and polished diamonds dropped by 45.3 per cent, from USD 15.9 billion to USD 8.7 billion, reflecting a weak market and rising unsold inventory. The gap between net rough diamond imports and net cut and polished diamond exports widened significantly, from USD 1.6 billion in FY 2022 to USD 4.4 billion in FY2024, signalling a large inventory buildup and a lack of sufficient export orders. It added that some challenges of the sector stem from regulatory issues and internal inefficiencies within the industry. It said the demand for polished diamonds has dropped sharply in key markets like the US, China, and Europe due to economic uncertainty, inflation, and geopolitical tensions, leading to reduced consumer spending on luxury goods,

including diamonds. "Fluctuations in global diamond prices have caused uncertainty, with buyers hesitant to purchase rough diamonds in anticipation of further price drops," Srivastava said. He added that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also disrupted the global diamond supply chain, with sanctions on Russia, a major rough diamond producer, further complicating trade and slowing down the global diamond trade. Shifting the consumer preferences towards lab-grown diamonds, which are more affordable, ethical, and sustainable, are also impacting the demand for natural diamonds. On internal factors, the think tank said that many polishing units have large unsold inventories of polished diamonds, which discourages them from importing fresh rough diamonds as they cannot afford to take on more stock without selling their existing inventory. "Rising operational costs, including labour, energy, and materials, along with reduced margins in the global diamond trade, have made it difficult for many polishing units to remain viable, leading to shop closures and layoffs, especially in Surat," he said. The industry also heavily depends on financing, but tighter credit conditions and reduced lending from banks have made it difficult for companies to purchase rough diamonds, further stalling production, he said.

# Food ministry to boost wheat allocation under PMGKAY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday announced an increase in wheat allocation to beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from October onwards, in a bid to stabilise prices. Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra, while highlighting achievements in 100 days of Modi 3.0 government, said a committee of ministers has approved an additional 3.5 million tonne of wheat under PMGKAY. This increased allocation will continue until March 2025, potentially making efforts to restore the wheat-rice ratio under the scheme, he said at a press conference. Asked if this increased quantity restores the wheat-rice ratio, the Secretary said, "It will still be lower by 1-2 million tonne from the normal quantity."



He also stated that the allocation could be reviewed based on future developments. In May 2022, the government reduced wheat allocation to 7.1 million tonne from 18.2 million tonne and increased the rice allocation under PMGKAY because of tight supplies due to lower domestic production. Chopra highlighted the current "ample wheat" availability, citing last year's

bumper production of 112.9 million tonne. "Even by conservative and industry estimates, it was at least 40-50 lakh tonne higher than the previous year," he noted. The government's procurement stands at 26.6 million tonne against the actual production of 112.9 million tonne last year. Addressing market concerns, Chopra said there are no immediate plans to sell wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), given the stability in wheat and wheat product prices. However, he didn't rule out future OMSS sales. PMGKAY, which covers 80 crore poor beneficiaries, provides 5 kg of free foodgrain per person monthly. This enhanced allocation aims to address issues faced by beneficiaries following the previous reduction in wheat supply.

# Food secretary assures stable food prices during festive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra on Wednesday said prices of essential commodities like sugar and edible oils are stable, and no spike is expected during the upcoming festival season. Chopra assured consumers that the recent hike in basic customs duty on some edible oils, aimed at supporting domestic oilseed farmers, would not lead to significant price rise. "We have been able to maintain prices at a reasonable level for consumers," Chopra said at a press conference. "The upcoming festival season is looking good. We are not anticipating

any kind of spike in prices of essential commodities." Effective September 14, the government raised the basic customs duty on crude soyabean oil, palm oil, and sunflower oil to 20 per cent from nil. The duty on refined variants was increased to 32.5 per cent from 12.5 per cent. Chopra explained that 1.3 million tonne of edible oils imported at zero duty are still in stock. The industry has been directed to sell this inventory at current prices until exhausted. "Even after this stock exhausts, the prices need not rise by 20 per cent with an increase in duty. International prices will come down slightly," Chopra added.

# IP university identifies Indian rice varieties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha (IP) University have identified Indian rice varieties and their genes for high phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) use efficiency. Finding one variety for both N and P use efficiencies is a great advantage, as farmers prefer all efficiencies to be delivered together in the same crop variety. A press statement by the IP University on Wednesday said in a discovery that could help save both fertilizer costs and pollution due to leftover fertilizers in croplands, Indian biotechnologists have identified rice traits and genes for both phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) use efficiency (PUE and NUE). They compared three popular rice varieties from different parts of India for both NUE and PUE and found 12 common 'phenotypic' traits and 5 common genes for both crop

improvement. They also found that CR Dhan 301 from Eastern coastal India has the highest NUE and PUE, followed by Panvel1 and Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204) from Western coastal and Southern India respectively. This research was carried out by Bhumika Madan and led by Professor Nandula Raghuram, founder-Head of the Centre for Sustainable Nitrogen and Nutrient Management (CSNNM), School of Biotechnology, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. Their findings have just been published as a research article in the international peer reviewed journal, 'Plants'. Their novel finding that over half of all the phenotypic traits are common for PUE and NUE is good news for anyone interested in crop improvement for sustainable agriculture, they informed. N and P are the largest and most expensive components of NPK fertilizers and cereals

consume most of them in India. NUE or PUE in cereals is measured as the grain yield per kg of N/P fertilizer supplied. India spends about Rs two lakh crores on NPK fertilizers, most of which being government subsidy. "Only 25-30% of the applied fertilizers are converted into harvested outputs, while the rest are lost to air and water pollution, affecting our health, biodiversity and climate change threatening our planet" said Professor Raghuram. "While some of this wastage can be reduced by legume-based crop rotations and better manure management, we must also undertake genetic improvement of the crop for nutrient use efficiency. India being a centre of origin of rice biodiversity, we have tens of thousands of rice varieties and our findings help in developing better cultivars through selection and breeding", he added.

# Steel Ministry to curb steel imports, in talks with Finance Ministry: HD Kumaraswamy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The steel ministry is in discussions with the finance ministry to explore policy measures aimed at curbing the rising imports of steel, including imposition of a minimum import price and protecting the domestic industry, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Wednesday. Acknowledging that tackling imports of steel was the "main issue", the steel minister said efforts are also being made to strengthen the domestic alloy industry. Asked if we can expect a Minimum Import Price on steel, the minister said: "Definitely, we will convince the finance ministry. Already preliminary discussion is

going on. I have confidence we will convince. To strengthen (the industry) how we have to implement the duties that (decision) we will take". He also asserted that he is determined to breathe life into Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, which has been facing protests from various parties against the proposed privatisation of its Visakhapatnam steel plant. "RINL challenge is there. The protest is going on in RINL since last 1.5 years but I'm trying to give re-life to RINL. I am not going to let down," said Kumaraswamy. The minister for steel and heavy industries was speaking on the sidelines of an event here.

# CIABC calls for Government aid to boost alcohol exports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Support from the Centre and state governments will help the country to achieve USD 1 billion worth of alcoholic beverages exports in the coming years, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) said on Wednesday. CIABC Director General Anant S Iyer also said that promoting ease of doing business for the sector is key at both the Central and state government levels. Easy and timely permissions for bottling and branding; transport permits; and promoting online paperwork are some of the areas which need special attention for the growth of the sector. "We need ease of doing business across the operations, besides easy tax structures and market-determined prices to boost the exports."

# IN BRIEF

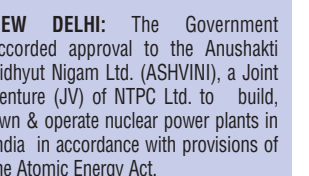
## HUBNER'S NAMMA FACTORY ACHIEVES MILESTONES

BENGALURU: HÜBNER Group has today announced that its Namma Factory in Bengaluru has achieved a milestone of the production and delivery of 2,000 gangways since the factory was commissioned at the beginning of 2023.



## GOVERNMENT ACCORDS APPROVAL FOR ASHVINI

NEW DELHI: The Government accorded approval to the Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Ltd. (ASHVINI), a Joint Venture (JV) of NTPC Ltd. to build, own & operate nuclear power plants in India in accordance with provisions of the Atomic Energy Act.



NEW DELHI: The Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, in collaboration with National Design Centre (NDC), is organizing the "Special Handloom Expo" themed "Sutraratnam - Gems of Threads" at Handloom Haat, Janpath.



## PFC RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM UNION MINISTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEW DELHI: Power Finance Corporation (PFC) received notable recognition from Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy at RE-INVEST 2024 for its outstanding contribution to India's renewable energy sector.





# UNIT OF INDIAN TEAM HELPED THEM PREVAIL IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL: HARMANPREET

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh credited India's recent success to strong team camaraderie, emphasising that their deep bond and willingness to "die for one another" helped them overcome China to win the Hero Asian Champions Trophy for a record-extending fifth time. India rode on Jugraj Singh's late strike to defeat China 1-0 in a tense final in Hulunbuir on Tuesday. Pakistan won the bronze medal with a 5-2 win over South Korea. "The final was really intense; the Chinese were breathing down our necks throughout the game and made it really difficult for us to create a clear goal scoring chance," Harmanpreet said in a Hockey India release. "But the team over the last year has built immense trust in each other. We are willing to die for one another. It was this sense of unity reassuring us that we will find a way to win the game together." Harmanpreet said India's successful run in last year has instilled a strong belief among players. "The gold medal in last year's Asian Champions Trophy in



Chennai, the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games and the bronze from the Paris 2024 Olympics have instilled

a deep camaraderie within the team. Harmanpreet, who has been shortlisted for FIH's Player-of-the-Year Award after scoring 10 goals at Paris, once again led from the front as the team remained unbeaten in the competition. Out of India's 26 goals in the competition, Harmanpreet scored seven and all were

from penalty corners. Harmanpreet said it is now crucial for India to keep building on the success. "We are proud to have retained our title but the work doesn't stop now," he said. "We have areas we need to improve; we need to build depth in our squad as well. The team will head back to camp after a short break and start preparing for the tournaments ahead to make our supporters proud again," he added. India vice-captain Vivek Sagar Prasad said the Olympics bronze medal made India the "team to beat" in the tournament. "All the teams in the group stage were tough to play against. The bronze medal from the Olympics painted a target on our backs; we were the team to beat," he said. "But every single person on the team stepped up to make it seem like we were cruising past our opponents. The youngsters slotted in seamlessly, Krishan and Suraj alternated to bail us out of tricky situations." "The defenders remained reliable, and the midfielders and forwards ran riot on the pitch. All in all, it was very enjoyable," he added.



## Man United routs third division Barnsley 7-0 in English League Cup

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag savored the "perfect night" after routing third-division Barnsley 7-0 in the English League Cup. It was United's biggest margin of victory under the Dutchman, who has been in charge for more than two years. Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Christian Eriksen all scored two goals each in the third round match at Old Trafford, with Antony also on target. "Not for me, but for the team, this is the perfect night. I think we could do everything that we planned to do. We won, (we are in) next round, scored some great goals, entertained the fans and we worked on our game model, so we are happy," Ten Hag said. The size of the victory surpassed United's previous best under Ten Hag: 4-1 wins against Real Betis and Chelsea in his first season at the club. It was the biggest since a 9-0 win over Southampton under former manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in 2021. Encouragingly for Ten Hag, Rashford's scoring touch appears to have returned after a troubled season last year when he managed just nine goals. Rashford's double came after he ended a 12-game barren run with a goal against Southampton over the weekend. "Football is football. Sometimes you have ups and sometimes downs, but we have to use these games to get momentum and consistency," Rashford said. Garnacho also scored in that 3-

0 win in the Premier League and emulated Rashford by making it three goals in his last two games. Eriksen struck twice late on. Rashford blasted United in front after cutting inside Marc Roberts in the 16th minute. Antony doubled the lead when winning and then converting a penalty in the 35th. Garnacho poked home from close range in the second minute of first-half stoppage time. United overpowered Barnsley after the break with Garnacho scoring his second when racing through on goal in the 49th. Rashford scored again in the 58th. It was the first time Rashford has scored more than one goal in a game since February 2023. Eriksen's double came in the 81st and 85th. Bottom of the Premier League and without a point, Everton's troubled campaign went from bad to worse after it was eliminated by second-to-last Southampton - losing 6-5 on penalties. The Merseyside team had taken the lead through Abdoulaye Doucoure in the 20th at Goodison Park, but Taylor Harwood-Bellis evened the game in the 32nd. Southampton goalkeeper Alex McCarthy saved Ashley Young's penalty in sudden death to seal Everton's fate. Eberechi Eze struck the winner as Crystal Palace beat second-division Queens Park Rangers 2-1 and Brentford survived an early scare against third-tier Leyton Orient to win 3-1. Brandon Cooper fired Orient ahead in the 11th, but Fabio Carvalho, Mikkel Damsgaard and Christian Norgaard eased Brentford to victory.

# Harry Kane scores 4 goals in Bayern's 9-2

AP ■ MUNICH

Harry Kane broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player when the Bayern Munich striker scored four times against Dinamo Zagreb. It was one of several records broken as Bayern routed Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in one of the highest-scoring games in Champions League history — and an emphatic start to European competition for new coach Vincent Kompany. "Amazing game, a bit of a crazy game for sure," Kane told broadcaster DAZN. "To score all those goals in the end was a great night." Kane took his tally to 33 in the competition by scoring in the 19th, 53rd, 73rd and 78th minutes - three of the goals were penalties - to surpass Rooney's record of 30. "To be honest, after the second

(penalty) I didn't really know what to do with the third one, but thankfully I was able to put it away," Kane said. Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot to give Bayern the lead over the Croatian club after his teammate Aleksandar Pavlovic was fouled by Ronaël Pierre-Gabriel. That drew Kane level with Rooney's record of 30, and he scored his 31st on a rebound after goalkeeper Ivan Nevistic parried Joshua Kimmich's shot in the 57th. Kane scored two more from the penalty spot to extend his record. Four other Bayern players scored in the emphatic win and there were two goals for new signing Michael Olise on his Champions League debut after signing from Crystal Palace. Leon Goretzka's header in stoppage time made Bayern the first team to score nine goals in the Champions League era. Some teams, including Bayern, achieved that feat in the old



European Cup. It was the highest-scoring game in the competition in terms of total goals since Borussia Dortmund beat Legia Warsaw 8-4 in 2016, according to UEFA. The 31-year-old Kane has scored 12

Champions League goals since moving to Bayern a year ago and scored 21 before that for Tottenham. Kane now has 53 goals in 50 games in all competitions since moving to Bayern. Kane has scored nine goals in his last three games for club and country including two for England against Finland in his 100th international game and a hat trick Saturday for Bayern against Holstein Kiel in the Bundesliga. Kane and Kylian Mbappé were joint top scorers in last season's Champions League with eight goals each. Another record was broken when Thomas Müller came off the bench to play his 152nd Champions League game for Bayern. That's the most for a player for one club, breaking a tie with former Barcelona player Xavi Hernandez. Müller has made the joint fourth-most appearances in the competition of any player.



## Tvesa, Pranavi lead Indian challenge in Spain

PTI ■ DÉNIA (SPAIN)

Tvesa Malik and Pranavi Urs will spearhead the Indian challenge at the La Sella Open, starting Thursday, as the Ladies European Tour (LET) resumes action after a break for the Solheim Cup. Tvesa and Pranavi, who have had modest seasons, will be joined by Ridhima Dilawari and invitee Seher Atwal. Diksha Dagar has taken a break while Vani Kapoor and Amandeep Drall are playing on the domestic Hero WPG Tour. Seher, a winner on the domestic Hero WPGT like Tvesa, Pranavi and Ridhima, will go out with April Angurasarane of Thailand and Emily Penttila of Finland, while Tvesa plays with Blanca Fernandez of Spain and Tiffany Chan of Hong Kong at the La Sella Golf Resort. Pranavi tees off with Dortehea Forbrigd of Norway and Agathe Sauzon of France from the first tee as well Ridhima Dilawari with Linda Osala of Finland and Kim Metraux of Switzerland. After the Solheim Cup took place at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, in the United States, the Tour returns to Europe.

La Sella Open came on the LET calendar in 2023 and returns this year with the 72-hole stroke play competition taking place at La Sella Golf Resort. A field of 132 players will be teeing it up with a cut to the top 60 professionals and ties at the end of the second round. Defending champion Nuria Iturriz returns to the tournament where she won her fourth LET title in 2023. Iturriz, one of 15 Spanish players in the field this week, is joined by fellow LET winners Marta Martin, Ana Peláez Trivino, Carmen Alonso and Maria Hernandez. The field includes former LET Order of Merit winners Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand and Lee-Anne Pace of South Africa. Nine winners from the 2024 LET season are in town, including Order of Merit and Rookie of the Year leader Chiara Tamburlini. England's Annabel Dimmock won her last start at the KPMG Women's Irish Open and will be hoping to continue her form. Germany's Helen Briem is an invite this week and the teenager has already made history winning four times on the LET Access Series in 2024.

## Roma fires Daniele De Rossi after going winless in its opening 4 Serie A matches

AP ■ ROME

Roma fired coach Daniele De Rossi on Wednesday in a move that was surprising despite the Giallorossi going winless in their opening four Italian league matches. De Rossi, a former Roma captain, was hired in January to replace the fired Jose Mourinho and impressed so much during the second half of last season that he was given a contract extension in June through 2026-27. "The club's decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages," Roma said. "A heartfelt thank you to Daniele, who will always be at home at the Giallorossi club, for the work done in recent months with passion and dedication." Roma added that "communication regarding the team's technical guidance will follow." Roma hosts Serie A leader Udinese on Sunday. One possible replacement for De Rossi could be former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri,



who was fired for his ugly outburst toward the referees in the Italian Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico in May. Former AC Milan coach Stefano Pioli, who was reportedly close to signing with Al-Nassr — the Saudi Arabian club that Cristiano Ronaldo plays for — could be another option. After opening with a scoreless draw at Cagliari, Roma was beaten 2-1 at home by Empoli. Draws at Juventus (0-0) and Genoa (1-1) followed - leaving Roma with only three points and in 16th place. De Rossi had transformed Roma into a better attacking unit than Mourinho's defensive teams but this season has produced only two goals. Next week, Roma opens its Europa League campaign against Athletic Bilbao at the Olimpico. Romelu Lukaku's loan spell at Roma ended after last season but talented striker Paulo Dybala stayed with the club after considering a move to Saudi Arabia. Roma's American owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin have often made surprising decisions.

## FIFA teams up with UN health agency for campaign to educate world soccer about concussion

AP ■ GENEVA

FIFA teamed up with the World Health Organization on Wednesday for a campaign to educate the soccer industry about the risks of concussion injuries. "Concussion is a public health issue of concern at all levels of football, and many other sports, requiring greater levels of awareness and action," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. Ten years after the alarming case in the 2014 World Cup final of Germany player Christoph Kramer, world soccer governing body FIFA is sending a toolkit to each of its 211 national federations to help teach at all levels of soccer

that symptoms of a head injury can take up to 72 hours to appear. Kramer continued to play in the final against Argentina for 14 minutes after being injured despite being in clear distress. Match referee Nicola Rizzoli later said he alerted Germany players after Kramer asked if he was playing in the final. At the 2022 World Cup, Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand was treated for several minutes on the field after clashing heads with a teammate, then continued to play on against England before finally being replaced. FIFA favors letting teams make an extra substitution to remove immediately a player with a suspected head injury. That lets team medical staff

evaluate injuries at length without the pressure of trying to send players back into the game. At soccer's rules-making panel, known as IFAB, FIFA has consistently blocked proposals to allow temporary substitutions that would let injured players with a suspected concussion be assessed just for several minutes before potentially returning to the game. FIFA medical advice is that symptoms can take up to 72 hours to develop. "The symptoms of a concussion can change or evolve within the minutes, hours, days and even weeks after the traumatic event," FIFA said of the new "Suspect and Protect" campaign.

## Asian Games medallist Kiran fails dope test



### Punia missing from latest list of suspended athletes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian Games bronze-winner shot-putter Kiran Baliyan has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for testing positive for a banned substance as a slew of athletes across sports figured in the latest list of dope offenders. Surprisingly, Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia's name is missing from the latest update though he figured in a previous list issued by the NADA recently. The NADA had, on June 23, suspended Punia for a second time, three weeks after its Anti-Disciplinary Doping panel (ADDP) had revoked his suspension on the grounds that he was not served a "notice of charge" by the national body. NADA had on April 23 suspended the Tokyo Olympics bronze-medallist wrestler for his refusal to give his urine sample for dope test during the selection trials held in Sonapat on March 10. The sport's global governing body United Wrestling World (UWW) had also suspended him.

Bajrang, who, along with Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, spearheaded a long protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly sexually harassing women grapplers, had appealed against the provisional suspension and the ADPP had revoked it on May 31 till NADA issues the notice of charge. The 25-year-old Baliyan, who had become only the second Indian to win a medal in women's shot put in the Asian Games at Hangzhou last year, returned positive for metandienone, an anabolic androgenic steroid banned at all times. She had won gold at the 2023 National Inter-State Championships and a silver in the 2024 Federation Cup. She stares at a maximum ban period of four years, if she is proven guilty. Hammer thrower Manju Bala, who had won a bronze in 2014 Incheon Asian Games, also figured in the list. She tested positive for dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone (steroid) and SARMS LGD-4033 (ligandrol).

Shalini Chaudhary, who won silver at the Federation Cup this year, also tested positive for the steroid metandienone. Long-distance runner Chavi Yadav tested positive for drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid. Other top Indian track and field athletes like javelin thrower D P Manu, quarter-miler Deepanshi and middle-distance runner Parvej Khan have been serving provisional suspensions. In wrestling, 2023 U20 World Championships bronze medallist Arju tested positive for stanozolol. Badminton makes a rare entry with doubles player Krishna Prasad Garaga, a member of the Indian team that won gold in 2022 Thomas Cup, testing positive for Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG). Wushu players T Menaka Devi, Manjinder Singh and Goutam Sharma figured in the list as the sport has seen a surge in doping cases recently. Bhupendra Singh Byadwal (pencak silat), Ashish Phugat (rowing) and Ribason Singh Ningthoujam (canoe) are also among those who have been provisionally suspended by the NADA.



# India look to spin a new story but tricky Bangladesh no pushovers

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Littered largely with lopsided contests, India's hopes of walking down that familiar path will hinge on sorting an uncharacteristic batting infirmity against spin when they face Bangladesh in a two-Test series starting here from Thursday. Bangladesh, who are fresh from a recent 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan, are no pushovers this time and this will add to India's list of concerns as they look to take that bold first step into a long season that features 10 Tests, including a possible berth in the World Test Championship Final. India's 40-4 (win-loss) home record in the last decade is awe-inspiring but there is an ever-little crack, which is getting more pronounced in the past three years, particularly in the case of star batter Virat Kohli. Kohli was a constant in India's bull run at home since 2015, crunching runs for fun against all comers. But since 2021, his numbers against spin have dipped - an average of 30 in 15 Tests in this period. This is not to hold against

Kohli's extraordinary qualities as a batter, but it's an area that the champion cricketer himself will certainly want to improve upon. Skipper Rohit Sharma has also been prolific in dismantling spin, especially since his promotion as an opener in 2017 against South Africa. He averaged over 90 against twerkers. But since 2021, it has come down to a less flashy 44 in 15 matches. KL Rahul, a batter who is backed by Rohit as equally proficient against spin and pace, offers a slightly bleaker picture. In the last three years, he has played five Tests at home but against the slower kind, the elegant right-hander's average has taken a beating and stands at 23.40. Collectively, these stats need to be taken as an indication of waning skills but, perhaps, also as a reminder to refocus on perfecting the art of playing spin, often the core strength of batters from this part of the world. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had stressed on this point recently after India's debacle against Sri Lanka



spinners in a three-match ODI series which they lost 0-2. There are bright points too in Rishabh Pant (five matches, average 70), Shubman Gill (10

matches, average 56) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (five matches, average 115). However, the numbers of Jaiswal and Gill are constituted

by their breakaway series against England earlier this year, but the Three Lions did not have an experienced spin attack to lean upon.

In contrast, Bangladesh have much more potent spinners in left-armers Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who can

hurt any opposition on their day. Here, India will bank on the firepower and innovative approach of Pant to unsettle and eventually take down the visiting spinners as the Delhiite is expected to return to Test cricket for the first time since his horrific car accident in 2022. In the bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are certain to figure in the first eleven, and it's as formidable a unit as one would get irrespective of conditions. India will ponder over whether to go with a third seamer in either Akash Deep or Yash Dayal, considering that the MA Chidambaram Stadium may offer a red-soil pitch, or field a third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav as is the prevailing trend in a home Test. India can also consider the option of giving another run to Axar Patel as it can give a fillip to late order batting against a Bangladesh attack that also has two express quicks in Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud. New head coach Gautam Gambhir too might have a small but significant personal goal in front of him, that is to

start the first Test series under his tutelage on a winning note, after returning from Sri Lanka with a tad underwhelming 1-1 record from a white ball tour. An obsessed pursuivant of victory, he will want to set it right. Rohit might carry a contrarian view on such individual targets and dress rehearsals, but India's effort in this series, first in six months for them in the traditional format, will certainly be a strong pointer to the course for the season ahead. **TEAMS (FROM):**  
**India:** Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal.  
**Bangladesh:** Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.



## Rishabh Pant braces for Test return after 632 days

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Harsh sun beating down on him, Rishabh Pant was engrossed preparing for his first Test in two years, taking down net bowlers in that unmistakably Pant-ish way. From getting tossed up some 40m into air off a toppled car to getting back to cricket field at the highest level is nothing less than extraordinary. It was hard to believe that 632 days have passed since Pant has played a Test match, and, coincidentally, his last five-day game was also against Bangladesh in 2022. Now, the same opposition awaits him on his return to Test cricket come Thursday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, and while the cricketing landscape around him remains largely unchanged, though some worthy contenders have come up in the interim. Dhruv Jurel has impressed all with a gritty outing in front and behind the stumps during the home series against England earlier this year. None could have faulted the team management if they continued with Jurel for this match, but head coach Gautam Gambhir underlined the value Pant brings to the table. "We all know how destructive he can be (as a batter) and what he can do in Test cricket. Obviously,

it gives him the freedom to go out there and express himself. He has got runs everywhere around the world. "It is always good to have someone like him who can open the game for us and more importantly can bring a lot of impact as well," Gambhir said in the pre-match press meet here. Of course, Pant has made his return to international cricket through the white ball formats, and was a part of India's T20 World Cup winning squad too but the long-format matches offer a vastly different challenge in terms of skills and the duration of concentration. Pant showed his readiness for the grind of red-ball cricket while playing for India B in the recent Duleep Trophy match at Bengaluru. After a rather nervy 10-ball seven in the first innings against India A, Pant showcased his full range with a 47-ball 61 that contained nine fours and two sixes. He tumbled, shuffled across and went deep into crease during that knock, but the management could have been more eager to see how he responded to the task of wicket-keeping. Pant aced that test with flying colours, taking seven catches, five alone in the second innings, in that match. The 26-year-old flew around behind the stumps to latch on to catches way down the leg side,

a telltale sign of a wicket-keeper's anticipation and agility, and was in the right position when the spinners operated. Jurel played for India A, but it was clear that the match was more of an audition for Pant ahead of his reintegration into Test cricket, which was supported by a quick assessment by the NCA physios. Gambhir delved on Pant's role as a wicketkeeper. "Not only with his batting, he has been excellent behind the stumps as well. Probably his batting overshadowed his keeping many times. "But actually, see what he has done in Indian conditions... it is never easy to keep against people like Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep. So, what he has done behind the stumps has been remarkable. "Obviously, he brings a lot of good things to the Test side. Not only from the batting point of view, but from the keeping point of view as well," Gambhir detailed. Above all this, Pant gives a different angle to the whole game of cricket with his attitude. Ricky Ponting, who worked with Pant at Delhi Capitals, gave an insight. "He's an infectious character to have around the group. He loves his cricket. He's a winner. He doesn't just play to make a few runs and be out there for the fun of it," Ponting recently told Sky Sports.

## Important to build relationship with seniors to take Indian cricket forward: Gambhir

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday underlined the significance for him to build on the existing cordial relationship with the senior players like skipper Rohit Sharma and batting talisman Virat Kohli to take Indian cricket forward. Gambhir, who took over from Rahul Dravid after the T20 World Cup, has shared the Indian dressing room with the likes of Kohli, Rohit and Ashwin in the not-so-distant past. "It's still early days (for him as coach). But the good part is that I have played with those guys (seniors). At one stage we were sharing the dressing room as players, when they were younger, who

have now become experienced guys," Gambhir said in the pre-match press meet here. "When you have that kind of a relationship, sometimes it gets much easier than building a relationship. Obviously, now the roles are different. "The relationship we can build over a period of next couple of years. It's going to be very important, and now we should keep taking it a little bit forward because we've got massive challenges coming our way," he added. The spat between Gambhir and Kohli after an IPL match at Lucknow has often been portrayed in social media as an example of strained relation between them. But Gambhir did not buy those



assumptions. "Sometimes people have made a lot of hue and cry about these things. But that's not true. My relationship with everyone in the dressing room team has

been really, really good. "More importantly I think the heart needs to be in the right place. When the passion is there, I think a lot of things can ease. I think the desire to win each and every time when we walk onto the cricket field, it's there. So, I think we've started off really well," said Gambhir. To buttress his argument, the 42-year-old explained his rationale behind selecting the eleven for a particular match. Communication, for him, is the watch word here. "I think the most important thing is clear communication. See, we don't drop anyone. We only select the best playing 11. We think and do the job for that particular Test match."

## Ponting joins Punjab Kings as head coach on four-year contract

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australian great Ricky Ponting was on Wednesday appointed head coach of Punjab Kings, replacing compatriot Trevor Bayliss in the underperforming IPL franchise. The former Australian captain has made the switch to Punjab Kings from Delhi Capitals, a team he was part of for seven years. "We are delighted to have Ricky on to guide and build our team for the next four seasons. His experience is crucial to help us develop a squad to deliver on-field success," franchise CEO Satish Menon said. An IPL source added that Ponting will take a call on the rest of the support staff. Under Ponting, Delhi Capitals became a force to reckon with though the elusive title never came. The team reached the final in 2020. He has also coached Mumbai Indians. Punjab too have never won the IPL since the league's inception in 2008 and the four co-owners will be hoping the World Cup-winning captain takes them all the way. Punjab's sole final appearance came way back in 2014 and they are one team which is often criticised for frequent chopping and changing. They have failed to finish even in the top five in



the last seven editions and ended ninth out of 10 teams earlier this year. In a team statement, Ponting promised a different style of play going forward. "I am excited to take up the new challenge. I had great conversations with the owners and the management about the way forward and was truly elated to see the alignment of our visions for the team. "We all want to repay the fans who have stayed with the franchise over the years and we promise that they will see a much different Punjab Kings going forward," he said. Bayliss was in charge of the side for the past two seasons with now-retired Shikhar Dhawan as its captain. Sanjay Bangar was head of cricket development, Charles Langveldt, the fast bowling coach, and Sunil Joshi took care of the spinners. Prior to Bayliss, Anil Kumble coached Punjab Kings but success eluded them. Punjab have had a strong core including Arshdeep Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran and Jonny Bairstow but the results have not come. Uncapped Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma were the standout players for Punjab Kings in an otherwise forgettable season this year.



## Duleep Trophy: Iyer, Samson, Parag enter final round with point to prove

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

The likes of Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Rinku Singh will get another opportunity to enhance their red-ball credentials when the final round of Duleep Trophy matches begin here on Thursday. No knockout games are scheduled for the season opening event and the team with maximum points will lift the trophy. With nine points from two games, India C sit at the top of the points table, followed by India B (7), India A (6) and India D (0). Table leaders India C, captained by Rituraj Gaikwad, will take on Mayank Agarwal led India A, while Abhimanyu Easwaran led India B will face India D, whose captain is under-pressure Iyer. After being ignored for the Bangladesh series, Iyer had a point to prove but he has not been able to lead from the front thus far in the competition. With his team yet to earn a point in the tournament, he will be fired up to put an inspiring performance. The performance of India D batter Samson and pacer Arshdeep Singh will also be tracked by the selectors. In the India B camp, Rinku will be aiming to get big runs after low returns in the previous game. In the India A versus India C contest, the selectors will be expecting more runs from Agarwal, Parag and Sai Sudharsan. Parag has batted confidently thus far but needs to stay longer in the middle. Pacer Prasad Krishna, making a comeback from injury in the

previous round, would be looking to log in a significant number of overs while Shams Mulani will be fancying another match-winning effort in the prevailing conditions. Ishan Kishan, who made a memorable return to red ball cricket by scoring a hundred for India C, will need another epic knock to garner more attention from the selectors. **SQUADS:**  
**India A squad:** Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan.  
**India B squad:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), 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 squad:** Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), Ishan Kishan, B Indrajith, Hritik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.  
**India D squad:** Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

## Malvika stuns Paris Olympics medallist Tunjung in China Open badminton tournament

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

India's Malvika Bansod pulled off a sensational straight-game victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the women's singles opening round of the China Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Indian, ranked 43rd in the world, displayed immense grit as she saved three game points in the opening game to defeat the world No. 7 Indonesian 26-24 21-19 in a 46-minute match, marking the biggest win of her career. Malvika, a B. Tech graduate in

computer science from SRM University in Chennai, will next take on Scotland's Kristy Gilmour, a two-time Commonwealth Games medallist. She was the sole Indian bright spot in the women's singles as compatriots Aakarshi Kashyap and Samiya Imad Farooqui exited in the first round. Aakarshi lost to Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 15-21 19-21, while Samiya was outplayed by Gilmour 9-21 7-21 in a one-sided contest. In other Indian results, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 21-16 15-21 17-21 to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu.



The mixed doubles duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy lost 10-21 16-21 to Malaysia's Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing. A left-handed shuttler, Malvika, from Nagpur,

year, claiming the Azerbaijan International title. Malvika, once coached by former India junior chief coach Sanjay Mishra, made headlines in 2022 when she defeated 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal at the India Open, breaking into the world's top 30. However, her progress was hampered by health issues as she contracted dengue and typhoid following her participation in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year. After her recovery, Malvika consistently faced top-ranked players in early rounds of world tour events. Despite early exits, she managed to maintain her position in the

world's top 50. She has played close matches against the likes of world No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi and former world champion Nozomi Okuhara. Currently training under coach Shrikant Vad at the Thane Badminton Academy, Malvika continues to push her game forward. "This is her biggest win, and she is extremely happy. She has been performing well, but lacks experience, and sometimes luck hasn't favoured her," her mother Trupti told PTI. "Sanjay sir was like a father figure to her, but once he took up his role as BAI secretary, we struggled to find a replacement."

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