

**OPINION 6**  
THE HAMAS ATTACK:  
LESSONS FOR INDIA

**WORLD 8**  
FRANCE VOWS FIGHT  
AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

**MONEY 10**  
GST COLLECTIONS RISE 13% TO  
₹1.72 LAKH CRORE IN OCTOBER

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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www.dailypioneer.com

Established 1864  
Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA  
Late City Vol. 33 Issue 303  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RED-HOT INDIA TAKE  
ON LANKA IN WC  
BATTLE OF UNEQUALS  
12 SPORT



# IDF pounds relief camp in Gaza

AP ■ RAFAH

Airstrikes by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) hit apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City for a second day in a row on Wednesday, causing many deaths and injuries. Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of devastation in the Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The strikes killed and wounded many people, but the exact toll was not yet known. The Al-Jazeera footage showed nearly identical scenes as the day before, with dozens of men digging through the gray rubble of demolished multi-story buildings in search of survivors. The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a nearby hospital said hundreds were killed or wounded. Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander who was involved in the militants' bloody October 7 rampage that ignited the war, and destroyed militant tunnels beneath the buildings. Meanwhile, after more than three weeks of siege, the first Palestinians — dozens of dual passport holders and seriously injured — were allowed to leave Gaza.

Even as bombings have driven tens of thousands from their homes and food, water and fuel run low, no one has been allowed to leave the embattled enclave, except for four Israeli hostages released by Hamas. Another captive was rescued by Israeli forces earlier this week. But a limited agreement appeared to have been reached on Wednesday. Communications and internet services were gradually being restored after the second major cut in five days, according to Paltel, the main service provider. Humanitarian aid agencies have warned that such blackouts severely disrupt their work in an already dire situation in Gaza. The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war has reached 8,525. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, most of them civilians slain in the initial October 7 Hamas rampage that started the fighting. In addition, around 240 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza by the militant group. One of the captives, a female Israeli soldier, was rescued in a special forces operation. In a sign of increasing alarm over the war among Arab countries, Jordan on Wednesday recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's ambassador to remain out of the country. Jordan, a key US ally, signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994, the second Arab country after Egypt to do so.



Palestinians inspect the damage of buildings destroyed by Israeli airstrikes on Jabaliya refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza City

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Ayman al-Safadi, who is also the foreign minister, said the return of the ambassadors is linked to Israel "stopping its war on Gaza... and the humanitarian catastrophe it is causing." He warned of the potential of the conflict to spread, threatening "the security of the entire region." Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister said on Wednesday that time is of the essence in

stopping the Hamas-Israel war from "going out of control" and affecting Lebanon and the wider region. Najib Mikati has been scrambling with international governments to keep Lebanon

limited to areas along the border. His comments come days before Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is scheduled to give his first speech since the start of the war. Lebanon is experiencing political paralysis and economic turmoil, leaving many worried of the consequences of a fully fledged war in the crisis-hit country. He condemned both Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon and attacks in the blockaded Palestinian Gaza Strip. "A humanitarian cease-fire for five days is necessary, where there can be active international talks to secure prisoner swaps and reach a permanent truce in order to reach an agreement on the conditions for regional peace," Mikati said before a government meeting. Israel and Hezbollah fought a monthlong war in 2006 that ended in a draw. Israel sees Hezbollah as its most immediate threat, estimating that it has some 150,000 precision-guided missiles pointed at it. "Enough war in Lebanon, for we are with the choice of peace," Mikati said. Heads of Israeli universities sent a letter to colleagues around the world expressing deep concern over anti-Israel and antisemitic discourse at some universities following Hamas's deadly attack on Israel and the war it triggered in the Gaza Strip. The Association of University Heads in Israel also criticized what it sees as the inadequate response of some academic leaders. "It's unsettling to note that many college campuses have become breeding grounds for anti-Israel and antisemitic sentiments, largely fueled by a naive and biased understanding of the conflict," the letter said. "Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of academic freedom, but it should not be manipulated to legitimize hate speech or to justify violence." Tensions on campuses in the US and Europe have been inflamed since the Hamas attack. Some students and faculty have expressed support for the militant group and its attack. At Harvard, a coalition of more than 30 student groups said Israel was "entirely responsible" for the Hamas attack that killed more than 1,400 people. At Cornell University, police were sent to guard the Center for Jewish Living over intimidating posts. The comments have raised fundamental questions regarding free speech and its limits. "Just as it would be unthinkable for an academic institution to extend free speech protections to groups targeting other protected classes, so too should demonstrations that call for our destruction and glorify violence against Jews be explicitly prohibited and condemned," the Israeli university heads said in their letter.

# INDIA bloc in disarray India, Bangladesh ties on the rail

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The five months old alliance of Opposition parties, INDIA, seems to be in tatters, with major stakeholders' top leaders, including Sharad Pawar, Sitaram Yechury, Omar Abdullah, and Akhilesh Yadav, all voicing concerns about "problems in the alliance". While the largest Opposition party, the Congress, seems to be taking it slow and preparing to assert itself if it performs well in the Assembly polls in five States this month, two other major parties, the AAP and the TMC, have found themselves in trouble. Arvind Kejriwal and his close confidants are under scrutiny by investigative agencies in connection with an excise scam, while Mamata Banerjee's party is mired in allegations against her Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra, who is accused of asking questions in exchange for money in Parliament. Kejriwal will undergo ED questioning on Thursday, and Moitra is scheduled to appear before the Lok Sabha Ethics committee on the same day. Both the AAP and the TMC have characterised these actions as political vendettas, with Mamata maintaining a stoic silence regarding the cash

for query episode and leaving the decision to the people. Mamata accused the BJP of conspiring to arrest all Opposition leaders before next year's Lok Sabha polls and manipulate votes in their favour in what she described as an "empty country". Sources from a couple of alliance partners have mentioned that with no upcoming meeting of the INDIA alliance scheduled there is a sense that it would have been beneficial to establish a common understanding among the bloc partners for the upcoming State elections. However, the public airing of differences between the Congress and Samajwadi Party, along with the recent Moitra episode, followed by Kejriwal's summons to the ED, have shaken the confidence that had been building since the first meeting in Patna, followed by Bengaluru, and the last one in August in Mumbai. NCP chief Sharad Pawar last Saturday said while members of the INDIA alliance might have differences at the State level, there is also a feeling that all must fight the Lok Sabha polls together. The next meeting was to be over discussing the rationalisation of seats for the general elections.

"It is not so easy in State polls the way it is in the Lok Sabha elections. Among our colleagues, there is definitely a feeling we have to come together for the LS polls. There is difficulty in some State elections. But for the LS, there is a feeling we should work together," Pawar said, pointing out there were States where the Congress as well as regional parties were equally important and differences in such cases should be resolved by dialogue. In the case of West Bengal, where TMC was considered strong, neither the Left nor the Congress could be "bypassed," according to Pawar. Similarly CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the opinion of the majority in the grouping has been that the alliance is for the Lok Sabha polls but fighting State polls together would have been good for the alliance. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the situation within the Opposition alliance is not good. The remarks by Pawar and other leaders come against the backdrop of the Congress and other INDIA bloc parties contesting against each other in the upcoming Assembly elections in five States. Akhilesh had recently expressed his unhappiness with

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/AGARTALA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday jointly inaugurated three India assisted projects via virtual mode. These include a key rail link between Tripura's Nischintapur and Gangasagar in the neighbouring country. Modi described the rail link a "historic moment". The other two projects inaugurated by Modi and Hasina are the 65 km Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, and Unit 2 of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh's Rampal. Modi said inauguration of the India-Bangladesh rail project — the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link — was a "historic" moment. "This is the first rail link between the northeast and Bangladesh," he said. The 12.24 km rail project (6.78 km dual gauge line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura) between Nischintapur and Gangasagar is expected to boost cross-border trade and significantly reduce the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka. The trial run of the rail project was completed on Monday, after a train from Gangasagar railway station in Brahmanbaria district of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a joint inauguration of three India-assisted development projects via a video conference on Wednesday

Bangladesh arrived at Nischintapur railway station. "It is a matter of joy that we have connected once again to celebrate the success of the India-Bangladesh cooperation. In the past nine years, the work we have done together has not happened in decades," Modi said in an interaction with Hasina. He also said, "In last nine years, our internal trade has tripled... Today, the inauguration of the Akhaura-Agartala rail link is a historic moment... This is the first rail link between Bangladesh and the North Eastern States of India... Tripura has had a strong bond with Bangladesh since the days of its Liberation struggle." Hasina said the three projects would further strengthen the infrastructure development collaboration between the two

countries. "The joint inauguration of these important projects shows that we have a strong bond of friendship and collaboration... I also thank Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September for the G20 Summit," she said. "I think it is an instance for the world. We have proved that good relations with the neighbour accelerate the country's development. It is a demonstration of having rare friendly relations and mutual cooperation. Bangladesh and India will attain many successes in the days to come through mutual cooperation, which will strengthen the relationship between the two countries," Hasina said. She also said mutual efforts have helped ensure peace and stability in the northeast region of India, and establish connectivity between many Indian States with its northeast part through Chattogram and Mongla Ports. India had extended ₹392.52 crore as grant assistance to Bangladesh for the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link, officials said. As part of the Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, a 65 km broad gauge route was constructed between Bangladesh's Mongla Port and the existing rail network in Khulna. The 1,320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project was implemented by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between India's NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board. The plant is located at Rampal in Khulna division of Bangladesh.

# India shines bright in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, recognised for its rich musical heritage, and Kozhikode in Kerala, distinguished for its literary excellence, India's both nominations have earned a prestigious spot in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). These historic cities are among the 55 new cities that have joined the UCCN. UNESCO made the announcement on its official website on Tuesday. The UNESCO designation will not only provide global recognition to these identified cities but also facilitate international funding, collaborations with relevant institutes, and promote their respective creative fields as products.

With this latest addition, India can now boast a total of seven cities on the coveted UCCN list. The Indian cities already on the UCCN list include Srinagar for Crafts and Folk Arts (2021), Mumbai for Film (2019), Hyderabad for Gastronomy (2019), Chennai for Music (2017), Jaipur for Crafts and Folk Arts (2015), and Varanasi for Music (2015). Following UNESCO's announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the inclusion, saying that India's cultural vibrancy "shines brighter on the global stage". These cities have been acknowledged for "their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centered urban

planning," the world body said in a statement. Union Home Minister Amit Shah joined the PM in applauding the development, emphasising that the global recognition will strengthen India's cultural identity. In a post on X, Shah said, "It is another moment of elation for our nation as Gwalior and Kozhikode have been included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. Recognising Gwalior's glorious heritage of music, the city has been designated as the 'City of Music,' and Kozhikode in Kerala as the 'City of Literature' by UNESCO." "The global recognition of our creative spirit will invigorate the creative pursuits of our poets, authors, and musicians with a renewed zest while strengthening

our cultural identity," he said. Echoing similar sentiments, G Kishan Reddy, Union Culture and Tourism Minister, called it "A proud moment for India." "These cities get acknowledged and recognised for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity. Congratulations to all stakeholders!" tweeted the Union Minister. Meanwhile, the UNESCO statement added that on World Cities Day, designated by the United Nations on October 31, a total of 55 cities have joined the UCCN. New cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and for displaying innovative practices in

human-centred urban planning. With the latest additions, the UCCN have 350 cities in over 100 countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music. Bukhara for Crafts and Folk Art, Casablanca for Media Arts, Chongqing for Design, Kathmandu for Film, Rio de Janeiro for Literature, and Ulaanbaatar for Crafts and Folk Art are among the 55 new cities designated by UNESCO. "The cities in our Creative Cities Network are leading the way when it comes to enhancing access to culture and galvanizing the power of creativity for urban resilience and development," said Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General.

# ED seizes assets of Jet Airways founder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached in London, Dubai and India assets worth ₹538.05 crore of Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, his family members and companies as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged bank loan fraud. The attached properties include 17 residential flats, bungalows and commercial premises. Located in London, Dubai and various cities in India, these properties are in the name of various companies like Jetair Private Limited and Jet Enterprises Private Limited, Goyal, his wife Anita, and son

Nivaan, the federal agency said in a statement. Goyal, 74, was arrested by the ED on September 1 and the agency filed a chargesheet against him on Tuesday before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai. He is in judicial custody and lodged in Mumbai's Arthur Road jail. Jet Airways, a full-service carrier, shut its operations in April 2019 after running out of cash. Later, Goyal stepped down as the chairperson of the airline. The money laundering case against Goyal stems from a CBI FIR that was registered on the basis of a complaint by Canara Bank, Mumbai.

# SP hints at fighting on 65 of 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP

**PTI ■ LUCKNOW**

The Samajwadi Party on Wednesday indicated that it will contest on 65 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who attended a meeting of the party's State executive committee here, called upon party workers to make full preparations to remove the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

This election will decide the future of coming generations. It will be the last election to save democracy and the Constitution. Party workers should make full preparations to remove the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," Yadav was quoted as having told the state executive meet at the party headquarters here.

The Samajwadi Party, which is the main constituent of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties, also indicated that it will contest on 65 seats leaving the remaining to its allies.



SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary, while confirming that the party president has given indications of the party contesting on 65 seats, said that he has asked for making preparations for all the 80 seats.

"Yadav has asked party workers to remain vigilant at the booth level to prevent the BJP from coming to power," Chaudhary told PTI.

Asked whether the Samajwadi Party will be a part of the INDIA bloc in the parliamentary elections amid the strained relations between it and the Congress over seat sharing for

the Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, Chaudhary said, "There is an alliance for the Lok Sabha elections, that is certain."

According to party spokesman Faqur Hasan Chand, Yadav told the party cadre that the SP is the biggest party in the state and had got 35 per cent vote share in the recent assembly elections and is also a part of the INDIA alliance. Therefore, the SP will contest on 65 of the 80 seats while leaving the rest for its allies.

During the last Lok Sabha elections, the SP, which had entered into an alliance with the BSP, also left three seats for the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The RLD had contested the recent assembly elections with the SP and is still a part of the SP-led alliance.

Just before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the SP and the BSP had cobbled together an alliance in which the BSP contested 38 seats and the SP 37. The alliance had left two seats for the Congress -- Rae Bareilly and Amethi -- and did not field their candidates there.

In his address, Yadav cautioned the BJP government

will try to influence the elections by misusing the administration.

Stressing that his party will expose the anti-people policies of the BJP, he said the Samajwadi Party is not afraid of BJP's conspiracies and malicious actions.

"People are looking at the Samajwadi Party as an alternative. BJP is implicating Samajwadi Party workers in false cases. The public is watching everything, they will remove BJP from power in 2024," he said.

The Samajwadi Party has been fighting for social justice for a long time and the conduct of a caste census is very important to take this fight forward, he said.

Only through this census will everyone get their rights and respect, he said, adding that the BJP was against holding a caste census.

The release said that in the state executive meeting of Samajwadi Party Uttar Pradesh, the political situation of the state, party organization and election strategy were discussed.

# Maratha quota stir sees violence, Patil refuses to call off agitation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



Mid stray incidents of violence reported from different parts of the State, Shivba Sanghatana president Manoj Jarange-Patil on Wednesday refused to call off his eight-day-old agitation demanding reservations for Marathas, even after leaders present at an all-party meeting called by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appealed to him to end his strike.

At an all-meeting called by the chief minister, leaders from all political parties discussed the ways to grant reservations in jobs and education to Maratha community members.

The leaders of all political hues requested Jarange-Patil to withdraw his fast as the government was working towards reservations to the community.

In a resolution adopted at the all-party meeting, the leaders present were unanimous about granting reservations to Marathas.

"The reservations (to Marahas) can be done only after completing all the legal formalities and ensuring that reservation would stand legal scrutiny. For this all political parties are

ready to work together," a resolution adopted at the all-party meeting said.

"The legal formalities shall be completed as soon as possible. However, the government must be given sufficient time to deal with various issues," the resolution added.

Deploring the violence that has broken out over Maratha reservations in various parts of the state, the leaders said: "The situation we are witnessing in the state is not good. The violence is projecting the Marathas quota agitation in a bad light. We are strongly against such violence. Nobody should take the law into their hands. We appeal to all maintain the law and order situation in the state."

Talking to media persons after the all-party meeting, Shinde said: "The leaders present at the meeting felt that Maratha reservation should be within the ambit of law. While giving reservation to Marathas, we should not do any injustice to other communities. For this we need some patience."

"Whatever we do would need to pass the scrutiny of law... you need to trust the sincere efforts being made by the state government and also when it comes to the question of reservation to the Marathas, all the political parties are together," he said.

Shinde said the state government would pursue the route of

curative petition in the Supreme Court sincerely.

The all-meeting was attended by more than 30 leaders including Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, Congress state President Nana Patole, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar, and others.

Meanwhile, rejecting the appeal made by the all-party meeting, Jarange-Patil indicated that he would not withdraw his hunger agitation but intensify it.

"There is a lot of anger among the people against the state government. The question of withdrawing my agitation does not arise. I will not even drink water till the state government takes a formal decision on the Maratha reservations," he said.

Jarange-Patil — whose hunger agitation entered the eighth day on Wednesday — said, "What is the state government seeking time for? ... I have been fasting for the past eight days and now the government says it wants more time. Why does it need time and for what? The government should specify," he said.



# India, UAE sign MoU to boost cooperation in education sector



**PTI ■ SRINAGAR**

Security forces arrested four militant associates linked with the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, police said on Wednesday.

At a checkpoint established at Naradhiri Dangerpora junction on Monday, security forces intercepted two suspicious persons who on seeing the joint party of the forces tried to flee, but were tactfully apprehended, a police spokesperson said.

The militant associates were identified as Ghulam Hassan Mir and Mukhtar Ahmad Khan, both residents of Baramulla's Chandosha, he said.

During the search, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine, 12 live rounds, 2 hand grenades and other incriminating material were recovered from their possession, the spokesperson said.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday met Minister of Education UAE, Dr. Ahmad Al Falasi in Abu Dhabi.

According to the Press Information Bureau statement, the Ministers signed an MoU to strengthen existing educational cooperation facilitating student and faculty mobility and various other initiatives. The Minister also visited 42 Abu Dhabi, a School for Disruptive Learning.

Pradhan is on a 3-day visit to UAE.

The visit will be fostering collaboration, participation and synergy in critical areas of mutual interest in the education and the skill domain.

During his meeting with his UAE counterpart, Pradhan

# RS panel meet on Friday to discuss breach of privilege by Chadha, Sanjay, O'Brien

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Privileges Committee of Rajya Sabha will deliberate on pending cases of complaints of breach against MPs Raghav Chadha, Sanjay Singh and Derek O'Brien during its meeting on Friday.

Sources said the meeting is being held to "secure expeditious processing and finalisation of the committee report in the breach

of privilege cases for consideration of its recommendations by the Council of States."

In a notification, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "Members are informed that the next meeting of the Committee of Privileges will be held at 11 AM on Friday, November 3, 2023, in the Committee room no 4 in Parliament House annexe extension building." The notification also said the agenda for the meeting would be cir-

culated later.

The sources said complaints of breach of privilege of Parliament are pending against AAP MPs Chadha and Singh and TMC's O'Brien, after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar referred them to the Privileges Committee.

Incidentally, both Chadha and Singh are currently suspended from the house. Chadha is under suspension since August 11 after some MPs, a majority from the ruling BJP, accused him

of adding their names to a motion without their consent. The motion sought constitution of a select committee to examine the contentious Delhi Services Bill. The panel meeting assumes significance as it comes in the backdrop of recent Supreme Court observations in the Chadha case. During the hearing on the suspension of Chadha, the court had observed that indefinite suspension of an MP could have very serious

repercussions for people's right to be represented by a person of their choice.

It also asked whether the Privileges Committee could order Chadha's suspension from Rajya Sabha for an unspecified duration. The top court said the exclusion of a member of the opposition from the House just because of a perspective which may not be consistent with the viewpoint of the government is a serious issue.

# 4 LeT ultra aides held in J&K

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# 2 dead as boat capsizes in Saryu River

**Saran:** Two persons died and seven others were missing after a boat carrying them capsized in the Saryu River in Bihar's Saran district on Wednesday, officials said.

Nine people managed to swim to the bank, while the bodies of two women were fished out, they said.

Officials said they fear that the seven missing persons may also have drowned. However,

rescue efforts will continue throughout the night. Saran District Magistrate Aman Samir told PTI, "The incident took place around 6.30 pm when a boat carrying 18 people drowned in Saryu River near Matiyar Ghat in Manjhi block."

"A rescue operation has been launched and we are trying to identify the deceased," he said.

# Mob tries to gherao police office to get arms; curfew relaxation withdrawn in Imphal

PTI ■ IMPHAL

A mob on Wednesday tried to gherao a Manipur Police office complex demanding arms in Imphal, the capital of the restive state, prompting the authorities to order firing of several rounds in the air and withdraw curfew relaxations in two districts, officials said.

The Manipur government has withdrawn the daily curfew relaxation from 5 am to 10 pm in Imphal East and West districts "with immediate effect owing to developing law and order situation", according to an official order.

The decision came following the attempt by a group of people to gherao the 1st Manipur Rifles complex, close to Raj Bhavan and Chief Minister's Office in Imphal West district, demanding weapons.

Security forces fired several rounds in the air to disperse the mob, officials said.

Tension had been brewing in the state capital after an on-duty sub-divisional police officer at Moreh town was shot dead by tribal militants on Tuesday morning.

In another incident, three police personnel suffered bullet injuries when militants ambushed a convoy of the state force at Sinam in Tengnoupal district on Tuesday afternoon. The convoy was sent to Moreh as reinforcement



to assist in conducting operations.

The state has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes first erupted in May. More than 180 people have been killed since then. The clashes have occurred over a number of grievances that both sides have against the other however the flashpoint of the crisis has been a move to give Meiteis scheduled tribe status, which has since been rolled back and an attempt to turf out tribals living in protected forest areas.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mainly in the hill districts.

# Mamata breaks silence on ED summons to Kejriwal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid growing apprehensions in the Trinamool Congress regarding Mamata Banerjee's fate post the Enforcement Directorate summons to her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, the Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday preferred to maintain "golden silence" and advised "tolerance till things could be tolerated."

Mamata's reaction looked measured yet a bit evasive when she was asked about the looming danger on Kejriwal even as she said, "Arvind has got a notice like many others... then there are leaders whose mobile phones are being hacked... I personally feel very sad and ashamed about whatever is going on in our country."

Then she quickly said, "My country is my pride and I will not make any statement that will paint my country in a bad light abroad... I often wonder what the people around the world are thinking about us... I do not want to speak much

about this... as it is time to maintain golden silence which is sometimes good... I will better not react to this question and only say that we will have to tolerate whatever is going on till we can tolerate things."

Earlier much in the lines of what Aam Aadmi Party leader Atishi said early on Wednesday about Kejriwal's possible arrest on Thursday a senior leader and minister in the Trinamool Congress said he would not be surprised if the ED too summoned Mamata in days to come.

For this the TMC minister from Kolkata quoted two statements: one from Bengal BJP president Sukanto Majumdar and the other from Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari.

Majumdar quoting the Comptroller and Auditor General said that, "CAG had on several occasions demanded reports from the State Food Department... it had even asked for reports from the then State Chief Secretary but was not provided with the

same... the fact that the CS takes instructions only from the Chief Minister... it is mandatory that he and after him the Chief Minister be summoned for questioning... it is imperative in the backdrop of the ration scam which may go into several thousand crores."

Subsequently Adhikari too said that at least 70 MLAs were in the radar of the ED and they may soon be called for questioning on their possible links with the ration scam. The BJP presently has 70 MLAs and needs another 78 MLAs to form a Government in the State.

"It is based upon these dirty realities that many of us are apprehensive of the BJP's designs in Bengal... having lost in the elections they may now try to bully our leaders into submission... this goal can best be achieved if our supreme can be subjugated," the minister said adding "one will not be surprised if ED follows the Kejriwal formula in Bengal..."

# Saima nominated as next regional director of WHO's SEARO

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Saima Wazed, Bangladesh Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter and a well-known mental health expert, has been nominated as the next regional director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region (SEARO). She replaces current SEARO Regional Director, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh from India who held the post for the last ten years, winning two terms. Dr Shambhu Prasad Acharya, a senior WHO official, was the other candidate. He was nominated by Nepal.

# Congress: Poll code violation by airline in announcements by cabin crew

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Wednesday alleged a Model Code of Conduct violation by private airline IndiGo, claiming that an announcement by the cabin crew that hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "something routine" and then immediately segued into an appeal to passengers to vote during the upcoming state elections.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh pointed out that there was no mention of the Election Commission in this

vote appeal announcement, which, he said, was a "clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct."

"Last week, I took flights to Aizawl and back to Delhi on IndiGo. Both ways there was an announcement by the cabin crew that hailed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for something routine and inconsequential. One of these announcements immediately segued into a vote appeal asking passengers to vote during upcoming state elections. Note that there was no mention of Election Commission in this

announcement — a clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications alleged.

There was however no immediate response from the airline to Ramesh's claims.

"Never before has any prime minister gone to these lengths to stay in the public eye to shore up his own flailing image, especially in the run-up to crucial elections. Clearly, there is no limit to the man's insecurities, the civil aviation minister's sycophancy and the spinelessness of the airline concerned," Ramesh said.

Small mercies, he said, that the flight he took on Wednesday to Raipur of another airline did not stoop to the same level. "Good to see that some corporates are still resisting pressure from the Modi government and are following fair practices," Ramesh said.

Elections are taking place in five states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram — and their results will be declared on December 3. The Model Code of Conduct has been in place since the announcement of polls on October 9.

# Bengal CM raps Centre for not clearing State's dues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday hit out at the Centre for refusing to clear the State's dues, particularly on account of the 100 days' work and Prime Minister's rural housing schemes.

Resuming office at Nabanna after about eight weeks Banerjee said, her party would wait till November 16 and "if they do not clear our State's dues for the payment of MNREGA wages then we will launch a bigger movement."

Banerjee said that the Centre had withheld Rs 7,000 crore on account of the MNREGA wages.

"We had agreed on the issue of GST because the scheme looked simple where the Centre would collect the taxes,

give the States' share and keep the rest... but here the Centre is not giving back our lawful dues while taking away the GST from our State... the money belongs to the people of Bengal and no one can stop that... they have stopped funds for MNREGA, rural housing with the intention to harass us... but after Kali Puja and Diwali we will assemble at the Netaji Indoor Stadium and decide on a bigger movement if the Centre does not clear our dues immediately."

Alleging that the Centre was harassing all the opposition ruled States she said "we fight it out because this fight for our right and we will fight it... we will fight against the non-cooperation going on in what should have ideally been a cooperative federalism."

Attacking the media for allowing it to be subjugated by the

BJP Government Banerjee said, "the media has sold itself to a particular party... they are beating drums for a particular party which has gone on an arresting spree just for political vendetta... I observed how the media was peddling negative stories (apparently about the arrest of minister Jyoti Priya Mallick) and skipping the Durga Puja carnival which is a big achievement for the State." Banerjee was however appreciative of the Election Commission of India saying she was happy to see that the ECI had not struck down the acronym INDIA which stands for the inclusive opposition alliance.

"I am happy with the ECI's role in this regard... they have not rejected the name INDIA... anyone who is a citizen of this country can use this name as a proud Indian."

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Corrigendum-1 for e-Tender for Providing Catering, Housekeeping and Hospitality Management Services at IIM Ranchi, has been published on IIM Ranchi website. Bids can be submitted till 15:00 on 07.11.2023.

Any further information and tender details will be available at- <https://iimranchi.ac.in>

# Row over civil defence volunteers job termination

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The issue of termination of civil defence volunteers services has become a fresh point of controversy between the Raj Niwas and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. A day after the Directorate of Civil Defence issued an order ending the services of 10,000 civil defence volunteers with immediate effect, Kejriwal has directed his Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot that Home Guards are to be deployed as Bus Marshals and initiate proceedings and actions against Principal Secretary-cum-Commissioner Transport, Ashish Kundra and Principal Secretary (Finance) Ashish Verma who caused the delay in payment to bus marshals.

The CM directed to release all payment to bus marshal by Diwali. Amid a tussle between the LG office and the Delhi government, hundreds of civil defence volunteers are currently on an indefinite sit-in at the Delhi Secretariat, demanding the payment of their pending wages. "Till the engagement and deployment of Home Guards as bus marshals is done, the current bus marshals are to be continued so that women's safety is not compromised", Kejriwal said in a note to Gahlot. "The LG has not invoked the proviso to Article 239AA (4) of the Constitution and has not referred the matter to the President. Therefore, the decisions of the Transport

Minister attain finality. Transport Minister may initiate the process of suspension of and disciplinary action against Ashish Kundra (Pr. Secy. -cum- Commissioner Transport) and Ashish Verma (Pr Secretary Finance) who have caused the delay in payment to bus marshals, as per extant statutory provisions". "With regard to the bus marshals, all pending payments to bus marshals to be released immediately not later than Diwali, home guards to be deployed as bus marshals expeditiously, there should be no reduction in the number of bus marshals and till the engagement and deployment of home guards as bus marshals, the current bus marshals are to be continued so that the



safety and security of women is not compromised," he said. Earlier, the Directorate of Civil Defence said civil defence volunteers are to be called on duty only for dealing with "disaster management and hostile attack" and issued order ending the service of CDVs with immediate effect. "Director Civil Defence/ Divisional Commissioner is pleased to end the call out duty of all the members of Civil Defence Corps (Civil Defence Volunteers) deployed in any department/office with effect from 31st October, 2023," read the order.

"It has been observed that the Civil Defence Volunteers have been called for duties in various departments of GNCTD which is contrary to the provisions of the Civil Defence Act, 1968 and the rules & regulations made thereunder; And whereas, it has been noted that the aforesaid call out was also not done in fair and transparent manner by following the due process; And whereas, it has been decided that the aforesaid call out of Civil Defence Volunteers needs to be ended with immediate effect," the order said. Last month, Raj Niwas officials, had stated it was the L-G who, while approving the CM's proposal to terminate the services of all existing

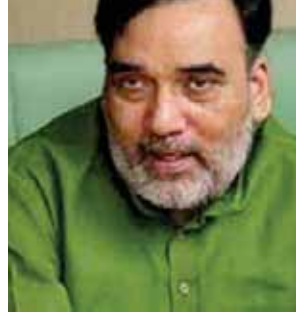
civil defence volunteers, raised concerns about the loss of livelihood and directed the CM that those who lose their jobs in the process be considered for appointment as home guards. The L-G recently approved the appointment of about 10,000 home guards. He has also flagged issues of pending salaries of civil defence volunteers, the Raj Niwas officials added. In a related development, the Delhi Congress on Wednesday joined the protest of DTC marshals outside Delhi Secretariat, demanding pending wages and regularisation of their services. Several Congress leaders and workers led by party's state unit president Arvinder Singh Lovely gathered outside the

secretariat at ITO here and extended support to the bus marshals. The DTC and Cluster Bus marshals have been agitating for a long time for their wages and regularisation of their jobs, but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Addressing the bus marshals, Lovely said that Congress will strive to find a solution to the demands of the marshals for the regularisation of their jobs and getting back wages. The Congress leader appealed to the BJP and the AAP to join hands with the Congress to find a satisfactory solution to the problems of the marshals. Other leaders who were present at the protest were former Congress MLAs Mukesh Sharma and Hari Shanker Gupta.

# Government mulls construction ban in areas with AQI over 400

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After banning diesel buses from neighbouring states, the Delhi government may ban construction work in areas recording an air quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for five consecutive days. Presently, around dozen of areas have recorded the air quality index (AQI) over 400 which include Anand Vihar (423), Mundka (430), Rohini (405), Nehru Nagar (403), Wazirpur (422), Bawana (404) Sonia Vihar (413) Shadipur (413) on Wednesday. The average AQI was stood at 372, the highest so far this season. Data showed that the city's transport sector and emissions from other parts of the NCR have contributed the most to PM 2.5 levels. The concentration of PM2.5 -- fine particulate matter which can penetrate deep into the respiratory system



when inhaled and trigger respiratory problems -- at these places was six to seven times the safe limit of 60 microgrammes per cubic metre. According to experts, Delhi's Air is noxious and dangerous especially for the people with respiratory ailments. A layer of haze hung over Delhi and its surrounding areas on Wednesday, with the capital's air quality slipping deeper into the 'very poor' category primarily due to a dip in

temperature and calm winds during the night. The AQI was 280 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 318 in Faridabad, 254 in Gurugram, 333 in Noida and 372 in Greater Noida. Delhi's air quality is expected to remain 'very poor' for a few more days, according to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi. Environment Minister Gopal Rai chaired a review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat on Wednesday on the rising pollution level and implementation of Graded Response Action Plan-II. Taking account of the poor air quality situation of the national capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that the next 15-20 days from November 1 onwards would be critical in the context of the air quality index. Rai said the Delhi government will ban construction work in areas recording an

air quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for five consecutive days. "A decision was taken to stop construction work within a one-kilometer radius in hot spots where the AQI level continuously remains close to 400, he said. "The entry of diesel buses into Delhi has been stopped from today as per the directions by CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management). 18 teams have been formed for this...It is my request to the state government to ply only CNG, Electric or BS-VI buses from their depots so that passengers do not face any trouble," the Delhi environment minister said. Rai stated that instructions have been given to closely monitor the hotspots. If the AQI level remains above 400 on hotspots continues for the next one week then all construction work within a kilo-

meter area of that hotspot can be directed to be stopped. The government has already banned diesel buses and allowed only electric, CNG and BS VI-compliant diesel buses to operate between Delhi and the cities and towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan falling within the NCR from Wednesday. According to a numerical model-based system developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, vehicular emissions (11 per cent to 16 per cent) and stubble burning (seven per cent to 16 per cent) currently stand as the two major contributors to the city's air quality. The IITM's Decision Support System (DSS) also showed that pollution sources in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, are responsible for up to 14 per cent of the air pollution in the capital.

# MCD allocates ₹20 lakh per zone to combat air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday said it has allocated Rs 20 lakh per zone for taking measures to combat air pollution in the city, which has been witnessing deteriorating air quality for a week now. The capital's air quality has remained 'very poor' for five days on the trot, moving further towards the upper end of the category on Wednesday. The MCD has allocated an amount of Rs 20 lakh per zone for taking steps to augment efforts towards air quality management in the city. The funds will be provided to all 12 zones



so that the air quality improves over the next three days by taking dust mitigation measures, the civic body said in a statement. "The amount will be utilised for strengthening the machinery and manpower to mitigate dust pollution. The funds will be used to make sprinklers functional and hire drivers... By using these funds,

all zones will ensure the operation of anti-smog guns with full efficiency, along with manpower in their respective jurisdiction," it said. As part of its efforts, the MCD will also focus on the deployment of machinery and manpower for clearing garbage along railway tracks, officials said. It will purchase dust suppressants that will be sprayed using anti-smog guns and water sprinklers at least every alternate day during non-peak hours, they said. The MCD has decided to take strict measures for regulating construction and dumping of demolition waste, they said.

# NGT miffed over non-submission of report on violations in Kejriwal bungalow matter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has expressed disappointment over a panel not submitting its report on alleged violation of environmental norms in constructing some structures at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence. Noting that the panel which was constituted in May this year to ascertain the factual position had failed to comply with the NGT's direction, the tribunal granted it four more weeks for filing the report, and warned that the failure to do so will lead to issuance of summons to the state's chief secretary to appear before it. A joint committee comprising the chief secretary, principal secretary (Environment & Forest) of the Delhi government, a nominee of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC), and the district magistrate of north Delhi was constituted to go into the matter pursuant to the tribunal's order dated May 9. The NGT was dealing with a petition which has alleged that permanent and semi-permanent constructions were raised and more than 20 trees cut by the Public Works Department (PWD) in the course of developing 6, Flag Staff Road (CM's residence) and 45-47 Rajpur



Road (properties adjoining it). The official bungalow of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is in the eye of a political storm, with the CBI registering a preliminary enquiry (PE) in September to look into alleged "irregularities and misconduct" in the construction of a new official residence for the CM. BJP and Congress leaders have alleged over Rs 40 crore public money was spent on renovating and constructing the lavish quarters. The ruling AAP has rejected allegations of any wrongdoing. In an order passed on October 30, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said after the tribunal's direction in May, the matter has been adjourned twice but the report was still awaited. "We grant a further four weeks' time to the joint committee to file the report, failing which the

Chief Secretary, Delhi will personally appear by virtual mode on the next date of hearing (on January 15)," the bench said. During the proceedings, the tribunal noted a report filed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central Delhi) said the CBI has started a preliminary enquiry in the matter. It also noted that PWD had sought two weeks to submit the requisite documents, including those regarding permission and compensatory plantation. According to the petition, the constructions were made illegally, without the approval of the DUAC, and in contravention of the commission's observation about increasing the green area. Section 12 of the Delhi Urban Art Commission Act says the municipal corporation concerned cannot approve development proposals without getting the go-ahead from the DUAC.

# LG gives nod for enquiry against sub registrar over bribery charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has given a go-ahead for an enquiry under the Prevention of Corruption Act against a Revenue Department sub-registrar who allegedly demanded bribes from applicants for official work. According to Raj Niwas officials, the complaints against the sub-registrar, Janakpuri, were lodged in 2019 and 2020. "The LG said that in the interest of justice, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the allegations against the official and the Directorate of Vigilance should be directed to process the request received from the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to do the same after due diligence," an official said. Saxena noted that there is "irrefutable evidence" of acts of omission and commission against the officer concerned. The Directorate of Vigilance recommended the investigation under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act after finding that the Department of Revenue did not give a clarification regarding the allegations levelled by the complainant, the official said. The Directorate of Vigilance



said the ACB sought sanction to probe the matter under the Prevention of Corruption Act as the accused officer had been demanding and obtaining bribes through his agents from applicants coming for various purposes. It was alleged that the accused officer kept documents pending and cleared them only after bribes were paid to him. Two complaints were filed by the same person in 2019 and 2020. The first complaint alleged that the official withheld documents without any reason. The second complaint alleged that the complainant had paid a bribe of Rs 30,000 through the accused person's agent for registering the mortgage deed of his Gulab Bagh property in Uttam Nagar, the officials said. The bribe amount was collected for not affixing the stamp of

"Booked Property" with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) due to unauthorised construction. As far as complaint dated November 4, 2019 is concerned, the allegation of the complainant that Gaur withholds documents without reason stands corroborated by the finding of the Committee constituted by the District West under Chairmanship of SDM (Rajouri Garden). A committee constituted by the West Delhi district magistrate (DM) observed that the accused officer was found in possession of a large number of registered documents without bonafide reason, which shows his mala fide intention. The DM was also of the view that permission for investigation should be accorded, according to the officials.

# INBRIEF

**'CHANDRAWAL WTP TO REMAIN SHUT FOR 2 DAYS'**  
New Delhi: The Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) will remain shut for two days beginning Thursday due to work for the installation of a flowmeter, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said. "The Chandrawal WTP will remain under shutdown on November 2 from 10 am onwards and thus, the water supply will not be available in several areas in the evening of November 2 and the morning of November 3," the water utility said in a post on X on Wednesday. Water supply will be affected in the Civil Lines, Hindu Rao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Pahar Ganj and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) areas. "Water supply will also be affected in Old and New Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar (east and west), Baljeet Nagar, Prem Nagar, Inderpuri adjoining areas, and parts of Cantonment area and South Delhi," the DJB said.

**LG NOD TO CREATION OF 10 POSTS IN IT CADRE**  
New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved the creation of 10 additional posts in the information technology cadre to strengthen IT-enabled services in jails in the national capital, the Raj Niwas said on Wednesday. The creation of the 10 posts, including those of senior system analyst, system analyst and eight assistant programmers, will help ease the workload in the process of modernisation of prisons and digitisation of prisoner records, it said. The additional posts created will incur an expenditure of Rs 1.02 crore annually, the Raj Niwas said in a statement.

# DELHI SWIMMERS SHINE IN NATIONAL GAMES

New Delhi: At the ongoing national games in Goa, Delhi team comprising of Vishal Grewal, Tanmay Das, Pratham Sharma and Kushagra Rawat won silver in 4 x 200 mtr Freestyle Relay. All four swimmers of Delhi went below the timing of 2 minutes. In the same event, the team from Karnataka won gold while team services won bronze. Earlier, Bhavya Sachdeva and Kushagra Rawat of Delhi won gold in 800mtr and 1500mtr respectively.

# Congress joins DTC marshals protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Wednesday joined the protest of DTC marshals outside Delhi Secretariat, demanding pending wages and regularisation of their services. Several Congress leaders and workers led by party's state unit president Arvinder Singh Lovely gathered outside the secretariat at ITO here and extended support to the bus marshals. The DTC and Cluster Bus marshals have

been agitating for a long time for their wages and regularisation of their jobs, but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Addressing the bus marshals, Lovely said that Congress will strive to find a solution to the demands of the marshals for the regularisation of their jobs and getting back wages. The Congress leader appealed to the BJP and the AAP to join hands with the Congress to find a satisfactory solution to the problems of the marshals.

# DMRC 'Momentum 2.0' launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday achieved a significant milestone with the launch of "Momentum 2.0," an innovative app platform set to redefine the daily commuting experience for millions in the National Capital Region (NCR). It aims at ensuring hassle free seamless journeys. The app provides instant and direct access to services such as Integrated QR Ticketing (mainline and airport line), a wide array of e-shopping choices, digital lockers for quick and safe deliveries, Smart Utility Payments and last-mile connectivity options. The "Momentum 2.0" platform was formally launched DMRC's Managing Director Vikas Kumar at the Shivaji Stadium Metro station. Delhi Metro is the first mass transport provider in the country to introduce such unique facilities for commuters.



"Momentum 2.0" aims to convert commute time into quality, productive time blocks for travelers by adding a bouquet of services for hassle-free seamless journeys. Now Riding in Metro will not just be a journey anymore, it will be an experience that starts before you reach the station and continues even after de-boarding, officials said here. The new app, a joint initiative of Delhi Metro and AutoPe Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd., will provide seamless access to

Metro rides while making the commute time count. The users of existing DMRC App will be automatically advised to migrate to this newer version i.e. Momentum 2.0. Among a host of solutions, the app offers key value additions to the Delhi Metro experience: Streamlined QR Ticketing; 'Momentum 2.0' simplifies your Metro entry with QR Ticketing, providing a seamless experience. It offers integrated QR tickets for all Metro lines, including the Airport Line, eliminating the need of multiple apps in turn enhancing user experience, they said. In addition, DMRC card recharge as well as transaction details of the card are also available on the App, thus enabling commuters to go through their travel and recharge history. There is also an option for commuters to give standing instructions in the App for "Auto Top Up" in case the balance falls below a minimum defined value.

# AAP will regularise staff wherever in power: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Eyeing upcoming assembly polls in five states, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will regularise temporary employees wherever it comes to power. "The AAP government in Delhi has regularized 5,000 sanitation workers in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). These workers had been demanding job security for a long time, but the BJP government, which ruled for 15 years, never took their demands seriously," Kejriwal said at a press conference here. "We have fulfilled our promise by making the sanitation workers permanent. So far, we have made 6494 sanitation workers permanent," he said, adding that in Punjab too, its Government has regularized around 30,000 non-permanent

employees. "Wherever we get a chance to come to power, we will regularise temporary employees," he said. AAP MLAs Kuldeep Kumar (Kondli), Rohit Mehroliya (Trilokpuri) and Ajay Dutt (Ambedkar Nagar) too joined their party Supremo in patting their back saying that sanitation workers demand for regularisation has been fulfilled while the BJP has been misleading and exploiting them. AAP's senior leader and MLA from Kondli, Kuldeep Kumar, along with Trilokpuri MLA Rohit Mehroliya and Ambedkar Nagar MLA Ajay Dutt, jointly addressed an important press conference at the party headquarters on Wednesday. Dutt said that the AAP's government in the MCD has been in power for a few months but have already taken initiative to make at least 6,494 sanitation workers permanent.

# LLB student arrested for molesting classmate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A first-year LLB student was arrested here on Wednesday for allegedly molesting and assaulting his classmate after barging into her house in a group housing society with his associates, officials said. The incident took place in the housing society in Sector 137, under Sector 142 police station limits, on October 30, a day after an argument broke out between them, the police said. Both the key accused as well as the complainant study in the same college in Noida, Additional DCP (Central Noida) Hridhesh Katheria said. An FIR was lodged at the local police station after a written complaint.

# More rain in Western Ghats, N-E river basins likely: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Frequency of extreme rainfall is likely to increase over the Western Ghats and Northeast river basins, while an increase in heavy rainfall intensity is projected over the Upper Ganga and Indus basins, a study by the scientists from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has warned.

The research led by Prof RK Mall, Coordinator of the Department of Science & Technology-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research (DST-MCECCR) at BHU, including Pawan Kumar Chaubey, used high-resolution simulated precipitation from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project-6 (CMIP6) experiments to examine the future hydroclimate extremes over the different River Basins of India.



The work supported under the Climate Change Programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), projected intense precipitation specially over the Western Ghats and Northeast river basins, and an increase in heavy rainfall intensity (14.3%) over the upper Ganga and Indus basins as well as intensification of severe droughts.

The study highlighting an agri-

cultural drought in the lower Ganga basin due to a decline in mean rainfall was published in the journal Earth's Future, American Geophysical Union (AGU).

It urged policymakers to devise strategies to cope with water surplus or scarcity.

The research elaborated that approximately 4% to 10% of the heavy rainfall is projected to increase over the western part

of Indian River basins. In the mid-future, under certain carbon emission scenarios, a significant increasing change of about 30% precipitation per day was likely over the West flowing River Kutch & Saurashtra, including Luni, Indus, and Upper Ganga River Basins.

The results also showed that the significant changes in the frequency of hydro-climate extreme events may have a considerable impact on agriculture, health, and other socio-economic conditions of the society.

The major hotspots of highly populated cities identified for future urban flooding could help policymakers design appropriate basin-wise climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, including water and emergency services policies to minimise risk due to extremes in the basins.

# Centre generates ₹1,100 crore from disposing office scrap from 2021-23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has earned ₹500 crore by disposing of office scrap during the recently concluded cleanliness campaign, according to a statement issued by the Department of Personnel Ministry on Wednesday.

During the campaigns conducted by the Government from 2021 to 2023, ₹1,100 crore revenue has been generated by disposing of office scrap, it said.

The third special campaign generated revenue of ₹500 crore in the October 2-31 period this year. "The special campaign 3.0 has seen Swachhata campaigns being undertaken in more than 2.53 lakh sites and has resulted in freeing 154 lakh square feet of space for effective office use," it added.

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said



with every passing year, the size and scale of the special campaign was increasing with more than 2.53 lakh sites covered in 2023 as against 1.01 lakh sites in 2022. He announced the successful conclusion of the special campaign 3.0 on October 31.

Singh said it was India's largest campaign for institutionalising cleanliness and reducing pen-

dency in government offices. It has witnessed many best practices and milestones, he said.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions, a saturation approach was adopted in the Special Campaign 3.0 that covered more than 2.53 lakh offices even in the remotest parts of India, he added.



The minister called on all officials to continue the momentum of the Special Campaign 3.0 throughout the year and make it a way of life. "Special campaign 3.0 concluded on October 31, 2023, with outstanding results and after collating all the data, the evaluation phase will start from November 10, 2023," he added.

# Army Chief visits Siachen, reviews operational preparedness of troops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the troops during his visit to the Siachen base camp and forward posts. Siachen glacier is the world's highest battlefield.

Pande reached Leh on Tuesday, sources said here on Wednesday adding the Army chief visited the Siachen Glacier, at a height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range, is known as the highest militarised zone in the world. Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier during the winters and temperatures can drop to as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius.

The glacier extends to 76 kilometres in the Karakoram ranges, and the sub-zero temperatures and frequent avalanches are the greatest challenges for human survival here. More than 800 Indian troops have died since Operation Meghdoot commenced in 1984. The Indian army was deployed there as part of Operation Meghdoot on April 13, 1984 to secure the Siachen Glacier, which was important from a strategic point of view since the glacier shares boundaries with Pakistan and China.

The Indian Army is guarding



the key passes and ridges along the Glacier, the frozen frontier, in a high state of operational preparedness with highly determined and motivated troops and state-of-the-art equipment to deal with the challenges posed by extreme weather.

Incidentally, the Indian Army celebrated the 39th Siachen Day this year and on the occasion the commander of Siachen Brigade laid a wreath on behalf of the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Fire and Fury Corps, and paid rich tributes to the war heroes at the Siachen War Memorial, Base Camp, to commemorate the courage and fortitude of the brave-hearts guarding Siachen. Every year on April 13, the Siachen Warriors celebrate Siachen Day.

Moreover, last month, the Indian army with the help of

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) achieved a rare feat of establishing a mobile tower and base transceiver station (BT) at the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield. It provides mobile connectivity to the soldiers posted there at an altitude of over 15,000 feet.

The setting up of a mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier is a significant achievement, given the harsh conditions. The tower will provide soldiers with a much-needed lifeline to their families and loved ones, and it will also improve their ability to communicate with each other and with their commanders.

A base transceiver station is a radio transceiver that connects mobile devices to a cellular network. It sends and receives radio signals to mobile devices and converts them to digital signals that are then routed to other devices in the network or to the Internet.

# Murmu, Modi, Shah greet people of States on their formation day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday greeted the people of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Lakshadweep and Puducherry on their formation day. Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Haryana on the occasion of the three states' foundation day.

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep came into being in 1956. Punjab and Haryana were formed in 1966 while Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000.

All these states and the Union Territory of Puducherry celebrate their formation day on November 1.

"Greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Lakshadweep and Puducherry on their formation day!"

"I wish that all these states and union territories continue to move forward on the path of development. I pray for the happiness and prosperity of all



the residents," Murmu said in a post on X.

In his message, Prime Minister Modi lauded the contribution of these states to the country on the occasion of their formation day and congratulated the people living there. Modi posted on X his wishes for these states of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. "On this Kannada Rajyotsava, we celebrate the spirit of Karnataka - a cradle of ancient innovation and modern enterprise. Its people, a blend of warmth and wisdom, fuel the state's relentless march towards greatness. May Karnataka continue to thrive, innovate and inspire," Modi said.

"On the momentous occasion of Andhra Pradesh Formation Day, my heartfelt felicitations to the people of this dynamic state. With their exceptional talent, unwavering resolve and steadfast perseverance, the people of

AP have etched their mark across diverse domains of excellence. I pray for their continued prosperity and success," he added.

With Kerala celebrating the day as 'Kerala Piravi', Modi said Keralaites are known for their diligence and the rich tapestry of their cultural heritage, embodying resilience and determination. "May they always be touched by success and continue to inspire with their accomplishments," Modi said.

Haryana, the prime minister said, has always made significant contributions to the country in sectors like agriculture and defence, and its youths are leading in innovation.

Madhya Pradesh is reaching new heights of development and making a significant contribution to the country by achieving its goals in the 'Amrit Kaal', he said, while also lauding the rich culture of Chhattisgarh. In separate messages, Shah said

while Madhya Pradesh is full of natural beauty and cultural heritage, Chhattisgarh is full of rich culture and mineral wealth and Haryana has always worked to increase the pride of India -- be it in war zones or on the playground.

He said Karnataka has earned the unique distinction of being a land where tradition and modernity fuse seamlessly, Andhra Pradesh has contributed profusely to the nation's cultural arena and made it more diverse and vibrant and Kerala is gifted with a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant society.

"Hearty greetings to the sisters and brothers of Madhya Pradesh on the state's Foundation Day. "This state, full of natural beauty and cultural heritage, is setting new standards of development and welfare of the poor every day. I wish that the state reaches the pinnacle of development and progress in the times to come," he wrote on X in Hindi.

Extending hearty greetings to the people of Chhattisgarh, the home minister said it is full of rich culture and mineral wealth. Extending greetings to the people of Haryana on the state's foundation day, Shah said in the last decade, Haryana has made unprecedented achievements in every field such as sports, education and health.

"Be it a war zone or a playground, Haryana has always worked to increase the pride of India. The entire country is proud of the bravery, culture and talented players of Haryana," he said. While wishing the people of Karnataka on their 'Rajyotsava', the home minister said the state has earned the unique distinction of being a land where tradition and modernity fuse seamlessly. "Praying for the continued progress of the state and the prosperity of its people," he said.

To the people of Andhra Pradesh on their Statehood Day, Shah said over the years, the state has contributed profusely to the nation's cultural arena and made it more diverse and vibrant. "May the state achieve new heights in development in the times to come," he said.

To the people of Kerala, Shah said: "My heartfelt greetings to the people of Kerala on Piravi. Gifted with a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant society Kerala has always been our pillar of strength. My best wishes to them in their efforts for progress".

Kerala Day or the foundation of the state is usually referred to as Kerala Piravi. It is derived from the Malayalam word 'piravi' which means birth and it implies the birth of Kerala.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

- Name of Work with its location:** Part-A: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with 'Opening of new passenger halt station Jiwana between Kasimpur Kheri and Baoli stations on DSA-SMQL-SRE section'. Part-B: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with 'Raising of platform to High level from Low level at Gokulpur Saboli (GPSL) halt 1 PF (single line) under ADEN/GZB on DSA-SMQL-TPZ section.
- Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 42.39,422.33/-
- Earnest Money:** Rs. 84,800/-
- E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period:** 14.11.2023 (00:00 Hrs.) to 28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)
- E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time:** 28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)
- Fund Allocation:** PH-53 Capital
- Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:** www.irgsp.gov.in

No.: 34-TRD-NDS-2023-24 Dt.: 31.10.2023 3412/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To be known to all, Ravinder Kumar Shukla S/o Sh. Dwarka Prasad Shukla R/o House No. 4, Noor Nagar, Baghiche Ke Quarter, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025. Allottee/owner of DDA Janta Flat No. 218, First Floor, Pocket-1, Sector -A-5, Narela, Delhi, have applied for certified copies & conversion from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Demand-cum-allotment Letter/Possession Letter/NOI for Water & Electricity Connection, Site Possession Slip & Other Documents of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/R NO. 10743/39/2023 dated 27/10/2023 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right/interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone 99905 05582 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right/interest/objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB-Housing) Janta, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Devendra Pratap Singh/ Deepmala Singh/ LBSUL00002091257	House No. 116 A, Abhay Khand- III, Indrapuram Ghaziabad/ Oct 30, 2023	July 26, 2016 Rs. 32,48,054/-	Sultanpur/ Ghaziabad

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date: November 02, 2023** **Authorized Officer**  
**Place: Ghaziabad** **ICICI Bank Limited**

# India, Singapore review bilateral ties during defence policy dialogue



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Singapore on Wednesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties in the 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue here. The dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Girdhar Aramane and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Chan Heng Kee.

Giving details of the meeting, officials said both sides reviewed the existing defence cooperation between the two countries and agreed to enhance collaboration in Service-to-Service interactions and bilateral exercises. They also articulated steps to take forward cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security. Both sides identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of maritime security and multilateral cooperation.

The Defence Secretary appre-

ciated Singapore's efforts for coordinating and co-hosting the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in May 2023.

He highlighted the potential of the domestic defence industry with capacity and capability to meet the requirement of Singapore.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the 'Strategic Partnership' based on mutual trust and understanding, common interests and shared values of democracy and rule of law.

This was the first physical meeting at the level of Defence Secretary between India and Singapore post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary (Defence) called on the Chief of Defence Staff and discussed issues of mutual interest. The Singapore delegation also visited various cultural places, including Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi.

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Rajeev Kumar (Borrower), LAN No. LBDEL00003000725	Apartment Number 1106, 11th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgaon. Area: 171.31 Sq.Mt.	Rs. 1,57,55,309/- as on October 17, 2023.	Rs. 94,40,000/- Rs. 9,44,000/-	November 13, 2023 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	November 29, 2023, From 11:00 AM to Onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/S NexXen Solution Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM failing which, this these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005 on or before November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, Plot No.23, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before November 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8928935040, 8564874809.

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Augoo Asset Management Pvt Ltd. 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: November 02, 2023** **Authorized Officer**  
**Place: Ghaziabad (Gurgaon)** **ICICI Bank Limited**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajesh Chowdhary/ Radha Chowdhary/ LBDEL00001981243	Flat No- A 1802, 18th Floor, Avj Heightss Situated At Plot No Gh-12/2 Sector Zela- 1, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201307/ October 26, 2023	May 17, 2023 Rs. 70,91,044/-	Delhi & NCR
2.	Rahul Gupta/ Dinesh Kumar Gupta/ LBGHZ00004308675/ LBGHZ00005389938	Unit No 30 (Shop), Ground Floor, Kaveri City Center, Situated at Plot No. C 06 Sector Delta- 1 UP Greater Noida- 201307/ October 26, 2023	May 23, 2023 Rs. 42,35,562/-	Delhi & NCR
3.	Devesh Pratap Singh/ Amrita Singh/ LBDEL00002474247	Flat No-1031, 10th Floor, Tower Saraswati Mahagan, Mantra 2, Plot No Gh 01 A, Sector 10, Greater Noida, (West)/ October 26, 2023	January 19, 2021 Rs. 1,24,840/-	Delhi & NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date: November 02, 2023** **Authorized Officer**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR** **ICICI Bank Limited**

# Yogi discusses poll strategy with BJP leaders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath discussed poll strategy with the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the second day of his visit at Circuit House here on Wednesday morning. He also tried to know about the party preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha election in which the development work of the central and state government would play an important role. Apart from discussing development work with party workers, Yogi also inquired about the well-being of the people.



CM Yogi Adityanath holding a meeting with senior BJP leaders at Circuit House in Varanasi on Wednesday.

After this brief meeting, the CM left for Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur around 9 am. UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi also met the CM at Circuit House. During the meeting with the CM, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, MLAs Awadhesh Singh, Saurabh Srivastava and Sushil Singh and district BJP chief and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma were present.

the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and Municipal Commissioner to understand the entire system and settle the pending works with immediate effect by deciding on the basis of immediate and long term.

development work in the city should be in accordance with the glory of Kashi," he said.

The CM instructed the officers of Power Corporation to ensure adequate power supply during the upcoming festivals and other programmes and unnecessary vigilance raids as well as over-billing should be stopped with immediate effect. He also sought information from the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma about the Govardhan Scheme and progress of the construction works for the international cricket stadium being built at Ganjari. In the review of Jal Jeevan Mission, when the District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam informed the CM that the work being done by the concerned agency lacks human resources so its pace of work is slow, the CM instructed the former to file an FIR against the

non-working agencies apart from blacklisting them.

During the review of the medical system, Yogi first took information about dengue and viral fever Chikungunya etc and then laid emphasis on ensuring availability of doctors and essential medicines in every hospital. He also reviewed the progress of under-construction works of Amul Dairy Plant at Karkhiyaon and new Divisional Office Building. UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, MLAs Neelkanth Tiwari and Saurabh Srivastava, Commissioner of Police Ashok Mutha Jain and many others were also present. Later, during the late night hours Yogi visited Shri Kashi Vishwanath and Kal Bhairav temples and offered prayers there.

Earlier, the CM also held a review meeting regarding development works and law and order situations. He directed the officials to ensure proper implementation of public welfare schemes of the government and complete the construction projects with quality within the stipulated time by running the campaign on war footing. While reviewing the preparations for the upcoming festival of Dev Deepawali, he laid special emphasis on celebrating the same in a grand manner, ensuring effective security arrangements. The CM directed the newly-appointed Vice Chairman of

Directing the officers further, Yogi said that the Setu Nigam (Bridge Corporation) should pay special attention to the standards while making flyovers and carry out the finishing work in all Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) and flyovers properly. He asked the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) to fix the responsibilities of the contractors and engineers to remove the negligence of the department. He also directed the PWD engineers not to raise the height of the roads unnecessarily while constructing the same so that rain water does not enter the roadside houses. "The

# Feeding data of all services relating to FP programme mandatory for pvt hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To feed the data of all the permanent and temporary services relating to family planning programme on the state-level Health Management Information System (HMIS) among the from 21st to 25th of each month has been made mandatory for the private hospitals so that all the data could be uploaded.

vate hospitals that to feed the data of all the permanent and temporary services relating to family planning programme on the state-level Health Management Information System (HMIS) from 21st to 25th of each month has been made mandatory for the private hospitals so that all the data could be uploaded.

class families to the family planning programme and added that if the private hospitals make cent per cent reporting and data feeding of the beneficiaries taking the service of family planning on the HMIS portal on time, the qualitative services could be provided to the beneficiaries and there would also be an improvement in the ranking of the district in this direction.

month and also train the people for the high quality of facilities.

Subra Dwivedi and Kriti Pathak of PSI gave some suggestions to assess the actual status of family planning services and make the index of the district better. They also detailed the qualitative improvement in the family planning programme in the private sector and the new HMIS portal through the presentation.

The meeting emphasised on the coordination and enhancing capacity with all the medical units and service providers of the private sector. The meeting also laid emphasis on seeking consent of the beneficiaries before providing service to them.

They said to the representatives to give spaces in their hospitals to display the posters of family planning and for IEC and consultancy of it and make records for the reporting and services. The hospital employees should make the people aware of various health services on urban health cleanliness and nutrition day once in a

The meeting was held with the cooperation of The Challenge Initiative 'Population Services International (PSI). The ACMOs Dr Nikunj Kumar & Rajesh Prasad, DHEIO Harivansh Yadav and others were present in the meeting.

# 15 IIT (BHU) students get PMRF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A total of 15 research students from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) have been selected for the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF). This year, 14 research scholars from different departments of BHU also received the same fellowship. The IIT(BHU) students who have received the PMRF are Ajay Kumar Pandey, Saurabh Kumar Pandey (both from Mechanical Engineering department), Iram Tasleema, Piyush Singh, Ritwik Tripathi (all Electrical Engineering), Neha Sharma (Electronics Engineering), Devyani Mangesh Yenturkar (Biomedical Engineering), Upkar Patel (School of Material Science and Technology), Ankita Gupta, Madhusmita Jena (both from Physics), and Anup Kumar, Arpab Mandal, Divakar Chaudhary and Taufiq Ansari (all from Chemistry department).



IIT (BHU) research scholars selected for PMRF in Varanasi.

Kumar Singh stated that the institute had recommended 20 students for the PMRF, but only nine seats were allocated to the institute in the current cycle. However, considering the outstanding research projects of the students, 15 students were selected for the PMRF, which is a significant achievement for the IIT (BHU).

**HELD:** The two-day workshop on Financial Awareness organised by National Institute of Security Marketing (NUSM), run by SEBI and Economics Department of Harishchandra PG College in the college premises here concluded on Tuesday.

vigilant from those committing the crime of fraud by adopting various techniques.

Providing this information, the Dean (Academic Affairs), Prof Shyam Bihari Dwivedi, mentioned that from cycle 6 to cycle 11, a total of 52 students have been selected for the PMRF. These students will receive a fellowship of Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000 per month for a period of four to five years, and an annual research grant of Rs 2 lakh will also be provided.

The Director Prof Pramod Kumar Jain extended his best wishes to all the selected research students and their supervisors, encouraging them to work diligently and set new standards in their respective fields. The institute will provide all possible support to help them achieve excellence, he said.

The resource person of SEBI Deepak Kumar detailed the process to be followed to making profit from share market by making a better portfolio and also informed about future & option trading, portfolio management and derivatives.

The other resource person Moni Sahu detailed the process of opening a savings account, current account, cheque book, sensor account, etc.

# Woman's murder worked out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The police claimed to have solved the murder of a woman who had been found dead in a pool of blood in Chandra Shekhar Azad Park near a 'mazar' five months ago. The mobile phone of Iram was also recovered from the possession of the arrested accused Abhishek Goswami alias Golu of Uthagi Kaurihar under the Nawabganj police station.

fainted and fell on the ground and ultimately breathed her last.

When no body reached there to collect the boy from the school its management called the student's father. He was surprised to know that his wife did not reach the school. When he dialled her number, he found it switched off. He first collected his son from the school and then launched a search for Iram with the help of the police. Iram was later found dead in a pool of blood near the mazar in the Chandra Shekhar Azad Park.

Goswami had given him the phone and was demanding Rs 1400 for it, but he wanted to buy it for Rs 1,000 so Goswami took back the phone.

The police launched a manhunt for Abhishek Goswami who lived in the slum area near Bharadwaj Ashram here. The police arrested him on Tuesday and sent him to jail after recovering phone from his possession.

yet and faces threat when he asks him to return the amount.

The teacher Amit Kumar Singh lodged a complaint with the Naini police against a resident of Kazipur area in Naini. He alleged that no action has been initiated by the police.

When he enquired about the person, Amit came to know that the said person had committed such a fraud with many more people. He alleged that when he approaches the person, his whole family hurls abuses and threatens him of dire consequences if he lodged any complaint.

On May 13 this year Iram Hamid Siddiqui, wife of Saiyad Shahan Asad of Malviya Nagar dropped her son at St Joseph's School. Because the school was to run for only a few hours that day, Iram decided to spend time at Chandra Shekhar Azad Park and walked towards a 'mazar' situated there. She was talking to some one when a drug addict Abhishek Goswami came and snatched her phone. When she resisted Goswami hit her on the head with a big stone. Bleeding profusely, Iram

The CCTV footage of all the cameras of the park and nearby places was scanned minutely, but the killer could not be spotted. The phone of Iram remained switched off for months together, but suddenly one day it started functioning. The police traced the person with the help of the sim card used by him in this mobile. When he was nabbed in Bihar, he told the police that

According to the police Goswami confessed that he had killed the woman for phone. He just wanted to grab the phone, but when she resisted he hit her hard on her head with a stone. He knew that CCTV cameras were installed at the park gates so he chose to walk within the park and reach the broken boundary on Pannalal Road from where he disappeared.

Property fraud related cases have already been lodged against him by an excise inspector and a woman from Jhusi but the Naini police allegedly did not take any action. Police 'inaction' in property dealing fraud has irked a number of persons who have lodged complaint with the police commissioner who has instructed the officers to do the needful.

**COMPLAINT:** A teacher, who had given Rs 7.80 lakh to a person in 2014, is worried because the property has not been registered in his name as

# UPRTOU silver jubilee today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The silver jubilee of UP Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) will be celebrated on November 2. This institution of distance learning was established 25 years ago when Prof Narendra Singh Gaur was the higher education minister of Uttar Pradesh.



Vice-Chancellor Prof Seema Singh.

of the university is closely linked to its teachers and staff. The event will honour those teachers and employees who have excelled in their work. Families of these individuals are also invited to be part of this memorable occasion.

Tuesday night on the Howrah-Delhi route. No casualty or injury has been reported in this minor derailment.

The train was sent for its destination around 11.35 pm, Senior PRO, North Central Railway Amit Malviya said.

According to Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Seema Singh, preparations for the silver jubilee celebrations are in full swing and it will be a grand function.

occasion.

V-C Prof Singh emphasised this occasion will be a significant step towards innovation and growth in the field of higher education and research for university's students and faculty.

To make the silver jubilee celebration unforgettable, various cultural programmes are planned, featuring performances based on Alha songs, Braj culture, Kajri songs and Awadhi culture. These cultural events are part of the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, organised in collaboration with the Hindustani Academy, Prayagraj, and will be a part of the Indian Language Festival.

The Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar Suhaildev Express arrived here at 8.25 pm on platform number 9. After its scheduled stoppage at Prayagraj Junction, the train moved towards its destination, but barely after a couple of minutes the engine and the next generator van jumped the rail with a bang.

The chief guest will be Prof Vansh Gopal Singh, V-C of Pt Sunder Lal Sharma Open University of Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) while the guest of honour will be Prof Kalpana Pandey, V-C, Jana Nayak Chandrashekhar University, Ballia. Prof NKS Gaur will be the Saraswat Atithi on the

The event will also witness the inauguration of an Information Management System for students which will contribute to quality education. The V-C said the progress

**RAIL TRAFFIC DISRUPTED:** Following derailment of the engine and a generator van of Anand Vihar-bound Suhaildev Express train, rail traffic remained disturbed for a couple of hours on

As soon as the control room and officials came to know about the derailment, movement on Howrah-Delhi route was stopped. The DRM and other senior officials reached the spot and the accident relief train also arrived on the spot.

# Seminar on French indology ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The three-day international seminar on 'Revisiting French Indology through Intercultural Approaches' concluded at the Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Wednesday. The seminar aimed to pay homage to the French resistance fighter and writer, Satprem, on his centenary day. Satprem, disenchanted and deeply broken in soul and body by the Second World War, left France and came to live near Sri Aurobindo and the Mother in India.



Concluding day function of seminar on French indology being held at BHU in Varanasi on Wednesday.

The seminar featured presentations of papers by highly esteemed scholars and professors. Some of the highlights included a presentation on the life and works of Clemenceau, the French president who played a significant role in France's victory in the First World War. The presenter noted that the president was heavily influenced by India, studying its great religious and spiritual works and even undertaking a voyage to India. Despite his illness, he expressed a strong desire to visit Varanasi before his passing.

tation emphasised how Satprem's works remain relevant, offering a path beyond religious and sectarian ideologies. In times when all other paths seem closed, his writings provide insight into resolving human problems.

In the beginning, Prof Prayaas Chaturvedi welcomed the participants. Prof Sanjay Kumar, the coordinator of Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra and chair of the session, observed that the world is facing deep conflicts, and the Western world has come to realise that the solution does not solely lie in technical research.

ence of Prof S Shoba, Dean of JNU, Prof Kiran Chaudhry, Prof Vineeta Singh, and Prof Mithilesh Singh, the Principal of Agrasen PG College, among others.

Prof Sadashiv Dwivedi, the coordinator of Bharat Adhyan Kendra, served as the chief guest. He highlighted the profound exploration of Indian texts by French writers and the fruitful research collaboration between France and India. This collaboration has fostered friendly relations between the

two nations. Prof Akhilesh Kumar, the convener and Head of the French Studies department, presented the vote of thanks. The seminar also had the pres-

ence of Prof S Shoba, Dean of JNU, Prof Kiran Chaudhry, Prof Vineeta Singh, and Prof Mithilesh Singh, the Principal of Agrasen PG College, among others.

The seminar was attended by experts from France, Greece, Vietnam, and Slovenia, as well as professors and researchers from institutions like JNU, Pondicherry University, Amity University, Allahabad University, Auroville, and Extrême-Orient, highlighting the international and interdisciplinary nature of the event.

# Two cattle smugglers arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Rajgarh police arrested two cattle smugglers carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 each after an encounter on Tuesday night. In a case registered at the Rajgarh police station cattle smugglers Sandeep alias Lalloo of Katari village under Karma police station and Kalloo alias Karan of Dhapari village under Robertganj police station of Sonbhadra were at large. The SP had announced a reward of Rs 25,000 each. On being tipped off about the presence of the cattle smugglers in the team led by SHO Rana Pratap Yadav started checking the vehicles. On seeing the police the smugglers tried to flee but were chased. The smugglers opened fire on police. The police also retaliated in self-defence. During the exchange of

fire smugglers suffered injuries in their legs and were nabbed by the police. Giving details CO (Operation) Anil Kumar Pandey said the police had recovered one motorcycle, Rs 11,630 cash, two countrymade guns etc.

ensured, including bag, amount, cash, shed, potable water etc.

The incharges were asked to pay special attention to small farmers so that they can sell paddy and get payment. He said all centres were to be equipped with two weighing machines and other required equipment to expedite purchase.

Singh said 'Shree Anna' (millets) were also to be purchased at the centres and the MSP had already been announced. The meeting was also attended by SDM (Sadar) Asha Ram Verma, SDM (Madihan) Yugantar Tripathi, SDM (Lalganj) Bharat Lal Saroj and others.

He said the nabbed cattle smugglers had been sent to the hospital for treatment. **DIRECTIVES:** Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla while presiding over the meeting of purchase agencies, incharges of paddy purchase centre and other officials at the Collectorate on Tuesday said during inspection if any of paddy purchase centre was found closed stringent action will be taken.

He told the incharges that two police personnel will be deployed at those centres where heavy purchase will be done. For any problem the tehsil authorities might be contacted, the ADM added. The SDMs were asked to monitor the working regularly by visiting the places minimum once in a week. The officials concerned were directed to maintain transparency in issuing token to farmers. Deputy regional marketing officer Dhananjay

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**OBSERVED:** The birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was observed across the district on Tuesday. A cross country race was organised from Patel Chowk to Collectorate. Programmes were organised at all government offices to pay tribute to Sardar Patel. DIG RP Singh administered the oath of unity and integrity of the nation. Various programmes were organised at schools, colleges, PAC, zila panchayat, nagar palika parishad and other places.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Nakba 2.0?

### Israeli Ministry unilaterally drafts contentious scheme to shift Gaza civilians to Egypt

The Old Testament has it that Moses led Jews away from the clutches of Pharaoh to Israel, where they could lead a peaceful life. It appears, however, that Israelites have since forgotten their scriptures. Now they would like to act a Pharaoh and evict civilian Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt. The Israeli intelligence ministry has proposed relocating the 2.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip to Egypt's Sinai peninsula. The proposal is bizarre as it suggests temporary tent cities in Sinai followed by permanent cities and a humanitarian corridor. What Israel wants is clear— It would like Palestinians to leave their homes and live in tents in chilly winter while Israel would take over the complete control of Gaza minus its inhabitants. It claims that the proposal's aim is to reduce tensions in Gaza. However, there are fierce responses from those who see it as human rights violation and an unjust solution to a complex geopolitical problem. The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world



and its inhabitants endure chronic shortage of necessities, including water, power, fuel and healthcare; the ongoing conflict has only exacerbated a dire situation. While the specifics of the proposal, which has not been officially released, are still unclear, the Israeli Government's rationale is that it will help separate the civilians from Palestinian militant groups that operate in Gaza, such as Hams. The plan's proponents argue that it would improve the security situation and pave the way for increased humanitarian aid and development in Gaza, potentially leading to a more stable and peaceful future for the region.

But forced relocation of civilians from their homes is a violation of basic human rights and constitutes a form of collective punishment. The UN and other rights organisations have called for protecting Gaza's civilian population, arguing that any solution should be based on negotiations, respect for international law and respect for human rights. Egypt, nominated as the potential host for relocated Gazans, has not endorsed the Israeli proposal though its Government has historically been involved in Israel-Palestine mediation efforts and offered assistance and cooperation to address the challenges in Gaza. However, forcibly relocating Gaza's population to Egypt would undoubtedly carry significant implications for both countries and the broader region, and Egypt's response remains a crucial factor. It is becoming increasingly clear that Israel wants to get rid of 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza right now. It is using Hams' attack to implement its long-harboured designs. But it is easier said than done. After the Hams attack, the world opinion was in favour of Israel and there was all-round support for even its air strikes. But after Israel's conduct in the conflict when it pounded innocent Palestinians in hospitals in the name of neutralising the Hamas, it has lost its moral high ground and now even its vocal western support is waning.

### PICTALK



Karnataka tableau artists participate in a procession during 'Karnataka Rajyotsava', in Chikmagalur

# The Hamas attack: Lessons for India



RAGHAV CHANDRA

### The Hamas attack on Israel and this colossal human crisis that is unfolding before our eyes has key lessons for India and the world

Historians and political scientists can dissect and apportion blame on one or the other side, but there can be no doubt that such impending travesties have to be nipped in the bud for a peaceful world.

That the Israelis were taken unawares, that this was a failure of their intelligence and the professedly impenetrable iron dome is but one of the worries. That nobody could fathom the possible manifestation and intensity of this hatred for the Israelis – a deep-rooted and festering abhorrence for them by extremists is another worry. That Israel and the world were lulled into complacency with the winds of change in the Middle East – freshly inculcated modernity of the prime Arab states and their suave posturing to the Western world – is another concern. What is truly worrisome is that this attack dispels any doubts that terrorist acts are isolated and far between.

It proves that terrorism is incipient, lurking and raring to destroy. Even more disturbing is the ambivalence displayed at the political, social and cultural levels – whether to label Hamas unequivocally as a terrorist organisation or not. Even in a country like India which has lost so many lives to terrorist attacks, opinion was divided. In that light, long-term solutions should be found to address the subject of terrorism – not least at the diplomatic, social and cultural levels.

One key reality that has emerged is that illegitimate, non-state actors can exploit and extract financing from legitimate state actors who use them and support them to wage a war by other means. Attempts to choke this nexus are far from successful, as the case of Hamas proves. To have thousands of missiles, heavy-duty military vehicles, munitions and manpower requires serious funding. To be able to wage a war against a heavily equipped and competent state that is in a state of eternal battle-readiness requires resources, competence and the backing of rich patrons. Felicity in handling high-intensity weapons has come about because super-power armament



companies are seeking widespread dissemination of their innovations and so encourage their propagation by clandestine means. The ubiquitous internet is yet another platform for sharing information and enabling do-it-yourself capabilities. That is what should worry military strategists the world over – that the technique and technology of terrorist warfare waged through fringe groups has gotten easier. It has become commoditized. Terrorist groups the world over should be so unequivocally labelled. Surprisingly, groups like Hamas have not yet been castigated by the United Nations as terrorist groups. Even immediately after the attack, there was political wavering about whether Hamas should be designated as a terrorist organization or not – a noted Indian politician went on to say that Hamas had not been formally so designated even by India. It is indeed unfortunate that in the United Nations, motions can be easily vetoed on political grounds in the Security Council. Similar efforts by India in the past have been disallowed merely because of vetoes by countries unfriendly to India. Therefore, between the binary of extremist and terrorist, a new category should be created for those groups who are arming themselves militarily, routing funds through illegal channels and continuing to



PROACTIVE STATE VIGILANCE AGAINST EXTREMIST GROUPS MAKES IT INCUMBENT UPON THE STATE TO RISE ABOVE PETTY MAJORITARIANISM AND TO ENFORCE A RIGOROUS RULE OF LAW THAT IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY

voice and mobilise opinion against sovereign states. These should be labelled as Groups that Display Traits of Terrorism. After the Hamas attack and the revelation that the preparations were undertaken over a year of more, it is evident that terrorist attacks are not spontaneous acts of pique or anguish; they are premeditated and carefully planned. That is why, to await a full-scale terrorist attack by an extremist group before declaring them as terrorists is fraught. It is appropriate to at least designate them as displaying traits of terrorism if they have bought arms and obtained illegal funds. It should be legitimate for governments to highlight those groups that have a history of terrorist activities as those displaying traits of terrorism.

What are traits of terrorism today that carry a high probability of becoming acts of terrorism tomorrow? They need to be treated firmly and clinically. The world must know that such groups need unequivocal confinement and oversight. Of course, governments would have to build an ironclad case against them globally. If another nation blocks this move, they should be asked to give an undertaking that the organisation in question will not commit any act of terrorism on foreign soil. In that breath, India should not

take the Chinese veto in support of Masood Azhar lying down. We should talk unrestrainedly about the Chinese encouragement of traits of terrorism.

Currently, civil opinion against terrorism is sought to be built through an anodyne oath taken on the National Anti-Terrorism Day on 21 May every year, to commemorate the terrorist assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Instead, the government should seek to pointedly denigrate those with terrorist traits. Genesis and historical rationale of persecution aside, a murder is a murder and so a terrorist attack is a terrorist attack. One must remember that proactive state vigilance against extremist groups makes it incumbent upon the state to rise above petty majoritarianism and to enforce a rigorous rule of law that is non-discriminatory. Initiating, encouraging and facilitating dialogue and confidence-building amongst communities and groupings is the need of the hour.

Stately restraint entails sobriety and not allowing domestic pique to be exaggerated to a point where it becomes a national issue and divides the body fabric of citizenry. Only in an environment of domestic empathy can one render hard-nosed and unremitting action against terrorism. (The author is former Secretary GOI, views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Electoral Bonds must be transparent



Achieving a corruption-free Bharat requires strong laws, strict enforcement, and a commitment from all citizens to resist and report corrupt practices. The benefit of a corruption-free India is that it paves the way for economic growth, trust in public institutions, and a brighter future for all Bharathians.

In Bharat, some people feel hurt when their right to love, eat, or wear what they want is being con-

trolled by those in charge. Those at the helm of affairs, who speak against corruption in government, should advocate for transparency, as electoral bonds are the first point of corruption in India. In this context, the people of Bharath have the right to know about the funding of electoral bonds. The government has taken several measures to promote transparency and reduce corruption, including implementing the Right to Information Act (RTI), digitising government services, introducing the Aadhaar card, implementing GST, and enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Now is the right time for the people of Bharat to know about the funding of electoral bonds enjoyed by political parties as a whole. I hope the Honorable Supreme Court will direct the government to show transparency in the transactions of electoral bonds among the political parties in our country. This will pave the way for crystal-clear transparency and strengthen democracy in India.

S Padmanabhan | Kochi

#### TERROR IN BAGS

Sir—The bomb blasts during a prayer meeting in Ernakulam, Kerala, are deeply distressing and condemnable. Due to two successive explosions, three people lost their lives, and 50 other worshippers were injured. It should be clear that there is no place for hatred and violence in a civilized society. The government must conduct a thorough investigation and bring the guilty to justice. The Govt has constituted a special investigation team to explore all possible angles, including whether it was indeed a renegade's solitary mission. The National Investigation Agency and National Security Guard have initiated their work. Whoever is guilty must be punished, even if they are a member of any party or organization.

Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

ed the need for heightened security awareness and preparedness.

The decision by the Puducherry Police is commendable, showcasing their commitment to maintaining a secure environment for our elected representatives and the governance process.

It's imperative for the public to recognize the gravity of such measures and extend support to the efforts of law enforcement agencies in implementing and maintaining the SOP effectively.

A collaborative approach involving citizens, the police, and the government is pivotal in fortifying our democratic institutions against any possible disruptions or risks. As a responsible citizen, I urge the authorities to ensure the comprehensive implementation of these security measures, emphasizing the significance of staying vigilant and fostering a secure environment for the legislative proceedings in Puducherry.

Maimul Safui | Howrah

#### ED SUMMON ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Sir—The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who also serves as the Aam Aadmi Party's national convener, to record his statement on November 2 in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. The ED case is based on a First Information Report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging multiple irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi excise policy (2021–22), which was scrapped following corruption allegations. The CBI had recorded Mr. Kejriwal's statement on April 16, and after being questioned for over nine hours, he told the media that the entire case was fabricated, and the agencies did not have any proof; it was merely a result of "dirty politics." He alleged that the entire case was being built to bring down the AAP. Two senior AAP leaders, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, are already in jail as undertrials in the same case. Now it is Arvind Kejriwal's turn. The saying "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" rings true.

CK R Nathan | Ghaziabad

#### SECURITY OF PUDUCHERRY ASSEMBLY

Sir—The proactive stance taken by the Puducherry Police to fortify security measures at the Legislative Assembly is commendable. The recent announcement of the preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by the Puducherry Police is indeed a noteworthy step in safeguarding one of the pillars of our democratic structure.

Given the current social and political landscape, strengthening security protocols is not just a necessity but also a responsibility towards ensuring the safety and integrity of our legislative institutions. The initiative to create an SOP underscores a strategic approach aimed at preventing and managing potential security threats, thereby ensuring the smooth functioning of the Assembly. While our society respects and cherishes the spirit of democracy, recent events globally and locally have highlight-



RAVI SONNAD

## Music has a role to play in skilling students

### Learning music improves cognitive skills, which supports memory, attention, reading, math, and language

There is ample research and evidence on the correlation between learning music and the development of the brain. Music improves cognitive skills, which supports memory, attention, reading, math, and language. Several studies are showing that teens who study music perform better in school - they get higher grades, have improved literacy, and are more likely to graduate; however, there is little attention paid to how learning music supports the development of life skills that have become so essential for life and work in the 21st century.



Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, famously said at a World Economic Forum summit, "our entire education system built over the last two hundred years is based on acquiring knowledge which today is accessed with a few clicks on the internet. Skills such as communication and collaboration, creative and critical thinking, and the ability to empathise have a premium today and will only become more important." Music is a powerful experiential medium that is ideally suited to inculcating these skills. Unlike a subject test, it is impossible to study music the day before a class or performance. Learning music takes time and understanding when and how much to practice teaches effective time management skills. Learning music also requires concentration and focus. Children learn to concentrate on multiple elements, enhancing their productivity and attention span. Getting to a certain skill level can at times be frustrating, both physically and mentally. Whether an instrumentalist plays through sore fingertips or a vocalist tries to reach a certain note, it is easy to want to give up. Persevering requires discipline and patience. Children

learn that mastery and progress take time and consistent effort. This discipline helps with their academics and personal commitments. As children progress and achieve milestones, their sense of accomplishment grows, leading to increased self-assurance. Performing in front of an audience also enhances their self-esteem. Music is a wonderful way to express oneself creatively. The way one approaches and interprets music is unique and helps mould individuality and creative thinking. It is also a fantastic way to communicate with others. Music in the classroom is always a group exercise and requires careful listening and collaboration to be able to perform in unison. These strategies eventually help with relationships at

school, jobs, and other social situations.

"When we sing or create music, we use all the parts of the brain: left, right, front, and back. All these parts collaborate. That is very unique!" said Hanne Deneire, composer.

Children who go to schools that use a Montessori-type of pedagogy or follow curricula such as the IB learn music as part of their regular school. Children whose families can afford a private music education also benefit. Today, almost 1 in 4 school-going children in the world are in India. Seventy-five per cent of them attend government or low-income private schools that do not provide this opportunity. If we are to take advantage of the dividend that can result from a well-educated and capable young force that our population demographic can afford us, we must invest in the right type of education that prepares them for the 21st century. Music education can play a vital role towards this goal.

(The writer is the founder, of Enabling Leadership, views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

## ESSENCE OF THE UPANISHADS

The Upanishads are treasure trove of wisdom, worth applying in life



SWAMI CHARANASHIT

The Upanishads, often referred to as Vedanta, are a collection of ancient Indian texts that form the philosophical foundation of Hinduism. They are considered the concluding part of the Vedic scriptures, which date back to as early as 1500 BCE. The Upanishads explore profound spiritual and metaphysical concepts, providing insight into the nature of reality, the self, and the ultimate purpose of human existence. The word "Upanishad" itself means "sitting down near" or "sitting at the feet of," suggesting a close and intimate relationship between the teacher and the student. It is in this intimate setting that the essence of the Upanishads is imparted.

**The Quest for Knowledge:** At the heart of the Upanishads lies a deep quest for knowledge. The sages and seers of ancient India sought to understand the fundamental truths of existence, transcending the limitations of the material world. They pondered profound questions: Who am I? What is the nature of the universe? What is the ultimate reality, and how can one attain it? These inquiries were not merely academic exercises but were central to the spiritual quest for self-realisation and enlightenment.

**Oneness of the Self and the Ultimate Reality:** The Upanishads expound the concept of "Brahman," the ultimate reality that underlies and transcends the entire universe. This ultimate reality is often described as formless, infinite, and beyond all dualities. It is the source and essence of everything, including the self, or "Atman." The Upanishads teach that realizing the oneness of the individual self (Atman) with the universal self (Brahman) is the key to spiritual awakening. This realisation is at the core of many spiritual traditions, including Hinduism.

**The Process of Self-Realisation:** Self-realisation, as described in the Upanishads, is a profound and transformative journey. It involves meditation, introspection, and self-inquiry. The seeker delves into their consciousness to uncover the truth of their existence. This process of self-realisation leads to the dissolution of the ego and the recognition of the unity that underlies all of creation.

**Liberation from the Cycle of Samsara:** The Upanishads also address the concept of "Samsara," the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. They assert that the ultimate goal of life is to break free from this cycle and attain "Moksha" or liberation. Through self-realisation and union with Brahman, one can achieve liberation, ending the cycle of suffering and reincarnation.



**Ethical and Moral Guidance:** While the Upanishads focus on metaphysical and spiritual matters, they also provide ethical and moral guidance. They emphasise the importance of virtues such as truthfulness, non-violence, compassion, and self-discipline. These qualities are seen as essential for one's spiritual progress and for living a harmonious and meaningful life.

**A Universal Message:** The teachings of the Upanishads transcend cultural and religious boundaries. Their emphasis on the universal truths of existence, the oneness of all beings, and the importance of self-realisation can resonate with people of diverse spiritual backgrounds. The Upanishads have influenced not only Hinduism but also the development of other philosophical and spiritual traditions, including Buddhism and various schools of Indian philosophy.

**Living the Wisdom of the Upanishads:** The essence of the Upanishads is not confined to ancient texts but is a living philosophy that continues to inspire and guide seekers on their spiritual journeys. To truly understand the essence of the Upanishads, one must engage in spiritual practice, meditation, and self-inquiry. It is through direct experience and realisation that the profound wisdom of these texts can be fully appreciated. The Upanishads are a treasure trove of spiritual wisdom that offers profound insights into the nature of reality and the path to liberation.

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

# Challenges in equipping job seekers with skills

Engaging with research organisations and academic institutions that focus on education, skills, and labour markets is critical to building capability



DINESH SOOD



Addressing the challenge of skilling millions of new entrants of the working age is crucial in India's economy, which is undergoing structural, demographic, and technological shifts. As the nature of work changes, it is essential to make new entrants employable and skilled, which is a big challenge. By 2024, around 70 million new individuals within the working age bracket, i.e., 15-59 years, are expected to enter India's labour force. The estimated total workforce will then be around 405 million people. The recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report, 2022-23, reveals that this will include 59 million youth aged between 15-30 years. Hence, strategies for re-skilling, up-skilling, and recognising informally acquired skills of the current workforce must be reinforced.

India is taking unique initiatives to leverage its demographic potential into a dividend that will fuel the country's growth. Simultaneously, ageing populations in several developed countries provide opportunities for skilled individuals' migration from India to benefit both the host and destination countries. According to an analysis, India's labour force above 30 years of age is 262 million people. Out of this, 259 million are currently employed and need to be future-ready. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was established as a public-private partnership (PPP) to encourage private sector participation in India's skill development sector to drive re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives. This will help prepare the workforce for new technologies and the future of work.

### Three major challenges in skill development

Firstly, there should be collaboration between industry and the private sector. This is an essential strategic pillar for India, as it is necessary to create avenues



ACCORDING TO AN ANALYSIS, INDIA'S LABOUR FORCE ABOVE 30 YEARS OF AGE IS 262 MILLION PEOPLE. OUT OF THIS, 259 MILLION ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND NEED TO BE FUTURE-READY

(The writer is a co-founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill; views are personal)

for private-sector engagement. Skill development faces several forms of market failures, including information asymmetries. A skilled person knows their skills, but a potential employer does not. If employers had all the information, they would be willing to pay more for a skilled person. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an intervention to address information asymmetry. There is a vast segment of informal workers in India, many of whom possess skills that have not been formally recognised. RPL interventions are critical in this scenario, as holding a formal certification can improve an individual's bargaining power. Some analysis reveals that the monthly incomes of RPL-certified individuals were on average 19% higher than those who had not been RPL-certified. An average increase of 25% in income after certification was reported.

Another market failure in skill development is externalities. When a firm spends resources on developing the skills of an employee, he or she can quit and join another firm, thus benefiting the latter firm and not the firm that incurred the training cost. Government intervention is necessary where there are such market failures. Workers are incentivised to invest in their general skill training through apprenticeships or self-paid training, as they can benefit from higher salaries when they switch jobs. As such, firms may be willing to spend on developing specific skills of employees. There are various skill development models, including government-funded programs that fully or partially subsidize training/apprenticeships, market-

led, market-led, and industry-led/on-the-job training. Collaboration with industry is fundamental to ensure the relevance and quality of skills training and for building the institutional structures required to achieve the desired outcomes. Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) were incubated by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to foster industry connections and develop an industry-relevant course and curriculum.

Secondly, there should be encouragement for international mobility. India is committed to becoming the "skill capital" of the world, and the India International Skill Centre (IISC) programme is evidence of this. A new, market-driven IISC network has been proposed to counsel and guide potential emigrants, focusing on skills tests, up-skilling, language, and pre-departure orientation. Furthermore, the governments of India and Japan are cooperating to implement Japan's Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP), an on-the-job training scheme providing three to five years of internship opportunities for foreign nationals in Japan, with NSDC as the implementing organisation.

Technical collaborations have been undertaken with countries such as the UK, Australia, and the UAE for benchmarking and mutual recognition of standards. Government-to-government and B2B partnerships are also being developed for new markets such as those in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and East Asia to increase the mobility of blue and white-collar Indian workers. Thirdly,

improving women's participation in the labour force is a significant challenge in India. Out of the country's total labour force of 395.2 million, only 91.6 million are women. To address this issue, skilling initiatives can be implemented along with a wider push towards gender sensitisation, creating economic opportunities, and providing social support.

We can use residential facilities for women trainees and embed mentoring and coaching in skills programs to improve their participation. Local workshops can also be organised to provide social support. To make employment more attractive to women, they can be prepared for forms of work such as the gig economy, which has more flexible work models. This is especially relevant because 229.2 million women out of the 301.5 million who are not in the labour force report their status as "attending domestic duties."

Fortunately, our progress in creating access to skill development for women in the beauty-wellness and health sectors has been positive. More than 60% of the candidates trained under PMKVY are women. Several training providers focus exclusively on women and promote skill training in towns and rural areas. Partnerships with industries to support women-centric projects in non-traditional trades have also been explored. Engaging with research organisations, academic institutions, think tanks, and multilateral institutions that focus on education, skills, and labour markets is critical to building new initiatives, collaborations, and institutional knowledge and capability.

# Divorce: Changing attitudes and social mores

Every marriage is different and so are the issues that couples face; divorce sometimes is the only option to end a dysfunctional relationship

The average individual feels sufficiently prepared for marriage before getting married. But as time has gone on, they have discovered that marriage is unexpected. Although someone can learn to fly an aircraft in a classroom, does it qualify them as a pilot until they take to the air? Getting married involves a lot of similarities. A formal and social contract is made between two people, uniting their lives on an emotional, financial, and legal level. Making it successful is wholly their combined duty. During the first three years of marriage, some general patterns of adjustment have been observed. The first six months of marriage considered the "honeymoon phase", are characterised by few serious prob-



TARUNA ARDHENDUMAULI PRASAD

(The writer is an Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India, views are personal)

lems and a general sense of satisfaction. The relationship in marriage gradually gets stronger day by day as it passes through different stages like romance, disillusionment, power struggle, stability and till the stage of lasting commitment.

The idea of marriage and how we define marriage has changed drastically over time starting with only being defined as the coming together of a man and a woman, binding them into a relationship of love and support for each other. Every marriage is different and so are the issues that couples face in their conjugal life.

Mutual respect, understanding and compassion are essential elements of a strong marriage. We give up the less

important ones, which are the building blocks of the foundation of a relationship, for more important larger and tangible issues. Sacrifice in marriage and relationships is often about making efforts to enhance the qualities of the other person. A healthy compromise is the key to a successful relationship. If you cannot learn to do that then I am sorry to say your relationship will never survive. Love is all about give and take concerning individual, familial and social responsibilities. It's not just kind words, but a lot more.

The Indian society exhibits considerable variations in customs, culture and the meaning of a marriage between regions, between classes, between rural & urban areas and finally between different ethnic, reli-

gious and caste groups. The rise in the number of single-member households, breakdown of traditions, joint family system, individual male migrations to cities of work, erosion of the authority of patriarchy, the erosion of traditional family values, increase in the number of working mothers in cities, rise in domestic violence and practice of dowry, neglect of children and elderly and poor regard for family codes are enough indications of the danger that the family and ultimately society are progressively facing in the society. There are so many factors that are giving rise to stress in life and which are leading to couples failing to compromise and sacrifices in their marriages. And then begins the conflict, and so does the jour-

ney of pain. Even though young people these days marry mostly of their own choice and even check their sexual compatibility before marriage because people understand that relationships are not prison, your spouse is not your jailor, and it is okay to end a relationship that isn't working. Divorce is not a problem. Divorce is a solution to the problem of a dysfunctional relationship. Conservative societies like the idea of forcing people to remain in dysfunctional or even abusive relationships. I happen to think that's morally wrong, and kind of sick. Divorce is okay, breaking up is okay, starting over is okay, moving on is okay, and being alone is okay, what is not okay is staying somewhere you're

not valued and appreciated. Staying in a bad marriage can provide security because at least you know how your life will go. But getting a divorce gives you hope - the hope to be who you want to be, the hope to be happy and the hope to find someone else to love. If you have done all the work of trying to make the marriage better and nothing is changing, finding the courage to leave and move forward pays off in the long run. You stop putting all your energy into a relationship that no longer works and put more energy into yourself and your kids. Divorce is preferable to a marriage without love. We all deserve to be loved. I never want to be in a marriage where that partnership isn't sacred and a priority. Life is far

too short to spend it immersed in an unhealthy relationship. Divorce may be a difficult process that leaves emotional wounds that may take some time to heal.

Divorce can have severe after-effects when emotions like guilt, resentment, and perplexity can persist long after the court case is over. Cognitive scientists have found that there are "clean" and "dirty" pains involved with the divorce process, thus even if one starts the divorce, there might be a major emotional cost. But occasionally, one must battle for peace, and when it is won, nothing is better than ending a bad relationship and living a calm existence. Consequently, divorce may turn out to be a good thing in the long run.

# UK summit aims to tackle thorny issues around cutting-edge AI risks

AP ■ BLETCHLEY PARK (ENGLAND)

Digital officials, tech company bosses and researchers are converging on Wednesday at a former codebreaking spy base near London to discuss and better understand the extreme risks posed by cutting-edge artificial intelligence.

The two-day summit focuses on so-called frontier AI — the latest and most powerful systems that take the technology right up to its limits, but could come with as-yet-unknown dangers. They're underpinned by foundation models, which power chatbots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard and are trained on vast pools of information scraped from the internet.

Some 100 people from 28 countries are expected to attend

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's two-day AI Safety Summit, though the British government has refused to disclose the guest list.

The event is a labour of love for Sunak, a tech-loving former banker who wants the UK to be a hub for computing innovation and has framed the summit as the start of a global conversation about the safe development of AI. But Vice President Kamala Harris is due to steal the focus on Wednesday with a separate speech in London setting out the US administration's more hands-on approach.

She's due to attend the summit on Thursday alongside government officials from more than two dozen countries including Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia — and China, invited



Britain's Michelle Donelan, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, 6th right front row, with Digital Ministers who are attending the AI Safety Summit in Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, England on Wednesday. AP/PTI

over the protests of some members of Sunak's governing Conservative Party.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is

also scheduled to discuss AI with Sunak in a livestreamed conversation on Thursday night. The tech billionaire was

among those who signed a statement earlier this year raising the alarm about the perils that AI poses to humanity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and executives from US artificial intelligence companies such as Anthropic and influential computer scientists like Yoshua Bengio, one of the "godfathers" of AI, are also expected.

The meeting is being held at Bletchley Park, a former top secret base for World War II codebreakers that's seen as a birthplace of modern computing.

One of Sunak's major goals is to get delegates to agree on a first-ever common code of conduct about the nature of AI risks. He said the technology brings new opportunities but warns about frontier AI's threat to humanity, because it could be used to create biological weapons or be

exploited by terrorists to sow fear and destruction.

Only governments, not companies, can keep people safe from AI's dangers, Sunak said last week. However, in the same speech, he also urged against rushing to regulate AI technology, saying it needs to be fully understood first.

In contrast, Harris will stress the need to address the here and now, including "societal harms that are already happening such as bias, discrimination and the proliferation of misinformation".

Harris plans to stress that the Biden administration is "committed to hold companies accountable, on behalf of the people, in a way that does not stifle innovation", including through legislation.

"As history has shown in the absence of regulation and

strong government oversight, some technology companies choose to prioritise profit over: The wellbeing of their customers; the security of our communities; and the stability of our democracies," she plans to say.

She'll point to President Biden's executive order this week, setting out AI safeguards, as evidence the US is leading by example in developing rules for artificial intelligence that work in the public interest.

Among measures she will announce is an AI Safety Institute, run through the Department of Commerce, to help set the rules for "safe and trusted AI".

Harris also will encourage other countries to sign up to a US-backed pledge to stick to "responsible and ethical" use of AI for military aims.

## S Africa calls on UN to deploy rapid protection force in Gaza

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa has called on the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect the civilian population of Gaza amid reports of a large number of children being killed there as the Israeli forces heightens attacks on the Hamas-ruled enclave. "South Africa echoes the UN General Assembly's resolution that called for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate opening of a humanitarian corridor to provide food, medical supplies and fuel," the country's Department of International Relations and Cooperations said in a statement on Monday.

It said that South Africa also "calls on the United Nations to deploy a rapid protection force to protect the civilian population from further bombardment." "All countries genuinely committed to a rules-based system underpinned by international law must act immediately. South Africa calls for the International community to hold Israel accountable for breaches of International Law," it added. "Save the Children, a humanitarian organisation for children, has reported that the number of children killed in Gaza over the last three weeks has surpassed the annual number of children killed across all the world's conflict zones since 2019."

Since October 7, when Israel commenced retaliatory attacks after Hamas attacked and abducted some Israeli civilians, more than 3,500 Palestinian children are reported to have been killed. According to the NGO, there may be more than 1,000 more children who have been reported missing still lying in the rubble of demolished buildings.

"All of these children killed since 7 October are non-combatants and those responsible for their deaths must be held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and in the case of the scale of deaths in Gaza and increasingly in the West Bank, the crime of genocide must also be investigated," the South African Ministry said.

## Media freedom group reports deaths of 34 journalists

**The Hague (Netherlands) (AP):** Thirty-four journalists have been killed in the war between Israel and Hamas, an international media freedom group said Wednesday, accusing both sides of committing possible war crimes.

Reporters Without Borders called on International Criminal Court prosecutors to investigate the deaths. The organization said it already filed a complaint regarding eight Palestinian journalists it said were killed in Israel's bombardment of civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, and an Israeli journalist killed during Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel. "The scale, seriousness and recurring nature of international crimes targeting journalists, particularly in Gaza, calls for a priority investigation by the ICC prosecutor," Christophe Deloire, director-general of the group also known by the French abbreviation RSF, said. The organization is headquartered in France.

It's the third such complaint to be filed by the group since 2018 alleging war crimes against Palestinian journalists in Gaza. Israel says it makes every effort to avoid killing civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them at risk by operating in residential areas.

The latest complaint also cites "the deliberate, total or partial, destruction of the premises of more than 50 media outlets in Gaza" since Israel declared war against Hamas over the militant group's bloody October 7 incursion, the organization said.

Another media freedom organization, the Committee to Protect Journalists, said Wednesday that it was investigating reports of journalists killed, injured, detained or missing in the war, including in Lebanon.



In this frame grab from video, Palestinians stand and others search for survivors and bodies following Israeli airstrikes at the Jabalyia refugee camp on Gaza City's A6s outskirts on Tuesday. AP/PTI

## 'Passengers hid from weekend airport riot in terminal'

**Tallinn (AP):** Israel's ambassador to Moscow gave new details Wednesday of the weekend riot at an airport in southern Russia when a flight from Tel Aviv landed there, saying some of the passengers had to hide in the terminal before being flown by helicopter to safety. Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi blamed Sunday night's unrest on extremist elements resulting from "indoctrination" in the mostly Muslim republic of Dagestan. But he said that overall, there is no antisemitism "on an organised level" in Russia. He added, though, that authorities should take the incident seriously so such actions don't spread.

"Of course, there has always been, is and will be antisemitism on the everyday level. The important thing is that it doesn't develop into what we saw in Makhachkala," Ben Zvi told The Associated Press in an online interview from Moscow. "If all this is under control, I think there will be no problems."

The angry mob stormed the airport in Makhachkala, the capital city of Dagestan, when the flight from Israel landed there. Hundreds of men, some carrying banners with antisemitic slogans, roamed the building and rushed onto the tarmac looking for Israeli passengers. It took the authorities several hours to disperse the mob, which threw stones at police.

At least 20 people, both police and civilians, were injured and more than 80 were detained. Russia's Investigative Committee opened a probe on the charges of organising mass unrest.

Following the incident, the attacker was arrested and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder.

"Varun was attacked with a knife by his attacker. He was ultimately taken to a Fort Wayne hospital due to the severity of his injury and was reportedly given a zero to five per cent chance of survival. Varun's condition is said to be serious after the violent attack,"

the report said. The attacker told the police that he had requested a massage that morning and walked into the massage room to find the other man, whom he did not know but found "a little weird."

Determining the other man posed a threat, Andrade said he made sure to react the "right way," according to a charging document. Andrade then described (the man) as a threat to him so he, "just reacted," police said.

Police said they walked into the massage chair room to find a large amount of blood on one of two chairs and a folding knife on the counter that reportedly belonged to Andrade.

Andrade, who has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery, is scheduled to appear before Porter Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Clymer on Wednesday.

## France vows fight against antisemitism

AP ■ CANBERRA

**Paris (AP):** French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne on Tuesday vowed a "merciless fight" against surging antisemitism after residents of the French capital discovered anti-Jewish graffiti on buildings in several districts. The discovery comes weeks into the Israel-Hamas war in which thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have been killed and hundreds of Israelis have been taken hostage by the militants in Gaza. "The situation in the Middle East does not justify antisemitism," Borne told the National Assembly during a regular questioning session. "Nothing ever excuses antisemitism...my government is determined to wage a merciless fight against it." Since the Oct 7 Hamas attack on Israel, French authorities have registered 857 antisemitic acts, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Tuesday.

Australia's highest court on Wednesday overturned a government decision to strip citizenship from a man convicted of terrorism. The ruling is a second blow in the High Court to the law introduced almost a decade ago that allows a government minister to strip dual nationals of their Australian citizenship on extremism-related grounds. The ruling also prevents the government from deporting Algerian-born cleric Abdul Benbrika when he is released from prison, which is expected within weeks.

The High Court judges ruled 6-1 that the law that gave the home affairs minister power to strip citizenship in such instances was unconstitutional. The majority found that the minister was effectively exercising a judicial function of punishing

## 'Australia can't strip citizenship from man over his terrorism convictions'

AP ■ CANBERRA

criminal guilt. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government would examine the ruling in regards to the law passed by the previous government. Constitutional lawyer George Williams said he was not surprised by the result.

"It's a fundamental breach of the separation of powers in Australia which says that judging guilty and determining punishment should be by courts and not by people in Parliament," Williams said. Williams said he understood that Benbrika was the only person to lose citizenship under a particular clause of the law relating to convictions of terrorism-related offenses that are punished by more than three years in prison.

Therefore the precedent did not effect any other person who had lost citizenship rights. The High Court last year struck down a separate

clause of the law that allowed a dual national imprisoned in Syria to lose his citizenship on suspicion that he had been an Islamic State group fighter.

In 2020, Benbrika became the first extremist, proven or alleged, to lose citizenship rights while still in Australia. The government has not disclosed how many there have been.

Benbrika was convicted in 2008 of three terrorism charges related to a plot to cause mass casualties at a public event in Melbourne. No attack took place. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and would have been released in 2020. But his sentence was extended by three years under a recent law that allowed the continued detention of prisoners convicted of terrorism offenses who a judge ruled posed an unacceptable risk to the community if released.

Andrade then described (the man) as a threat to him so he, "just reacted," police said. Police said they walked into the massage chair room to find a large amount of blood on one of two chairs and a folding knife on the counter that reportedly belonged to Andrade.

Andrade, who has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery, is scheduled to appear before Porter Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Clymer on Wednesday.

## 24-yr-old Indian student stabbed at gym in US

Washington (PTI):

A 24-year-old Indian student was stabbed by a man at a public gym in Valparaiso city in the US state of Indiana and is said to be in a critical condition, according to a media report. P Varun Raj, a Computer Science student, was stabbed with a knife into the temple by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on Sunday morning for reasons that the authorities are still investigating, reported NWI Times.

Following the incident, the attacker was arrested and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder.

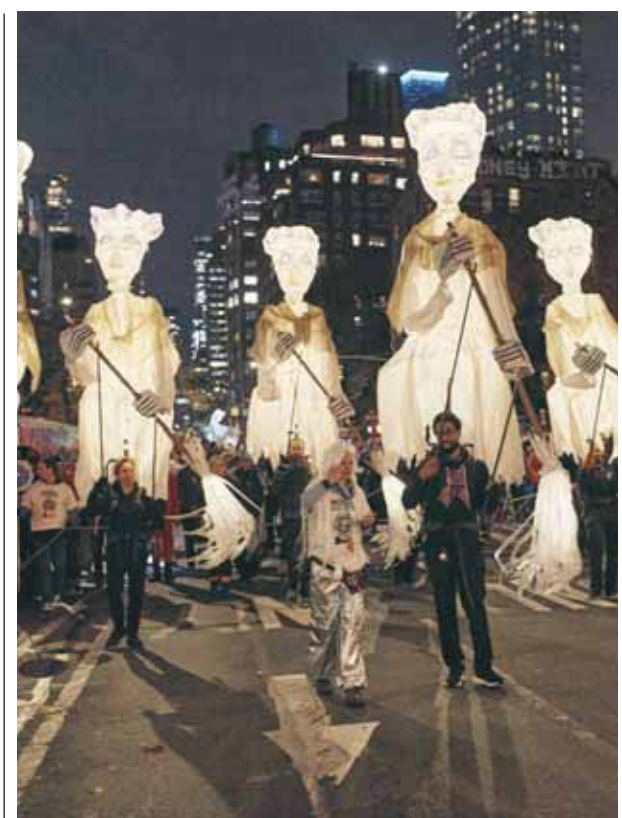
"Varun was attacked with a knife by his attacker. He was ultimately taken to a Fort Wayne hospital due to the severity of his injury and was reportedly given a zero to five per cent chance of survival. Varun's condition is said to be serious after the violent attack,"

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Revelers march along Sixth Avenue during the Village Halloween Parade, Tuesday, in New York. AP/PTI

## Trump's sons set to testify at fraud trial

AP ■ NEW YORK

When Donald Trump became president in 2017, he handed day-to-day management of his real estate empire to his eldest sons, Donald Jr. and Eric. Now, as the Trumps fight to keep the family business intact, the brothers are set to testify in the New York civil fraud case that threatens their Trump Organisation's future. Donald Trump Jr. is expected to testify on Wednesday and Eric Trump on Thursday, kicking off a blockbuster stretch as the trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit enters its second month.

James, a Democrat, alleges that Donald Trump, his company and top executives, including Eric and Donald Trump Jr., conspired to exaggerate his wealth by billions of dollars on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to secure loans and make deals. Donald Trump — the former president, family patriarch and 2024 Republican front-runner — is slated to testify on

Monday, followed by his eldest daughter, ex-Trump Organisation executive and White House adviser Ivanka Trump, on November 8. State lawyers are expected to rest their case after that, giving Trump's lawyers a chance to call their own witnesses.

Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump are both executive vice presidents at the Trump Organisation and defendants in James' lawsuit. Eric has oversight over the company's operations while Donald Trump Jr. has been involved in running the company's property development. He and longtime company finance chief Allen Weisselberg were also trustees of the revocable trust Trump set up to hold the company's assets when he became president. Before the trial, Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that Trump's financial statements were fraudulent. He ordered that a court-appointed receiver seize control of some of his companies and properties as Trump Tower — though an appeals court has halted enforcement for now.

## King Charles III visits war cemetery in Kenya

AP ■ NAIROBI

King Charles III visited a war cemetery in Nairobi on Wednesday, laying a wreath in honour of Kenyans who fought alongside the British in the two world wars, a day after the monarch expressed "greatest sorrow and the deepest regret" for the violence of the colonial era.

Charles, who with Queen Camilla arrived on Monday in what is his first state visit to a Commonwealth country as monarch, cited the "abhorrent and unjustifiable acts of violence" committed against Kenyans as they sought independence.

However, he didn't explicitly apologise for Britain's actions in its former colony as many Kenyans wanted. At the state banquet hosted by Kenyan President William Ruto on Tuesday, Charles said there "can be no excuse" for the "wrongdoings of the past". He said that addressing them with honesty and openness could "continue to build an ever closer bond in the years ahead". After the wreath-



laying, he handed replacement medals to four veterans who have since lost theirs. Among the four was Cpl. Samuel Nthigai Mburia, who is 117 years old. The other three are privateers John Kavai, Kefa Chagira and Ezekiel Nyanjom Anyange.

Kavai, 101, who fought in India and Burma in World War II, said his medals were a "joy and pride for him and his entire family", reminding him of his service. "I will not lose these ones until my death and my children will be custodians," he added. Mburia, who fought in

Damascus, Cairo and Jerusalem, said he got rid of his medal a long time ago for fear of being associated with the British colonisers but was now happy to get a replacement from the king. The cemetery has 59 graves and neighbours Kariokor market, previously the site of Nairobi's Carrier Corps Depot, the administrative centre through which soldiers heading to the front passed through. Charles also met with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission members and communities living near the cemetery.

## In a first, Diwali festivities reverberate at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida

PTI ■ NEW YORK

In a first, Diwali festivities reverberated at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida as hundreds of dancers showcased the culture and heritage of India through performances in celebration of the festival of lights for a global audience at the iconic American destination. The first-ever Youth Celebration of Diwali was hosted by Jashn Productions with over 400 dancers from across the country celebrating the festival of lights through dance performances at Disney Springs, and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, a press release issued here said.

The Dance Fest led under the direction of Jeanie Beri, founder of Jashn Productions was a three-day event comprising vibrant colours, costumes and performances by dancers from around North America.

"Bringing Diwali to Walt Disney World Resort for the first time ever was so exhilarating," Beri said. "We created history by sharing the joy and excitement of this important festival with the



South Asian dance community. Celebrating the magic of Diwali in 'The Most Magical Place on Earth' was truly a dream come true."

Beri said Jashn Productions is looking forward to bringing people together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of South Asia with more events like the Diwali Dance Fest.

The festival, from October 26-28, kicked off with an official parade at Disney Springs, where dancers performed a 20-minute choreographed piece while parading through the streets of Disney Springs. The Dance Fest Showcase, held at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, included 17 dance schools and performances from various

regions of India including Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh weaving elements of pop and hip-hop.

The Diwali Dance Fest was the first of its kind celebration that gave children the opportunity to showcase their talent on a world-renowned platform, the release added. Over 1,000 guests experienced the sights and sounds of Diwali as the iconic Disney park reverberated with sounds of Indian music and colourful costumes.

Walt Disney's iconic Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse opened the event alongside specially-abled children. Jashn Productions donated USD 10K to the N-Lorem Foundation whose mission is to develop and provide personalized experimental medicines free of cost to patients with nano-rare conditions. "The Showcase was not just a celebration of a cultural tradition but a representation of unity and the power of art to bridge gaps and bring people together," California-based ICC Bollywood directors Amit and Hiren said in the release.



China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

sends 43 planes, 7 ships near self-governing island

AP ■ TAIPEI (TAIWAN)

Taiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island...

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since the then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022...

China's military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel...

Dozens of Afghans deported from Pak in nationwide sweeps

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistani security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally...



agency to register those without papers. In Afghanistan, Zabihullah Mujahid, the main spokesman for the Taliban government expressed concerns over forced expulsion of Afghans...

The crackdown has drawn widespread criticism from UN agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan.

"Today, we said goodbye to 64 Afghan nationals as they began their journey back home," Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Authorities are working hard to establish temporary camps. Afghan returnees with families that have nowhere to go can stay in the camps for a month until they find a place to live, Banwari said.

The Afghan migrants have not created any problems in their host countries, he added. Without naming Pakistan, he urged host countries "to stop forcefully deporting Afghan refugees and practice 'tolerance based on Islamic and neighbourly manners'."

Late Tuesday, a Taliban delegation traveled from the capital of Kabul to eastern Nangarhar province to find solutions for returning Afghans. Ahmad Banwari, the deputy provincial governor, told local media that the

Pak, IMF to start negotiations today for release of 2nd tranche of \$3 billion loan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the IMF will start their negotiations Thursday for the release of USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilise its debt-ridden economy...

acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves. Ahead of the crucial talks, Pakistan was confident to secure the nod of the creditor for release of the second tranche under the short-term loan.

"We have achieved our targets, including revenue goals. We are confident that our negotiations for the second tranche will be successful," he said.

"Pakistan has achieved the structural bench agreed with the IMF and its important condition of increasing gas prices has also been met. Similarly, the circular credit is also within the prescribed limit and the fiscal deficit is in accordance with the set target as well."

While approving the USD 3 billion loan in July this year, the Washington-based global lender had also released the first tranche of USD 1.2 billion. Although essentially a bridge loan, it offered much respite to Pakistan, which was battling an

release of the next instalment of the loan to the IMF board, which will approve the release of USD 710 million in December to the country, it added. Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses...

The finance ministry officials were asked about the status and role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, the prospects of next elections, and the mandate of the interim government, the sources said.

Unlike the last failed USD 6.5 billion programme, the Ministry of Finance seemed committed to meeting the conditions set for the USD 3 billion programme during the past three months.

Pak SC terms govt committee as 'eyewash'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Dismissing it as an "eyewash," Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a committee formed by the government to probe the 2017 sit-in by a headline religious group and directed it to form another panel to probe those responsible for it.

FAIZABAD DHARNA

fact-finding committee had been constituted on October 19 and then read out the notification that the three-member committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with directions included in the 2019 judgement.

However, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said the exercise was an "eyewash" and the "real thing" was missing from it. "When everyone is withdrawing their review petitions, the terms of reference of the committee are synonymous to dust in the eyes."

After raising questions over the status of the committee, the chief justice declared it illegal. "This committee too is illegal," the CJ stated and then asked why the inquiry was not conducted under the Inquiry Commission Act.

After the bench rejected the fact-finding committee, it directed the government to form another committee to probe those responsible for the Faizabad dharna, which

was a major embarrassment for the government. Chief Justice Isa, who was then the justice for the case, in his 2019 verdict in the sit-in case had ordered, among other steps, the formation of a probe committee to know the real reason behind the protest.

The decision had upset the government and the powerful establishment and a case of alleged corruption was filed against Isa in the Supreme Court, which after hearing rejected the charges.

Several review petitions, including by the Ministry of Defence, the Intelligence

Bureau, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement party as well by former minister Sheikh Rashid and Ijazul Haq (who is the son of former dictator Ziaul Haq) were also filed against the original judgment.

Biden to meet Xi Jinping in San Francisco this month

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden would meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership Summit in San Francisco later this month, the White House has confirmed.

'North Korea shipped more than 1 million artillery shells to Russia'

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence officials.

denied US and South Korean claims that the North has been transferring arms supplies to Russia. According to lawmaker Yoo Sangbum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine.

Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said. The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilising residents to increase production, Yoo said.

There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean weapons. NIS officials didn't immediately

respond to a request to confirm Yoo's account of the meeting. The agency has a mixed record on tracking developments in North Korea, which is made difficult by Pyongyang's stringent control of information.

There are concerns in South Korea that North Korea could receive sensitive Russian technologies that would enhance the threat of Kim's nuclear weapons and missiles program. But the NIS believes it's more likely that the Russian assistance would be limited to conventional capabilities, possibly including efforts to improve North Korea's aging fighter aircraft fleets, Yoo said.

It's also likely that North Korea is receiving Russian technological assistance as it pushes ahead with plans to launch its first military reconnaissance satellite, Yoo quoted the NIS as saying. Following consecutive launch failures in recent months, the North failed to follow through on its vow to attempt a third launch in October.

Public Notice: Notice is hereby given that my client Sagar garg is in process to avail the LAP against his first floor portion area measuring 103.32 square meter out of the said property new known as Mahinder apartment...

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE File No.-CE/R&B/ACCTS-30/23/371 Dt:27/10/23 Name of the Work: Special repair of JB/JC qtrs in port township. Estimated cost: Rs.3,81,10,678.98. Last Date & time of submission of bid: 20.11.2023 upto 18:00 Hrs.. Refer our Website for details: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

NOTICE TO APPEAR / ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DLM & SEC-LOH Through this publication this is for constructive notice for respondent Anshant Knitwear, 9/5949 Gali No. 12, Raighubar Para No. 2, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi to appear in person or through authorized representative before the district level Micro & Small Facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on dated 21-12-2023 regarding claim reference submitted by Atam Corporation # 29451/1, Guru Vihar, Street No. 2, Rahon Road, Ludhiana u/s 181(1) of MSME act 2006 bearing Reference No. MSEFC(DI/1221/1738. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 and 25 of arbitration and conciliation act and award shall also passed on basis of evidence before it.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001. Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813. Website www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914. Short Term E-Tender Enq. No.7481/P-1/EMP-12472 dated 30-10-23. Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-tender ID No.2023\_POWER\_111808\_1 for the Procurement of MS and HT Nuts & Bolts under FS Group for the year 2023-24 for whole plant.

MODI RUBBER LIMITED CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392 Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P) Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398. NOTICE Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 303rd Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 10th November, 2023 at 11.30 AM at Corporate Office : 4-7/C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:

More than 40% of Ukrainians need humanitarian help, says UN

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russian strikes are inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people of Ukraine and more than 40 per cent of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior UN official told the UN Security Council. Ramesh Rajasingham, director of coordination in the UN humanitarian office, said thousands of civilians have been killed in strikes on homes, schools, fields and markets since Russia's invasion in February 2022. The UN human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."



Rajasingham said. About 18 million Ukrainians — more than 40 per cent of the population — need some form of humanitarian assistance, and as winter approaches "needs will be magnified," he said. Rajasingham said significant damage and destruction of critical infrastructure continues to severely impact civilian access to electricity, heating,

To prepare for the freezing temperatures this winter, the UN official said, the humanitarian community is helping people carrying out household repairs and ensuring that water and heating systems are functional. "The aim is to ensure that every civilian has access to somewhere both safe and warm during the winter ahead," Rajasingham said. Ukrainians must also deal with diminished health care, he said. Since the invasion, the UN World Health Organisation has verified over 1,300 attacks on health care — more than 55 per cent of all attacks worldwide during the same period, he said.

And 111 health care workers and patients have been killed, with 13 health facilities impacted by attacks just since the beginning of September.





