



OPINION 6
QUAD SUMMIT: PRIORITISING SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

WORLD 9
STARMER BACKS INDIA'S BID FOR PERMANENT UNSC SEAT

MONEY 10
NEW PLI SCHEME FOR SPECIALTY STEEL: GOVERNMENT

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Supreme Court raps Air Quality Commission over stubble burning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rapped the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) over its failure to curb air pollution in National Capital Region due to crop residue burning in the neighbouring States and said it needs to be more active in its approach. Expressing dissatisfaction over steps taken by the panel to control pollution, a bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said CAQM needs to exercise its power under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021. "There has been total non-compliance of the Act. Please show us a single direction issued to any stakeholder under the Act. We are of the view that though the commission has taken steps, it needs to be more active. The commission must ensure that its efforts and directions issued actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," the bench said. The Court added that the CAQM may not be holding sufficient meetings and was hardly issuing enough directions to tackle violations of environmental norms. "The Chairperson present today through VC says that three sub-committees are holding only one meeting every three months. They have been assigned important tasks.



FILE PHOTO: PTI

We wonder how they are performing those tasks by meeting only once in three months!" the Court said. SC said efforts are needed to ensure that stubble-burning alternative equipments are used at the grassroots level. The panel must immediately step into action to ensure the equipment provided by the Central Government for avoiding stubble burning are actually used by the farmers, it added. The bench directed the panel to file a better compliance report and posted the matter for hearing on October 3. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, informed the court about the steps taken, such as issuing advisories and guidelines, to control stubble burning. However, the top

court remarked, "It is all in the air, nothing has been shown regarding what has been done in the National Capital Region (NCR) states." Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management for NCT of Delhi Rajesh Verma, who was present during the hearing virtually, told the bench that he has held meetings with the deputy commissioners of Punjab and Haryana where incidents of stubble-burning have been reported. The Supreme Court on September 24 asked the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas to explain the steps being taken to curb air pollution caused by crop residue burning.

Continued on page 8



Flash flood risk in Bihar, red alert in Mumbai

PNS ■ MUMBAI/ PATNA/ SHIMLA

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday forecast heavy rainfall in parts of Bihar, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh and warned of low to moderate "flash flood risk" in 13 districts of Bihar over the next 24 hours. IMD issued warnings for heavy to very heavy rainfall across Mumbai and Maharashtra, with significant impacts expected over the coming days. Following the recent trend of erratic monsoons, Mumbai is bracing for widespread rain, particularly in the Konkan region, which is anticipated to experience intense downpours today. According to the latest bulletin by the Met Department, a cyclonic circulation lies over north-central Maharashtra, and under its effect, Maharashtra is expected to witness more downpour in coming days.

Continued on page 8

BJP, Cong crossfire in Haryana poll

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
REWARI/ NEW DELHI

With elections round the corner, BJP on Friday latched on to alleged corruption involving Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law Robert Vadra when the Congress was in power in Haryana by firing a fresh salvo against the Opposition party. Modi during his campaign in Haryana recently had also revived the corruption charges involving him to slam the Congress and its leadership. Vadra has constantly denied allegations of any wrongdoing and accused the BJP of targeting him due to political vendetta. Echoing Modi's words, Union Home Minister Amit Shah too trained his guns on the grand old party, alleging that "dealers, dalaals and damaad" used to rule the State before the BJP came into power. He also asked Rahul Gandhi if he knew the full form of MSP as he underlined that the BJP government in Haryana was procuring 24 crops at the minimum support price. With the Congress seen to be putting up a strong challenge after registering an impressive performance in the Lok Sabha polls, BJP sought to know who will stop Vadra if the party comes to power again. Haryana had become a hotbed of corruption when it was in power between 2004 and 2014, he said. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the election in the State is a fight between "Haryana ka laal" (son of Haryana) and "dalaal" (fixer) of the Gandhi family, as it questioned the Congress leadership's silence on the corruption charges against Vadra and the party's then Government



headed by Bhopinder Singh Hooda. He said people of the State have made up their mind to elect the BJP to power for a third straight term, asserting that the central Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the State Government headed by Nayab Singh Saini have worked for farmers' welfare. In one case, he noted, Vadra's company allegedly acquired 3.5 acres of land of farmers and the then Hooda Government changed the land use, allowing him to pocket a huge profit by selling the parcel at four times the purchase price. In another case, farmers resorted to distress selling of their land after the Congress Government in the State issued a notification to acquire their land and then denotified after a builder linked to Vadra bought their land, he alleged. Rahul on his part stressed the need for simplifying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and opening up the banking system to small businesses to promote job creation and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "monopoly

model" has taken away jobs in the country. Sharing a video of the "Dogri Dham with RG" event hosted by the All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) in Jammu on Wednesday, Rahul said that the frustration in the eyes of a young start-up owner from Jammu and Kashmir reflects the struggles of most entrepreneurs and small-business owners in India. "The systematic attack on small and medium industries through incompetent policies like a bad GST and demonetisation has turned India from a producing economy to a consuming one. At this rate we can neither compete with China nor ensure prosperity for all Indians," he said, adding that India deserves better. In his rally Shah also attacked the Congress on the issue of corruption, reservation and over Article 370, which he said, the Congress wants to bring it back. Shah claimed the BJP will return to power in Haryana for third time after the October 5 polls.

Continued on page 8

Bangladesh fan heckled in Kanpur test match

PNS ■ KANPUR

A Bangladeshi fan attending the India-Bangladesh Cricket Test match on Friday was rushed to hospital after he was apparently heckled and assaulted inside the stadium. The fan, popular as 'Tiger Robi', was dressed in a tiger's get-up (tiger being the emblem of Bangladesh cricket team) and standing in the C Block balcony of the Green Park stadium where the incident took place.



The fan through gestures indicated he was punched on his lower back, according to a video clip shared on social media. The Kanpur Police, however, categorically denied the charge, and said his version would be cross-checked through the CCTV footage. The Bangladeshi fan suffered from dehydration and was taken to hospital and now he was fine, said Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander. "Bangladeshi fan was gasping for breath when he met a constable and went unconscious before he could speak to him, but now he is fine," the officer added. Other details related to the incident were yet to be ascertained. The incident comes amid a protest by right-wing groups near Green Park with the demonstrators demanding that the Test Match be cancelled. Police said they have beefed up security in the area in view of the international match.

Continued on page 8



Israel strikes on central headquarters of Hezbollah

AP ■ BEIRUT

The Israeli military said Friday it carried out an airstrike on the central headquarters of Hezbollah in Beirut, where a massive explosion levelled buildings in a southern district, sending clouds of orange and black smoke billowing in the skies. The strike in the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh came shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the UN, vowing that Israel's campaign against Hezbollah would continue. Not long before the explosion, thousands were massed in the suburb for the funeral of three Hezbollah members, including a senior commander, killed in earlier strikes.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the strike. The Israeli army spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said it targeted the main Hezbollah headquarters, located beneath residential buildings. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said four buildings were reduced to rubble in the blast, so powerful that it rattled windows and shook houses some 30 kilometers north of Beirut. Ambulances were seen headed to the scene of the explosions, sirens wailing. Earlier in the day, an Israeli airstrike killed a family of nine in a Lebanese border village, authorities said, as Lebanon struggled to deal with a rising death toll, a wave of tens of thousands fleeing their homes and the possibility of an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah.

Karnataka CM, wife booked in MUDA scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
BENGALURU

Lokayukta police on Friday registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, following the court order. A Special Court in Bengaluru on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing an FIR against him. The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife BM Parvathi by MUDA. The Special Court, formed to deal exclusively with criminal cases related to former and current MPs/MLAs issued the order directing the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to initiate an investigation on the complaint filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna.



The Court issued directions to take up the probe under section 156 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) (that gives a magistrate the power to order an investigation into a cognisable offense and file the investigation report by December 24. "Acting under Sec156(3) of Code of Criminal Procedure, the jurisdictional police i.e. Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Mysuru is hereby directed to register the case, investigate and to file a report as contemplated under Sec.173 of CrPC, within a period of

three months from today." the court had said. It had listed offences punishable under Sec 120B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy), 166 (Public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person), 403 (Dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (Punishment for criminal breach of trust), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 426 (Punishment for mischief), 465 (Punishment for forgery), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 340 (Wrongful confinement), 351 (Assault) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The court had also listed offences punishable under sections 9 and 13 the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and under Sec 3, 53 and 54 of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 and 3, 4 of Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011. Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju (from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi) and others are named in the FIR, official sources said.



BJP councillors Sunder Singh Tanwar(C) along with other BJP councillors flash victory sign after winning the last Standing Committee seat at the Civic Centre in New Delhi on Friday
Ranjana Dimri/Pioneer

AAP fumes as BJP bags crucial MCD seat

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After a high-drama voting process, Bharatiya Janata Party's Sunder Singh won the last vacant seat of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) standing committee. The civic body's highest decision-making body. With this poll result, the BJP now has 10 of its 18 members in the panel while the ruling AAP has only eight. Singh secured 115 votes while in the absence of party councillors, AAP's candidate Nirmala Kumari did not receive any vote. Singh has been elected as the sixth member in the Standing Committee from the House. The elections for the last seat

of the MCD standing committee were held when the post fell vacant after BJP councillor Kamaljeet Sehrawat was elected as the Lok Sabha MP from West Delhi in the general elections earlier this year. The Congress which has eight councilors, boycotted the election. This was the first time that the election was held without the participation of AAP and Congress councillors. Singh's win — which will be most likely to be challenged in court means the BJP now has control over the Standing Committee, which is widely seen as the real power behind the municipal body.

Continued on page 8

Indo-Bangla ties to relish Hilsa on plates

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The much awaited "silver crop" as they call it in Bengal has finally arrived. The much awaited Padma Hilsa or the Hilsa fish of mighty River Padma, perhaps the world's tastiest fish has finally arrived to grace the dishes of Kolkatans. Much to the ecstasy of the Bengali Bhadrakol (gentleman) about 50 tonnes of Padma Hilsa on Friday arrived at the wholesale market juxtaposing the iconic Howrah Station. This is the first consignment of an expected 2,420 tonnes of Hilsa each weighing between 800 gram to about little more than 2 kg that is likely to be sent to India by mid October.

The Bangladesh Hilsa 'swims' to India through a cross current of debates and controversies in that country with a sizeable number of people in the new Bangla regime objecting to the export fearing that the transaction might jack up prices there. However, a top woman politician in the new regime in that country convinced the protesters saying "only Indian can give the best price" for their national fish. True, the mouth-watering flavour of Hilsa remains the same but diplomacy over it has kept on changing over the years. Like during the previous Sheikh Hasina regime consignments of this exquisite fish came to India as a gesture of friendship. But this time round it comes with



Representative Image

a "dose of economics" too says a senior retired diplomat on this side of the border. The export of Hilsa from Bangladesh has seen fluctuations over the years, with a ban in place between 2012 and 2018. However, Bangladesh has made special

exceptions in recent years for Durga Puja, as a gesture of goodwill and cultural diplomacy, said a professor in Dhaka University. Unlike in other parts of India fish is an item of offer to Mother Goddess in Bengal and so "Hilsa will be offered

to Durga who is worshiped besides as a Mother also as the Daughter who is coming home," said an organiser of the South Kolkata Durga Puja committee. Cut to its taste. They say the Padma Hilsa is Noor Jehan (Empress) of all fishes. Not for its silvery glaze but for its stupefying odour. So much so that while being cooked, the aroma of Padma Hilsa can drive the neighbour living several houses apart mad. No wonder why erstwhile Zamindars of eastern Bengal would employ country robbers to rob each others' Hilsa consignments. Legend has it that Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq of Delhi, succumbed to the lure of Hilsa. If stories are to be

believed, then Tughlaq was already suffering from various ailments when he tasted this fish. Mesmerised by its unique taste and flavour, he went on and on for days until he fell to his gluttony. Cut back to the wholesale market the fish is presently selling for anywhere between 1,400 and 1,600 per kg -- with its size varying between 800 gms and 1.2 kgs. "When bigger size will come the price will breach Rs 2,500 ceiling," said Netai Pramanik an importer. "Though we have been eating Hilsa for the past several months, the catches mostly coming from Ganges, Kolaghat and Digha there is nothing Padma Hilsa," said a Jadavpur University professor

whose ancestors hailed from the other side of the border. "The funda is the more the fish -- which comes from the sea -- swims upwards through the river ... the more tasty it is likely to be," he says reminiscing "when there was no Farakka dam the fish would swim as far as Varanasi or even Allahabad, but not today. "You can steam it, you can cook it with poppy seeds, with white mustard paste, with onion and ginger, make a simple curry or even wrap it in banana or Haldi leaves and simply steam it ... it tastes like heaven any day," he says wishing prices to come down below Rs 1,000 "so that the poor man can also have a taste of Hilsa during the Durga Pujas."

Minor alleges blackmail, sexual harassment by classmates; 9 booked

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Classmates of a High School girl student, who is the daughter of a constable, allegedly made her obscene video and blackmailed her, police said on Friday. When her father came to know about this, he filed a case against nine accused at the Gomti Nagar police station. According to the information, the 16-year-old girl is a Class X student in a school in Gomti Nagar. Her classmates allegedly threatened her and made her obscene video. Thereafter, the accused started blackmailing the student and allegedly sexually exploited her. She went into a shell as a result. When her family sought to know the reason, she narrated her ordeal to them. According to Gomti Nagar Inspector Rajesh Tripathi, a case has been registered based on the complaint of the victim's father. The accused are minors and the matter is under investigation. "The victim's statement will be recorded before a magistrate. Legal action will be taken against the accused on the basis of the statement and evidence," he said. Meanwhile, a woman's body was discovered in a field in

A case has been registered based on the complaint of the victim's father. The accused are also minors and the matter is under investigation

Itaunja's Akadriya village on Friday morning, fuelling suspicion of sexual assault. Her clothes were found nearby, and the body bore visible injury marks. ADCP (North) Jitendra Dubey stated that the body appeared to be around three to four days old. Forensic teams collected evidence from the scene, and efforts were underway to ascertain her identity. Information about the deceased was being shared with other police stations to expedite identification. Villagers who found the body reported that it had been infested with worms. The deceased was said to be around 35 years old. The body was spotted by villagers collecting fodder for their cattle on Friday morning. The farm owner, who went to cut fodder, noticed clothes on the fence and, upon entering the field, discovered the woman's body. He immediately called the police and alerted other villagers. By the time the police arrived, a crowd had gathered, prompting authorities to seal off the area. There are suspicions of murder following rape, as local residents believe the woman was assaulted before her death.

Over 40 crore visitors expected during Kumbh 2025, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is a hub for religious and spiritual tourism, with 46 crore tourists visiting the state last year alone, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Speaking at his official residence on Friday, Yogi expressed optimism that next year's Maha Kumbh, which will be held in Prayagraj, would attract over 40 crore devotees. "The state is a hub for religious, spiritual, heritage, and eco-tourism, drawing visitors from around the world. In 2023 alone, more than 46 crore tourists visited the state," the chief minister said. Yogi credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership

for the development in the state's tourism sector. He further highlighted that tourism not only boosts the state's cultural heritage but also plays a crucial role in generating employment opportunities. "In terms of spiritual tourism, we have the Ramayana Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, and Jain Circuit, among others. Today, Baba Vishwanath Dharm in Kashi is attracting crore of devotees, while Ayodhya, Vrindavan, Gokul, and Barsana have become global tourist hotspots," Yogi added. Yogi emphasised Uttar Pradesh's growing prominence as a global tourist destination, particularly in the realms of eco-tourism and tourism related to Buddhist and Jain sites.

Sites such as Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Sankisa are drawing Buddhist devotees from across the world, he said. The chief minister also noted the significant place of Jain tourism in the state, with Ayodhya being the birthplace of many Jain Tirthankaras, and Kushinagar remaining a revered site for Jain pilgrims. In addition to spiritual tourism, the CM underscored the rich heritage tourism offerings in the state, from the Lakshmi Fort in Jhansi and Kalinjar Fort in Banda to Fatehpur Sikri in Agra and the Imambara in Lucknow. Forts in Prayagraj, Ramnagar Varanasi and Chunar in Mirzapur further contribute to the state's historical signifi-

cance, he said. "Eco-tourism is another area of growth, with destinations such as Dudhwa, Chuka, Katarniaghat, Hastinapur, and Okhla Bird Sanctuary attracting nature lovers," he said. The chief minister further emphasised that under the "double-engine" government, Uttar Pradesh is fully committed to enhancing tourists' convenience. UP's impressive infrastructure — the state's road, rail, water and air connectivity — is further boosting its appeal as a tourism hub, Adityanath said. He said he was looking forward to the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, where more than 40 crore devotees from across the globe are expected to participate.

UPCC chief hits out at govt over student's 'sacrifice' in Hathras

PNS/PTI ■ LUCKNOW/AGRA

Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai, on Friday, attacked the state government over the law and order front while reacting to the human sacrifice of a student in a Hathras school. Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party, Rai said that there was a jungle raj in the state. "When they cannot even handle Uttar Pradesh, what will they do in Jammu and Kashmir?" he said. Rai further said that incidents of human sacrifice, murder, fake encounters and rape of minor girls were happening in UP. "I think this government has completely failed," he asserted while claiming that the killing of a Hathras school student is a cruel incident which should be condemned in the strongest words. A student of class 2 was killed in an alleged "sacrificial ritual" performed by the owners of his school in Hathras to make it more "prosperous", police said on Friday. Besides the owner and director of the school, the principal and two teachers were also arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing on Monday. Police said the post-mortem report of the class two student revealed that he was strangled. DL Public School owner Jasodhan Singh, who is said to believe in 'tantrik rituals', allegedly asked his son Dinesh Baghel, the director of the school, to sacrifice a child for the "prosperity" of the school and his family.

Principal Laxman Singh and two teachers — Ramprakash Solanki and Veerpal Singh have also been held by police. Police have registered an FIR under Section 103 (1) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 against five of them and they have been sent to jail. "The student has been identified as Kritarth studying in class 2 of DL Public school," Ashok Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Hathras said. "On September 23, the student was abducted from the school's hostel by teacher Ramprakash Solanki, Dinesh Baghel and school owner Jasodhan Singh. Jasodhan Singh believes in 'tantra' practice and asked his son to sacrifice a child for the prosperity of school and his family," he said. They took the student to a secluded place for the sacrifice but the student woke up and began crying, the officer said. "After that he was strangled. Another teacher Veerpal Singh and school principal Laxman Singh were also present at the spot and were guarding the place," he said. Police further said that the accused told the child's parents that Kritarth was not well as was being taken to a hospital in Baghel's car. Family members of the child, however, stopped the car and informed police about Kritarth's death, police said. During investigation, the accused informed police that the student was killed for "sacrifice" for the prosperity of school and the owner's family, the ASP said.

SGPGI prof case: Beggars' IDs used for money laundering

Lucknow (PNS): Beggars' identity documents were used to open bank accounts to hoard money defrauded from a woman associate professor at SGPGIMS. The woman was duped of Rs 2.81 crore in a digital fraud case recently, and the UP STF arrested 18 miscreants in connection with the case. Recently, the team arrested two software engineers named Robin from Saharanpur and Nitin from Sambhal on Wednesday. The confession of both accused stunned the seasoned cops.

They used the identity documents of beggars, luring them with small amounts of money, and hoarded the funds in these bank accounts for a short period before it could come to the attention of bank officials. "They worked on the maxim 'use scrap to build a castle' by getting these bank accounts opened using beggars' identity details. They kept the cards and other documents with them. They opened around 100 such bank accounts to hoard the ill-gotten money.

We suspect they opened such accounts on a large scale and are trying to find details of these accounts. The police stated that the aforementioned software engineers were instrumental in opening bank accounts to transfer the Rs 2.81 crore defrauded from the woman associate professor. According to the police, cyber thugs would add their mobile numbers to these accounts and manage the beggars' accounts themselves, transferring the defrauded amounts from one account to another. It was discovered that the miscreants had opened a fake office in Uttarakhnad under the guise of providing jobs to unemployed people, where they collected documents in the name of document verification. Many accounts were also opened using the IDs of unemployed individuals. So far, 18 people have been arrested in the fraud case, including the lady gang leader HariPriya Pradhan.



Vantika Agrawal, who won gold medal at the Chess Olympiad-2024, paid a courtesy call to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister at his official residence in Lucknow on Friday

Engineer, retired insurance officer defrauded of ₹1.54 cr

Lucknow (PNS): An engineer and a retired insurance officer were allegedly duped of Rs 1.54 crore by cyber fraudsters, police said on Friday. The scammers lured their victims with promises of substantial returns inviting them to invest through a WhatsApp link. Reports said that the fraudsters first added both victims to a WhatsApp group, where they made various claims about stock market investments to trap them.

Engineer Amit Kumar Srivastava, a resident of Eldeco Eternia Apartments on Sitapur Road, filed a complaint on May 14 against a man, identified as Karan Birla, who had allegedly invited him to join the WhatsApp group. Amit was told that investing in the HDFC Securities VIP Membership Group would yield high profits. "I was added to the group on June 28. Following the thug's request, I downloaded a link to an app," he said. Amit started investing in the app on July 3, with the fraudsters promising profits of three to four times his investment. When his balance reached around Rs 1.74 crore, he attempted to withdraw it but was told the account was frozen.

The scammers then pressured him to deposit several lakh in installments to unlock his funds. Ultimately, he lost nearly Rs 90 lakh. The second victim, Mahendra Kumar Sharma, a retired regional manager from an insurance company living in Eldeco Udyan, received a WhatsApp link on August 20 purportedly from Ankit Agarwal, the managing director of a company, and his assistant Meera, who promised daily profits of up to Rs 21 lakh for an investment. Believing their claims, Mahendra invested Rs 33 lakh. However, when he tried to withdraw his money, the account was closed, and he was removed from the group. According to Cyber Police Station incharge Brajesh Yadav, an FIR has been registered and investigations are underway. Meanwhile, a woman was allegedly duped of Rs 75,000 under the pretext of a hospital bill after receiving a phone call claiming her husband had met an accident, in Ashiyana, police said on Friday. The call was made from an unknown number while the woman, Pushpa Pal, was busy with household chores on Wednesday.

Yogi takes centre stage at National Book Fair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Several books on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are featured at the National Book Fair, which kicked off at Balrampur Gardens in Lucknow on Friday. Kalpanath from Prabhat Prakashan noted the strong public interest in the chief minister, anticipating good sales. "We previously received a positive response to 'Trillion Dollar Economy Yogi Government' by Dr Sheelwant Singh. This book discusses Uttar Pradesh's economic landscape, highlighting its vast human resources and agricultural potential for self-sufficiency in food production. It also covers the government's socio-economic innovations aimed at establishing the state as a trillion-dollar economy in the coming years," he said. Kalpanath explained that the book is divided into eight sections, detailing the roadmap to achieve this economic target across 11 sectors. It analyses challenges, solutions, and includes discussions of the 2024-25 budget, as well as state and Central government schemes designed to stimulate economic growth.

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the state government's socio-economic initiatives since March 2017. Another title, 'Yogi Gatha' by Shantanu Gupta, is a biography that explores four key aspects of Adityanath's life. "The first section covers his tenure as chief minister, while the second examines his long parliamentary career, electoral victories, and his controversial speeches. The third section delves into the Gorakhnath Math, detailing his yogic practices and the Math's socio-political activism. The final section shares intriguing stories from Yogi's childhood in Uttarakhnad," he added. Kalpanath also mentioned 'Yogi Adityanath Karamyogi Sanyasi' by Rahees Singh, which focuses on Yogi's life, thoughts, and political journey. "This book includes discussions on ethics, duty, and contemporary issues like corruption and artificial intelligence, exploring how India can navigate these fields under strong political leadership," he explained. 'Yogi Ramrajya' by Chetna Negi argues that Adityanath's leadership has transformed Uttar Pradesh's cultural, social, economic, and educational systems over five years.

Warehouse fire smouldered for 25 hours

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It took 25 hours to extinguish the smouldering fire at the electronics warehouse on Latouche Road in Lucknow. The fire broke out at 9 am on Thursday and was brought under control around 1 pm on Friday. Twelve fire tenders remained deployed until the operation concluded, and a team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was also involved in the operation late at night. However, smoke continued to emanate from the site as the team turned over debris and checked for hotspots. Reports said that the warehouse contained electronic goods worth crores of rupees, all of which were destroyed in the fire. Late at night, the SDRF team arrived to assist, and announcements were made to evacuate nearby residents. The fire brigade faced many difficulties in using ladders to combat the flames. The building owner, Sanjay Jaiswal, operates a shop called Sanjay Electrical on Latouche Road and had constructed the warehouse in a nearby four-story building. The fire brigade was alerted around 9 am on Thursday after flames and smoke were seen near the tin shed on the fourth floor. Firefighters even had to wear masks to protect themselves as they worked to extinguish the flames.



CORRECTION OF NAME

1, Army No JC-552437L, Rank: Nb Sub Name: Bal Bahadur Limbo s/o Jagman Limbo 4 Assam Regiment, permanent resident of Vill: Boruah Grant, Po Makum Killa, Teh Makum, Dist: Tinsukia, State: Assam, PIN: 786187 corrected my name from Bal Bahadur Limbo to Bal Bahadur Limbu vide Affidavit no 14819/24. dated 20/09/2024 before Notary Public.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपने पुत्र अभिषेक कुमार सिंह का चाल चलन ठीक ना होने के कारण अपनी समस्त चल वा अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है भविष्य में इसके द्वारा किए गए किसी भी गलत कार्य के लिए वे स्वयं जिम्मेदार होने मेरा और मेरे परिवार का कोई वास्ता नहीं होगा सुशील कुमार सिंह पुत्र जनरुप सिंह निवासी नम्बर - 2, देवी गंज पोस्ट बाजार गांव थाना माल महिहाबाद

NOTICE

This is to Notify that the name of my wife GAUMAYA LAMA is mentioned in the service record. While in her Aadhar card no. 935930604924, PAN Card No. BSWPL6735N and other documents her name is mentioned as GAU MAYA LAMA. Both the above names belong to the same woman. Raju Lama S/o Daya Ram Lama R/o 588 K/194 Devi Kheda Telibagh, Lucknow.

NOTICE

I Mohd. Musheer Quraishi S/O, Muneer Ahmad R/O, Rahimnagar, Dudauli, Sitapur road, Lucknow, hereby declare that in My High School Certificate Roll No. 7713446, My Father Name Mohd. Muneer Quraishi and Mother Name Kishmatun Quraishi wrongly mentioned while My father correct name is Muneer Ahmad and My Mother correct name is Kismatun for All future purposes.

NOTICE

The original Sale Deed dated 21.10.2010 Registered with Office of Sub Registrar Sitapur on 17.01.2011 at Book No. I, Volume No. 3711, Pages from 329 to 364 at Serial No. 283 & Original Sale Deed dated 30.11.2009 Registered with Office of Sub Registrar Sitapur on 30.11.2009 at Book No. "I, Volume No. 3278, Pages from 395 to 436 at Serial No. 8179, while going for mortgage in favour of Indian Bank, Branch Civil Lines Sitapur, fell somewhere between Jail Road, Sitapur and Indian Bank, Branch Civil Lines Sitapur on 12.09.2024 at about 4.00 P. M. The information regarding loss of the said original Sale Deed dated 21.10.2010 & original Sale Deed dated 30.11.2009 has been registered in the category of lost of property on 17.09.2024 at Police Station Kotwali Nagar Sitapur on GD No. 0033, the absolute owner of the property mentioned in the said Sale Deed is Larmika Hospitality Private Limited.

NOTICE

FOR All Concerning I beg to Inform that I change the name of my Son from ARADHY PRATAP SINGH TO ABHIRAJ PRATAP SINGH. Hence He will be known/read by ABHIRAJ PRATAP SINGH FOR ALL Re/Grad's and Purpose. ALOK KUMAR SINGH S/O- SRI RAM ASHRE SINGH, ADDRESS- VILL- SHIVRAJ PUR, POST- GADWARA, DISTT- PRATAPGARH (UP)



NOTICE

My Self Pankaj Yadav, in my high school marksheet and certificate of year 2009 Roll No. 5260142, father name was written wrong as Dhirenda Yadav. Whereas the correct name is Dhirenda Yadav. Address-House No.- 14A Devki Nagar, Yashoda Nagar, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I, Rashmi Asthana, w/o Ashish Srivastava, r/o 94/112 Nawaiya, Ganesh Ganj, Lucknow - 226018 declare that my correct name is Rashmi Asthana. My name is incorrectly reflected as 'Rashmi Srivastava' in my son, Shubh Srivastava's school records and Class 10th Certificate. I intend to rectify this in his High School Certificate and marksheet issued by the CISCE Board.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed my name from Afsar Jahan to Afsar Jahan Quraishi. In future I shall be known as Afsar Jahan Quraishi wife of Mohammad Kamil Quraishi R/O H/N- 327/132A Meer Anees lane, chobdari Mohalla Chowk, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed my name from Mohammad Kamil Qureshi to Mohammad Kamil Quraishi. In future I shall be known as Mohammad Kamil Quraishi S/O Mohammad Yusuf Qureshi R/O H.No.- 327/132A, Meer Anees lane chobdari Mohalla, Chowk, Lucknow.

NOTICE

I, Krishnesh Sachan S/o Late Akhilesh Sachan R/o- Vill+Post-Nonapur, Kanpur Dehat, have changed the name of my minor son having date of Birth 07.03.2021 from Darshit Sachan to Nishkarsh Sachan. In future he would be known by this name only.

NOTICE



NOTICE

I have changed my name from FAHMEEDA BEGUM to FAMIDA MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN. In future I shall be known as FAMIDA MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN. FAMIDA MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN, W/o Mohammad Ayub, 227/L2/1, Harwara, Bhoomanganj, Prayagraj UP.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that, Sant Kastoori Verma W/o Sri Ram Sewak Verma has informed that the Original Lease deed dated 12.06.1989 registered at Sr. No. 47055/9756 on 1.12.1990, Original Freehold deed dated 22.06.1989 registered at Sr. No. 47057/9758 on 1.12.1990 & Original Power of Attorney dated 37.1988 registered at Sr. No. 848 on 31.3.1989 of the property i.e. House No. 192 EWS Awas Vikash Scheme No. 3, Panki Road Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar has been lost somewhere and is not traceable. She is intended to mortgage the said property in favour of Union Bank of India Arnamur Branch Kanpur. As the Union Bank of India Arnamur Branch Kanpur is going to grant finance facility to her collaterally securing this finance by creation of Equitable Mortgage over property. The Union Bank of India Arnamur Branch Kanpur intend to create Equitable Mortgage in respect of the above mentioned property, details which are given in the notice. Any person claiming any right, interest or title in the property or otherwise having any objection, make representation to the Bank within three days of such notice. After passage of that time period. No claim shall be entertain in future. Branch Manager Union Bank of India Arnamur, Kanpur Nagar Mob: 8299653987

LDA mulls special parks for children's personality development

Lucknow (PNS): To foster dynamic personalities and enhance talents among children, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has decided to design special parks tailored for them. Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar on Friday inspected the proposed park locations. The LDA plans to establish two parks initially: one at Jyotibhule Phule Smriti Park on Kanpur Road Yojana and another at Vansthal Park in Gomti Nagar Extension. Kumar noted that additional parks would be developed in the future, with plans for a third park named 'Indraprastha'. He assured that suitable land for this park would be secured soon, allowing the design process to begin promptly. Accompanied by a technical team, Kumar sought advice on making the parks both attractive and educational. He instructed civil engineers to avoid using concrete for walking and cycling tracks, opting instead for softer materials to prevent serious injuries to children.

CITYBRIEFS

MOCK DRILL The Special Action Group of National Security Guards (NSG) recently conducted an aircraft counter hijacking mock exercise at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA) in Lucknow. The exercise, codenamed 'Falcon Strike', aimed to evaluate the readiness of national forces and various agencies in handling airport emergencies. During the mock exercise, NSG commandos simulated the rescue of dummy passengers from a hijacked aircraft. Additionally, the forces also conducted a sweep of the recently inaugurated Terminal-3 as part of the exercise. To facilitate swift movement of the Special Action Group from their landing point to CCSIA Airport, a green corridor was also established by the UP Police. As part of the exercise, an Aerodrome Emergency Committee Meeting (AEMC), chaired by Secretary, Home, Dr Sanjeev Gupta, reviewed the preparedness of the elite counter hijacking team in such situations. The exercise included the participation of personnel from NSG, CISE, UP Police, State and District Administrations, Airlines, Airports Authority of India, ATC, ARFF, doctors, para-

medical staff, ambulances and senior officials from Lucknow International Airport Limited (LIAL).

DISCUSSION

Lucknow Golf Club hosted an evening with Kish Bhargava, author of the mythological fiction 'Bed of Arrows', focusing on Bhisma Pitamah's life. Bhargava was inspired to write the book after watching BR Chopra's Mahabharat during the pandemic, captivated by Bhisma's complex character. In a conversation with Jayant Krishna, Bhargava explained that Bhisma's life illustrates how a pledge and a skewed sense of duty can become burdensome for a capable warrior. He emphasised Bhisma's human flaws, filled with regrets from the Kurukshetra battle. Bhargava questioned whether different actions could have prevented the tragic conflict between the Pandavas and Kauravas. Former Chief Secretary Alok Ranjan, who was the chief guest, remarked

that Mahabharat is an ocean of mysteries, and Bhargava's book aids in understanding the epic. He also noted and appreciated Bhargava's growth as an author.

FOUNDATION DAY

CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) celebrated CSIR Foundation Day on Friday. Major (Prof) Sanjay Kumar from the University of Delhi was the chief guest, while CSIR-NBRI Director Dr Ajit Kumar Shasany was the guest of honour. Director of CSIR-CIMAP Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi highlighted the institute's contributions over the past 83 years and recognised employees celebrating 25 years of service. Major Kumar congratulated CSIR on its Foundation Day, emphasising the role of educational institutions in shaping India's destiny, while praising CSIR-CIMAP's commitment to the Hindi language. Dr Shasany reflected on his journey from a small-town scholar to a director, commending CSIR's global recognition. The event featured the release of the annual report and the Hindi magazine Aus-Vigyan, followed by the distribution of prizes for various competitions and honors for the guests.

Indian Bank
BRANCH OFFICE: Indian Bank, CP 198, 1st Floor, Amaya Greens, Viraj Khand, Lucknow
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to Gold Auction Cum Invitation Notice published on 27.09.2024, wherein "Mr. Imram, A/C No. 7355582223 & 7362986250" Date & Time of Gold Auction: 05.10.2024 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM., Date of Inspection: 05.10.2024 between 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon & EMD Date: 05.10.2024 were erroneously published. Now, it should be considered and read as Date & Time of Gold Auction: 15.10.2024 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM., Date of Inspection: 15.10.2024 between 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon & EMD Date: 15.10.2024 Other terms & conditions will remain the same.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Regd. Office : Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Airlwada, Pune - 411006
Tel.: 020 66026777
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the office of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited located at Ojal Mall Above UTI Bank, Opp Hotel Mukund Palace Junction Rd, Mathura, District - Mathura, Uttar Pradesh - 281001 will be shifted to its new address at Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd., 1st Floor, J-11, Chartered Chamber, Dampier Nagar, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh- 281001 with effect from 01-Dec-2024

Lucknow leads in rooftop solar panel installations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, launched earlier this year, Lucknow has emerged as the frontrunner by installing the highest number of rooftop solar panels in just seven months. Following closely are Varanasi, Kanpur, Agra and Prayagraj, which make up the top five districts. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself is closely monitoring the progress of this scheme. The initiative to permanently resolve the issue of availability of electricity in the country through solar energy and provide nearly free power to the public is making rapid strides in Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Yogi has set district-specific targets for all 75 districts to install solar rooftop panels on residential buildings. Recently, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh conducted a review of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana. During the review, it was reported that 11,435 solar rooftop panels have been made operational in Lucknow, the highest in the state. Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ranks second with 4,088 installations. In Kanpur, 1,909 panels have been installed, while Agra and Prayagraj have seen 1,364 and 1,349 installations, respectively. The campaign is being accelerated in other districts as well, with the chief secretary

directing the Electricity department to expedite the work. In Uttar Pradesh, over 17.75 lakh registrations have been completed under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana so far, with solar rooftop panels installed on more than 32,000 homes. Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 30,000 is provided by the Central government and Rs 15,000 by the state government, totaling Rs 45,000 for a 1-kilowatt rooftop installation. Similarly, for a 2-kilowatt installation, a combined subsidy of Rs 90,000 is available, with Rs 60,000 from the Centre and Rs 30,000 from the state. For installations of 3 kilowatts and above, a total subsidy of Rs 1.08 lakh is provided, comprising Rs 78,000 from the Central government and Rs 30,000 from the state. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024, the PM Surya Ghar Yojana aims to harness solar energy by installing rooftop panels on one crore homes across the country by 2027. The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is committed to driving this initiative forward, to alleviate the public's electricity bill burden. Chief Minister Yogi has set a target to install solar panels on 25 lakh homes in the state. To achieve this, specific targets have been assigned to all seven DISCOMs and each district. The chief minister is personally overseeing the implementation of the scheme to ensure its success.

Water & terrorism don't flow together: Yogi

'Pakistan will yearn for every single drop of water'

PNS ■ JAMMU

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, said that water and terrorism don't flow together, adding that until now, Pakistan has been holding a begging bowl, but soon it will be desperate for every single drop of water. "While ordering a review of the 1960 Indus water treaty, the Government of India has said in clear terms that 'water and terrorism don't flow together.' Until now, Pakistan has been holding a begging bowl, but soon it will be desperate for every single drop of water," he said. UP Chief Minister Yogi was in Jammu and Kashmir for the second day to campaign for Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in the upcoming assembly elections. He urged voters to support BJP candidates, including Sunil Bhardwaj from Ramnagar, Ranveer Singh Pathania from Udhampur East, Bharat Bhushan from Kathua and Shagun Parihar from Kishtwar. His rallies drew large crowds eager to see and hear him speak. Highlighting Pakistan's current troubles, the Yogi stated, "Pakistan is suffering for two reasons: first, it is facing the consequences of its own actions. Balochistan no longer wishes to remain part of Pakistan because its government treats them as foreigners. Similarly, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is rejecting Pakistan's rule, expressing a preference to join Jammu and Kashmir and contribute to realising the vision of Akhand Bharat, rather than dying of starvation." The UP chief minister issued a stern warning to those spread-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a public rally amid ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections at Ramnagar in Udhampur on Friday. PTI

ing terror at Pakistan's behest, stating they would neither have a shroud to cover themselves nor land for burial. Pakistan-backed terrorists know the cost of their actions, and soon Pakistan will be divided into three parts, ceasing to exist as it is known today. He added, "Yogi stated that the effectiveness of the double-engine government is evident in Uttar Pradesh, where Ram Lalla has been finally enthroned in Ayodhya Dham after 500 years. "These parties fostered terrorism and corruption for their political gain, but with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, development has surged in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has shifted from being a terrorist state to a tourism destination. The country's largest and highest bridge is

currently under construction in Jammu and Kashmir, and a world-class train service like Vande Bharat has begun operations from Jammu to Delhi. While the NC, Congress and PDP armed the youth with guns, the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is providing employment opportunities by equipping them with tablets." Launching a scathing attack on the opposition, Yogi stated that those who claim they will restore Article 370 if their government comes to power are essentially seeking to bring back an era of terrorism, nepotism and corruption. He emphasised that these individuals do not prioritise peace, harmony and development; instead, they desire power.

"There is no room for these three parties here. The public has decided to say goodbye to this trio. When in power, the leaders of Congress, NC and PDP spent eight months a year in Europe and England and three months in Delhi. With such limited engagement, how can Jammu possibly develop in just one month?" Accusing the trio of Congress, NC and PDP of fostering an environment of anarchy, corruption, nepotism and terrorism, Yogi Adityanath stated, "The people from the Bakarwal, Gujjar, Dalit and Valmiki communities have been deprived of their rights for too long. In contrast, the BJP is effecting positive change in their lives under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. The

Ayodhya international airport in Uttar Pradesh has been named after Maharishi Valmiki, reflecting our commitment to honouring our heritage. Meanwhile, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, 80 crore people in India are receiving free rations, while Pakistan finds itself begging for assistance." Yogi urged the public to support the formation of a double-engine BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure security and development, and to realize Atal ji's vision of Akhand Bharat. He highlighted that Kathua is historically significant as the district where Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder president of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, faced brutal treatment in 1952 for his democratic protest against the inclusion of Article 370 in the Constitution, which contradicted the sentiments of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. He pointed out that the voices of the people were suppressed by the Congress government. Yogi emphasised that Article 370 is at the root of the Congress party's sins, leading to the suffering of Jammu and Kashmir through partition, terrorism, migration and neglect. He stated that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision has come to fruition. Yogi emphasised that since the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has rejoined the path of development and today, instead of violence, the region hosts G-20 conferences, with opportunities for work for every individual and access to water for every field.

UP INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW-2024

ODOP products captivate visitors

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

Visitors at the UP International Trade Show are showing a clear preference for organic products, seeking them out in almost every pavilion. The excitement surrounding UP's One District, One Product (ODOP) initiative is also unmistakable, drawing large crowds to the ODOP pavilion. Products from districts like Aligarh, Meerut, Banda, Siddharthnagar and Gorakhpur are particularly popular among visitors. Anjana, a visitor from Bulandshahr, praised the high quality and purity of ODOP products, noting that there is no adulteration. She had visited the trade

show last year as well, shopping for two days, and this year purchased Kala Namak rice from Siddharthnagar. The stalls featuring local products like jaggery, asafoetida, ghee, pickles and jams bustle with visitors. The seller of Hathras's asafoetida proudly mentioned their 100 per cent purity guarantee, which seems to be a major reason for the product's popularity. The Aligarh Metal Craft stall saw a steady stream of visitors, especially women, throughout Friday. According to stall operator Kushan Kumar Vashni, the most sought-after items include idols of gods, along with decorative products such as grass trees, lamps and diyas. Lord Krishna idols, in par-

ticular, are in high demand. At the ODOP pavilion, a painting of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath became a major attraction, with many visitors eager to purchase it. However, Bareilly-based artist Rachna Agarwal, who created the piece, politely declined, stating that the painting was not for sale. Rachna explained that all the artworks displayed at her stall are crafted from cow dung and painted using only natural pigments. Her mother, an expert in Madhubani, Warli and Lippan art, taught her these techniques, and the paintings are known to last for 8-10 years. Rachna expressed her desire to personally gift the painting to Yogi

Adityanath, which is why she has chosen not to sell it. The UP International Trade Show has heightened expectations for the textile industry in Greater Noida, largely due to the current internal situation in Bangladesh. As one of the world's largest textile exporters, Bangladesh's trade has been disrupted, creating a golden opportunity for India to expand its reach in the global textile market. Business leaders are optimistic that regions like Gautam Buddha Nagar and Lucknow will see rapid growth in this sector. Additionally, visitors flock to buy bangles from Firozabad, perfumes from Kannauj, and sattu from Ballia, with these local products selling in large quantities.

AI-generated 'Ramayana Darshan' major attraction



People visit the second edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show in Greater Noida on Friday. PTI

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA/LUCKNOW

In the second edition of the UP International Trade Show (UPITS 2024), running from September 25 in Greater Noida, a unique pavilion named 'AI Ramayana Darshan' has captured the imagination of visitors. This pavilion, set up by the Uttar Pradesh Culture department, offers a remarkable confluence of spirituality and modernity, with all the images generated using artificial intelligence (AI). At the pavilion, Ayodhya is depicted in its ancient glory, with various key events from the life of Lord Ram brought to life in a grand visual presentation. The serene atmosphere is further elevated by the background music of 'Ram Siya Ram', enhancing the aura of devotion and making the pavilion a focal point of faith and attraction for both domestic

and international visitors. The AI-generated 'Ramayana Darshan' presents pivotal moments from the epic, such as Lord Ram's education in the Gurukul with his brothers, the Sita Swayamvar, his exile, Sita Haran, Lanka Dahan, and Ravan Vadh. Each image reflects a beautiful blend of simplicity and grandeur, combining historical authenticity with artistic imagination. The exhibition's unique fusion of reality and heritage, spirituality and modernity, has sparked widespread interest at the trade show. Visitors have expressed a sense of peace and spiritual connection as they walk through the pavilion. Many are taking selfies and sharing their experiences, remarking on how the AI-generated Ramayana has allowed them to relive the timeless and inspiring moments of Lord Ram's life.

Efforts, achievements in higher edu highlighted

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA/LUCKNOW

The Higher Education department has established a stall at the second edition of the UP International Trade Show (UPITS), held at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida. This exhibit highlights the innovative initiatives and achievements of the Yogi Adityanath government in the field of higher education. Key accomplishments on display include the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), the integration of information and communication technology (ICT) in education, the promotion of regional languages and the incorporation of the Indian knowledge system (IKS) into higher education. Additionally,

the stall showcases ongoing efforts to establish private universities and colleges, along with the growing interest from investors, underscoring Uttar Pradesh's emergence as an educational hub. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, key developments in higher education are prominently showcased at the International Trade Show. The Higher Education department's stall, conceptualised and designed under the guidance of Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, was closely monitored by the principal secretary of Higher Education, who also provided suggestions for improvement. This stall became a special attraction at the event.

Entrepreneurs praise govt initiatives

Greater Noida (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at the India Expo Center Mart in Greater Noida is transforming the dreams of entrepreneurs into reality by showcasing their products to international audiences. While buyers are visiting the stalls, the B2B programme being organised at the event is proving especially effective in connecting businesses with international buyers. This initiative has sparked enthusiasm among young entrepreneurs, who are optimistic about securing more foreign orders in the near future, offering their products valuable global exposure. Chetan Khandelwal, founder of Divine Copper from Vrindavan, is thrilled about

the buyer-seller meet at the trade show. He shared that in the past, businesses had to actively search for buyers, but this time, the event's organisation is making it easier to connect with them. "We don't need to search for buyers anymore," he said. "Last year, my company received orders from three countries, and this year, I have already secured one from Australia," he said. Khandelwal praised the Yogi government's startup promotion initiatives, which have played a key role in facilitating such opportunities. Deepak Pandey, managing director of Mother Nature Herbal Apparels from Hapur, is equally excited about attracting buyers from other countries.

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण
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सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण की आवासीय/व्यवसायिक/दूर-दूर योजनाओं के निम्नलिखित आवेदकों द्वारा उनके नाम के सामने अंकित सम्पत्ति का हस्तान्तरण/नामाकरण किए जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में प्रार्थना पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है:-

क्र.सं.	मूल आवेदी का नाम	मकान, म्यूण्ड संख्या	योजना का नाम	मृत्यु दिनांक	मूल आवेदी के उत्तराधिकारी अथवा आवेदक का नाम	उत्तराधिकारी के पक्ष में अनापत्ति कर्ताओं के नाम	कु अर्द्धों का क्रम
1	श्रीमती कान्त सिंह श्री विजय पाल सिंह	म्यूण्ड सं- 4/116	विशाल खण्ड गोमती नगर योजना	25.07.1999 12.05.2023	श्रीमती सपना शारदीय श्री आकाश सिंह	-	पुत्री पुत्री
2	श्रीमती अनूपकुं श्रीवास्तव व श्री कृष्ण चंद्र श्रीवास्तव	म्यूण्ड सं- 1/151, रिजयंत खण्ड	गोमती नगर योजना	मृत्यु क्रमशः दिनांक 13.07.2022 व 08.12.2020 को हो गयी	1. श्री प्रशांत करश्य	-	पुत्र
3	स्व. उत्रेश तिवारी	म्यूण्ड सं- 1/190 रश्मि खण्ड	शास्ता नगर योजना	17.12.2023	श्रीमती अनीता तिवारी	श्रीमती निहारिका तिवारी श्रीमती शुभांगी तिवारी	पत्नी पुत्री पुत्री
4	श्री इन्द्र प्रकाश	म्यूण्ड सं- D-2/97 सेक्टर- 01, मानसरोवर योजना	कानपुर रोड	18.02.2024	श्रीमती पार्वती देवी श्री निखिल प्रकाश श्री विशाल प्रकाश श्रीमती स्नेहा प्रकाश श्रीमती रिचा प्रकाश	-	पत्नी पुत्र पुत्री पुत्री
5	श्री दिनेश राम यादव	म्यूण्ड सं- 3/267, सारु खण्ड	गोमती नगर योजना	श्री दिनेश राम यादव की मृत्यु दिनांक 02.05.2021 को हो गयी	1. श्रीमती विमला यादव 2. श्रीमती शिवांगी यादव 3. श्री उत्कर्ष कुमार यादव	-	पत्नी पुत्री पुत्री

उपरोक्त नामान्तरण के आदेशन के सम्बन्ध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह साक्ष्य सहित प्राधिकरण लिखि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर अप्रोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा दें। निर्धारित लिखि तक कोई आपत्ति प्राप्त न होने पर प्राधिकरण अलिखित में कॉलम-6 पर लिखित व्यक्ति का नाम दर्ज कर लिया जायेगा तथा उसके बाद किसी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

सचिव

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Ph. 0522-2286272, Fax: 0522-2288033, E-mail id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in

NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice in intended sale under rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) had taken constructive possession of the following property /ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same of "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upto failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act platform provided by the Service Provider, contact & detail for Symbolic Possession of property is available at present.

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Proprietor/Partners/Director(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property mortgaged	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Notice Out.Amt. as per Demand Notice	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money c) Account Details for EMD d) Incremental Bid Amt.	Date for submission of EMD Date & Time of E-Auction
Branch: Lucknow City					
1.	M/s Sri Krishan Traders (Borrower, Proprietorship Firm), Office Address: 332/32 Ghariyali Gali, Chowk Lucknow 2. Amit Agarwal S/O Naresh Kumar Agarwal (Borrower, Guarantor & Mortgagor), Office Address: 332/32 Ghariyali gali, Chowk Lucknow Residence Address: 96/188 Old Ganesh Ganj, Lucknow 3) Anju Agarwal W/o Amit Agarwal (Guarantor & Mortgagor), Office Address: 332/32 Ghariyali Gali, Chowk Lucknow Residence Address: 96/188 Old Ganesh Ganj, Lucknow	1. All part and parcel of residential building bearing house No. 408/96 at Chaupatiya Road Lucknow UP with details as under Sale deed dated 21.12.2011 registered in the office of registrar Bahi No. 1, Jild No 8624 page no. 313 to 354 at s.r.no. 16431, in the name of Sri Amit Agarwal & Smt Anju Agarwal, Area-120.353 Sq. mtr., Boundaries:- East-House of Warisan late Pandit Vishwanath Gaur & House Shiv Shankar I (Babool), West- 15 ft Wide Chhaptaun Road, North- Gali 10 ft Wide, South-House Warisan Late Pandit Vishwanath Gaur 2. All part and parcel of Property Shop No.L-12 Lower Ground Floor HNO. 215/448 A Part of Kala Niwas Subhash Marg Naka Hindola Lucknow Area 12.509 Sq.Mt with details as under Sale deed Registered on 21.07.2011, Book No.1 8577, page 255 to 282, S.NO. 5536 with the sub registrar(III)Lucknow in the name of Smt Anju Agarwal Boundaries: East: Shop No.L-11, West: Shop No. L-13, North: Passage of complex 9.6 Feet, South: Property of Deegar	18.05.2024 04.09.2024 Rs. 95,68,786.00 as on 08.05.2024 with further Interest Cost other Charges & expenses thereon	a) Rs. 69,68,000/- b) Rs. 6,98,000/- c) 6127853725 IFSC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch d) Rs. 10,000/-	Till 29.10.2024 30.10.2024 at 11.00 AM to 03.30 PM
Branch: Faculty of Dental Science, Lucknow					
2.	M/s Fairmed Enterprises Through Proprietor Mr Arun Kanodia (Borrower), Address: 499/366, Near Indian Bank Building Hasanganj, Daliganj, Lucknow, 226020 Address: 521 KA/097/5/6 97B, Mahanagar Lucknow, 226001 2. Mr Arun Kanodia son of Shri Deep Chandra Kanodia (Guarantor/Mortgagor), Address: Flat no- F 3 C, First Floor, Building known as "TMT Estate" T.G. Civil Lines, New Hyderabad, Lucknow-226007	Flat No. F 3 C, First Floor, building known as TMT Estate, T G civil Lines, New Hyderabad, Lucknow 226007 in the name of Mr. Arun Kanodia, Boundaries: North: Flat No. F -2, South: Lane, East: Road, West: Lobby	09.11.2023 17.03.2023 Rs. 68,67,655.00 as on 09.11.2022 with further Interest Cost other Charges & expenses thereon	a) Rs. 41,50,000/- b) Rs. 4,15,000/- c) 6127853725 IFSC: IDIB000H561 Hazratganj Branch d) Rs. 10,000/-	Till 17.10.2024 18.10.2024 at 11.00 AM to 03.30 PM

For verification about the document, property & inspection thereof, the intending bidders may contact Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank), above mentioned Branch, Lucknow during office hours before on 28.10.2024 (For Sr. No. 1) & 16.10.2024 (For Sr. No. 2) for auction related query intending bidders may contact above mentioned Branch.

For downloading further details and Terms & conditions, please visit : <https://www.ebkraj.in>

THE BORROWER(S)/GUARANTOR(S) ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED ABOUT THE SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Place : Lucknow, Date : 28.09.2024

INDIAN BANK (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Minister: Focus on cleanliness during Navratri, Durga Puja

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee, Registration Ravindra Jaiswal has directed the officers concerned to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation as well as lighting arrangements in the city in view of the upcoming Navratri and Durga Puja. He was holding a meeting with the officials of Nagar Nigam, Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), Awas Vikas Parishad etc at Circuit House here on Thursday. The minister directed the Nagar Nigam officers to pay special attention to the cleanliness around the puja pandals by deploying sanitation workers and supervisors on duty



UP minister Ravindra Jaiswal giving instructions to officers on preparations for the forthcoming Durga Puja in Varanasi

there. Besides, Jaiswal also said that proper cleanliness should also be ensured in and around the colonies of Awas Vikas. According to him, as during Sharadiya Navratri, Ramtilas are staged at various places in

the city along with Durga Puja, a large number of people roam on the roads till late night. "In such a situation, dirt and garbage heaps should not be seen anywhere on the roads", he said, stressing on ensuring

electrical safety at the puja pandals in every situation. Jaiswal instructed the municipal commissioner that the roads and lanes around the major temples of the city, especially the Navdurga temples, should be inspected on the spot and wherever minor repairs are required, they should be done immediately. "The sewer should not overflow on the road anywhere, and if the manholes are open anywhere, they should be covered immediately. There should not be any kind of laxity in this", he said. V-C of VDA Pulkit Garg, Municipal Commissioner Akshat Verma, GM Jalkal and senior officers of PWD, Jal Nigam and Housing Development were present in the meeting.

RDSO DG visits BLW, reviews work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Director General (DG) of Railway Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) Uday Borwankar visited Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Friday. In a meeting held at Hall of Fame located in the BLW Administration Building, he thoroughly reviewed the work being done in the locomotive manufacturing sector. BLW General Manager (GM) Sushil Kumar Srivastava welcomed him by presenting a detailed description of the activities and achievements related to locomotive manufacturing. In this meeting, officials of various departments apprised the DG of the problems and challenges being faced in the work. The main objective of the visit was to understand the progress being made towards locomotive manufacturing and to discuss the necessary corrective



DG of RDSO Uday Borwankar holding a meeting at BLW in Varanasi on Friday.

steps for it. Principal Chief Material Manager Rajnish Gupta, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Subrat Nath, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Shukla, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Janardan Singh, Chief Vigilance Officer Ankur Chandra, Chief Design Engineer (Electrical) Manoj Gupta, Chief Design Engineer (Diesel) RR Prasad, Chief Electrical Engineer

(Inspection) Arun Kumar Sharma and Deputy General Manager Anuj Katiyar along with heads of various departments were also present in the meeting which was conducted by DBM Vijay Kumar Kumawat. During his visit, the RDSO DG along with BLW GM observed the 'Waste of Art' (artwork made from scrap) displayed by BLW's Public Relations department in the Welcome Hall of the

Administration Building. These artworks have been made by BLW employees by recycling iron scrap, seeing which both the heads of RDSO and BLW praised the artworks calling it a wonderful artistic initiative. Meanwhile, a massive cleanliness drive was organised inside the workshop and on the railway track in front of FCI under the 'Sampoorna Swachhata and Swachhata Target Ekai (unit)', a part of ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign. **CAMPAIGN:** An awareness campaign advocating clean and inclusive urban transportation was organised near the Vishwanath Temple on the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus as part of the 'Harit Safar' initiative by Climate Agenda here. The campaign is committed to creating an urban transport system that is both fuel-efficient and inclusive.

Woman strangled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A divorced woman was strangled under mysterious circumstances in Jaria police station area of Hamirpur. As her clothes were dishevelled it appeared that she was sexually assaulted before being killed. On getting information about the incident CO Sarila and ASP rushed to the spot and carried out investigation. The woman's nose was bleeding and a piece of cloth was tied around her neck. A litigation was going on for attempt to murder against the woman and she was on parole. Savitri Yadav (38), daughter of Ram Prasad of Gurdevpura lived in her father's ancestral house. Her parents had already died. After divorce from husband, she was living in father's ancestral house. Late on Thursday evening when her cousin brother Raghuvir went to serve her food, he found her lying on the cot under myste-

rious circumstance and informed the police. Circle Officer Ghanshyam Singh, ASP Anoop Kumar Gupta along with forensic and sniffer dog squads rushed to spot and carried out investigations. The CO said on the basis of evidence and statement of kin, she appeared to have been strangled. Her body has been sent for an autopsy. He said she was on parole in an attempt to murder case. **DHARNA:** The members of All India EPS95 National Agitation Committee, Kanpur Division, staged dharna-demonstration at the office of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Sarvodaya Nagar, on Friday. Divisional president Ashok Kumar Yadav addressed the gathering. The demonstration was led by national advisor Rajesh Kumar Shukla and state general secretary of women's wing Sudha Nigam.

Former MLA passes away

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from the Meja constituency in Prayagraj, Neelam Karwariya passed away at a private hospital in Hyderabad. She was 55. Vachaspati, the current Apna Dal MLA from the Bara constituency, said Karwariya had been admitted to the hospital around 10 days ago for a liver transplant. Her condition deteriorated on Thursday night, leading to her demise. She is survived by her husband, Udaybhan Karwaria, and their three children: daughters Samridhhi and Sakshi, and son Saksham. Neelam was elected to the Meja seat on a BJP ticket in 2017. Udaybhan Karwariya, a former BJP MLA from the Bara constituency, was released from the Naiini Central Jail on July 25

after serving nearly nine years. He had been convicted in the murder case of former Samajwadi Party MLA Jawahar Yadav and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was later released on the Governor's recommendation. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the demise of the former MLA. "I pray to Lord Shri Ram to give a place to the departed soul in his lotus feet and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti!" he said on X. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly also condoled the former lawmaker's death in a post on X. Allahabad Lok Sabha MP and Congress leader Ujjwal Raman Singh said the death of Karwariya was "extremely sad", while Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Mautia remembered her as "a soft-spoken and popular leader".

Emphasis on special training of science teachers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The two-day national consultative meet on the topic 'Policy Formulation of Educational Skills and Implementation for Teaching and Learning of Science' concluded at the Inter University Centre for Teacher Education Centre (IUCTE) here on Friday. On the last day, scholars from different parts of the country consolidated their views and suggestions and said that science teachers of higher education institutions of the country need special training to take the learning outcomes of their students to a higher level, in which it is very important to incorporate updated curriculum, new pedagogy and evaluation techniques. Also, a 'strategic plan' was prepared for the training of science teachers in this meet. The closing ceremony was

presided over by IUCTE director Prof Prem Narayan Singh. The programme was organised by Dr Raj Singh, co-coordinator by Dr Gyanendra Singh. Dean of Academic and Research Department of IUCTE Prof Ashish Srivastava, Dr Kushagri Singh, Dr Sunil Kumar Tripathi, Dr Raja Pathak, Dr Anil Kumar and others were present. Earlier, the chief guest of the inaugural session Prof CB Sharma (former Director, NIOS and present Director, Education School, IGNOU, New Delhi) said that we need to change the ecology of our institutions so that the quality and effectiveness of educational institutions can be increased and only then can we realise the institutional building concept. For this, he said, the National Education Policy 2020 gives us direction. "It is a transformative policy. Also,

the education community needs to become rebellious, only then we can give the right shape to our education system", he said. Chairing the programme the centre's Dean, Academic and Research Prof Ashish Srivastava said change is the law of nature and education is also not untouched by it, so we have to make our education system keeping in mind the current complexity of society. In this programme, Prof AC Pandey (Director, IUAC, New Delhi), Prof Prithvi Nag (Former Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth), Prof Shekhar C Mande, Prof RK Singh, Prof RK Mishra, Prof JPN Mishra, Prof Samarendra Singh, Prof AS Raghuvanshi, Prof Poonam Agrawal, Prof Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Dr Gulab C Gautam, Dr Pallavi Chattopadhyay and other renowned scholars of the country deliberated on var-

ious subjects. **ARRESTED:** One criminal involved in a cab robbery case was injured in police encounter and then arrested while the other escaped taking the advantage of darkness around 3.30 am on Friday in Badhaini Kala near Kanthipur village on Mohansarai-Adalpara road under Mataldei police outpost area of Rajatalab police station. After receiving the information, DCP (Gomti Zone) Pramod Kumar and ADCP (Gomti Zone) Akash Patel reached the spot. According to ADCP Akash Patel, on September 23 a cab booked from Mughalsarai (Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction) in Chandauli district was looted. The police had received information that the robbers who looted the cab driver in Birbanpur of Rajatalab area were going towards Jakhni with the looted cab.

Kids' Zone established

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In line with the goal of developing the station as a city centre, Banaras station of Varanasi Division became the first station of North Eastern Railway (NER) to establish a Kids' Zone. Now the children accompanying the passengers at Banaras station will not get bored while waiting for the trains and they will be able to enjoy games as well as snacks. With the inspiration of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, as per the plan of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Sheikh Rehman, a Kids' Zone has been developed for children along with the beautification of Nandi Garden located in the circulating area of the second entry (towards platform number 8) of Banaras railway station. The newly-established Kids' Zone at this station has been named Rail Gaon (Village). In this Rail Gaon established with the participation of the private sector, the facility of toy train, Mickey Mouse jumping and toy car is available on the basis of fee.

UPAOICON begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Eight surgeries were conducted on Friday as the three-day 41st Annual Conference of UP Association of Otorhinolaryngologists of India (UPAOICON) began at KN Udupa Auditorium under the auspices of ENT department of Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU). Senior specialists in ENT from various regions of the state and country attended the event. The organising secretary Prof Vishwambar Singh stated that the first day's focus was mainly on surgical procedures. Dr GB Rao from Hyderabad demonstrated various ear surgeries on cadavers. Dr Rajesh Vishwakarma from Ahmedabad performed a surgery to remove the ear bone that had fused with the inner ear, replacing it with a new prosthesis. He noted that this condition can reduce hearing ability, but after surgery, patients regained their hearing. Additionally, Dr Vishwakarma performed an adenotonsillectomy and widened the canal between the ear and throat. He explained that children who frequently experience throat infections and have difficulty in

breathing through their nose can afford the relief from these issues post-surgery, and it alleviates ear pain too. This surgery was performed using endoscopic techniques, eliminating the need for incisions or cuts. Dr Rakesh Srivastava from Lucknow operated on a patient whose windpipe had narrowed, successfully widening it. He mentioned that this condition often occurs in patients who have required a breathing tube in the ICU for over a week or have had respiratory diseases like tuberculosis. Dr Vinod Felix from Kerala conducted sinus surgery and addressed issues of cerebrospinal fluid leaking through the nose, primarily caused by allergies. He stated that the sinus was widely exposed in this procedure, and further treatment will be conducted with medication. Dr Ombir Singh performed surgery on necrotic ear bones, explaining that this condition arises from problems with the retracted eardrum. If not addressed promptly, it can lead to serious brain complications. Dr Sirij B Dhan conducted, for the first time in Varanasi and Purvanchal, a surgery on the salivary glands without any incisions using sialendoscopy.

Two held for smuggling 10 turtles

PTI/PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Two people were arrested at Prayagraj Junction railway station for allegedly smuggling 10 turtles, officials said on Friday. Superintendent of Police (GRP) Abhishek Yadav said railway police personnel were patrolling platform number four on Thursday when they noticed two suspicious individuals. Upon inspection, the officers found the turtles in their two bags, he said. The accused were identified as Guddu Kanjdar and Akash Kanjdar, both residents of Amethi. They were arrested and handed over to the forest officers, Yadav added. Regional Forest Officer Kapildev said during interrogation the accused revealed they were given the turtles by an individual in Sultanpur, with instructions to deliver them to Bhagalpur in Bihar. "In return for this task, they were promised ₹1,500 each," he added. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Arvind Yadav said the turtles belong to the Indian softshell species, listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, and are typically found in clean water bodies. "After presenting the turtles as evidence in court, they will be released into clean water bodies in Prayagraj," he said. Yadav said legal action has been initiated against the accused under relevant sections of wildlife crime laws. **AMACON-25 TO BE HELD TOMORROW:** The Allahabad Medical Association's annual conference (AMACON-25) is going to be held here on September 29. Famous doctors and experts from India and abroad will participate in this conference organised by the AMA and will give lectures on important topics of gastroenterology. There will also be brainstorming on treatment through new technology. It will be inaugurated at 9 am. The office-bearers of the association talked to journalists regarding this conference at the AMA Convention Centre on Friday. President of the association Dr Kamal Singh said world-renowned professor, founder and director of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Dr. Nageshwar Reddy will be present as the chief guest.



(Left) Speaker Legislative Assembly Uttar Pradesh Satish Mahana inaugurating the India-Bangladesh test match by releasing balloons and (right) ringing the bell at Green Park stadium in Kanpur on Friday.

Activists of several right-wing groups hold protest demanding cancellation of match

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The activists of several right-wing groups held a protest on Friday at the Sadhbhavana Chauraha, about 1,500 metres from the Green Park stadium where India is taking on Bangladesh in a test match. They also recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' and demanded that the match, which began on Friday, be cancelled, police said. Upon receiving information about the protest led by right-wing groups, including the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal, police officials quickly mobilised, they said. A heavy police presence, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankita Sharma, was dispatched to the site to prevent the demonstrators from advancing towards the stadium. Senior officials also alerted the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) to maintain close surveillance and be prepared for any eventuality. Sharma said that dozens of members from right-wing organisations, including the Bajrang Dal and the VHP, participated in the demonstration, chanting the 'Hanuman Chalisa'. "The protesters expressed their

outrage over the ongoing atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, demanding the cancellation of the test match," she said. The protesters also submitted a memorandum to the police commissioner, condemning the organisation of the match in Kanpur, labelling it "unfair and disgraceful". The police managed to calm the protesters, urging them not to take the law into their own hands, and dispersed them after receiving the memorandum. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander noted that just a week prior, an FIR was filed against 20 members of the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha for allegedly obstructing traffic to conduct a 'havan' in protest against the treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh. **B'DESH CRICKET FAN 'HECKLED':** A Bangladeshi fan attending the India-Bangladesh Cricket Test match here on Friday was rushed to hospital after he was apparently heckled and assaulted inside the stadium. The fan, who goes by the name of 'Tiger Robi', was dressed in a tiger's get-up - tiger being the emblem of Bangladesh cricket team - and standing in the C

Block balcony of the Green Park stadium where the incident took place. A clip on videos showed the fan being carried by medical officials and security personnel out of the stadium. Later they made him sit on a chair and fed him water. The fan through gestures indicated he was punched on his lower back, according to the video clip. The Kanpur Police, however, categorically denied the charge, and said his version would be cross-checked through the CCTV footage. The Bangladeshi fan suffered from dehydration and was taken to hospital and now he was fine, Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander said. "Bangladeshi fan was gasping for breath when he met a constable and went unconscious before he could speak to him, but now he is fine," the officer added. Other details related to the incident were yet to be ascertained. The incident comes amid a protest by right-wing groups near Green Park with the demonstrators demanding that the Test Match be cancelled. Police said they have beefed up security in the area in view of the international match.

One held for throwing stones at train

Prayagraj (PNS): The Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have jointly arrested a man who allegedly threw stones at the Seemanthal Express to get passengers near the doors to drop their phones, officials said on Friday. Mohammed Shameem alias Golu on Monday allegedly threw stones at passengers of the train near the Yamuna Bridge, injuring a person, they said. GRP Superintendent Abhishek Yadav said Shameem was arrested on Thursday. An FIR was registered against unknown persons under sections 153 and 147 of the Railway Act, he said. "The accused was apprehended on the banks of the Gaughat railway line. During interrogation, Shameem admitted to throwing stones at passengers sitting near the train doors with the intention of causing them to drop their mobile phones, which he planned to steal," he said. Legal proceedings have been initiated, and the accused has been remanded to judicial custody. Shameem, who is around 27 years old, is a resident of Unchvaghdi in the Prayagraj Cantt area and has multiple cases registered against him at the GRP station, the official added.

Students showcase technology skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Seth Anandram Jaipuria School here continued its yearlong Golden Jubilee celebrations with a scintillating three-day event comprising Jaipuria Business and Leadership Conclave and the techno-cultural festival Comfest from September 26 to 28. Chairman of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions, Shishir Jaipuria, inaugurated Comfest with a lamp lighting ceremony and a welcome address. Students from 32 schools participated in the event to showcase their technology skills, compete in hackathons and take part in tech-focused discussions. Students delved into the world of technology with workshops, coding challenges and interactive exhibits. Held alongside Comfest on the school campus, the Jaipuria Business and Leadership Conclave brought together industry leaders, innovators, eminent dignitaries, and renowned speakers from vari-



The Jaipuria Business and Leadership Conclave being inaugurated on Thursday.

ous industries and entrepreneurs. It was attended by educators, parents, local businessmen and industry professionals. This conclave aimed to inspire the next generation of leaders. The attendees gained insights into effective leadership, entrepreneurship and business strategies through keynote addresses and panel discussions. The special guest was renowned Bollywood actor Shekhar Suman, who moderated the sessions. Kanpur Nagar

District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Singh also graced the occasion. The members of the school's leadership team, including Director Schools, Harish Sanduja, Principal Shikha Banerjee, Vice-Principal (Junior School) Madhusree Bhaumik, and Vice-Principal (Senior School) Ganesh Tiwari were also present. The Jaipuria Business and Leadership Conclave concluded on Thursday while Comfest, a student-led event, will continue till September 28.

BJP slams Karnataka Government for CBI consent withdrawal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday criticised the Congress over the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw the general consent to the CBI to probe cases in the state amid the MUDA land allotment row, describing it as a response of a "professional thief and a corrupt party".

Termining the Congress government's move a bid to evade a CBI probe into the MUDA "scam" allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the decision depicted a "guilty mind" in itself.

"Thousands of crores have been usurped in the MUDA

scam. After this, the Congress has done what is expected from any certified 'chor and looter' (thief and robber). To evade the long hand of law, it has withdrawn the general consent given to the CBI to investigate in the state," he said.

"The Congress is behaving like a professional thief and a professional corrupt party. First to err and then go brazen about it, this is the attitude and approach of the Congress in Karnataka and other states where it is in power," Poonawalla added.

Opposition parties in Karnataka have alleged that the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) has fraudulently allotted sites to people who lost land to other development projects,



including Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi. Poonawalla alleged that Siddaramaiah was following the "same approach" of the Congress since his alleged involvement in the MUDA scam worth Rs 5,000 crore surfaced, and demanded his resignation as chief minister.

"When Narendra Modiji was chief minister of Gujarat, several cases were (registered) against him and the central probe agency was unleashed on him... Yet, being the chief minister, Narendra Modi ji cooperated fully with every investigation," he said.

"This is the difference between a morally upright individual and one with a guilty conscience," Poonawalla said.

Amid the MUDA land allotment row, the Karnataka government on Thursday withdrew general consent given to CBI to investigate cases in the state as it alleged that the federal agency was "biased".

Announcing the decision after a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said, "It is clear that the CBI or the Central government are not using their instrumentalities judiciously."

The move came amid demands by the opposition BJP to hand over the MUDA site allotment case to the CBI. The BJP spokesperson dismissed the Karnataka government's accusation against the CBI and said the Congress has no problem with the central probe agency when it "suits" the party's interest.

"They approached the CBI and ED with a complaint in the Delhi liquor scam and put up posters across Delhi calling Arvind Kejriwal a thief after the CBI took action," he added.



Dhankhar calls for multilateral action on global threats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday asserted that multilateral engagements are no longer optional but essential for addressing modern-day threats, ranging from cyber crimes and terrorism. He also said that peace is best secured from a position of strength and underscored the importance of national security.

"Global peace is assurance for sustainable development, the only way to existence. But geopolitical configurations and conflagrations have affected a sea change in security outlook," he noted.

Addressing the participants of the inaugural International Strategic Engagement Programme (IN-STEP), a collaborative effort between the National Security Council Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Defence here, Dhankhar emphasised the fundamental connection between global peace and sustainable development, underlining that the current state of world affairs demands a redefined approach to security.

Highlighting the dynamic geopolitical shifts that have altered global security perspectives, the vice president noted that multilateral engagements are no longer optional but essential for addressing modern-day threats, ranging from cyber crimes and

terrorism to climate change and disruptive technologies. Dhankhar also drew attention to the evolving global threats, many of which were unimaginable just a few years ago.

"We are in a world that has suddenly appeared on our radar with unprecedented challenges such as climate change, pandemics, cyber threats, and disruptions in global order," he told the gathering.

He pointed out that these challenges are not accidental but stem from policies and actions driven by power ambitions and a disregard for sustainable growth.

Addressing the significance of technological advancements, he emphasised the critical role that emerging technologies such as machine learning can play in shaping global narratives and mitigating misinformation. Disruptive technologies must be harnessed to neutralise harmful narratives that may lack factual basis but have the potential to create dangerous global environments, Dhankhar underscored.

Reflecting on India's philosophy of "Atithi Devo Bhava", the Vice-President reinforced the nation's belief in welcoming all with warmth and respect, as embodied in the G20 motto: "One Earth, One Family, and One Future." He stressed that these values are essential in fostering unity and cooperation in a world that increasingly faces challenges that transcend borders.



India, Greece strengthen Naval ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Greece have held discussions to further strengthen navy to navy partnership by augmenting operational interactions, maritime security co-operation and streamlining goals for a stable and secure maritime environment, navy said here on Friday.

These issues were taken up during Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi's talks with Vice Admiral Dimitrios E Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff in Athens on Thursday.

During this maiden visit by an Indian Navy chief to Greece, both the Chiefs also explored avenues of furthering training cooperation along with laying emphasis towards enhancing interoperability and capacity-building.

Admiral Tripathi also met Ioannis Kefalogiannis, Deputy Minister of Defence, Greece and Vice Admiral Christos Sasiakos, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, marking a significant step in deepening defence ties and fostering a robust strategic partnership towards enhancing maritime security in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Discussions focussed on the criticality of open sea trade routes, laying the groundwork for advancing Indo-Greek defence collaboration with focus on strategic naval opportunities, capacity building, shared training initiatives, and enhancing interoperability. Collaboration in niche technologies and defence industry opportunities were also deliberated.

SC Judge addresses smuggling, counterfeiting at MASGRADE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjay Karol, Judge, Supreme Court of India, on Thursday highlighted the debilitating impact smuggling and counterfeiting have on the nation's economic and social aspects.

Delivering the valedictory address on Day-2 of 10th edition of 'MASGRADE', organised by FICCI-CASCADE, Justice Karol said, "Smuggling and counterfeiting continue to jeopardise economic stability, social security and integrity of the nation.

Smuggling and counterfeiting often lurk undetected amidst a host of other economic and social problems but continue to erode substantial portions of legitimate businesses, resulting in substantial economic and social damages."

Justice Karol emphasized that the use of technology is essential to combat the menace and highlighted the importance of robust inter-state collaborations.

"Utilizing QR codes will help safeguard consumers and address the issues of smuggling and counterfeiting. Social media intermediaries also play a crucial role in this fight.



We must strengthen our inter-state collaborations, and I am pleased to note that over the past ten years, these collaborations have been solidified at the international level," he stated. Justice Navin Chawla, Judge, Delhi High Court, said, "Smuggling and counterfeiting affect the day-to-day lives of citizens in various ways. These activities constitute a \$2 trillion shadow economy, resulting in significant economic losses for the nation.

This menace needs to be addressed uniformly by the legislature, judiciary, and executive. I assure you that all three branches are doing everything possible to combat this issue."

Justice Chawla added that consumers need to be aware that buying illicit products may result in short-term gain

EC seeks explanation from Maharashtra officials over non-compliance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sending out a stern message, the Election Commission on Friday sought an explanation from the Maharashtra chief secretary and the state's police chief for failing to fully implement its orders on the transfer of officials ahead of the upcoming assembly polls.

In a strongly-worded letter, the poll body said despite a directive issued on July 31 to relocate officials who had served in their home districts or current posting for over three years, the state administration had not completed the process.

According to the Election Commission's (EC) mandate, the compliance report was due by August 31.

While the additional director general of police submitted a partial report, the chief secretary is yet to provide a full response.

Sources noted that more than 100 inspector-level officers in Mumbai and revenue officials, many holding key positions in the state, had not been transferred as required.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar expressed his displeasure over the state administration's non-compliance, stating that the delay undermined efforts to ensure a free and fair electoral process.

The EC has made it clear that further inaction would not be tolerated.

The term of the current Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 26 and the polls are likely to be held before that. The EC is currently in the state to review its preparedness for the polls.

Lokpal issues accreditation norms for journalists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Anti-corruption Ombudsman Lokpal has sought applications for accreditation from journalists to cover its working and has issued a list of eligibility norms that includes a dress code for media persons while visiting its premises.

Desirous journalists need to have a law degree recognised by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act, reads the norms for accreditation of legal correspondents in the Lokpal of India.

However, the Lokpal chairperson can waive or relax this condition in appropriate

cases if the journalist or correspondent holds a Bachelor degree of a recognised university; and possesses at least five years' experience of reporting events and proceedings of any constitutional court, the norms said.

Interested journalists should have at least five years' experience of reporting in a daily newspaper or a national or international news agency or electronic media organisation, of which at least three and a half years must be of reporting events and proceedings of any constitutional court, reads the norms issued on September 25.

"Applications are invited from

interested and eligible journalists/ correspondents in proforma in annexure for accreditation as the Legal Correspondents in Lokpal of India," the circular said. The last date of receiving application is 30 days from the issue of the circular.

Mentioning conditions to be observed by a working journalist/correspondent after his accreditation, the norms said "an accredited correspondent, temporary/regular, shall visit the Lokpal premises in a formal dress, in a manner befitting the decor of the office and displaying prominently his accreditation card."

At all times, an accredited correspondent, temporary or

regular, shall maintain decorum in the Lokpal premises and refrain from doing such things as may interfere with the proceedings before the Lokpal and shall restrict his movement within the prescribed area for the media, interact only with the spokesperson of the Lokpal and no other official including shall not attempt to access any confidential or even official records except the ones shared to him by the spokesperson of the Lokpal, the circular said.

"Accredited correspondent, temporary/regular, shall make a serious endeavour of reporting accurate account of the information shared to him by the spokesperson of the

Lokpal without any distortions and embellishments," the norms said.

In another order, the Lokpal has nominated its deputy registrar as its spokesperson.

According to the norms, the applications for temporary/regular accreditation shall be placed before the chairperson or accreditation committee nominated by him for that purpose, for consideration.

The chairperson, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may accord accreditation to any deserving candidate in relaxation of the rules and these norms, the circular said. On being granted temporary/regular

accreditation, a legal correspondent will be issued an identity card.

"In case, an accredited legal correspondent, temporary/regular, is transferred or otherwise ceases to represent the concerned newspaper, news agency or electronic media organisation for which she/he was granted accreditation, shall, within two weeks of such transfer or cessation, return the identity card," one of the conditions mentioned in the norms said.

Such legal correspondent will not be extended the privileges of an accredited legal correspondent of the Lokpal unless she/he seeks a fresh accreditation by making an

application in accordance with the norms for representing the press/agency/organisation concerned, to the chairperson, it said.

The Lokpal has also cited certain conditions for journalists while seeking temporary accreditation. It said that the application for accreditation "must be accompanied by an attested copy of the Law degree" and interested candidates "must possess at least three and a half years' of experience of reporting events and proceedings of any court in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency and/or electronic media organisation having standing."

Maldives President Muizzu set to visit India amid improving ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu is likely to visit India in the second week of October. It comes in the backdrop of recent strained ties between the two countries. He had last come to New Delhi on June nine for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing in ceremony.

Incidentally, it will be his bilateral visit to India since Muizzu became president in November last year on the back of an 'India Out' campaign. He is perceived to be pro-China.

The Maldivian president will come to New Delhi for a three-day visit commencing October seven, sources said here on Friday. He will hold talks with Prime Minister Modi on October eight, they said.

Muizzu government's efforts to reduce the Maldives'



dependence on India and a demand for the removal of some 85 Indian military personnel deployed there to operate three aircraft took bilateral ties to a fresh low.

Last December, his government terminated a 2019 agreement with India for joint hydrographic surveys. This was followed by several steps to bolster defence cooperation with China and Turkey.

However, there are signs of improvement in the overall relationship in recent months. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Maldives in August and the two sides

inked an agreement on introducing India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system in there and inaugurated several projects built with Indian grants and loans.

Signs of a thaw came from Muizzu himself, when he described India as "one of the closest allies and invaluable partners" of the Maldives at a meeting with Jaishankar.

Earlier this month, Muizzu's spokesperson announced he would visit India "very soon" on the same day that two junior ministers, who were suspended in January for derogatory comments against Modi, resigned from the government.

The Indian side has also helped the Maldives avoid the risk of defaulting on its Islamic bond payments by extending the State Bank of India's (SBI) subscription to government treasury bills worth \$50 million for another year.

Health Ministry issues revised guidelines for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) fast becoming a major public health crisis, closely linked to the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and CVDs, the Union Health Ministry on Friday issued revised operational guidelines and a training module aimed at improving patient care to combat the silent but serious condition.

"Out of 10, one to three people can have NAFLD which highlights the impact of the disease," said Apurva Chandra, Union Health Secretary at an event here on the need for the revised guidelines.

He further said that 66 per cent of the liver deaths in the country are due to NCDs and the major risk factors are tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), alcohol use, poor dietary habits, insufficient physical activity, and air pollution.

As rapid urbanisation, along with sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits become more common, more individuals are developing fatty liver, even without alcohol



consumption. The growing prevalence of type 2 diabetes and insulin resistance further exacerbates this condition.

Punya Salila Srivastava, Officer on Special Duty with the Ministry said, "These guidelines need to reach the grassroot level workers so that the disease is detected early and the burden of NAFLD is reduced." Dr S K Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) noted that many NCDs such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer are linked to liver

health, underscoring the importance of maintaining a healthy liver.

"India contributes high numbers for NCDs globally and one of the core causes of metabolic diseases is in the liver. Realising the growing burden and urgent need to address it, India became the first country to integrate the NAFLD in the National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2021," said a statement from the Ministry.

Welcoming the Ministry's move, Dr. Arun Gupta, a paediatrician and

convenor of Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI) said later that while the revised guidelines for managing NAFLD are a positive step, they alone are insufficient to address the root causes of this growing health issue.

"There is a pressing need to regulate the marketing of unhealthy foods, particularly ultra-processed foods (UPFs), which contribute significantly to poor dietary habits," he said, adding that banning advertisements for these unhealthy products and implementing higher taxes on them.

"It's crucial to educate children about the potential harm of such products, fostering a healthier understanding of food choices from an early age," he said.

The guidelines focus on health promotion and early detection which are important for ensuring that patients with NAFLD receive timely and appropriate care. It also advocates for a multidisciplinary approach, integrating the efforts of healthcare providers from various disciplines to offer holistic care to individuals affected by NAFLD.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Playing with lives

CDSCO flags over 50 drugs, including paracetamol, as substandard, raising serious health concerns

In a concerning development, the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) has declared over 50 commonly used drugs, including Paracetamol and Pan D, as "not of standard quality" in its latest quality check report. The drugs, which also include vital medications such as calcium and vitamin supplements, high blood pressure medications, and anti-diabetic pills, were flagged in the organisation's August 2024 report, raising serious questions about their safety and efficacy for public use. The CDSCO's monthly quality check, which involves random sampling by state drug officers, identified numerous drugs under the "Not of Standard Quality (NSQ Alert)" category. Among the affected products are popular over-the-counter medicines such as vitamin C and D3 tablets, Shelcal (a calcium and vitamin D3 supplement), paracetamol tablets (IP 500 mg), Glimperide (an anti-diabetic drug), Telmisartan (for high blood pressure), and anti-acid Pan D. These widely used drugs, manufactured by companies like Hetero Drugs,



Alkem Laboratories and Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd, pose potential risks to consumers due to their substandard quality.

The CDSCO's report included two lists, one naming 48 drugs that failed the quality tests and another listing 5 drugs under investigation as potentially spurious. In response to the findings, some manufacturers have claimed that certain batches of the flagged products were spurious and not manufactured by them. But that is a standard defence. A thorough probe must be initiated against such companies. This isn't the first time the CDSCO has taken action against unsafe drugs. Earlier in August, the central regulator banned over 156

fixed-dose drug combinations (FDCs) across the country, citing "likely risk to humans." These recurring incidents are ringing alarm bells about the quality control standards in India's pharmaceutical industry and the potential health risks posed by compromised drugs on the market. As the investigation into the spurious drugs continues, the public's trust in the safety of medicines remains at stake. Last year cough syrup supplied to Africa had allegedly resulted in deaths of 141 individuals. This not only is inhumane act but also tarnishes the reputation of Indian pharmaceutical industry in the world. For consumers, the key takeaway is to remain cautious about the medications they purchase and consume, particularly from lesser-known sources. Additionally, it is imperative for the regulatory framework to intensify its vigil to ensure that pharmaceutical companies adhere to strict quality standards. And we are not even talking about the Counterfeit medicines that are freely sold in the market. CDSCO report has just scratched the surface of this 65 billion dollar market. Blinded by greed, many companies indulge in manufacturing substandard medicines and even counterfeits. They have scant regard for human life and are fixated on making profits. Indeed the Government has to deal with them with heavy hand and give them the taste of their own medicine.

PICTALK



Performers dressed in traditional attire rehearse for Garba, ahead of Navratri festival, in Ahmedabad

Quad summit: Prioritising security in the Indo-Pacific



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Quad summit reiterated its commitment to ensure regional stability and foster sustainable development in the face of China's growing influence

The fourth Quad Summit, held in Wilmington, Delaware, USA, marked a significant step toward reinforcing the strategic partnerships between the member countries—the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. The Quad, officially known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, has become an essential platform for collaboration on multiple fronts, particularly in addressing security issues across the Asia-Pacific, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region. Over time, the scope of this partnership has expanded to include critical areas such as disaster management, digital infrastructure, and climate change, making it a multifaceted initiative with both security and development dimensions.

One of the key highlights of this summit was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to establish a new collaboration between India and the United States in the semiconductor sector. Modi emphasised the potential of AI (American-Indian) power, in reference to both artificial intelligence and the burgeoning US-India partnership. This collaboration, centered on a semiconductor facility near Noida in Uttar Pradesh, promises to bring advanced technologies, including control chips essential to both Indian and American security. The move is seen as a direct challenge to China's and Taiwan's dominance in the global semiconductor market, signaling a shift in the geopolitical landscape of technology. Alongside the semiconductor cooperation, maritime and cyber security remained top priorities for the Quad. The recent summit, attended by US President Joe Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, underscored the strategic importance of these areas. The Quad leaders are working to counter a variety of regional conflicts, including the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, transnational terrorism, and both traditional and non-traditional threats emerging in the Indo-Pacific. The member nations are



particularly concerned about China's increasingly aggressive stance in the Indian Ocean and parts of the South and East China Seas, areas critical to global trade and security.

Through dialogue and coordinated efforts, the Quad aims to tackle the growing threat of terrorism, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. By fostering diplomatic engagement and conflict resolution mechanisms, the Quad hopes to promote stability while ensuring economic prosperity for all member nations. The group's shared strategic vision is vital in shaping a multilayered, multilateral strategy for dealing with security challenges in an increasingly interconnected world. The Quad is not only a military alliance but also a platform for fostering development in fields such as education, science, biotechnology, and strategic planning, further strengthening the bonds between its members. India's rising global influence has been evident through its leadership in multiple international organisations such as the G20, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). These roles have allowed India to showcase its diplomatic prowess and address global issues. The Quad summit provided yet another opportunity for India



THE QUAD LEADERS ARE WORKING TO COUNTER A VARIETY OF REGIONAL CONFLICTS, INCLUDING THE ONGOING WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND EMERGING IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

to contribute to the development of a robust, cooperative international system. The discussions during the summit included the need to evolve a new strategic approach to counter threats from nations that seek to destabilise the global order.

A key focus of the summit was the Indo-Pacific region, where the Quad aims to ensure a free, open, and secure maritime environment. This area has become a flashpoint for various conflicts, with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) posing a significant challenge to regional stability. To counter this, the Quad members have collaborated on several initiatives, including the "Quad-at-Sea" Ship Observer Mission, which will enhance maritime security by 2025. Moreover, the group is also investing in renewable energy and high-quality infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific, aiming to foster sustainable development and reduce reliance on Chinese-led initiatives.

Health cooperation was another important topic at the summit, with the Quad leaders announcing a collaborative effort to combat cervical cancer through the Quad Cancer Moonshot initiative. This humanitarian approach, combined with the group's security efforts, underscores the

Quad's commitment to a comprehensive vision for regional stability and prosperity. The focus on addressing modern terrorism, including its funding and cyber threats, also highlights the Quad's adaptive approach to emerging security challenges.

The ongoing collaboration among the Quad nations is not limited to traditional security measures. The group is working to enhance policing cooperation, cyber security, and border protection by leveraging technological innovations. These efforts are particularly crucial in addressing non-state actors who engage in smuggling, drug trafficking, and cyber-attacks. By tightening security mechanisms and boosting intelligence-sharing, the Quad hopes to build a more resilient defense network across the Indo-Pacific. The Quad's influence has also extended to humanitarian aid, as seen in its support for Papua New Guinea. The summit emphasised the need for a vigilant, modern approach to security, replacing outdated strategies that no longer fit the current geopolitical landscape.

(The writer is recipient of Bharat Gaurav and Rastriya Gaurav Award is a professor and an expert of strategic affairs, views are personal)

Technology as a force multiplier in education

The intertwining of education and technology has brought about a profound transformation in the way knowledge is imparted

Education gave birth to technology and technology revolutionised education in several ways giving the "Force Multiplier" effect in promoting the main objectives of education. The Covid-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst in revolutionising the educational system. With many objectives and aims wherein education and technology both became mutually inclusive and dependent.

Thus many educational tools emerged, and technology catapulted the availability of much-needed time that can be highlighted in various and innumerable ways, and how technology is promoting education with such tools. It becomes our utmost responsibility to guard against its misuse considering the emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR). The Information Technology (IT) resources thus aid in academics as well as research. A Learning Management system (LMS) along with an Enterprise resource planning (ERP) has been introduced in educational institutions and universities to have outcome-



based education. The future of higher education thus lies in embracing technology effectively as is taught by the challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, providing innovative use of e-learning platforms for an effective learning environment. With technological advancements, it is now necessary to enhance education so that it meets the interests of both students and teachers. It is very essential to build awareness about the process of technology with remarkable advances in technology. The way technological advancements are incorporated into the education system for knowledge transfer is remarkable. Thus the teach-

ing learning process has undergone revolutionary changes and posed challenges to forcibly learn the effective use of technology (teaching tools). While the education system is harnessing the several advantages of technology-based tools, it is pertinent and equally important to foresee the negative aspects emerging in some quarters and ponder over the preventive steps to be thought of in the ever-changing world of the education system. Thus Information Communication Technology (ICT) in education has become important for imparting quality education that is ethical, transparent and secure. The ICT tools have transformed how the education sector is evolving. The rapidly emerging technology and the educational field are inseparable and they are like conjoined twins to monitor and improve quality in higher education. However, one needs to address the challenges associated with digital access to transform education. Education requires continuous monitoring, brainstorming and supervision and with the invasion of technology

into the teaching-learning process, it has become very effective. Technology offers accessibility to educational resources such as online platforms and digital libraries that offer a wealth of information making learning very interesting and dynamic. The e-resources aid in a very large magnitude, especially with the integration of artificial intelligence which will increase opportunities for research and academics. The design of technology and its implementation includes the perspectives and the skills that are required for diverse users. Thus technology is an integral part of education with the development of various devices such as laptops, smartphones, and apps that have changed the learning process. Education with technology has progressed by leaps and bounds in modern times. This blend has helped to achieve perfection but with caution that it must not be misused and produce adverse consequences.

(The writer is Director Academics, Dr DY Patil Medical College, Pune; views are personal)



VATSALA SWAMY

SIDDARAMAIAH FACES HEAT

Madam — The Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's sanction for inquiry against him in the MUDA (Mysore Urban Development Authority) case is a political setback for Siddaramaiah. It is untenable for him to continue in office. The court has paved the way for Lokayukta to investigate the case in which the CM's wife Parvathi has been allotted 14 sites when she should have gotten only two sites as per rules. The judge raised some questions and inferences: Would the allotments have been made, "bending the rule from time to time," if the beneficiary were not the wife of a politician wielding power in various positions? While Siddaramaiah might not have signed any of the allotment documents or issued orders for the same, can he claim that he was not aware of what government favours his wife was getting and that she was claiming and getting benefits beyond her entitlement? These questions naturally lead to the judge's finding that "it prima facie, depicts stretching of the arms of undue influence and portrays abuse of power of the seat of the Chief Minister or Minister or any other post held by Siddaramaiah." For a politician who has had a relatively clean image over a long political career, these observations are damning. These are the very questions that the common man and voter, too, would be asking, given the facts of the case.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

CONCERN OVER CUSTODIAL DEATH

Madam—Now, another custodial death happened under another "double engine" government on September 23. According to the official report, Akshay Shinde, the accused of sexually assaulting two girls at a school in Badlapur, Maharashtra, snatched the revolver of one of the policemen, and he died in retaliatory firing by police. The Bombay High Court expressed serious concerns

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ensure children's safety



Recently, a physical education teacher (PET) was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as reported in your newspaper. The incident highlights the vulnerability of children but also raises serious questions about the effectiveness of current protective protocols in edu-

cational institutions. This distressing event underscores the urgent need for stronger measures to safeguard our children from such grievous acts. It is critical that schools adopt thorough background checks for all staff members and provide regular training on child protection measures.

Furthermore, the reported stone-pelting incident, which resulted in injuries to four policemen, is an alarming indicator of rising public disorder. It's essential for law enforcement agencies to address such issues swiftly to uphold public safety and order. The authorities should take immediate action to strengthen child protection laws and ensure strict enforcement. In addition, public awareness campaigns should be launched to educate the community about the importance of safeguarding our children and maintaining public order.

Juloori B Saraswathi | Hyderabad

over the custodial death of the accused. The court asked, "Why was he shot in the head and not in the legs or arms first?" Justice Prithviraj Keshavrao Chavan observed, "He wasn't a heavily built or strong man. This raises serious doubts. This cannot be termed an encounter." Any custodial death always raises a question about whether it has deliberately been orchestrated to stop the accused from exposing some powerful culprits. Therefore, the custodial death of one of the convicts of a gang-rape case in Assam's Dhing area is not above suspicion. In May, the Supreme Court expressed concern over custodial deaths and extrajudicial killings in Assam. The court was hearing a petition that cited 80 cases of "fake encounters" since May 2021, which resulted in 28 deaths and 48 injuries. I wonder how the people would have reacted had an accused in a case like the RG Kar Hospital case died in custody in Kolkata.

Sujit De | Kolkata

KANGANA'S COMMENTS BACKFIRE

Madam — Actor-turned-politician and the BJP MP Kangana Ranaut once again at the centre of controversy with her recent remark calling for the return of the now-repealed farm laws, though withdrawing it later. Her remark highlights a pattern of provocative statements that raise important questions about her intentions and the broader political implications, leaving the BJP finds itself in an embarrassing situation every time. The BJP high command must know that while her willingness to engage in controversial topics can energise a segment of the party's base due to her celebrity status, her comments always draw flaks and pose risks. The BJP must ensure that its party members maintain balance in their comments, especially when addressing sensitive topics like agriculture and farmers' rights.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

COUNTERING WORKPLACE MANIPULATION

It can quietly undermine trust and productivity, often without employees realising the damage



SAKSHI SETHI

In any workplace, collaboration and effective communication are vital for achieving organisational goals. However, these dynamics can be undermined when manipulation becomes a part of the equation. A manipulative colleague can distort the working environment, leading to decreased morale, distrust among coworkers and even stifled productivity. Manipulative individuals may use various methods, including emotional blackmail, guilt-tripping, gaslighting, or even leveraging workplace politics to gain control or ascend in their careers. This type of manipulation involves the use of deceptive tactics by individuals to influence others for personal gain, often at the expense of colleagues.

Such individuals tend to be skilled at subtly exploiting their coworker's emotions or vulnerabilities, leaving their targets unaware of the manipulation until it has already caused them damage. Manipulative behaviours can manifest in different forms. Some may employ gaslighting, making others question their perception of reality, while others may pit coworkers against each other to create divisions. Moreover, in certain cases, manipulative colleagues present themselves as victims, seeking sympathy to evade accountability.

In more extreme cases, they might distort facts, spread rumours, or even take credit for others' accomplishments. The presence of a manipulative individual in the workplace can create a toxic environment. Manipulation can lead to a breakdown in trust among team members. Coworkers may become wary of each other, questioning each other's intentions and credibility. The tension that manipulation creates can also disrupt team cohesion, leading to a lack of collaboration and efficiency. Additionally, manipulative individuals often prioritise their agenda over the success of the group, negatively affecting overall productivity.



Constant manipulation may cause stress, anxiety, and frustration among colleagues. Individuals who fall victim to manipulation may experience decreased confidence in their abilities or find themselves overloaded with tasks due to guilt or coercion. Over time, this emotional strain may even lead to burnout, poor job satisfaction and higher turnover rates. While manipulation can be difficult to address directly, some strategies can help mitigate its effects and create a healthier work environment. The first and foremost step in dealing with manipulation is being able to identify it which involves recognising patterns of behaviour, such as when a coworker tries to guilt-trip into taking on tasks, using flattery to sway decisions or playing the victim to avoid accountability.

Dealing with a manipulative colleague in the workplace is a challenging task that requires both emotional intelligence and assertiveness. One of the most effective long-term solutions for dealing with workplace manipulation is to foster a culture of transparency, open communication and collaboration. A strong and united team is harder for manipulative individuals to exploit. If the manipulation becomes severe or affects the broader workplace, it may be necessary to seek help from higher management or HR. A neutral party can help mediate conflicts, establish formal boundaries and ensure that manipulative behaviours are addressed appropriately. Involving HR ensures that the organisation is aware of any detrimental patterns, protecting not just but potentially other colleagues as well. By recognising manipulative behaviours, setting clear boundaries and maintaining composure, an individual can mitigate the impact of such individuals. It is equally important to seek support from supervisors or HR when necessary and contribute towards creating a positive work environment. Staying vigilant and proactive can help ensure that manipulation does not compromise the productivity, well-being as well as overall success of the team.

(The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)

Charting a course for global leadership



GURMEET SINGH

The Government's ambitious Sagarmala project aims to solidify India's position as a dominant maritime power in the coming decades



The existing world order is undeniably in crisis, with geopolitical dynamics undergoing significant changes over recent decades. Historically, the division between East and West, or North and South, largely defined global politics, with rich and poor nations distinctly separated by ideology, economic strength, and resources. However, this traditional world order began to shift dramatically towards the end of the 20th century, erasing the once-clear lines that divided these global spheres. What we see now is a world not defined by competing ideologies, but rather by economic and political strategies aimed at consolidating power and influence.

The latter half of the 20th century and the first two decades of the 21st century have seen discernible shifts in global economic and political power. The Cold War's end led to a unipolar world dominated by the United States, but cracks in this dominance began to appear, especially in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, which severely damaged faith in market-driven economies. Financial instability across the globe exposed the fragility of once-trusted economic systems. Simultaneously, international relations have grown increasingly strained, compounded by more recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022), the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict, and the resurgence of violence in the Israel-Hamas war. These events have brought the global economy back to a state of stress and instability.

This ongoing instability signals that the world is transitioning from a unipolar system, first towards a bipolar or tripolar system, and now, perhaps, toward a multipolar future. As new powers rise and old alliances shift, nations are compelled to reassess their resources and strategic positions. Among the most critical of these resources are those connected to the sea, particularly the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), which provide nations with substantial control over marine resources. These zones are essential for securing economic growth, national security, and environmental sustainability.

Human activity, driven by technological advancements, has increasingly turned towards the maritime domain, not only for international trade but also for security and ensuring open, free access to international



THE COLD WAR'S END LED TO A UNIPOLAR WORLD DOMINATED BY THE UNITED STATES, BUT CRACKS IN THIS DOMINANCE BEGAN TO APPEAR, ESPECIALLY IN THE WAKE OF THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS, WHICH SEVERELY DAMAGED FAITH IN MARKET-DRIVEN ECONOMIES

waters. The importance of the seas cannot be overstated, as oceans provide an array of resources vital to sustaining global commerce, energy needs, and food supplies. In recognition of this, international conventions and agreements have been signed to create standardised norms for maritime conduct, aiming to ensure peaceful seas.

One example of this shift is the practice of ships being registered under flags different from their countries of ownership, a practice now followed by more than 60 per cent of the world's ships. This reflects the interconnected nature of modern trade and economic systems. Additionally, with 85 per cent of the world's nations having a coastline and nearly 40 per cent of the global population living within 100 nautical miles of the sea, the importance of the maritime domain for both individual nations and global commerce is clear. Moreover, most of the world's major capitals and economic centers are situated along coasts, and 36 per cent of the ocean's area falls under the EEZ of nations. Critically, 97 per cent of the world's trade is conducted by sea, underscoring the dominance of maritime trade in global affairs.

Oceans represent an enormous economic opportunity, providing vast areas for investment, development, and growth. Many countries, including India, heavily depend on the sea for economic prosperity. Given this, the need for India to build a robust national maritime consciousness is more urgent than ever.

India is uniquely positioned as a maritime power, with a coastline of over 7,500 kilometers, an EEZ covering 2.37 million square kilometers, a continental shelf of 530,000 square kilometers, and nearly 1,200 islands. Since 2011, India has been working to extend its EEZ from 200 nautical miles to 350 nautical miles, which would give the nation access to an additional 1.2 million square kilometers of marine resources.

This extension would significantly bolster India's potential for economic growth through the exploitation of its maritime resources.

Historically, India's maritime heritage has been rich and vibrant. The Satavahanas, Pallavas, Cholas, and Pandyas built strong maritime traditions, engaging in far-flung trade that brought prosperity to their kingdoms. For example, during the 5th to 11th centuries, the Malacca Straits were controlled by the Srivijaya Empire, a critical maritime chokepoint for global trade. Indian ships, reputed for their advanced design and durability, played a significant role in regional and long-distance trade. However, after the arrival of the Mughals and later the British, India's maritime tradition began to erode, as colonial policies discouraged Indian maritime development.

One major oversight in modern Indian education is the neglect of this rich maritime past. Very few students are taught about India's ancient maritime successes, such as how the Chola Empire led military expeditions across Southeast Asia or how the Travancore Navy defeated the Dutch. This lack of awareness has stifled India's maritime aspirations, but there is a growing recognition that the nation must reclaim its historical maritime identity.

India's future as a global economic and political power will hinge on its ability to harness its maritime resources. With advancements in technology, deep-sea mining has emerged as a new frontier, offering the potential for extracting hydrocarbons, natural gas, and rare earth metals from the ocean floor.

In addition, the demand for shipping services is projected to grow as seaborne trade becomes even more critical to global economies. India, where 95 per cent of trade by volume and 77 per cent by value travels by sea, is particularly reliant on maritime trade for its continued economic growth. India must focus on developing multiple sectors

within the maritime domain, including fishing, shipbuilding, ports, coastal tourism, and blue energy. The country has a significant advantage in terms of labor costs and technological know-how, yet it contributes only 1 per cent to global shipbuilding. Furthermore, more than 60 per cent of Indian cargo is carried on foreign vessels, underscoring the need for greater domestic capacity in shipping and shipbuilding.

The Indian government's Sagarmala project, which envisions the modernisation of ports and coastal infrastructure, is a crucial step in developing the country's maritime potential. With an investment of USD 1.42 trillion planned by 2035, this project aims to revolutionise India's coastline, focusing on creating special economic zones, inland waterways, and promoting coastal tourism. India's growth as a maritime power will also enhance its standing as a responsible global player, capable of providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Indian Navy's initiative to create the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in 2008 was an important step in fostering cooperation among regional navies. India is now seen as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean, reinforcing its commitment to maintaining open, rule-based seas. As India looks to the future, building awareness about the maritime domain and its economic potential is essential. Universities and defense institutions must collaborate to design programs that will prepare future generations to embrace India's maritime identity. Through a combination of education, policy, and strategic investment, India has the opportunity to emerge as a true maritime power and an influential global leader.

(The writer is former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and former Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute; views are personal. Inputs by A. Subramanyam Raju)

Education in the Age of AI: Why traditional methods no longer fit the future

As automation and artificial intelligence reshape industries, the education system faces an urgent need for transformation

The growing controversy around entrance exams, particularly regarding paper leaks, has spotlighted the need for reforms in our education and evaluation systems. One obvious solution is transitioning to computer-based exams, which have already been implemented for major tests like JEE Mains, BITSAT, and CAT. These exams feature randomly generated questions and simultaneous distribution across various nodes, effectively preventing paper leaks. Additionally, the possibility of immediate grading offers transparency. Conducting such exams multiple times a year could also alleviate the immense pressure students face. However, while the method of testing is a critical discussion,



RAJNEESH BHANDARI

it is equally important to reassess the fundamentals of our education system. The questions of "why to teach," "what to teach," "how to teach," "how to evaluate," and "why to evaluate" should be at the heart of this debate. Oscar Wilde once remarked, "Education is an admirable thing, but nothing that is worth learning can be taught."

This statement resonates deeply with the current state of education. Our system tends to follow a one-size-fits-all model, assuming that sixty students in a classroom can learn the same material at the same pace and, more importantly, enjoy the process.

Rote learning, which dominates the Indian education system, is a clear indicator of how outdated the approach has become, especially in an era of artificial intelligence. Until 2011, CBSE even offered Typewriting as a subject, reflecting how antiquated parts of the curriculum are. The pressure on students has reached a breaking point, contributing to alarmingly high suicide rates among those preparing for competitive entrance exams. Many stu-

dents begin preparing for entrance exams like the IITs from as early as the ninth grade, which hampers their childhood and overall development.

Each individual is unique, and every human brain functions differently. Despite advancements in pedagogy—the science of learning—we continue to follow an archaic, cookie-cutter approach that aims to mass-produce education. The original purpose of mass education was to prepare individuals for jobs. However, automation and AI are now poised to eliminate many of these jobs. Technological advancements are rapidly rendering certain skills obsolete. A large number of young professionals today are employed in the app and web develop-



ment sectors, jobs that can now be done by generative AI systems like ChatGPT. These systems can create apps or websites based on simple prompts. Furthermore, with tools like generative AI, anyone has the potential to become a writer, artist, musician, or coder, drastically reducing the skill gaps that once existed between experts and novices. The most critical skill in the

future, therefore, will not be the ability to perform a specific task, but the ability to learn and adapt continuously. In an ever-changing world, much of the knowledge we acquire will either become irrelevant or require frequent updates.

Education should not be seen as a one-time investment made during the early years of life. Instead, learning should be recognised as a lifelong journey. The degree one earns at the beginning of their career may be irrelevant by the time they are halfway through it. Traditional degrees, once crucial for securing jobs, may lose their relevance in the coming years. Many software developers, for instance, learn programming from online platforms like Coursera, rather than from formal university

programs. The way companies evaluate job candidates is also evolving. Resumes are increasingly being replaced by portfolio reviews, where individuals can showcase their skills and creativity.

The impact of AI on education is already evident. Last year, ChatGPT made headlines by passing the US Medical Licensing Exam, the law school exam, and Google's coding exam. This has sparked debates about whether AI tools should be banned in educational institutions. Nassim Taleb recently commented on this by stating, "ChatGPT passing is not a reflection of ChatGPT but of the examination system." The core purpose of education should not be to test students by limiting their resources, but

rather to prepare them to solve real-world problems using all available tools. A calculator, for example, is a common tool allowed in many international board exams but still restricted in some Indian boards like CBSE. Generative AI holds the potential to revolutionise education by generating personalised lesson plans and assessments. Virtual tutors providing real-time feedback are already available through platforms like Khan Academy and Duolingo. The future of education lies in learning that is seamlessly embedded in everyday life, facilitated by mentors rather than traditional teachers.

(The writer is founder Founder NeuroEquilibrium; views are personal)

HC asks Government to pay ex-gratia to parents of infant killed by dog

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the city government to pay Rs 2.5 lakh ex-gratia to the parents of a five-month-old infant who was mauled to death by a dog, observing that the stray dog menace in the national capital is a serious issue affecting human life and dignity.

The court, which took a sympathetic view and awarded the ex-gratia, said the record does not clarify whether the dog bit the baby was a stray or a leashed canine that was abandoned by its owner. It further said that the absence of clear evidence establishing the responsibility of State instrumentalities prevents this court from applying the "res ipsa loquitur" (mere occurrence of some types of accident is sufficient to imply negligence) maxim and holding the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) negligent in the case. "Notwithstanding the factual scenario of the present case, before parting, it is pertinent to observe here that the stray dog menace in Delhi is a serious issue affecting human life and dignity. Undeniably, the relationship between humans and dogs is at times a relationship of compassion and unconditional love. The responsible authorities should endeavour to manage the menace with the same compassion to ensure equilibrium in the living conditions of both humans and dogs. It cannot be gainsaid that the issue requires a multi-faceted response, fostering an environment of empathy and balanced co-existence," Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav said. The court noted that the stray dog menace and the responsibility of maintaining stray dogs in a safe condition is the subject



matter of various petitions across high courts and the Supreme Court. It passed the judgement on a plea by the child's mother seeking a compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the tragic death of her five-month-old son who was fatally bitten by the dog in 2007. The incident took place in the morning when the petitioner's three children, including the infant, were sleeping in their house and the dog entered the room and attacked the baby. When the woman's daughter raised an alarm, the woman and her husband rushed to save the child and the dog ran away. The infant was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital but later succumbed to injuries. The court did not exercise its discretionary powers to determine negligence on the part of the MCD as it was unclear whether the dog that injured the infant was a stray or a leashed, mad dog abandoned by its owner. It also pointed out that there was contradiction in the statements

of the infant's parents published in newspapers and in the legal notice and the petition. The court said the fact that the infant died due to a dog bite is an undisputed fact but the allegation that it was the result of lapse and negligence on the part of the MCD is denied by the agency and the same must be established by pressing in accurate and descriptive facts or documents on record. The mere fact that the infant died due to the dog bite in his house does not suggest any dereliction of duty or negligence by the official respondents, it said. "The petitioner is also at liberty to pursue appropriate legal remedies in the civil court. If the petitioner does so, let the competent civil court adjudicate the matter within one year from the date of institution of any such suit. "It is further clarified that the ex-gratia amount awarded by this court is independent of, and in addition to, any compensation that may be awarded by the civil court," Justice Kaurav said.

Flash flood risk...

From page 1

Heavy rain is likely in West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Jehanabad, Madhubani and Bhojpur districts, it said in a bulletin. These districts are at the risk of "low to moderate flash floods in the next 24 hours", the Met Department said. A large number of people from the affected districts have been evacuated and

brought to relief camps. The Shimla meteorological department issued a 'yellow' alert for heavy rains at isolated areas of Himachal Pradesh. A total of 47 roads including National Highway 707 were closed for vehicular traffic in Himachal Pradesh following rains, officials said on Friday. The highest number of 25 roads were closed in Sirmour, including NH 707 connecting Hatkoti in Shimla district and Paonta

Sahib in Sirmour district, ten in Kangra, eight in Mandi, two in Kullu and one each in Kinnaur and Shimla districts, according to the State emergency operation centre (SEOC). Officials said that 185 people died in rain-related incidents since the onset of monsoon in Himachal Pradesh on June 27 till Thursday evening, while 28 were missing. The State has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 1,332 crore, they said.

BJP, Cong crossfire...

From page 1

"Congress Governments used to run on the basis of cut, commission and corruption while dealers, dalals (middlemen) and 'damads' used to rule. Under BJP Government, there are no dealers, 'dalals' while there is no question of 'damad' the senior BJP leader said. Referring to Rahul Gandhi's recent US visit, Shah said whenever he wants to say anything "rubbish" ool jaloof, he says in America. Shah accused Rahul of saying that he would end reservation of SC, ST and OBC. Shah also raised the issue of some rebels contesting as independents by breaking the party discipline and appealed to the people of Rewari to

vote only for candidates who have the BJP symbol. He appealed to people to make BJP candidates Laxman Yadav (Rewari), Krishan Kumar (Bawal) and Anil Yadav (Kosli) victorious in the polls. Predicting a "massive mandate" for the Congress in the Haryana Assembly polls, former Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda said the final decision on the chief ministerial pick would be taken by the party high command and it would be acceptable to him. Asked about the Prime Minister's attack on the Congress over infighting, the former Haryana Chief Minister said there was no internal rift and the Congress was united.

From page 1

The AAP has 125 councillors and, had the party voted today (and providing none of its votes were poached by the BJP), it would most likely have won the election, and control of the Standing Committee, which takes most of the municipal body's financial decisions. The polling was held in the presence of Additional Commissioner Jitendra Yadav, who was made the Presiding Officer in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The election to the last vacant seat began earlier on Friday as per MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar's order issued upon Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's directions late Thursday. Following the election, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said the party has a majority in the Standing Committee and wants to complete all essential tasks immediately. Sachdeva slammed the AAP for

AAP fumes as BJP bags...

boycotting the election and said, "If the AAP had participated, Delhi would have realised today that the party had lost the majority in the corporation. If they had the majority, Kejriwal would not have avoided the election." As soon as the results were announced, celebrations broke out in the House and BJP councillors started raising slogans like "Bharat Mata ki Jai". Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hit out at the BJP (BJP) after its candidate won the last vacant seat of the MCD standing committee. "According to rules only the mayor can convene a meeting of the MCD House but the lieutenant governor changed it and directed an additional commissioner of the civic body to do it," Kejriwal said in the Delhi assembly.

Kejriwal alleged that the BJP has wrongly overpowered the MCD and stole the mandate, and said the saffron party won the last vacant seat of the civic body's standing committee. "Is this election?" he posed and accused the BJP of resorting to "hoolliganism". The former Chief Minister claimed that as per the rule, a notice has to be sent to every councillor to be sent to every councillor 72 hours before the meeting, but it was not followed. The AAP supremo said it was clearly written in the MCD law that only the Mayor has the right to call for the House sitting and when it meets, the Mayor will lead it. Neither the Lieutenant Governor nor the MCD Commissioner can call a sitting of the civic body's House, he said, adding that whenever a sitting of the MCD House convened, 72 hours would be given for it. "There

Vijender Gupta demands immediate formation of MCD standing committee

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, has demanded the immediate formation of the standing committee of the Delhi Municipal Corporation. He stated that due to the absence of this committee, all developmental works carried out by the corporation are at a standstill. Gupta accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of not allowing the formation of ward committees or the standing committee within the municipal corporation. He emphasized that the powers of the municipal corporation are vested in the commissioner, ward committee, and the standing committee, which are responsible for



overseeing all developmental projects. The standing committee alone has the authority to approve development projects worth over Rs five crore. However, since it has not been formed, all such projects have been stalled for nearly 20 months,

causing significant inconvenience to the 20 million residents of Delhi. He highlighted that due to the absence of a standing committee, tenders for garbage collection, maintaining landfills, building roads, and purchasing new equipment are all

stuck. The responsibility for approving tenders and completing the necessary procedures lies with the standing committee. But since the committee hasn't been formed, 97% of developmental work in Delhi has come to a halt. Gupta also criticized the Aam Aadmi Party, stating that 17 members of the standing committee have already been elected, but the election of the final member is being deliberately obstructed by the AAP. As a result, the previously elected members cannot function, as the standing committee cannot hold meetings or make decisions until all members are in place. Through the Assembly, he urged the government to expedite the formation of the municipal corporation's standing committee.

Tamil Nadu CM meets Prime Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday and sought early release of pending funds for Chennai metro and integrated education initiatives, besides an intervention to protect Tamil fishermen. The DMK president, who described the meeting as "purposeful", presented a detailed report on three main issues. "The Prime Minister listened patiently," Stalin told reporters after the meeting. The chief minister sought the speedy release of funds for the Chennai metro project as Rs 18,544 crore has already been spent so far. The state government wants to start work on the second phase of the Chennai metro and the non-disbursement of the pending dues has "caused a delay in the works, he emphasised. About the integrated education initiative, Stalin highlighted the hold-up in the first installment of the 60:40 Centre-State funded programme. He clarified that while Tamil Nadu has incorporated positive elements of the National Education Policy, it has not accepted the trilingual policy. "We have asked for a correction in the MoU to explicitly state that there will be no language imposition," the chief minister added. While discussing the plight of Tamil fishermen facing arrest by the Sri Lankan Navy, Stalin requested Modi's personal intervention while stating that 191 fishing boats and 145 fishermen have been captured. He sought a resolution of the matter at the upcoming India-Sri Lanka joint committee meeting in Colombo next month. After his meeting with Modi, Stalin said the prime minister has assured him of considering all three demands. The Tamil Nadu chief minister later met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, ahead of an opposition rally in Kancheepuram on September 28. He also met the family of CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury who died recently.

'India and Central Asia' book launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The "India and Central Asia" book launch event was held at the India International Centre on September 21, 2024. The event was organized by the Literary Club of the Management Education and Research Institute and Unity International. The event was coordinated by Dr Shikha Gupta (Head of Literary Club) along with Dr Stuti N Markan, Sarita Yadav and Dr Simranjeet Kaur. Dr Rajesh Mehta, Secretary General of Unity International Foundation, welcomed the audience and dignitaries. In his address, he discussed the longstanding friendship and strategic relationship between India and Central Asia, touching on key areas like infrastructure development, educational collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. The book was officially released by IP Agarwal, Chairman, Management Education and Research Institute. Morever, Professor Lalit Agarwal, Vice President of the institute, expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guests, including Sadridin L. Suyarov, First Secretary of Uzbekistan, Habib Miezozoda, Charge of Affaires, Tajikistan, and Ashok Kumar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Finland and Suroram.

Government plans to include AYUSH into Ayushman Bharat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to enhance access to traditional medicine within India's healthcare framework, plans are afoot to include AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) into the central flagship Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), said Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav on Saturday. Recently, a review meeting was convened to finalize the integration, with 170 AYUSH packages identified for inclusion. A Strategic Purchasing Committee has been established to develop cost structures, ensuring affordability. This initiative aims to enhance access to traditional medicine within India's healthcare framework, he said. Talking to the reporters here at an event held to showcase the initiative taken by the ministry in the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 Government, the Minister said that 170 packages have already been finalized, with the potential to increase this number based on demand. "To ensure affordability and finalize cost structures for



AYUSH treatments, a Strategic Purchasing Committee has been established," Jadhav said. AB PM-JAY aims to provide health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of the population. The Minister emphasised that health of each and every citizen of the country is important and keeping this in view a special drive has also been initiated to have Prakriti Parikshan, a concept from Ayurveda that involves assessing an individual's unique constitution or "Prakriti". Secretary Ayush Vd. Rajesh Kotecha informed that reflecting the importance and wider acceptance of Ayush

globally, India has signed MoUs with various countries like Vietnam and Malaysia on medicinal plants and Ayurveda respectively. India is also promoting the "One Herb, One Standard" Initiative wherein the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy (PCIM&H) and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signed a pact with an aim to improve quality of medicines in the sector. The Ministry also intends to open special medical stores at every tehsil level. "Access to a variety of herbal and traditional medicines will be made possible by these stores, improving public healthcare in both urban and rural areas," he added. Also, according to the report received from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), the evaluation of 1489 Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Ayush) has been completed, and 1005 of these AAM (Ayush) have been certified for Ayush Entry Level Certification (AELC), he said. This initiative is an important step in ensuring quality healthcare services under the National Ayush Mission.

Supreme Court raps Air Quality...

From page 1

and enforcement to be constituted by the CAQM would function due to lack of representation from the pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to vacancies. It directed the five NCR states to fill the vacant posts urgently, preferably before April 30, 2025. The top court had directed the CAQM chairperson to file an affidavit explaining the steps the commission proposes to take to check the air pollution menace, often attributed to the burning of paddy straw in States adjoining the national Capital.

The Supreme Court had earlier noted that stubble burning was one of the causes for a spike in air pollution in Delhi-NCR during winters. On August 27, it termed the pollution control boards of Delhi and NCR States "ineffective" due to staff shortage and asked the body responsible for air quality management in the national Capital and adjoining areas to explain how it proposes to tackle pollution and stubble burning which would spike with the onset of winter. SC wondered how the sub-committee on safeguarding

BrahMos to reserve seats for former Agniveers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace, which manufactures BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, has decided to reserve vacancies for former Agniveers, including in the technical, administrative and security wings of the company. The BrahMos Aerospace became the first leading company in the defence sector to announce reserving vacancies for Agniveers in a range of verticals. An office order by the company said at least 15 per cent of vacancies in technical and general administration will be reserved for the

Agniveers. It further said 50 per cent of the vacancies in administrative and security roles, including in outsourced functions, will be reserved for them. BrahMos is encouraging its more than 200 industry partners to reserve 15 per cent of their workforce for Agniveers in roles tied to BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) requirements, the office order said. "In consonance with the Government of India's Agniveer Scheme, BrahMos Aerospace announces its new policy guidelines to provide reservation to the Agniveers who, after serving in the Indian armed forces for a tenure of four years, can



become a valuable asset for our cutting-edge defence organisation working towards nation-building," the company said in a social media post. It said the "Agniveers, with their rigorous, time-bound training in military tactics,

technical proficiency, discipline and quick adaptability, will be the backbone of India's growing defence and industrial sectors." "As India continues its journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, the contribution of #Agniveers in industries like ours will be pivotal in shaping the country's future," it said. BrahMos Aerospace said it strongly believes that Agniveers will not only fill the skill gap at the grassroots level for the Indian defence industries but also provide a dedicated workforce that places the nation and the organisation at the forefront.

From page 1

activists from several right-wing groups held a protest on Friday at the Sadbhavana Chauraha, about 1,500 metres from the Green Park stadium where India is taking on Bangladesh in a test match. They also recited the Hanuman Chalisa and demanded that the match, which began on Friday, be cancelled, police said. Upon receiving information about the protest led by right-wing groups, including the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal, police officials quickly mobilised, they said. A heavy police presence, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankita Sharma, was dispatched to the site to prevent the demonstrators from advancing towards the stadium.

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Bangladesh fan heckled...

From page 1

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Israel will keep 'degrading Hezbollah' until objectives met: Netanyahu

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

His leadership strained by conflicts on two fronts, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told world leaders at the UN on Friday that his nation will "continue degrading Hezbollah" until it achieves its goals along the Lebanon border, further dimming hopes for an internationally backed cease-fire to halt the spiral into an all-out regional war.

He said his government would no longer tolerate daily rocket fire from the area.

"Israel has every right to remove this threat and return our citizens to their home safely. And that's exactly what we're doing... we'll continue degrading Hezbollah until all our objectives are met," Netanyahu said.

"Just imagine if terrorists turned El Paso and San Diego into ghost towns... How long would the American government tolerate that?" he said, shaking his fist in emphasis. "Yet Israel has been tolerating this intolerable situation for almost a year. Well, I've come here today to say: Enough is enough." Netanyahu, armed with visual aids as he has been in the past, defended his nation's response to the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas on Israel that triggered an Israeli military operation that has devastated the Gaza Strip. He said he travelled to the United Nations to refute the untruths he had heard from other leaders on the same rostrum earlier in the week.

"I didn't intend to come here this year. My country is at war fighting for its life," Netanyahu said. "But after I heard the lies and slanders levelled at my country by many of the speakers at this podium, I decided to come here



Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu hold signs as he addresses the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday. AP/PTI

and set the record straight." He insisted that Israel wanted peace but said of Iran: "If you strike us, we will strike you." He once again blamed Iran for being behind many of the problems in the region.

"For too long, the world has appeased Iran," Netanyahu said. "That appeasement must end."

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 41,500 Palestinians and wounded more than 96,000 others,

according to the latest figures released Thursday by the Health Ministry. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants, but more than half the dead have been women and children, including about 1,300 children under the age of 2. Israel has maintained its military operations are justified and are necessary to defend itself.

"This war can come to an end now. All

that has to happen is for Hamas to surrender, lay down its arms and release all the hostages," Netanyahu said. "But if they don't - if they don't - we will fight until we achieve total victory. Total victory. There is no substitute for it." He said Israeli forces have destroyed "90%" of Hamas' rockets and killed or captured half of its forces. In recent days, Israel has turned its attention to the border with Lebanon, where it is targeting Hezbollah mili-

itants and has inflicted civilian casualties as well. Hezbollah began attacking Israel almost immediately after the Hamas invasion, and ongoing fighting between Israel and the Lebanese militant group have driven tens of thousands of people from their homes on both sides of the border. Israel is vowing to step up its attacks on Hezbollah until its citizens can return safely to their homes.

Late Wednesday, the United States, France and other allies jointly called for an "immediate" 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations as fears grow that the violent escalation in recent days - following 11 months of cross-border exchange of fire - could grow into an all-out war.

The United Nations says over 90,000 people have been displaced by five days of Israeli strikes on Lebanon, bringing the total to 200,000 people who have been displaced in Lebanon since Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of Hamas after it stormed into Israel, sparking the Israel-Hamas war.

As Netanyahu took the stage, there was enough ruckus in the audience that the presiding diplomat had to shout, "Order, please."

Two speakers who preceded Netanyahu on Friday each made a point of calling out Israel for its actions. "Mr. Netanyahu, stop this war now," Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob said as he closed his remarks, pounding the podium. And Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, speaking just before the Israeli leader, declared of Gaza: "This is not just a conflict. This is systematic slaughter of innocent people of Palestine." He thumped the rostrum to audible applause.

UK PM backs India's bid for permanent Security Council seat

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer joined the leaders of the US and France in backing India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to make it a more representative body that is not "paralysed by politics".

During his speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Thursday, Starmer called for reforms to ensure the global multilateral system is "more representative and more responsive". Besides permanent representation for India, Africa, Brazil, Japan and Germany, the UK also made a pitch for more seats for elected members of the Security Council.

"We need to make the system more representative and more responsive to those who need it most," said Starmer.

"So we will make the case not just for fairer outcomes, but fairer representation in how we reach them; and this also applies to the Security Council. It has to change to become a more representative body, willing to act - not paralysed by politics. We want to see perma-

nent African representation on the Council, Brazil, India, Japan and Germany as permanent members, and more seats for elected members as well," he said.

The Labour Party leader, making his first UNGA address as UK Prime Minister after the July general elections, also set out a change in Britain's approach.

He said: "To support this we will also change how the UK does things. Moving from the paternalism of the past towards partnership for the future. Listening a lot more - speaking a bit less. Offering game-changing British expertise and working together in a spirit of equal respect."

Earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday also backed India's bid for permanent membership in the UNSC to make the UN more efficient and representative.

"France is in favour of the Security Council being expanded. Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil should be permanent members, as well as two countries that Africa will decide to represent it," he said.

Never followed 'India Out' agenda: Muizzu

PTI ■ MALE

Maldive President Mohamed Muizzu has denied having an "India Out" agenda, asserting that the island nation had a "serious problem" with the presence of foreign military on its soil.

Muizzu, who is in the US to attend the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, made the remarks on Thursday while responding to a question at Princeton University's "Dean's Leadership Series". "We have never been against any one country at any point. It's not India Out. Maldives faced a serious problem with foreign military presence on this soil," Maldivian news portal adhadhu.com quoted him as saying.

"The people of Maldives do not want a single foreign soldier in the country," Muizzu said. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since November last year when Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings,

took charge as Maldivian president.

Muizzu had asked India to withdraw nearly 90 Indian military personnel operating three aviation platforms gifted by the country. India withdrew its military personnel by May 10 and replaced them with civilian personnel to operate a Dornier aircraft and two helicopters. Muizzu further stressed he had taken action against deputy ministers for insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media. "No one should say such a thing. I took action against it. I will not accept insulting anyone like that, whether he is a leader or an ordinary person. Every human being has a reputation," the report quoted him as saying.

Earlier this year, deputy ministers in Maldives' youth ministry were suspended for derogatory social media posts against Prime Minister Modi following a backlash, with New Delhi strongly raising the matter with Male.

Former Defence Min Ishiba chosen to be next Japanese PM

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's ruling party on Friday picked former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week. The party leadership win is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition currently controls the parliament.

Considered a defense policy expert, Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and a more equal Japan-US security alliance. Ishiba is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He calls for an establishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Ishiba beat out Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who was running to become the country's first female prime minister. A record nine lawmakers, including two women, ran in a vote decided by LDP members of parliament and about 1 million dues-paying party members. That's only 1 per cent of the country's eligible voters.

Outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been dogged by party corruption scandals, and the LDP wanted a fresh leader in hopes of regaining public trust before a likely general election. Some experts believe that party turmoil could mean that Japan will return to an era similar to the early 2000s, which saw "revolving door" leadership changes and political instability.

A succession of short-lived governments hurts Japanese prime ministers' ability to set up long-term policy goals or develop trusted relations with other leaders.

Pak PM raises Kashmir issue in UNGA

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Pakistan on Friday raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the UN General Assembly, saying India should reverse the abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue with it for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, raked the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, as

expected, making references to Article 370. In an over 20 minute speech, Sharif spoke at length about Kashmir saying that "similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and right to self-determination".

Referring to India's decision to abrogate Article 370, Sharif said to secure durable peace, "India must reverse the unilateral and illegal

measures" of August 2019 and "enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution" of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and "the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

Pakistan regularly raises the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at various UN platforms, irrespective of the subject matter being discussed or the theme of the forum and fails to get any support or traction.

New Delhi has repeatedly emphasised that Jammu and Kashmir

and Ladakh were, are and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India.

India has also asked Pakistan to concentrate on addressing its internal matters rather than raising the Kashmir issue and indulging in frivolous allegations against New Delhi. Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

15 killed as landslide hits illegal gold mine on Indonesia's Sumatra island

AP ■ PADANG

A landslide triggered by torrential rains struck an unauthorised gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 15 people, officials said Friday. Dozens others were reported missing.

Villagers were digging Thursday for grains of gold in the remote Solok district of West Sumatra province when mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried them, said Irwan Effendi, head of the local disaster mitigation office.

He said at least 25 people were still buried, and that three people were pulled out alive with

injuries by rescuers.

Search efforts in the worst-affected area, near Nagari Sungai Abu village, were hampered by mudslides that covered much of the area, blockouts and lack of telecommunications.

"The devastated mining area can only be reached by walking for four hours from the nearest settlement," said Ilham Wahab, the agency's spokesperson.

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands who labour in conditions with a high risk of serious injury or death.

Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some of the hazards facing miners. Much

of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide and workers frequently use little or no protection.

The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in July when a landslide crashed onto an illegal traditional gold mine in Gorontalo province on Sulawesi island, killing at least 23 people.

In April 2022 a landslide hit another gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women.

In February 2019, a makeshift wooden structure in an illegal gold mine in North Sulawesi province collapsed partly due to shifting soil. More than 40 people were buried.

Trump, Zelenskyy meet in New York amid rising questions over US support for Ukraine

AP ■ NEW YORK

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has arrived for a meeting with Donald Trump as public tensions have been rising between the two over Ukraine's defence against Russia's invasion.

"I think we have a common view that the war in Ukraine has to be stopped and Putin can't win," Zelenskyy said referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

After arriving together at a conference room on Friday, Trump said "the fact that we're even together today is a very good

sign."

The visit is taking place at Trump Tower in New York, a day after Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump's Democratic opponent, met with the Ukrainian leader and expressed unwavering support. The meeting is highly anticipated and comes as Election Day nears, with Trump and Harris taking sharply different positions on backing Ukraine in the third year of its war with Russia.

Trump has in recent days praised Russia's historic military victories and insisted the U.S. needs "to get out" and end

its involvement with Ukraine. Friday's meeting almost wasn't scheduled despite Zelenskyy's office saying something had been planned during the Ukrainian leader's visit to the UN General Assembly, during which he is making his endgame pitch to allies.

In an interview with The New Yorker that was published earlier this week, Zelenskyy implied Trump does not understand and oversimplifies the conflict. The Ukrainian leader said Trump's running mate JD Vance was "too radical" and had essentially advocated for Ukraine to "make a

sacrifice" by "giving up its territories." Trump ripped Zelenskyy and Ukraine on two separate occasions this week. Speaking Wednesday in North Carolina, Trump referred to Ukraine as "demolished" and its people as "dead."

"Any deal - the worst deal - would've been better than what we have now," Trump said. "If they made a bad deal it would've been much better. They would've given up a little bit and everybody would be living and every building would be built and every tower would be aging for another 2,000 years."

CPC cracks whip on officials to get things done to revive economy

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party has cracked the whip on officials ordering them to implement corrective measures to revive the flagging economy amid heightened concerns that it may miss the official target of around five per cent growth rate this year. The Political Bureau of the party, headed by President Xi Jinping, called for stabilising the real estate market, which in recent years has emerged as the biggest black hole by strengthening fiscal and monetary policy support, official media reported on Friday. "Party members and

officials are urged to take responsibility and be willing to innovate, using challenges as opportunities to grow and achieve results," state news agency Xinhua said.

Many civil servants are reputedly reluctant to innovate and fear making mistakes, daunted by the system's centralisation, tight controls and lack of flexibility.

Deng Yuwen, former deputy editor of Study Times, the official newspaper of the Central Communist Party School, said a clear message has been given to officials down the line that economic recovery was now the top performance indicator on their report card. "It's a clear signal

from the party's top leadership, telling officials down the command chain that now the economy is their priority. It essentially relaxes the current strict political requirements so that officials know what they should focus on," Deng said. "As the economy continues to worsen, the party's leadership is getting more anxious than before, because they know a stagnant economy will mean major political risk in the future," Deng told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. "They have also come to realise that besides the stimulus from the central bank and the Ministry of Finance, they

also need to stimulate the enthusiasm of cadres," he said.

"It is necessary to take a comprehensive, objective and sober view of the current economic situation, face the difficulties squarely and remain confident," an official statement said. The meeting also underlined promoting the stabilisation of the real estate market and stopping it from further declining, outlining measures, including strictly managing new commercial housing construction, increasing loans for "white list" projects, vitalising idle land stock and adjusting housing purchase restrictions, state-run China Daily reported on Friday.

Harris heads to US-Mexico border to face down criticism

AP ■ PHOENIX

Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday will make her first visit to the US-Mexico border since becoming the Democratic presidential nominee to confront head-on one of her biggest vulnerabilities ahead of the November election.

She is scheduled to appear in Douglas, Arizona, as former President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans pound Harris relentlessly over the Biden administration's record on migration and fault the vice president for spending little time visiting the border dur-

ing her time in the White House.

Immigration and border security are top issues in Arizona, the only battleground state that borders Mexico and one that contended with a record influx of asylum seekers last year. Trump has an edge with voters on migration, and Harris has gone on offense to improve her standing on the issue and defuse a key line of political attack for Trump.

In nearly every campaign speech she gives, Harris recounts how a sweeping bipartisan package aiming to overhaul the federal immigration system collapsed in Congress

earlier this year after Trump urged top Republicans to oppose it.

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games," Harris plans to say, according to an excerpt of her remarks previewed by her campaign.

After the immigration legislation stalled, the Biden administration announced rules that bar migrants from being granted asylum when US officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. Since then, arrests for illegal border crossings have fallen.

Trump reissues loyalty test for religious voters

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump recently reissued his loyalty test to religious Americans, declaring that he can best protect their freedoms while preemptively blaming members of certain faiths should he lose the presidential election in November.

Jews and Catholics can vote for him and ace the test, but those who don't, he says, "need their head examined." If he loses, Trump added, "Jewish people would have a lot to do with the loss."

Among the Jewish leaders appalled at Trump's remarks was Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform

Judaism - an umbrella group for more than 800 Reform synagogues in North America. "Your words preemptively blaming Jews for your potential election loss is of a piece with millennia of antisemitic lies about Jewish power," Jacobs said in a social media post. "It puts a target on American Jews. And it makes you an ally not to our vulnerable community but to those who wish us harm. Stop."

Trump's speeches for years have hewed to divisive "us" versus "them" messaging, but tying those themes to specific religious Americans who oppose him is out of line and even dangerous, according to rhetoric experts, religious leaders and

academics.

"Non-Jews shouldn't express public opinions about what is or isn't good Judaism and non-Catholics shouldn't express public opinions about what is or isn't good Catholicism," said Steven Millies, a public theology professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. "Not only is it bad form, but it's also an ignorant waste of oxygen."

Asked to respond to criticism from Jewish leaders, Trump campaign press secretary Karoline Leavitt sent statements from herself and several of Trump's Jewish supporters. The statements didn't directly address the potential blaming of Jews for a Trump

defeat; rather, they depicted Trump as a stronger supporter of Israel than President Joe Biden and Trump's Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Jewish Americans and Jewish leaders around the world recognize that President Trump did more for them and the State of Israel than any President in history," Leavitt said via email. "The bottom line is that Kamala Harris and Joe Biden cave to Far-Left extremists and terrorists while President Trump will protect Jewish Americans and put American citizens first."

Trump's latest provocative comments came in a span of four days.

His warnings about Jewish voters were in Sept 19 speeches to Jewish donors and the Israeli-American Council in Washington. His remarks about Catholics came on Sept 22 in a post on Truth Social.

Matthew Boedy, who studies religious rhetoric as a professor at the University of North Georgia, said Trump has adopted spiritual warfare rhetoric, which is commonplace in certain Christian circles.

"Those who gave him that rhetoric saw Satan or evil as the enemy. Now that enemy is anyone - Jew, Christian, Muslim - who stands in his way," Boedy said via email, calling it dangerous to democracy and religion.

SC clears GMR Airports to operate Nagpur airport, closes curative plea of Centre, AAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday cleared decks for private firm GMR Airports to upgrade and operate Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (AAI) by closing the proceedings on a curative plea of the Centre and the Airport Authority of India.



The Centre and the AAI had filed a curative petition against the dismissal of their review plea by the top court. Prior to this, the apex court had rejected the petition of the Centre and the AAI against a Bombay High Court judgement allowing GMR Airports to upgrade and operate the Nagpur airport. A special four-judge bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and J K Maheshwari closed the proceedings on the curative plea against its verdict after taking note of the opinion of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the petition of the Centre and the AAI did not

fall under one of legal parameters prescribed for entertaining such pleas. The curative plea is the last legal recourse available to a litigant and it was devised by the top court by a 2002 judgement in the Rupa Ashok Hurra case and such a plea, after the dismissal of the main case and the review petition, can be filed if there are certain violations. They are that there should be a violation of the principle of natural justice, apprehension of bias and the abuse of judicial process.

The top law officer told the bench the curative plea may not fall under the 2002 judgement and they cannot argue that ground of bias and

analogous ground that the government was not heard. "These proceedings cannot be made into an intra court appeal. I must own my decision... I have not even consulted the Centre," the solicitor general said. The law officer, however, submitted one aspect where the impugned judgement said the Centre and the AAI were not the necessary parties to the litigation may be reconsidered because of negative consequences in similar matters. The bench appreciated views of the solicitor general, and said the curative plea is disposed of as "not pressed." Allowing the submission of the law officer, the bench said,

"The observation ...Of the judgment that the AAI and the Union of India are not necessary parties would not be the correct position in law." Earlier, the bench had sought the "dispassionate views" of the solicitor general as an officer of the court and not as a lawyer of the Centre and the AAI in the case.

The top court had on May 9, 2022 upheld the Bombay High Court order which quashed a March 2020 communication issued by a joint venture firm cancelling a contract awarded to GMR Airports for the upgradation and operation of the airport. The Centre and the AAI have filed the curative plea against the 2022 order of the top court. The special bench had taken up the curative plea in an open court for hearing. The bench said since it was taking up the curative petition, it has to keep in mind the balance of equity as there are competing interests of the State and the private firm. Prior to this, the bench had

directed the civil aviation ministry to submit the file notings pertaining to the tender process for the airport. In 2022, the top court, while upholding the high court's order which quashed the March 2020 communication issued by the joint venture firm, MIHAN India Ltd (Multi Modal international Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur), cancelling the award of contract to GMR Airports, had said the impugned judgment was based on sound reasoning and true analysis of facts and did not warrant interference. "We are of the considered opinion that the findings recorded by the High Court allowing the writ petition are in accordance with law. Those findings do not suffer from any illegality, warranting interference by this court in exercise of the power under Article 136 of the Constitution. All these appeals are hereby dismissed," a bench of Justices Vineet Saran, since retired, and J K Maheshwari had said on May 9, 2022.

Government plans 4.5-6 crore textile jobs by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has prepared a road map for creating 4.5-6 crore jobs in the textile sector by 2030, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said on Friday, asserting that efforts are being made to take the sector's market size to USD 350 billion from around USD 165 billion at present. Addressing a press conference on the 100-day programme of Ministry of Textiles, Singh said: "The 100-day road map we have prepared includes (attracting) investment to the tune of lakhs of crores (in the textile sector) going forward. We have prepared a road map for creation of 4.5 crore to 6 crore jobs by 2030." He shared that the seven PM-MITRA integrated mega textile parks approved earlier will have investment to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore when fully functional, thereby creating 21 lakh jobs. Taking a dig at previous Congress-led governments, he said, they would not do anything in the first three months whereas the Modi government has started with



a 100-day road map. "Earlier, when a new government was formed, for three months, they would speak in irrelevant terms. Which, they (in an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi) are currently doing abroad. On the other hand, the Modi government has drawn a road map for development in the first three months," Singh said. He said that there are plans to take the size of India's textile sector to USD 350 billion. "To reach a size of USD 350 billion in the coming days, we need man-made fabric, whether it be synthetic, viscose or natural fibre, we are preparing for everything," said the minister, adding that over 350 brands globally

procure clothes from India and one should look not just the export figures but domestic numbers also. Notably, India's textiles exports declined for the second year in a row in 2023-24. The government has set an ambitious target to achieve USD 100 billion export for textile products by 2030. Exports of textiles and apparel from India during FY24 fell 3.24 per cent at USD 34.4 billion, as compared to USD 35.5 billion a year ago. Singh stated that efforts are underway to promote Make in India for the textiles sector, adding that neither Bangladesh nor Vietnam poses a challenge to the domestic industry. "We are promoting Make in India for the country's textiles sector (to meet the demand of growing population). It is a different matter that our population increases by more than the size of Australia's population every year. In the last ten years, more than 21 crore people were born (in India)," he said.

Karnataka launches draft GCC policy to attract investments, create jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday launched a draft Global Capacity Centres (GCC) policy with the aim to generate USD 50 billion economic output and attract 500 new GCCs by 2029, creating 3.5 lakh jobs. According to officials, this policy is designed to enhance investor confidence, promote seamless collaboration with the local innovation ecosystem, and position Karnataka as a global leader in AI research and development. Crafted through extensive industry research and stakeholders consultations, it draws insights from over 500 discussions with experts and industry leaders, they said, adding, the result is a comprehensive framework that sets ambitious goals for growth, incentives, and

collaboration. Speaking at the event, Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge said: "Today, we proudly launch India's first dedicated policy for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), reaffirming Karnataka's position as the top destination for innovation and business transformation. GCCs have evolved from back-office operations to becoming critical drivers of global strategic initiatives, R&D, and technology solutions." He emphasised that with a workforce of over 1.2 million and contributing USD 22.2 billion to the economy, GCCs have been a vital source of growth and employment for Karnataka. "Through this policy, we expect the GCC sector to grow at a compound annual rate of 12-14 per cent over

the next decade and foresee Karnataka holding nearly 50 per cent of the National GCC market share by 2029. We are committed to creating an ecosystem that fosters innovation, supports R&D, and nurtures top talent, ensuring Karnataka remains the most attractive destination for GCCs globally," Kharge said. The draft policy is now open for public comments, and the government invited inputs from all stakeholders to refine and strengthen the policy further. Secretary to the Government of Karnataka's Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Ekroop Caur, presented an overview of the draft GCC policy, detailing its objectives, vision, and goals and emphasised that it seeks to expand the GCC ecosystem beyond Bengaluru through the introduction of the 'Beyond Bengaluru

Package', aimed at attracting investments and fostering development across the state. "Our target is to establish 500 new GCCs by 2029, which will create 3.5 lakh new jobs and generate an economic output of USD 50 billion," she said. According to officials, a key highlight of the policy is the establishment of Global Innovation Districts, with three new state-of-the-art technology parks - one in Bengaluru and two in "Beyond Bengaluru" clusters. These parks will feature cutting-edge infrastructure to foster collaboration between startups, tech leaders, and academia. Anchor investors in these districts will receive special incentives, with mega projects eligible for customised packages, they said. Pravin Kumar, the officer

Government considers merging RINL with SAIL amid financial woes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is considering merger of RINL with another state-owned steel company SAIL as one of the options to ensure survival of RINL's plant and resolve the financial and operational issues being faced by the Andhra Pradesh-based steel maker, sources said. To provide capital for continuity of operations at the RINL's steel plant, plans like sale of land parcel to NMDC and bank loans are also being worked out, they told PTI. The DFS secretary, steel secretary and top officials of public sector lender SBI also held a meeting recently over the RINL issue. SBI has significant loan exposure to RINL. "The government wants to provide a permanent solution to the issue. One of the options being discussed is the merger of RINL with SAIL," the sources said.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), under the Ministry of Steel, owns and operates a 7.5 million tonnes plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It holds the distinction of being India's first shore-based integrated steel plant. SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited) also comes under the steel ministry. Sources further said that arranging capital for operations are also being considered, besides other measures like having talks with lenders for financial assistance and monetising assets through sale of a land parcel of 1,500-2,000 acre to NMDC for a pellet plant. Unlike other primary steel makers, RINL never had the advantage of having captive iron ore mines. Workers union say this is one of the major reasons for the crisis being faced by RINL. "RINL never had captive mines. All other primary steel makers who make steel



through blast furnace enjoy benefit of captive mines which helps with cost of raw material. We have always bought iron ore at market price," said J Ayodhya Ram, leader of a union protesting against privatisation of RINL. In January 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its 'in-principle' approval for 100 per cent disinvestment of government stake in RINL, also called Visakhapatnam Steel Plant or Vizag Steel, along with RINL's stake in its subsidiaries/joint ventures

through strategic disinvestment by way of privatisation. According to a steel ministry document, RINL is in serious financial trouble. It has been running at minimal capacity and facing continuous losses. The overall dues of RINL have gone above Rs 35,000 crore and it is at the risk of being classified as non-performing asset by banks. The document said that the ministry is taking steps to keep RINL as a 'going concern' in consultation with the finance ministry.

India's wedding tourism industry gears up for an exciting winter

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Great Indian Wedding' has had movies and documentaries made about it, but the industry now worth an estimated Rs 50,000 crore annually and growing at an estimated 25 per cent per year, it has been the driving force of more industries in India than any other. From wedding event planning to gifting and of course aviation and

hospitality. Try to get a banquet hall or even a hotel room in the months of November and December in destinations as varied from Goa to Nainital and rates are through the roof. And countries across the world also want a piece of the pie, from cruise ships hosting large pre-wedding functions across the Mediterranean and beach resorts across South-East Asia now making

arrangements for everything like beachside mandaps and even diving excursions during weddings and top chefs from across the world now specialising in wedding food, India is also exporting large sums of money abroad thanks to weddings. Little wonder then that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January announced that Indians should 'Wed In India' in order to keep the



wedding industry ecosystem in India growing. But there should also be increased government support for all the start-ups in the space, from those who design cards to the thousands employed by the industry every year from make-up artists and waiters. For better or for worse, a large part of the wedding industry ecosystem is still cash-driven and outside the tax net. In fact, it

might not be a bad idea for different states to start competing for wedding traffic by offering incentives to host weddings in their states, this could be through tax incentives to hotels and catering services as well as taxi operators. The ease of doing business should apply to the wedding industry as well. It is understandable that many people find the ostentatious display of wealth

at weddings grotesque, especially since at a per capita GDP of less than \$3000, Indians are far from being rich. But the wedding industry provides employment and opportunities to millions across the country every year and authorities should do more to ensure that a majority of the funds spent remain in India.

NBCC bags contract for IIIT Nagpur infrastructure expansion



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NBCC (India) Ltd has bagged a Rs 75 crore contract to build additional infrastructure at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Nagpur. The company said in a statement on Thursday it has "secured a prestigious project for the construction and development of additional infrastructure at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Nagpur." With an estimated project cost of Rs 75 crore, this endeavour marks a significant step forward in enhancing the educational facilities at IIIT Nagpur, located approximately 25 kilometres

from the city. Following the successful completion of Phase I, which included an Academic Block (G+5), an Admin Block (G+2), a Hostel Block (G+10) and a Residential Block (G+11), the institute is now ready to expand its infrastructure further. The upcoming Phase II will encompass the construction of an Academic Block B, alongside essential external development work and associated electrical and mechanical services. Additionally, the project will feature a canteen with the capacity to serve about 200 students and a multi-purpose hall that can cater to up to 1,000 students and guests.

New PLI scheme for specialty steel: Government



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working on the another round of the PLI scheme for specialty steel as the response for the first round of the initiative did not meet expectations, according to Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik. The top ministry official made the remarks at CII Steel Summit 2024 in the national capital on Friday. In his address, Poundrik said specialty steel is still one area where more is needed to be done. The government

brought a PLI to incentivise specialties steel but the offtake was not as expected. "So we are bringing another round of PLI so that we can get more interest in the specialty steel business," he said. Later speaking to PTI, the secretary said the government had launched Rs 6,400 crore PLI Scheme for specialty steel, out of that only Rs 2,600 crore could be allocated. Specialty steel is high grades used in sectors like defence, automobile, and electrical among others.

Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair returns with over 650 exhibitors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair (DJGF) returns for its 12th edition at Pragati Maidan, running from September 29 to October 1, 2024. Organised by Informa Markets in India, the fair is set to be North India's leading international B2B jewellery exhibition. DJGF 2024 will feature over 650 exhibitors and 700 exclusive brands, displaying more than 150,000 jewellery designs, including collections in gold, silver, diamonds, pearls, and cutting-edge technology. A key attraction of the event is the DJGF Silver Show, which will showcase a stunning array of silver jewellery. The fair is expected to draw over 25,000 visitors, including major buyers, wholesalers, and retailers, providing ample networking and business opportunities. The event will also highlight



gold, Polki, and diamond jewellery, with notable brands such as Shree Ram Krishna Exports and Hare Krishna participating. Additionally, DJGF 2024 will host a series of knowledge sessions covering topics such as responsible sourcing, retail trends, and export opportunities. Other highlights include the Retail Jewellers Guild Awards and the 'Shakti - Honouring Women Achievers' initiative, recognizing contributions by women in the industry.



AICTE, OPPO India launch second phase of 'Generation Green' campaign

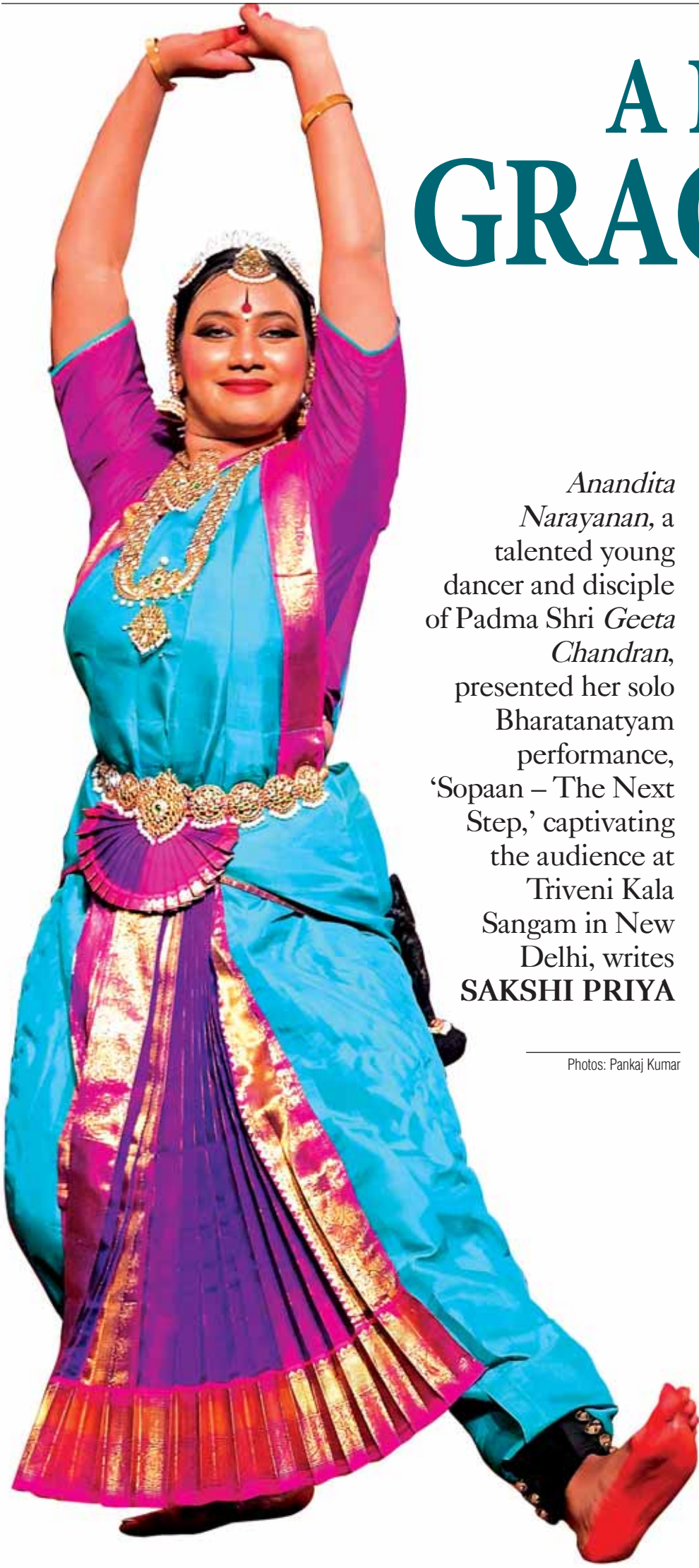
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and OPPO India launched the second phase of their 'Generation Green' campaign with a nationwide e-waste awareness drive at Ramjas College, University of Delhi. Ramjas College became the first 'Eco-Conscious Champion Institute' under the initiative. The campaign aims to educate youth on e-waste management and promote sustainable practices. In the first phase, over 5,000 students from 1,400 institutions were selected as

Intens, participating in green activities such as awareness sessions and surveys. The second phase focuses on the challenges of electronic waste disposal, targeting 10 lakh students by the end of 2024. During the launch, Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairperson of the National Education Technology Forum (NETF), highlighted the importance of educating students on sustainability to drive societal change. Rakesh Bhardwaj, Head of Public Affairs at OPPO India, emphasized the role of youth in achieving India's Net-Zero vision.



AN EVENING OF GRACEFUL RHYTHMS



Anandita Narayanan, a talented young dancer and disciple of Padma Shri Geeta Chandran, presented her solo Bharatanatyam performance, 'Sopaan - The Next Step,' captivating the audience at Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

In a world where emotions often remain hidden, dance speaks volumes, transforming feelings into a breathing art form. On a recent evening, the prestigious Triveni Kala Sangam auditorium in New Delhi became the stage for a captivating performance by young Bharatanatyam dancer, Anandita Narayanan. Her solo performance, titled 'Sopaan - The Next Step,' promised to take the audience on a journey not only through the intricate movements of classical dance but also through the emotional depths that only art can reach. As the evening unfolded, it became clear that Anandita's performance was more than just a showcase of talent; it was a mesmerising expression of her dedication to Bharatanatyam.

Anandita, a disciple of the esteemed Padma Shri Geeta Chandran, stepped onto the stage with grace, drawing the audience into the world of traditional Indian dance from the moment she began. Her performance commenced with the Pushpanjali in Ragam Shree, a ritualistic offering of flowers symbolically presented to the stage, her teacher and the audience. This introductory piece, set to the rhythm of Adi Talam, established a humble yet powerful tone for the evening, filled with reverence for the art form she holds so dearly. The simple yet elegant movements of the Pushpanjali invited the audience into the performance, preparing them for the deeper narratives that would follow.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the Varnam in Ragam Poorvikalyani, a piece that provided a showcase for Anandita's technical brilliance and emotional depth. In this Varnam, composed by the legendary Dandayudha Pani Pillai, Anandita embodied the Virahotkantitha Nayika - a heroine tormented by her separation from her beloved, the god Kartikeya. Through her expressions and gestures, Anandita conveyed Nayika's intense longing and sorrow with remarkable sensitivity. The audience could feel the emotional weight of the performance, as she brought to life the pain of unrequited love, working it into the intricate footwork and hand movements that define Bharatanatyam. Her portrayal made it seem as though the stage had transformed into a canvas for her emotions, with every movement adding to the visual poetry unfolding before the audience.

The ability to seamlessly blend emotion with technique is a hallmark of great dance and Anandita demonstrated this with ease. As she transitioned to the next part of her performance, she moved from the intense, heart-wrenching narrative of the Varnam to lighter, more playful pieces, displaying her versatility as a performer. One such piece was the Padam 'Inendu Vachitira' set in Ragam Surati, where she portrayed the Khandita Nayika, a woman confronting her unfaithful lover, Krishna. Anandita's portrayal of the heroine was both poignant



ANANDITA, A DISCIPLE OF THE ESTEEMED PADMA SHRI GEETA CHANDRAN, STEPPED ONTO THE STAGE WITH GRACE, DRAWING THE AUDIENCE INTO THE WORLD OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN DANCE FROM THE MOMENT SHE BEGAN. HER PERFORMANCE COMMENCED WITH THE PUSHPANJALI IN RAGAM SHREE, A RITUALISTIC OFFERING OF FLOWERS SYMBOLICALLY PRESENTED TO THE STAGE, HER TEACHER AND THE AUDIENCE



and humorous, as she conveyed a mix of anger, sarcasm and hurt. Her facial expressions and body language effortlessly conveyed the heroine's frustration, while also injecting a sense of lightness into the performance. The audience responded with appreciative laughter and applause, a tribute to the range of emotions Anandita was able to convey.

Following the Padam, Anandita performed a Javali in Ragam Paras, titled "Smara Sundaranguni." In this piece, she depicted the Swadheenapatika Nayika, a confident and assured woman who takes pride in her secure relationship. Anandita's performance here was full of joy and exuberance, a stark contrast to the sorrowful tone of the earlier Varnam. Her ability to switch between such diverse emotional landscapes was nothing short of impressive, as she continued to captivate the audience with each new piece.

The evening reached its crescendo with the final performance, a Tillana in Ragam Yamuna Kalyani, composed by Shri Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. The Tillana is traditionally the concluding piece in a Bharatanatyam performance, known for its fast-paced rhythms and celebratory tone. Anandita's rendition was no exception, as she delivered a vibrant and energetic performance that left the audience captivated. Her footwork was sharp and precise, while her movements were full of life, embodying the joy and devotion of the piece. The performance celebrated Lord Krishna, and Anandita's energy lit up the stage, drawing the audience into the festive mood.

What made Anandita's performance truly special, however, was not just her technical skill

but the emotional depth and sincerity she brought to each piece. She was not simply performing a series of dances; she was telling stories, sharing emotions and inviting the audience into her world. This sense of connection was visible throughout the performance and it was clear that Anandita's love for dance went beyond just the physical movements. As one audience member remarked, "Anandita's expressions and storytelling took us into the heart of each character. It was not just beautiful but deeply moving." Another attendee added, "Watching her dance was like seeing poetry come to life. She made complex emotions feel real."

For Anandita, dance is not merely a performance but a way of life. In her own words, "Dance flows through every cell of my being. It's an integral part of who I am." This dedication to her art was evident in every gesture and movement on stage. The connection between Anandita and her dance was clear to all who were present and it added an extra layer of depth to the performance, making it a truly memorable evening. 'Sopaan - The Next Step' was not just a dance recital; it beautifully showcased Anandita's growth as an artist. Under the guidance of her guru, Geeta Chandran, Anandita has mastered both the technical precision and emotional depth that bring Bharatanatyam to life. The performance highlighted her potential to become a prominent figure in classical dance, and the audience had the privilege of witnessing the rise of a gifted young talent. With her journey only just beginning, many more remarkable performances are sure to come. The grace, emotion, and artistry she displayed in 'Sopaan - The Next Step' will leave a lasting impression on all who watched.

THROUGH A SATIRICAL LENS Art That Reflects Reality

In *Satirical Symphony*, A. Rajeswara Rao showcases his unique reverse painting technique on acrylic sheets. This vibrant exhibition at Visual Art Gallery invites viewers to reflect on the humorous and thought-provoking themes of materialism and social mimicry in society, writes TEAM VIVA

The recent exhibition of *Satirical Symphony* by A. Rajeswara Rao showcased a vivid exploration of societal dynamics, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. The crowd's reaction to his artwork was visible, as the humour and critique embedded within each piece resonated deeply with viewers. The series, characterised by Rao's reverse painting technique on acrylic sheets, offers more than just visual appeal; it is a mirror reflecting the characteristics of a society undergoing rapid change. Curated by Annapurna M. and Kiran K. Mohan, the exhibition was not just a display of artistic brilliance but a reflection of Rao's sharp observations on human behaviour.

At the heart of Rao's works lies a sharp satirical lens. His paintings humorously capture the essence of people, their desires, and their attempts to mirror a high-society lifestyle. Rao himself drew inspiration from the transformation he witnessed in a village near his studio. Once a place of modest lifestyles, where people walked or cycled through narrow lanes, the village changed almost overnight after an industrial group arrived. "All of a sudden, people started driving motorbikes, cars, and adopting



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

fashionable items like sunglasses and leggings," Rao explained. He found this shift amusing and decided to reflect it in his work, seeing it as an exaggerated attempt to imitate higher society. This theme of sudden wealth and social mimicry is evident throughout the *Satirical Symphony*.

Among the standout works in the exhibition was *1947 Classmates*, which, along with pieces like *My New Ray-Ban*, prompted both laughter and introspection on the impact of materialism on self-image. Guests were particularly captivated by *My New Ray-Ban* and *New Billionaire With Her*



Golden Ducks, both of which explored this abrupt transformation in a humorous



yet thought-provoking manner. Rao's bold use of colour and exaggerated figures transforms these everyday scenes into a striking spectacle of satire. His reverse painting technique, especially on acrylic, introduces a dynamic layer to his compositions, allowing light to

interact with the transparent surface and creating an almost ethereal depth.

What was most engaging, though, was how his art connected with the audience on a personal level. Visitors could easily see reflections of people they knew or perhaps even of themselves in his depictions of men and women adorned in flashy attire, oversized sunglasses, and luxury items they didn't quite seem to belong with. Yet, in all the laughter and satire, there was a genuine warmth in how Rao portrayed these characters, making them endearing rather than simply objects of mockery.

The exhibition also drew attention to the artist's masterful technique. Rao's ability to layer humour with critique, using a vivid colour palette, kept the audience mesmerised. Paintings such as *Smoking Zone* and *Massage Centre* demonstrated how he uses space and detail to draw viewers into his world. The juxtaposition of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances added to the intrigue and made each painting a story in itself.

It was heartening to witness the engagement between the artist and his audience. Many of those present spent considerable time in front of each painting, clearly appreciating not just the

technical brilliance but also the wit that Rao brings to his art. Conversations among visitors frequently circled back to how well the paintings captured the ridiculousness of societal pretensions. In this way, the *Satirical Symphony* did more than entertain; it provoked thought, forcing viewers to reflect on the often comedic ways in which people chase status.

A. Rajeswara Rao's *Satirical Symphony* was a winning showcase of satire at its finest. It reminded everyone that while art can be a serious reflection of society, it can also be a source of humour and lightness. Each painting, from *The Kings* to *The Merry World*, invited viewers to look beyond the surface, to laugh at the follies of human nature, and to leave with a sense of connection, not only to the art but to the society it so cleverly critiques. Rao's work leaves one pondering how wealth and societal pressures shape identity, all while smiling at the absurdity of it all.

The exhibition will continue at Art Magnum Gallery until 20 October 2024, offering those who haven't experienced this thought-provoking show a final opportunity to immerse themselves in Rao's satirical vision. Don't miss the chance to explore this engaging dialogue between art and society!

AKASH DEEP, ASHWIN KEEP INDIA AHEAD ON RAIN-HIT DAY 1



PTI ■ KANPUR
Pacer Akash Deep was impressive in a probing opening spell while Ravichandran Ashwin removed the dangerous Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto before rain halted India's progress in the second Test on the opening day, here Friday. Given the forecast, it was expected to be a weather-hit contest from the beginning.

Only 35 overs could be bowled after Rohit Sharma invited Bangladesh to bat in overcast conditions as visitors struggled to 107 for three after a brief resistance through Shanto (31). Mominul Haque (40 batting) and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim (6) were at the crease when heavens opened up. Overnight rain had delayed the start of the match by an hour. Heavy overcast conditions influenced India's team

selection as the hosts kept all three pacers from the Chennai Test, which meant that local boy Kuldeep Yadav missed out on another Test match. Akash (2/14 in 10 overs), who bowled round the wicket to the left-handers, consistently hit the good length areas and got the ball to either shape away or come in with the angle. Shanto (57 balls, 4x6), though, batted with positive intent, if not combative, to ensure Bangladesh don't lose way

from the start. As expected, the initial bounce and seam movement had openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam playing in circumspect manner. Islam (24) worked the ball around but an overcautious Hasan (0) simply couldn't get going. Jasprit Bumrah had the openers squared up as the away-going deliveries kept landing in Rishabh Pant's gloves. Mohammed Siraj induced edges that flew to the slip

cordon but none carried to the fielders. Shadman hit couple of boundaries off Bumrah in a single over, the first was a flick off the pads, and the second was an uppish drive. On the other side, Hasan consumed 23 dot balls and was yet to open his account. Akash, who came in as a second-change, ended his misery by inducing an edge that flew to Yashasvi Jaiswal who went low on his right to

grab the chance. Akash soon sent back Shadman on a ball that came in and caught him in front of the wicket. The opener reviewed the decision but to no avail. Shanto, who has been in good rhythm, began with two shots to the fence in a sort of statement that he won't get intimidated by the classy Indian bowlers. He also got a boundary off Siraj but those were not the cleanest of hits. His reverse sweep off off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin though stood out. Ashwin, who did not get a wicket in the opening session, trapped Shanto in the third over of the second session. Shanto played for the turn but was beaten. The umpire had no hesitation in raising his finger. The Bangladesh skipper reviewed the decision hoping against hope. Seasoned Mominul grew in confidence as he spent more time at the crease. He hit two boundaries off Akash in a single over and later hit an exquisite drive through mid-off. He raised Bangladesh's hundred with another four. Only nine overs were bowled in the second session when bad light stopped play even as the flood lights were on, forcing the players off the field. Light drizzle followed and soon it was pouring.



Bravo retires from all forms of cricket, joins KKR as mentor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
World Cup-winning West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket and will join IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders as its mentor, a move that marks the end of his long-standing association with Chennai Super Kings. In KKR, the 40-year-old will replace Gautam Gambhir, who left the role to take over as India's head coach earlier this year. Bravo's last season in the Caribbean Premier League was cut short due to an injury that he sustained earlier this week. "Today is the day I say goodbye to the game that has given me everything," he wrote on Instagram on Thursday. "Twenty-one years as a professional cricketer - it's been an incredible journey, filled with many highs and a few lows. Most importantly, I was able to live my dream because I gave you 100 at every step."

media release on Friday. Apart from KKR, he will be in charge the other franchises under the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues. The new role puts an end to his long association with CSK. "We're also pleased that Bravo will be involved with our other franchises globally, including CPL, MLC, and IIT20, Mysore said. Talking about his role in KKR, Bravo said: "I've been part of the Trinbago Knight Riders for the last 10 years in the CPL. Having played for and against the Knight Riders in various leagues, I have a lot of respect for how they operate. "BODY CAN NO LONGER ENDURE THE PAIN": Ahead of the ongoing CPL season, Bravo had declared it would be his final tournament. However, a groin injury sustained while fielding against the St. Lucia Kings in Tarruba earlier this week cut his CPL stint short. "My mind wants to keep going, but my body can no longer endure the pain, the breakdowns, and the strain. I can't put myself in a position where I might let down my teammates, my fans, or the teams I represent," Bravo wrote in his Instagram post. "So, with a heavy heart, I officially announce my retirement from the sport. Today, the Champion bids farewell." During his illustrious career, Bravo played 582 T20 matches and took 631 wickets, besides scoring nearly 7,000 runs. "Though this ending is bittersweet, I have no regrets about my career or this decision. Now, I look forward to my next chapter. Once again, thank you. See you soon on the other side," he added.

Injury is fine now, next big target is 2025 world championship: Neeraj Chopra

PTI ■ SONEPAT
Promising to be 100 per cent fit for the new season, India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra on Friday said a podium finish in the 2025 Tokyo World Championships is the next big target on his mind going forward. The 26-year-old is back in the country after winding up his season with a second-place finish at the Diamond League finale in Brussels. This was after he became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to claim successive Olympic medals by adding a silver in Paris to the momentous gold clinched in Tokyo. "The season is over now. The biggest target for next year is the World Championship, and we will begin preparations for that now. The Olympics are always on our minds,

but we have four years for that," Neeraj told PTI Videos on the sidelines of a conference on 'Mission Olympics 2036' organised at the Sports University of Haryana here. The world championship is scheduled to be held from September 13 to 21 next year. Chopra battled an adductor muscle niggle throughout the year and it also affected his performance at both the Olympics and the DL finale, where he also competed with a fractured left hand. He had spoken about consulting doctors at the end of the season to decide whether to go for a surgery to fix the problem. Asked about his fitness, Chopra played down concerns and also stated that he will look to improve his technique. The Haryana-lad is trained by renowned German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz.



"It was an injury-plagued year but injury is fine now, I will be 100 per cent fit for the new season," he asserted. "Technical issues are also there but we

will work on them. I will look to improve my technique. I do like to train in India but when competitions start, I prefer to train abroad," he said. Reflecting on India's Olympic

performance, which yielded six medals but no gold this time, Chopra pointed out that the country could have got more as reflected by the half a dozen fourth place finishes. "There were a lot of fourth positions. (But) this time, we had a very good performance in the Paralympics and won several medals. "In the coming times, we expect strong performances in both the Olympics and the Paralympics," said Chopra. Chopra has been working hard to hit the 90m mark but hasn't managed so far despite coming close. In the Paris Olympics, his silver-winning throw was 89.45m and he was bested by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who broke the Games record with a 92.97m effort. At the DL finale, Chopra threw 87.86m to miss the top finish by just one centimetre.

Medvedev beats Monfils in Beijing, Draper upsets Hurkacz in Japan

AP ■ BEIJING
Daniil Medvedev safely navigated a tricky first outing at the China Open on Friday, winning 6-3 6-4 against French veteran Gael Monfils. The third-seeded Medvedev, runner-up to Jannik Sinner here last year, broke Monfils' serve three times in a dominant opening set. After trading breaks in a closer second set, former No. 1-ranked Medvedev clinched the match with another service break to seal the win in 92 minutes. Roman Safiullin, who made the main draw as a lucky loser in qualifying, beat three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka 6-3 6-4 and will face top-ranked Sinner. No. 3-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, seeded second in Beijing, begins against No. 51 Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France later Friday. In the women's draw, sixth-seeded Emma Navarro was upset by Chinese wildcard Zhang Shuai 6-4 6-2 in 75 minutes. The 35-year-old Zhang, a doubles specialist, played well above her current singles



ranking of No. 595 as she took five of her seven breakpoint opportunities against the U.S. Open semifinalist. Zhang will play Greet Minnen of Belgium, who beat 28th-seeded Anastasia Potapova 7-5 2-6 6-4 in the third round. Also, 12th-seeded Diana Shnaider beat former Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin 6-2 6-3 and Yulia Starodubtseva had a 6-2 6-2 win over 27th-seeded Katerina Siniakova. Second-seeded Jessica Pegula was due open her tournament later Friday against Diane Parry of France, and Coco Gauff faced Clara Burel in a night match.

US Open champion Aryna Sabalenka plays Saturday against Thai qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaew. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek was not playing this week for personal reasons. **JAPAN OPEN:** Second-seeded Hubert Hurkacz lost 6-4 6-4 to US Open semifinalist Jack Draper in the second round in Tokyo, a day after top-seeded Taylor Fritz and third-seeded Casper Ruud were eliminated from the tournament. While the 22-year-old Draper and Hurkacz were evenly matched on aces and winners, it was the Polish player's 30 unforced errors, to Draper's 20, that proved costly. Draper will next play either Brandon Nakashima or Ugo Humbert in the quarterfinals. Defending champion Ben Shelton also progressed to the quarterfinals with a 6-4 6-3 defeat of Mariano Navone. Shelton, along with Fritz, traveled to Japan from the Laver Cup in Berlin, where they represented Team World in a loss to Alcaraz's Team Europe.

India U-17 face Nepal hurdle in semifinals

PTI ■ THIMPHU
Buoyant Indian football team will take on Nepal in the semi-finals of the SAFF U17 Championship here on Saturday, hoping to continue its good run of form in the continental age-group tournament. The Blue Colts eased into the last four as Group A table toppers after beating Bangladesh (1-0) and Maldives (3-0). Nepal, on the other hand, sneaked into the semi-finals, thanks to a late winner against Bhutan in their last group match, which lifted them to second place in Group B behind Pakistan, who will face Bangladesh in the second semi-finals later on Saturday. India have had ample rest between their matches so far, including three full days to prepare for their semi-finals. Head coach Ishaq Ahmed stated that the rest days for



players are more about recovery and staying injury-free. "This rest is about recovering because we are playing on artificial turf. It's not easy to play and train on turf everyday. It has its negative impacts also. We've been training mostly to recover our boys. "It has been raining here everyday and we are stuck inside the hotel. Sometimes that can be a good thing because you spend a lot of time with each other and that helps.

mark for the Indian backline as the Nepalese striker is the competition top-scorer with four goals, including a hat-trick against Sri Lanka and the all-important match winner against Bhutan. "I rate Nepal as a good side. They are not afraid of playing. They have done quite well, coming from 0-1 down, showing character and beating the hosts," said Ahmed. "Since it's a knockout match, you have to take your chances. In both matches so far, we created a lot of chances but failed to make the most of them. Whether it was a good save by the goalkeeper or a missed shot, it doesn't matter. We need to convert our ball possession into goals. "If we get an early goal against them, it will be a little bit easier for us. We wouldn't want the match to stretch because then you have to keep one eye on the defence as well," Ahmed added. Sujan Dangol will be one to

Tottenham overcomes early red card to post 3-0 win in revamped Europa League

AP ■ LONDON
Tottenham marked its return to European competition after one-year absence by overcoming an early red card to beat Qarabag 3-0 in the revamped Europa League. Defender Radu Dragusin was sent off in the eighth minute for bringing down Juninho to prevent the forward from going in alone on goal. But the hosts opened the scoring just four minutes later. Brennan Johnson's angled shot was his third goal in three games. Pape Sarr doubled the advantage early in the second half off a corner kick and Dominic Solanke finished it off

on a rebound in the 68th. "The red card was not ideal, we started really sloppily but the reaction afterwards was good," Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou told TNT Sports. "We wanted to press high, even with ten men." Johnson also scored in a 3-1 win over Brentford in the Premier League and had a stoppage-time winner in a 2-1 victory over second-division Coventry the English League Cup three days earlier. Tural Bayramov wasted a golden opportunity to score from the spot when the Azerbaijan visitors were 2-0 down. Travel disruptions forced the game to start 35 minutes late.

Roma blows lead Roma allowed a late goal and settled for a 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao following the Italian club's turbulent recent stretch that included firing coach Daniele De Rossi. Aitor Paredes headed in the equalizer in the 85th minute to offset Artem Dovbyk's first-half goal. Roma beat Udinese 3-0 in Serie A on Sunday in the first game under new coach Ivan Juric. Bilbao winger Nico Williams came on as a substitute for last 30 minutes in his return from an ankle injury. Ajax cleans up Mika Godts had two goals, Kian Fitz-jim and Kenneth Taylor added one



each for Ajax in a 4-0 rout of Besiktas. Czech side Viktoria Plzen scored two late goals from Prince Adu and Vaclav Jemelka to hold high-flying Eintracht Frankfurt to a 3-3 away draw.

Frankfurt, the 2022 Europa League winner led 3-1 on goals from Hugo Ekitike, substitute Junior Dina Ebimbe and defender Rasmus Kristensen. Olympiacos, last year's Conference League champion,

started with a 2-0 loss to Lyon in France on second half goals by Rayan Cherki and Said Benrahma. Braga rallied to beat nine-man Maccabi Tel Aviv 2-1. Romania's FCSB beat Latvia's RFS 4-1 in Bucharest. Fenerbahce, Rangers score early wins Fenerbahce opened the competition with a 2-1 home win over Belgian club Union Saint-Gilloise with both teams finishing the game with 10 men. Defender Çağlar Söyüncü opened the scoring for Jose Mourinho's team in the 26th minute with a half-volley from close range and Christian Burgess' own goal in the 82nd made it 2-0 for Fenerbahce. Ross Sykes

scored in stoppage time for the visitors. Union defender Kevin Mac Allister received a red card in the 74th and Fenerbahce substitute Bright Osayi-Samuel was sent off in the final minute. Last season, Fenerbahce eliminated Union in the round of 16 of the third-tier Conference League. Europe's second tier is a familiar turf for Mourinho, who led Manchester United to the 2017 title. He took the Fenerbahce job in the offseason. With Mourinho in charge, Roma lost the 2023 final to Sevilla after a penalty shootout. In another early game, Rangers won 2-0 at Malmö.

The 2022 Europa League beaten finalist didn't waste time. Nedim Bajrami scored in the opening minute. Ross McCausland scored in the second half. Rangers lost in the 2022 final to Eintracht Frankfurt. The German club will be in action later Thursday, hosting Czech side Viktoria Plzen. As in the Champions League, the traditional group stage of the Europa League has been replaced with an expanded league phase with all 36 teams competing in a single standings. Each Europa League team will play eight games against eight different opponents through Jan.

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