

11 militants killed in Manipur



Representative Image

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Eleven suspected militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Manipur's Jiribam district on Monday, officials said. Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire that happened at Jakurador Karong in the Borobekra sub-division. The condition of one of them was stated to be critical.

Militants in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station, and the CRPF camp located alongside it around 2.30 pm, officials said. A few of the militants broke out and went to the Jakurador Karong market, around 100 metres away, and torched several shops, besides attacking some houses, they said. As the security forces

retaliated, a heavy exchange of fire began and 11 suspected militants were killed, they added. The gunfight lasted a little over an hour, officials said. A relief camp was also located within the premises of the police station, and five people living there went missing, they said. It was not clear whether these civilians were kidnapped by the retreating militants or went into hiding

after the attack began, they said, adding that a search was underway for them. The bodies of those killed were brought to the Borobekra police station, officials said. Following the incident, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS were imposed in the area, according to a notification. "There is apprehension of widespread disturbance to peace and public tranquillity or a riot or any affray in the area and grave danger to human lives and properties because of unlawful activities of some anti-social elements," said the notification, prohibiting assembly of five or more persons. Borobekra sub-division has witnessed multiple incidents of violence since June. It is one of the worst-affected areas of the district. Last week, a 31-year-old woman was killed during an attack on the Zairon Hmar village by armed militants. At least six houses were reduced to ashes in the attack, according to the police. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. Ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year. Thousands had to leave their homes and take shelter in relief camps due to incidents of arson. A CRPF jawan was also killed in an ambush by militants during patrolling in mid-July.



Newly sworn-in Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna with President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Justice (ret.) DY Chandrachud and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal after his swearing-in ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi

PTI



Murder trial against Jagdish Tytler will continue: HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday made it clear that the murder trial in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler would continue. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri was hearing a plea filed by Tytler seeking a stay on the trial proceedings taking place against him in a Delhi court. The court would continue with the hearing on November 29. "It is made clear the trial will continue. Same will be subject to the outcome of the present proceedings," the judge ordered. Tytler's counsel submitted the case was listed for the recording of evidence of a prosecution witness before the trial court on November 12 and the trial court was asked to not proceed till the High Court decided his plea against the framing of charges order. Senior advocate HS Phoolka, representing the victims, opposed the plea arguing the witness was old and suffered from various ailments and being subjected to multiple court appearances. She would be appearing in court for the fourth time, he said.

Continued on page 8

Form special cell to ensure cracker ban implemented: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Calling it a mere "eyewash", the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Delhi Police for failing to comprehensively implement the firecracker ban in the National Capital and only seizing raw materials. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih therefore directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to immediately inform all the stakeholders concerned about the ban order and ensure no sale and manufacture of crackers. The Bench observed that Punjab and Haryana Governments remained reluctant to act against farmers who resort to stubble burning in the fields, leading to a rise in air pollution. "We direct Delhi police commissioner to form a special cell to ensure effective implementation of the ban on fire crackers. We direct Delhi police commissioner to file a personal affidavit putting on

record the steps taken by them to enforce ban," it said. The SC wondered why the Delhi Government delayed imposition of the ban on firecrackers till October 14, when the order of ban was issued. "The right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Prima facie, we are of the view that no religion promotes any activity that promotes pollution or compromises with health of the people," observed the bench. The SC further asked the Delhi Government to decide before November 25 on a "perpetual" firecracker ban after consulting stakeholders. Observing the reluctance of Punjab and Haryana Governments on taking action, the Bench also asked how the stubble burning incidents had seen a rise on the day of Diwali recently. "How can this happen? How come this increased in Diwali? Why are you sparing your officers?

They are sparing the farmers. Farmers are filing IA [Intervention Application] before us because they are fearing things. And now you all are sparing your officers," the Court asked. In the order, the SC said the states must explain the non-prosecution of farmers accused of stubble burning. "Even today we find reluctance on the part of governments in taking action under the Section 14 of CAQM Act, 2021. We have observed in earlier orders that instead of direct prosecution, States are still busy in just issuing show cause notices despite flagrant breaches. States owes explanation to us on non prosecution," it said, directing strict compliance of the rules in this regard. The Bench was hearing the case concerning pollution in Delhi. It is specifically examining the action taken by authorities across Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to curb stubble burning incidents.

Terrorist Pannun threatens Ayodhya Ram Mandir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun on Monday issued threats targeting Hindu temples, including the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. In a video released by the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) outfit, Pannun, currently staying in the United States, and Canada, warned of an attack on November 16 and 17. The video, reportedly recorded in Brampton, Canada, is aimed at inciting violence

against Hindu places of worship. In his statement, Pannun said, "We will shake the foundations of Ayodhya, birthplace of the violent Hindutva ideology", a direct threat to one of India's most sacred sites. The video shows images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi praying in the Ram Temple during its Pranpratishtha in January this year. Pannun has also warned Indians in Canada to stay away from Khalistani attacks on Hindu temples. Last month, Pannun cautioned passengers against flying on Air India flights between November 1 and 19. Pannun claimed the period coincided with what he called the 40th anniversary of the 1984 "Sikh genocide".

Continued on page 8

Stuck in a crossfire, trekkers dial 100, forces respond and rescue



File Photo

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

DIAL 100- An integrated Emergency Response system Sunday came to the rescue of two budding trekkers in Srinagar, who were caught in a crossfire in the Zabarwan forest of Srinagar, following reports of suspicious movement of terrorists in the highly guarded area. As security forces resorted to speculative firing to establish contact with the terrorists spotted in the area, the trekkers, who climbed the hills to soak themselves in the serene atmosphere, panicked and took shelter behind the rocks to avoid being hit by bullets. While security forces rushed reinforcements to cordon off the entire

area one of the trekkers acted smartly and dialled 100 informing the police control room about their whereabouts in the vicinity of the encounter site. Responding swiftly to the SOS call made by these trekkers the ongoing operation was halted and both the trekkers were rescued by the security forces from the forest area of Zabarwan hills. According to preliminary reports, the operation was launched in the highly guarded area on Sunday after noticing the suspicious movement of two individuals with rucksacks. The trekkers were later identified as Tariq Ahmad Mir and Mufti Ziyar. They are both employed at a well-known missionary school in Srinagar. After safely rescuing both the trekkers the police shifted them to a local police station for questioning, where their identities and credentials were thoroughly verified. The duo were released after confirmation that both of them were innocent. Following the incident, Jammu and Kashmir Police issued an advisory for trekkers and adventurers, urging them to alert local authorities before venturing in sensitive areas and high-security zones. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, Monday emphasised the need to keep local police stations informed about travel plans. "Prior information about trekkers' plan and their routes will allow us to act quickly in case of any untoward occurrence," Birdi said.

Continued on page 8

Fasten that helmet ladies, 'SHERYDS' is here

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Bike-taxis are one of the cheapest ways to commute to and from a metro station, however, many women travellers do not explore this option as they do not feel comfortable sitting in close proximity with an unknown man. Those who do, have complained of the men bike riders behaving rudely, making lewd remarks or driving rashly with an intention to harass the woman passenger riding pillion. Now, women commuters of Delhi Metro can finally enjoy safer bike rides and be driven by women. The initiative named 'SHERYDS', not just gives the passenger a safer and more comfortable option but also provides




employment opportunities for many women who can ride a motorcycle. The service was launched on Monday at 12 metro stations across the National Capital, customers can avail the service from its official mobile app DMRC Momentum (Delhi Sarthi 2.0). People can avail two

types of bike taxis namely, SHERYDS, for women, and RYDR, for all commuters. These metro stations include Dwarka Sec-21, Dwarka Sec-10, Dwarka Sec-14, Dwarka Mor, Janakpuri West, Uttam Nagar East, Rajouri Garden, Subhash Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Millennium City Centre Gurugram and

Palam. The all-women bike taxi fleet will have trained and verified female riders and will provide real-time ride monitoring. A Delhi metro official said the service focuses on easing first and last-mile connectivity. "This is a custom-tailored initiative designed to meet the needs and preferences of female metro commuters. It also empowers women to travel independently at their convenience with safety to their destination." He added that SHERYDS also offers women drivers an opportunity to earn a living. Unlike traditional models where drivers may travel long distances, these bike rides keep riders within a specified radius, which ensures both safety and reduced travel time.

Continued on page 8



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Patient given medicine for fever, dies minutes later

Kin demand action against doc

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man died ten minutes after allegedly being given medicine for fever by a doctor at a clinic in Indira Nagar police station area on Monday, prompting a strong protest from his angry family members, who were supported by local residents and blocked the highway by placing the body on the road. Police forces from three neighbouring stations were deployed to handle the situation. The incident took place in Sugamau village, Indira Nagar. Police attempted to convince the family members to disperse, but the latter were unwilling to listen. During the protest, the deceased's wife repeatedly struck her head in grief, demanding action against the doctor in question. Later, the officers pacified the situation by assuring the fam-

ily that a case would be registered against the doctor. The deceased, identified as Arvind, from Suggamau village, had been given medicine for fever by the doctor he consulted and died shortly afterwards. Arvind's uncle claimed that Arvind had only a mild fever. As per reports, the clinic's general physician, Dr Anurag Srivastava, allegedly prescribed medicine without properly examining Arvind, and he died, presumably due to a reaction to the medication. The deceased's wife, Meera Rawat, alleged that the doctor had ignored the reaction Arvind experienced after taking the medicine and sent him home with advice to rest. The bereaved family stated that Arvind had been suffering from a fever for four days and had pain in his hands and legs. On Sunday, he visited a clinic at Shivram Crossing, where the

doctor prescribed medication and sent him home. Arvind's condition began to deteriorate just ten minutes after taking the medicine, and he fell unconscious with foam coming from his mouth. The family then took him to a nearby hospital, but the doctor refused to admit him. He was immediately taken to RML Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, attributing his death to a drug reaction. Angry family members, assisted by local residents, protested by placing the body at Suggamau Crossing. Following this, the police registered a case. Meera raised concerns about the doctor's qualifications in her complaint to the police. She claimed that the clinic should be investigated and alleged that her husband's death was caused by the doctor's negligence and lack of proper medical qualifications.

Theft accused in police custody jumps from third floor of house

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth jumped from the third floor of a house while in the custody of Chinhat police on Sunday. He sustained injuries to his shoulder and leg and was subsequently admitted to RML Hospital. According to reports, the Chinhat police had arrested a youth named Rahul, a resident of Malhaur, on charges of theft. On Saturday night, the police brought him to his house in Malhaur to recover the stolen goods. It was then that he jumped from the third floor. Rahul sustained injuries to his shoulder and leg. The police stated that the

accused was recuperating at RML Hospital. They added that some stolen items had been recovered from him, and to recover the remaining goods, they took him to his house in Malhaur. The doctor later confirmed that his condition was no longer life-threatening. The Chinhat police explained that a person had reported the theft of a laptop and informed them that Rahul was in possession of it. "Acting on this information, the accused youth was taken into custody and brought to his house to recover the stolen item. In an attempt to evade arrest, he jumped from the roof," the police said.

Probe ordered in patient's death at pvt hospital

Lucknow (PNS): Taking note of reports regarding the death of a woman due to alleged medical negligence, Deputy CM and Health Minister Brajesh Pathak on Monday ordered an inquiry against an ENT surgeon of KGMU, who allegedly persuaded the family members of the patient to get the surgery done at a private hospital. Pathak ordered a probe into both the patient's death and private practice. Dr Ramesh Kumar was accused of admitting a woman to KD Hospital in Khadra, where she reportedly died. Pathak has also instructed the CMO to examine the role of KD Hospital and assess the arrangements there. The investigation report is to be submitted within a week.

Double-decker e-bus catches people's fancy



SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The electric double-decker e-bus is the newest addition to the city's transport system and is capturing everyone's attention. Wherever it goes, people pull out their phones to capture it on camera. Incidentally, a double-decker e-bus was introduced on the city roads back in 2005, but it failed to become popular and was eventually auctioned off. Passengers are full of praise after their first ride on the bus, which runs from Kamta to the airport. Deepak Chauhan, a tile maker, beams with a broad smile as he disembarks from the bus. "I took the ride simply because I wanted to experience it, and I enjoyed every bit of it. I'd definitely take another ride," he said. Dilip Singh, a student, described the ride as fantastic: "I study in Gonda, but I came to Lucknow for a visit and decided to try the bus. I found it so refreshing that I think more such buses should run in the state capital. I felt like I was flying," he said. Sunita Devi, another passenger,

praised the bus's appeal: "Children will love taking a ride on it. Moreover, it will encourage people to use pollution-free buses, which will be a huge benefit for the city's environment," she said. The interiors of the bus are plush, with 35 seats on the ground floor and another 35 seats on the first floor. An automatic recording greets passengers with a 'Welcome' when they enter and a 'Thank you' when they disembark. The bus is fully air-conditioned, and the seats are equipped with seat belts and chargers. In case of emergency, hammers are provided on the windows to break the glass. The bus is also fitted with cameras and panic buttons. The most captivating feature of the bus is the first floor, where the view from above is particularly interesting. Ramjas Yadav, the driver, said the response has been overwhelming. "By 1 pm, nearly 192 passengers had boarded the bus. We had made four trips, and now we are going to make four more after recharging the bus, which needs to be charged twice. The

passengers include both casual riders and serious commuters," he said. When asked if he faced any challenges while driving, he explained that it was smooth. "We were specially trained to drive the bus by trainers from Chennai. There's no challenge in driving the bus itself, but the main problem is the tempo autos parked on the roadside, which make it difficult for us to park. The door opens only when the bus stops, and it will only start moving when the door closes. We need more space on the road. If we stop in the middle of the road, we create a traffic jam," he said. Conductor Awanish Mishra explained that e-ticketing is used for passengers. "The total fare from Kamta to the CCSI Airport is Rs 45, with a minimum fare of Rs 12," he said, adding most passengers head straight for the upper deck as soon as they board. Regional Manager of UPSRTC, RK Tripathi, said that the bus travels at a speed of 30-40 km per hour. "A double-decker bus was introduced in the city several years ago, but it didn't capture the public's interest. It was later moved to Noida and then auctioned off," he said. When asked about any potential obstacles such as hanging wires, Tripathi assured that all necessary clearances had been obtained. "A proper no-objection certificate was taken from all the departments before running the bus," he said. He expressed hope that the new bus would continue to be a hit with passengers.



NOTICE

I, Koyala W/o Abdullah Khan, R/O- Village- Kanota, P.O. Sisvariya , District -Gonda. I have changed My name to Sajida for all purposes vide affidavit dated 26.06.2024 Sworn before notary Kunwar Rakesh Chandra

CITYBRIEFS

SPORTS FEST

Shri Ramswaroop Memorial College of Engineering and Management, Lucknow, announced the two-day state-level 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inter Technical University Sports Fest-2024-25', which will kick off on Tuesday. Executive director and founder of the college Pankaj Agarwal, additional executive director and co-founder Pooja Agarwal,

and advisor Arushi Agarwal told mediapersons that ADGP Dr GK Goswami, who is the founding director of UP State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow, would be the chief guest at the inaugural session. More than 1,000 students from engineering colleges of Lucknow other districts of the state will be participating in this event, which will be inaugurated at 10 am on Tuesday.

Principal alleges fraud by assistant teacher

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The principal of a school has filed a fraud case against an assistant teacher at Alambagh police station. The teacher is accused of securing the job by submitting a fake BED marksheet. According to Pawan Kumar, principal of Janta Inter College, located in Chander Nagar (Alambagh), Rakesh Kumar was employed as an assistant teacher at the college. She alleged that the BED marksheet submitted by Rakesh at the time of recruitment was found to be fake during the verification process. Following this discovery, the college administration dismissed Rakesh from his position. Principal Pawan Kumar stated that in June 2023, assistant teacher Rakesh Kumar had requested medical leave. To approve the leave, Rakesh was asked to have the documents signed by the chief medical officer (CMO). When the accused submitted the documents a few days later, the signature of the CMO appeared to be suspicious. The college administration then sent the documents to the CMO office for verification. The response received confirmed that the signature was not that of the CMO. While the investigation was ongoing, the college received notices from the bank regarding non-payment of loan instalments in Rakesh's name. Further investigation revealed

that the signature on his appointment letter, which had been signed by the former principal, was also found to be suspicious. When the former principal was questioned, he claimed that he had no knowledge of the matter. The current principal then requested Rakesh's BED degree and sent it to Sanskriti University for verification. Meanwhile, three unidentified men engaged a car-borne person in futile conversation while one of them pretended to have been hit by the victim's vehicle and stole his phone. According to reports, the victim, identified as Ajit Kumar Srivastava of Amravati Apartment, Sarvodayanagar, was going to his office in Vibhuti Khand in his car on November 9. At the Polytechnic intersection, he stopped at the red light. A pedestrian knocked on the windscreen, claiming he had been hit by the vehicle. "He started banging on the glass from the driver's side, shouting that the car had hit his leg, but nothing like that had happened. When I opened the window, two other men began knocking loudly on the window on the other side of the car. I opened the window on the other side, but all three of them started arguing with me. However, I later moved my car forward. I later realised that my iPhone 15, which had been placed on the driver's seat, had been stolen," he alleged. A case was registered in this regard.

SNA to boost disappearing art forms

Lucknow (PNS): Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) will prioritise the conservation of vanishing musical art forms, boosting their revival through a series of workshops, Chairman Prof Jayant Khot said on Monday. He outlined SNA's plans, noting that the foundation for future growth had already been laid by senior officials in the Ministry of Culture, and that efforts would be expanded upon moving forward. He highlighted the need to preserve musical traditions such as tappa songs and the shehnai, which are at risk of fading from the cultural landscape. "We aim to engage children with music, not only to nurture talented performers but also to create a new generation of informed audiences," Prof. Khot explained. He pointed out that children across Uttar Pradesh had already been introduced to music through various workshops organised by the Akademi. "Our minister also emphasises involving rural children, and our next step is to establish training programmes in schools across villages," he added. Recalling his own experience, Prof. Khot shared that he had once worked with village children who learned ragas that were the foundation of popular Hindi film songs. "We will engage them through mediums that interest them," he said. SNA will continue to focus on its prestigious awards, with some being presented posthumously to eminent performers who have passed away.

Judge claims attempt on life, alleges role of Sundar Bhati gang

Aligarh (PTI): A judge posted in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh has alleged he was attacked by members of the Sundar Bhati gang as he had convicted them in the past. An FIR has been registered in connection with the incident that took place on October 29, police said on Monday. Five unidentified assailants in a white SUV tried to intercept the vehicle of Additional District and Sessions Judge Anil Kumar Singh near Jattari while he was headed home in Noida via Aligarh for Diwali. The accused made several attempts to shoot Singh but he managed to evade them and reached a police outpost on the Aligarh-Tappal highway, according to the FIR. "Five unknown persons deliberately terrorised me and attacked with the intention to kill me," the FIR quoted Singh as saying. "I have enmity with no one. During my posting as Additional Sessions Judge, at District Court Gautam Buddh Nagar, I decided Sessions trial in multiple cases of 2015 and 2016 on April 45, 2021. In these Session trials, accused Sunder Bhati and his 11 gang members Rishi Pal, Singh Raj, Yogesh, Vikas Pandit, Kalu Bhati @ Beel @ Kavindra, Dinesh Bhati, Anoop Bhati, Yatendra Chaudhary, Sonu, Bobby @ Sher Singh and Surender Pandit were

convicted and sentenced for life imprisonment by me," he said. "I have the suspicion that Sunder Bhati and his gang members have conspired to attack me with the intention to kill to take revenge for their conviction and punishment as these persons have never been convicted in spite of having criminal antecedents," he added. Based on the judge's complaint, a case was registered on November 9 at Khair police station, Circle Officer N K Singh said. The FIR has been lodged under sections 191(1) and (2) (both related to rioting), 109 (attempt to murder), 126(2) (wrongful restraint on way), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 131 (assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 61(2) (party to criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), he said. "The matter is under investigation and no breakthrough has been made so far," he added. It was not immediately clear why there was a delay in lodging the complaint. Singh, however, said he verbally informed the local police chowki in-charge of Sofa, PRO of Aligarh senior superintendent of police and station house officer of Khair on the night of the incident.

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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024												
(₹ Lacs)												
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	Quarter Ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	
		30.09.2024 Unaudited	30.06.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Unaudited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Audited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	30.06.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Unaudited	30.09.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from operations	113.43	83.77	77.68	197.20	163.41	197.20	49,138.41	47,273.56	72,723.43	96,411.97	127,612.61
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	16.78	6.62	4.81	23.40	14.94	23.40	(1,926.98)	1,113.76	3,272.65	(813.22)	3,789.21
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and after share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	16.78	6.62	4.81	23.40	14.94	23.40	(1,919.79)	1,116.91	3,272.81	(802.88)	3,794.13
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	12.88	4.96	3.61	17.84	11.18	17.84	(2,574.83)	(36.79)	1,636.31	(2,611.62)	864.05
5	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items) (Discontinued operation)	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,905.47	2,348.72	865.37	16,254.19	1,063.01
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax))	13.12	5.20	3.61	18.32	11.18	18.32	11,741.75	2,401.32	2,515.87	14,143.07	1,940.52
7	Paid up Equity Share Capital	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as at Balance Sheet date					31,528.69						(56,063.28)
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (*Not annualised)											
Continuing Operation												
(1) Basic (₹)		0.05*	0.02*	0.01*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07	-9.35*	-3.10*	-0.92*	-12.45*	-7.31*
(2) Diluted (₹)		0.05*	0.02*	0.01*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07	-9.35*	-3.10*	-0.92*	-12.45*	-7.31*
Discontinued Operation												
(1) Basic (₹)		-	-	-	-	-	-	40.57*	6.85*	2.53*	47.43*	3.10*
(2) Diluted (₹)		-	-	-	-	-	-	40.57*	6.85*	2.53*	47.43*	3.10*
Continuing & Discontinued Operation												
(1) Basic (₹)		0.05*	0.02*	0.01*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07	31.22*	3.75*	1.61*	34.98*	-4.21*
(2) Diluted (₹)		0.05*	0.02*	0.01*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07	31.22*	3.75*	1.61*	34.98*	-4.21*
Note:												
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2024 filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2024 are available on the websites of stock exchanges (www.nseindia.com/www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.jindalinfra Logistics.com).												
On behalf of Board of Director of JITF Infra Logistics Limited												
Sd- Amarendra Kumar Sinha Whole Time Director DIN : 08190565												
Place : New Delhi Date : November 11, 2024												

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2024												
(₹ in Lakhs)												
(₹ in Lakhs)												
S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED							
		Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended		Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended						
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2024	30.09.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2024					
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)					
1	Total Income											
	- From Operations	2.63	20.53	13.77	46.06	144.78	113.70					
	- From Others	10.76	10.56	21.24	7.71	6.28	13.61					
	Total	13.39	31.09	35.01	53.77	151.06	127.31					
2	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional Items and /or extraordinary Item)	(5.28)	(0.88)	(7.02)	(18.49)	(28.19)	(44.08)					
3	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period before Tax (After Exceptional Items and /or Extraordinary items)	(5.28)	(0.88)	(7.02)	(18.49)	(28.19)	(44.08)					
4	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period after Tax (After exceptional Items and /or Extraordinary items)	(4.38)	(2.19)	(6.50)	(19.31)	(28.52)	(44.81)					
5	Total Comprehensive Income [(Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(5.31)	(1.96)	(8.36)	(19.83)	(26.75)	(45.86)					
6	Paid up Share Capital	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91					
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	-					
8	Earnings Per Share (F.V. of Rs.10/- each)											
from continuing operations												
	(1) Basic (In Rupees)	(0.11)	(0.05)	(0.16)	(0.33)	(0.44)	(0.74)					
	(2) Diluted (In Rupees)	(0.11)	(0.05)	(0.16)	(0.33)	(0.44)	(0.74)					
from discontinuing operations												
	(1) Basic (In Rupees)	-	-	-	-	-	-					
	(2) Diluted (In Rupees)	-	-	-	-	-	-					

NOTES:

1

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's website at <http://www.bseindia.com> and also on the Company's website at www.sael.co.in.

2

The Board of Directors in its meeting held on 13.08.2024 has approved the closure of amusement part at Kanpur (U.P.) with immediate effect.

3

Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items (if any) have been adjusted in the Statement of profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.

4

The consolidated financial results include the financial results of the subsidiary viz. Chai Thela Private Limited. The Consolidated financial results have been prepared as per IND AS 110 on Consolidated Financial Statements.

5

The above unaudited financial results for the quarter & half year ended 30.09.2024 were approved and taken on record by the Board in its meeting held on 11.11.2024 after being reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee on the same date and have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.

6

Corresponding figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board

(Tej Bhan Gupta)

Managing Director

DIN: 00106181

Place: New Delhi

Date: 11/11/2024

‘JMM led-govt turned Jharkhand into dharamshala for infiltrators’

PNS ■ PALAMU

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that Palamu's Hussainabad should be renamed Ram Nagar. He also accused the JMM-led government in Jharkhand of converting the state into a 'dharamshala' for Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators. Addressing a public rally at Bhawanathpur assembly constituency in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Yogi observed that a double-engine government is needed in the state for the treatment of stone pelters and those spreading disturbances during festivals. "The state has been converted into a 'dharamshala' for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators, who continue to spread anarchy," Yogi Adityanath said at the rally. He also urged the people to stay united, saying "batenge to katenge, ek rahenge to safe rahenge (if divided, we will be wiped out, if united, we will remain safe). The Bharatiya Janata Party star campaigner, while referring to the family of Shibu Soren, the Gandhi family and that of Lalu Prasad said that the three families encouraged corruption in the state.

Attacking Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Rashtriya Janata Dal, Yogi Adityanath said one of these families lives in Ranchi, the other in Bihar and the third in Delhi, and they loot the poor. "They have no thought of development outside the family. They are not concerned about employment of youth, respect for farmers, security of sisters, daughters and businessmen. Power is a means of looting for them," he said. Yogi said, "The demography of Jharkhand is being changed. Congress, JMM and RJD are not your well-wishers, but well-wishers of Bangladeshi infiltrators, Rohingyas and stone-pelters. These people have made Jharkhand a 'dharamshala' and have given Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims the freedom to spread anarchy. Love jihad and land jihad are going to create problems for the soil and daughters of this place." The UP chief minister asserted that only Bharatiya Janata Party was the cure for the ills of Jharkhand? Rohingya, love jihad, conversion, Bangladeshi infiltration, crisis of bread-daughter and soil, stone pelters, mafia-goons and smugglers. Yogi Adityanath on Monday sought votes for MLA and party candidate Bhanu Pratap



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during an election campaign ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly election, in Palamu district, on Monday

PTI

Shahi from Bhawanathpur, Kamlesh Kumar Singh from Hussainabad and Shashi Bhushan Mehta from Panki. Yogi held the fourth public meeting in Daltonganj for MLA and party candidate Alok Kumar Chaurasia. He said that Jharkhand had decided to neither tolerate nor say anything, but remain united and change the corrupt government. He counted Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's guarantee for Jharkhand and invited the people of the state to Ayodhya and Prayagraj Kumbh. Yogi asserted that BJP means development, security, good governance and respect for heritage. "Everyone has seen anarchy and corruption in Jharkhand for five years. The notes which should have gone into the accounts of the poor are being found in the houses

of Jharkhand ministers, their families and servants. Here festivals are not allowed to be celebrated peacefully. Here farmers commit suicide and the poor are forced to die of hunger," he said. Yogi said, "Kashi and Vindhayavasi Dham have become very good. After 500 years, Lord Shri Ram's temple has been built in Ayodhya. This could not be expected

from Congress, JMM and RJD of the INDI Alliance. These people are a threat to security. A double-engine government is needed for Atal Bihari Vajpayee's dream Jharkhand." Yogi said that the Jharkhand High Court had pointed out how the tribal population in Palamu decreased from 44 per cent to 28 per cent. "Neither roti is safe here, nor daughter and soil. If Ram temple is built in Ayodhya, then the blessings have been received by all the Indians. BJP candidate Kamlesh Singh has resolved to make this area Ramnagari on the lines of Ayodhya Dham by renovating and constructing hundreds of temples to protect Hindu identity. We have renamed Faizabad as Prayagraj again. Now Hussainabad should become Ram Nagar," he said. Yogi said that in the name of love jihad, Bangladeshi infiltrators and Rohingya Muslims were hatching a conspiracy in Jharkhand and Congress, JMM and RJD were also involved in it. "These people are creating an identity crisis, which is extremely dangerous. JMM, RJD and Congress have given shelter to the mafia for vote bank. Tribal daughters are

being cheated here in the name of love jihad, while in UP, if a daughter is cheated in the name of love jihad, then Yamraj will be ready to cut the ticket at the next crossroad. When the Congress, RJD and JMM government was at the Centre, Pakistan and China used to infiltrate. Now the Chinese army is retreating near Ladakh and the Indian army is patrolling. Congress, RJD and JMM are the problem and BJP is the solution," he said. Yogi said that the maximum increase in incidents related to women had happened in Jharkhand in the last five years. "The prime minister is giving jobs to lakhs of youth every month through Mission Rozgar. Congress, RJD and JMM did not respect Hindu faith and Lord Birsa Munda, whereas Modi celebrated 15th November as Tribal Day and worked towards making Baba Saheb's Panch Teerth," he said. The UP chief minister said that these people (Congress, RJD and JMM) could not throw out the infiltrators and Rohingya Muslims from the country, so they need to be rejected. He said like UP, Jharkhand was also a state of unlimited potential. Pointing out that devotees from the country and all over

the world come to Baba Dham with kanwar yatra and perform jalabhishek, Yogi said if Congress, JMM and RJD had their way, they would stop the kanwar yatra too. "Earlier, kanwar yatra was not allowed in UP too. Governments used to say that there would be riots. We said that if someone is hell-bent on rioting, then we should deal with him once and for all. Our government said that we will also play conch, DJ, bells and shower flowers from helicopters. Now the kanwar processions start in a peaceful manner," he pointed out. Yogi said to deal with security and the mafia, a spirit of honesty was needed. He said India would become great, safe and developed only when it remained united. "Those who divide are enemies of the country. These people used to serve the British. We were divided and had to face humiliation in Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. Crores of Hindus were killed. If we do not divide, then no one will have the courage to kill us. When divided, we were cut; if we remain united, we will be safe. We do not have to be spectators but decision makers," the Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

CM: Government to cover medical expenses of needy



PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, assured persons seeking financial aid for treatment of serious illnesses at Janata Darshan that the government would cover all their medical expenses, enabling them to receive care at top hospitals. The chief minister arrived in Gorakhpur on Sunday evening following his marathon campaign to support the Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in the assembly bypolls and stayed overnight at the Gorakhnath temple. On Monday morning, before departing for the Jharkhand assembly election campaign, the chief minister met with around 150 people at the Janata Darshan and listened to their concerns, assuring them of prompt and effective solutions. He instructed officials to expedite the process for those without Ayushman

cards who require financial assistance, ensuring they receive timely support. "Adequate funds will be provided from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund to assist every eligible individual," he said. Yogi emphasised that no one should feel anxious, as every problem would be resolved with utmost seriousness and sensitivity. He also instructed officials to take swift, quality action to ensure all grievances were resolved satisfactorily, warning against negligence on their part. The chief minister further directed officials to take strict legal action against any land encroachment or instances of bullying. For family disputes, he stressed the importance of dialogue and mediation between the parties involved in finding a peaceful resolution. During this session, a woman shared with the chief minister the financial difficul-

ties she faced in securing treatment for a family member at Medanta Hospital. Chief Minister Yogi responded by advising her to obtain an estimate from the hospital after admission and assured her that the government would cover the treatment costs. He also enquired about the Ayushman cards and instructed officials to ensure that every eligible individual receives one. While staying at Gorakhnath Temple, Yogi followed his traditional routine. On Monday morning, after paying his respects to Guru Gorakhnath and visiting the Samadhi of Gurudev Brahmachari Mahant Avaidyanath, he toured the temple premises. He then spent some time at the temple's cowshed, where he affectionately fed jaggery to the cows, while giving necessary instructions to the caretakers for their continued well-being.

BSP ex-MP among 25 booked for poll code violation

Muzaffarnagar (PTI): Former MP Kadir Rana and 24 other people have been booked for violation of the Model Code of Conduct in the Meerapur assembly constituency here, police said on Monday.

They said the accused held an election meeting at the panchayat building even though the model code is in effect in the assembly segment in view of the November 20 bypoll. Circle Officer (Jansath) Yatendra Singh Nagar told reporters that police have registered an FIR against 25 people, of which 10 have been named. Kadir Rana is among them, he added. The officer said candidates have been permitted to undertake door-to-door canvassing but former MP Rana and others held a meeting in the panchayat room. Rana, who was the BSP MP from Muzaffarnagar from 2009 to 2014, was holding an election meeting for his daughter-in-law and Samajwadi Party candidate from the seat Sumbul Rana. This is the second case against Kadir Rana for violation of the Model Code of Conduct in the Meerapur assembly constituency. From the Meerapur assembly seat, there are 11 candidates in the poll fray. The bypoll in Meerapur has been necessitated after its sitting legislator Chandan Chauhan of the RLD got elected to the Lok Sabha from Bijoor. Bypolls would be held in nine assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh. These are Katheri in Amedkar Nagar, Karhal in Mainpuri, Meerapur in Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Majhawan in Mirzapur, Sishamau in Kanpur city, Khair in Aligarh, Phulpur in Prayagraj and Kundarki in Moradabad.

Akhilesh Yadav hits out at govt for lathi-charge on PCS aspirants

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav reacted strongly to the lathi-charge on the youth protesting for the provincial civil services (PCS) exam in Prayagraj on Monday. Warning the Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh and the officials, Akhilesh Yadav said "remember that you will get the same service as you are serving". The SP chief said that the Yogi government wanted to suppress everyone by lathi-charge. "They have no one except the officials; that is why they are using lathi," he said, adding that all the officials who were doing wrong would be sent to jail after the change of the present government. Addressing an election rally at Kundarki in Moradabad, Akhilesh Yadav said the ruling party was putting all the strength in the by-elections only to save the chair. "They are not able to give jobs to the youth. Jobs are not on their agenda. They are cheating the future of the youth. Youth are protesting everywhere, not only in Prayagraj. The people who manipulated the exam are from Bharatiya Janata Party. The people who leaked the paper are also from BJP. The people who postponed the exam are also from BJP. The people who got the exam cancelled are also from BJP," the SP chief said. Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP had literally ended reservation. "Your reservation is being tampered with. The people who are delaying the results are from BJP. If we get out of these

Cong shares video

Lucknow (PNS): The Congress party, on Monday, attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over the lathi-charge on the candidates protesting outside UP Public Service Commission's intersection at Prayagraj on Monday. The Congress shared a video of the lathi-charge on its official X post and launched a major attack on the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government in UP. The Congress said that Narendra Modi was campaigning in the poll-bound states and promising to give permanent jobs if the Bharatiya Janata Party government was formed, but the reality was that whether it was Maharashtra, Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh, a crowd of unemployed was seen everywhere. The party wrote that these were the states where BJP was in power, but Narendra Modi does not talk about giving permanent jobs to the youth there. The Congress was reacting

to a massive protest by candidates which started against the normalisation in UP Public Service Commission's PCS Pre 2024 and RO/ARO Preliminary Examination 2023. Thousands of candidates gathered at the Public Service Commission intersection and raised slogans. They even broke the barricades and clashed with the police. The protest stems from the UPPSC's recent decision to conduct the PCS-2024 preliminary exam on December 7-8 and the RO-ARO 2024 preliminary exam on December 22-23, instead of holding them on a single day as students had expected. This decision comes on the heels of a scandal involving a leaked RO/ARO 2023 exam paper, which forced the cancellation of that test and has further shaken students' faith in the examination process. The students said holding these exams on separate dates caused unnecessary confusion and logistical inconvenience.

Whenever we get a chance, action will be taken against these officials. If someone comes to snatch your voter card or ID card, then take a video of them with your mobile, make a photo. This will become evidence and we will work to get them punished. Do not be afraid of them, do not panic," the SP chief said. Akhilesh said that the Lok Sabha elections shook the BJP and that was why it was postponing the elections. "First the by-election for Milkpur seat in Ayodhya was postponed; then the bypolls in all the remaining nine seats were postponed. The chief minister went to Ayodhya several times and used a huge amount of money to influence voters. Pichhde, Dalit and Alpsankhyak officials were removed from Ayodhya. Even after this, the internal survey revealed that the BJP was losing in Ayodhya and that is why the by-elections were postponed in Milkpur," he said. Akhilesh Yadav asked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on what basis he was saying that the Samajwadis do not respect women. "Those who say that daughters were not safe during the SP rule must have some data for the justification of their allegation. If you look at the data of National Crime Records Bureau 9NCRB), daughters are most unsafe during the BJP rule. The daughters are not safe even from the BJP people. The incidents in Varanasi and Kanpur are in front of you. One Kanpur man has gone to jail today. Who is raping the daughter? who is releasing the video today?" Akhilesh said.

Govt providing free ultrasounds for pregnant women at pvt centres

Lucknow (PNS): In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to make quality healthcare accessible and affordable in Uttar Pradesh, the state government is offering free ultrasounds to pregnant women at private ultrasound centres across the state. To date, over six lakh women have benefited from this initiative. The government is ensuring that pregnant women can access this service at empanelled private centres in any district, eliminating the need for travel. Emphasising the chief minister's commitment to protect the health of mothers and children, National Health Mission (NHM) Director Dr Pinky Jowal said that the government was providing both nutritious food and quality medical care. Since February 2023, the government has been distributing e-Rupee vouchers for free ultrasounds under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan. A network of 1,861 private ultrasound centres across 75 districts has been empanelled to provide this service. To date, over 1.45 million e-Rupee vouchers have been issued, and 6,80,000 women have already used them. The e-Rupee vouchers are valid for one month, after which they expire, but can be reissued if not used within the time frame. Vouchers are distributed on the 1st, 9th, 16th and 24th of each month at district women's hospitals, joint hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres. Following Chief Minister Yogi's directive, ASHA workers are conducting door-to-door campaigns to ensure more women are aware of this valuable facility.

Skilled deep-sea divers to ensure water safety 24x7

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

As part of its ongoing efforts to deal with emergencies during the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025, the Yogi Adityanath government will deploy 220 highly skilled deep-sea divers from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to secure the Sangam waters. The country's top Water Police personnel from Goa, Kolkata and Maharashtra will join the forces in Prayagraj this year to guard the devotees. For the first time, such a large number of hi-tech divers will be stationed to ensure the safety of pilgrims and saints during the sacred bathing rituals. Notably, to ensure safety of devotees at Maha Kumbh 2025, the largest gathering in Sanatan Dharma, teams from the NDRF, SDRF, water police, PAC, and healthcare staff are working in unison. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directives, comprehensive security measures are being put in place for the millions of devotees arriving from across India and abroad. According to Water Police in charge at Kila police station,

MAHA KUMBH 2025

Janardan Prasad Sahni, 220 deep-sea divers, 180 of them brought in from various regions and 39 already stationed locally, will remain on high alert to ensure round-the-clock water safety. Significant local participation is also being enlisted to support the event. Local boatmen, skilled in navigating depths up to 40 feet without equipment, are also contributing their expertise. Additionally, 10 PAC companies, 12 NDRF teams, and six SDRF units are being deployed to ensure the safety of bathers and manage any potential emergencies effectively. Various government and non-governmental organisations have pledged their support for this grand cultural gathering. Alongside the PAC and NDRF-SDRF teams, large numbers of residents are also actively participating. Furthermore, over 200 local individuals are undergoing training by the Water Police to assist in safeguarding the saints and pilgrims during the holy bathing rituals at Maha Kumbh.

Parikrama yatra of Madhav's 12 forms begins in Prayagraj

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj, the Kumbh city, is renowned for its religious, spiritual and cultural significance, with a rich history of religious and mythological traditions. Among these are various parikramas, which had faded over time but are now being revived with the support of the Yogi Adityanath government. One such revival is the Parikrama Yatra of the Dwadash Madhav temples, which began on Devottan Ekadashi. The ancient temples of Prayagraj, particularly the Dwadash Madhav temples, are integral to the city's spiritual identity. Shri Veni Madhav, one of the twelve forms of Dwadash Madhav, is revered as the city deity of Prayag. The yatra, starting from the historic Anant Madhav temple, is being led by various saints and akhara heads. Mahant Aditya Nand Ji of Shri Anant Madhav explains that the yatra will culminate at Shri Chakra Madhav in Arail, covering all twelve temples in a five-day journey filled with rituals and aartis. Mahant Birendranand, an Agni Akhara saint, informed that this parikrama yatra had been halted for years, but under the leadership of the Yogi government, similar to the revival of the Panch Kosi Parikrama, the Dwadash Madhav Yatra has been reinstated.

Govt using tech for rural development

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In line with its zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, the Uttar Pradesh government has implemented drone technology to monitor and assess the quality of rural development projects. Drones are now overseeing critical initiatives in villages, including housing construction, drinking water systems, irrigation, road building, playgrounds and plantation projects. Special monitoring teams have been formed at the district level to verify the progress of these works, including those under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, with the capacity to expand as needed. This innovative approach aims to ensure greater transparency in rural development, while holding officials accountable for their performance. The Yogi Adityanath government believes that using technology in this way will not only improve the quality of development projects, but also bolster the rural economy. In line with the Narendra Modi government's national development agenda, the Yogi admin-

istration places a strong emphasis on technology to enhance governance. Continuous monitoring of MGNREGA works is being done through drone surveillance, with district-wise inspections in place to ensure the efficient implementation of rural development schemes. Drone footage is being used to document progress and confirm the quality of work, ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without any compromise in quality. To ensure quality and accountability in rural development, the Yogi government is conducting inspections of ongoing development works for the financial year 2023-24. Following these inspections, the accountability of district officials will be determined, particularly in areas where projects have not met the prescribed standards. The government has directed district officers to fully cooperate with the state-level drone teams overseeing these inspections. Chief development officers have been tasked with ensuring that subordinate officers and staff assist the drone teams effectively.

Man gets 20-years jail for raping minor sisters

Kaushambi (PTI): A court here on Monday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping two minor sisters. The court of Special Judge Ashok Kumar Srivastava also slapped a fine of Rs 10,000 on the convict, the lawyer said. Additional District Government Advocate Criminal Shashank Khare said that the plaintiff, a resident of a village in Sarai Akil police station area of the district, gave a complaint on June 22, 2022 that her two daughters aged six and nine years had gone to eat berries in an orchard in the village. There Shashank (24), resident of village Yusufpur, raped both the daughters by luring them. On the complaint of the plaintiff, a case under IPC section 376 and POCSO Act was registered at the Sarai Akil police station, he said. "Special Judge of POCSO Act of the District Court Ashok Kumar Srivastava sentenced the convict to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000," Khare said "In case of non-payment of the fine, an additional sentence of six months imprisonment has been awarded. Half of the amount of the fine deposited will be given as compensation to both the victims," he added.

Exam date row: Aspirants lay siege to UPPSC HQ

PTI/PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

Aspirants protesting against the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission's (UPPSC) decision to conduct the RO-ARO and PCS preliminary examinations on different dates laid siege to the UPPSC headquarters in Prayagraj on Monday, staging a sit-in at Gate No. 2 even as a large posse of police personnel tried to diffuse the agitators. Policemen deployed in and around the UPPSC office tried to stop the students from reaching Gate No. 2, but the large crowd jostled their way through, raising slogans against the commission. The police even chased the crowd in order to disperse them, but the agitating students soon gathered again, defying the barricades put up on the roads to stop them from marching ahead. On November 5 the UPPSC announced to hold the Review Officer and Assistant Review Officer (RO-ARO) prelimi-



Aspirants in Prayagraj on Monday staging a protest against Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission demanding that the RO-ARO and PCS preliminary exams be held on the same date

nary examination in three shifts on December 22 and 23, and the Provincial Civil Service (PCS) preliminary examination in two shifts on December 7 and 8, drawing large-scale criticism from the aspirants. Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Abhishek Bharti

told reporters, "The aspirants and students have been requested to go to the designated dharna spot in the church area under the Civil Lines police station to stage their protest in a peaceful and democratic manner. Their point of view will be conveyed to the higher officials." "Many

students have already gone there, but some of them are still protesting in front of the commission office," the DCP said. Ankit Patel, one of the agitating aspirants, said the students want the exams to be held in a single shift just like before. Another student, Manorama Singh, claimed the commission's decision to conduct the exams on two days is against the rules. "In the notification, the commission did not mention that the exams will be held on two days. The students want them to be completed in a single day," Singh said. Colonelganj police station in charge PK Singh said police force from various police stations have been deployed and barricading has been done on all the roads leading to the Commission and the entire area has turned into fortress. On Sunday, aspirants of various competitive examinations conducted by the UPPSC had warned of a protest in front of its Prayagraj office on Monday.

Metro: Preparations to extend service from IIT to Kanpur Central station in final stages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Metro's preparations to extend its service from IIT to Kanpur Central station are now in the final stages. In the coming days, a test run will be conducted beyond Motijheel, all the way to Kanpur Central. Currently, the metro operates on the Priority Corridor from IIT to Motijheel, which includes nine elevated stations. With the planned extension to Kanpur Central in January 2025, five additional stations—Chunniganj, Naveen Market, Bada Chauraha, Nayaganj and Kanpur Central—will be added to the network. Notably, all these stations will be underground, marking the city's first foray into underground metro travel. These stations are situated in some of the city's busiest and most commercial areas, and the metro's passage through these hubs will save both time and energy for commuters. The metro's affordable and efficient service is expected to

positively impact the city's economy by improving connectivity and reducing congestion. Kanpur Metro, as a mass rapid transit system, is built on eco-friendly technology, producing zero carbon emissions. A green belt has been developed along the median below the metro viaduct, enhancing the city's greenery and aesthetic appeal. The clean, safe and efficient metro service has made travelling within the city both convenient and enjoyable. Passengers can also take advantage of affordable booking options for events such as birthdays, anniversaries and kitty parties aboard the metro. In addition, awareness campaigns on cultural, literary and social issues are regularly organised at metro stations. Notably, Kanpur Metro is the first in the state to introduce the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), with the aim to streamline fare payments across various modes of transportation.

Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC), Sushil Kumar, stated, "Kanpur has come a long way, evolving from tram travel to metro. The launch of metro services from IIT to Kanpur Central will significantly strengthen public transport in the city and alleviate traffic congestion. Currently, the journey between IIT and Motijheel takes about one to one and a quarter hours by road, but by metro, this distance will be covered in under 30 minutes. The metro track construction on the 'up-line' beyond Motijheel to Kanpur Central has been completed, and the installation of tracks, Third Rail systems, signals, and other infrastructure at the stations on this stretch is in its final stages. Once the finishing touches are completed, a trial run to Kanpur Central will soon take place. All remaining construction works on the Balance Section of Corridor-1 are progressing as planned. Very soon, the resi-

dents of Kanpur will enjoy the convenience of metro travel from IIT to Kanpur Central." **DRIVE LAUNCHED:** In view of regular complaints from citizens, the cattle catching squad of Kanpur Nagar Nigam has launched drive against mini-dairy operators on Monday. The squad raided a house in Makri Khera, Indira Nagar, on Monday and found large scale illegal operation of a mini-dairy there. The squad was led by Col Alok Narain and Veterinary and Welfare officer Dr Shilpa Singh and impounded seven buffalos. Veterinary Officer of the Nagar Nigam Dr Amit Niranjana said he had received online complaint about the illegal operation of this mini-dairy, in the face of which, the drive was carried out. Revenue Inspector Shirish Kumar, Subedars Awadhesh Singh, Laxman Singh and Virendra Swarup, Havildars Indrajit Singh, Rajnarain and Dhananjay of the cattle catching and enforcement squad along with other staff were present.

SP workers stage protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Although by-election is not being held in any assembly constituency of the district in the coming days, the political heat has increased in this high-profile parliamentary area when the Samajwadi Party (SP) workers through a poster war tried to make a counter attack on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. They took out a procession at the Singh Dwar (Main Gate) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) against a statement of the CM. Through their protest and poster, the SP workers expressed their anger against the 'gang rape' of a girl student of IIT-BHU in which the accused are allegedly associated with a Bhatatiya Janata Party (BJP) wing. The SP workers led by city chief of party's Lohia Vahini Sandeep Mishra protested carrying a poster 'yahan na dikhen bhajpayi, chhatraye hain ghabrayi' (BJP members should not be seen here, girl students are nervous) This poster was a reply of CM Yogi's statement 'jahan dikhe



SP workers staging a protest at BHU Gate in Varanasi on Monday.

sapayi waha bitiya ghabrayi' (wherever Samajwadi Party is seen, daughters are nervous). Strongly condemning the statement of the CM Sandeep Mishra said Baba (Yogi Adityanath) should get his eyes examined before making such statements. Lohia Vahini leader also claimed that after the gang-rape, BJP IT cell office-bearers and main accused were sent to Madhya Pradesh to campaign for the BJP. Senior SP leader Pooja Yadav said everyone knows that these BJP IT cell office-bearers who committed the gang-rape have a high profile status in their party as their pictures are present with senior BJP leaders.

Meeting in support of Suresh Awasthi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A meeting in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Suresh Awasthi contesting from Sisamau assembly seat was organised on Monday in which large number of intellectuals participated. All vowed to actively coordinate in publicity campaign and ensure victory of Suresh Awasthi. State Convenor of BJP's Chikitsa Prakashth Dr Abhay Mani Tripathi was the chief guest. Other prominent activists and office-bearers present at the meeting were Dr SB Mishra, Anant Shukla, Sunil Mishra, Rajendra Kesarwani, Ashok Dwivedi, VN Awasthi, Shrawan Kumar Shukla (poet), Pradip Nagar (advocate), Puneet Agarwal, Dinesh Agarwal, Abhay Jain, Sanjay Gupta, Prof Sanjay Swarnkar, Kamesh Mishra, Ramakant Dwivedi and Sohail Bajpai. Poet Shrawan Shukla recited many poems in support of BJP. Area Co-convenor, BJP Chikitsa Prakashth, Kanpur-Bundelkhand Area, Dr Anurag Mehrotra was also present at the meeting. Rajendra Kesarwani proposed vote of thanks.

HOUSE BURGLIED: A house was burgled in New Sheoli Road under Kalyanpur police station area on Sunday night. Reports said that mobile phones, jewellery and cash was stolen from there. The family members came to know about the incident on Monday morning and on checking the CCTV footage found a thief entering their house through the rooftop. An FIR has been lodged in this connection. Sanjay Shukla of New Sheoli Road, Kalyanpur, said when the family members woke up on Monday morning they found three mobile phones, ₹20,000 cash and other valuables missing from there.



BJP activists and office-bearers taking part in a meeting organised in support of party candidate on Monday

Three-day Kashi Ganga Mahotsav from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The stage is all set for the famous three-day cultural event Kashi Ganga Mahotsav which will be held at Assi Ghat for the first time from Tuesday evening. For the last many decades the festival, which was earlier known as Ganga Mahotsav, was held at different venues like Rajendra Prasad, Bainesasur Ghat, Namohat and Nagwa Ghat. However, this year it will be started at Assi Ghat as per the tradition on the auspicious occasion of Prabodhini Ekadashi. Earlier, the festival was of four days but due to the growing popularity of Dev Deepawali and heavy rush on the Ganga ghats it was reduced to three days. However this year, though the cultural events will be held from November 12 to 14 at Assi Ghat, on November 15 on the occasion of Dev Deepawali, an American group and others will present performances at Namohat. During the festival, a galaxy of artists, including three Padma awardees and some leading ones of Banaras Gharana along with 34 artistes from all over the country will perform at Assi Ghat.

On the first day, the main attraction will be eminent vocalist Padam Bhushan Pt Sajjan Mishra of Banaras Gharana. Besides, Aradhana Singh (bhajan, folk singing), sitar player Dr Supriya Shah, Vipul Chaubey (folk singing), Birha singer Parasnath Yadav, bhajan singer Shivshankar Vishwakarma, Kathak dancer Dr Yasmin Singh of New Delhi, Kuchipudi dancer Himanshi Katradda of Hyderabad, Dr Navneeta Chaudhary of Kolkata and Kashi Ras Band will

also present their programmes.

On the second evening, the main attraction will be a duet between Pt Narendra Mishra (sitar) and Pt Sukhdev Mishra (violin) and the singing of Banda Bairagi of Mumbai. Apart from this, there will be sitar playing by Dr Shrawani Vishwas, singing by Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya and Akanksha Tripathi, group singing by Sadho the Band (Jatin and group), Kathak by Naynika Ghosh, Kathak by Anu Sinha and group dance by Jagdishwar Priya Laxmi Foundation of New Delhi. There will be group dance by Richa Gupta of New Delhi and singing by Arun Mishra. On the last day, the sitar duet of three generations will be the centre of attraction. Sitar player Pt Shivnath Mishra of Banaras Gharana will perform with his son and grandson. Besides, Padma Shri Kumari Devyani will perform Bharatnatyam while Vidushi Sujata Gurav classical singing from Karnataka and team of Saurabh Gaurav Mishra and Aditi Sharma will present Kathak dance apart from the singing by Aastha Shukla, Bharatnatyam by Rashmi Menon of Chennai, group dance by Vandana Mishra of Ayodhya, folk singing by Amlesh Shukla, Dhimar dance by Radha Prajapati of Jhansi and singing by Hemant Brijwasi of Mathura.

The event will conclude at Namohat with group singing by American group on Dev Deepawali and it will also feature group singing programme (American Group) by Sujatha Vinjumuri, Kathak dance by Prince Dance Group, New Delhi and Shalaghi Banerjee, Kolkata.

Homeopathic medical camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi Press Club (VPC), run by Kashi Patrakar Sangh (KPS), organised a free homeopathic medical camp at Paradkar Bhawan here on Monday. In it free blood tests were done under the guidance of the city's renowned doctor Dr RS Dubey and his team, including Dr Kamal Dwivedi. Free medicines were also distributed. Dozens of journalists and their families took advantage of the health camp organised by Anand Homeopathic Clinic and Research Centre and Shanti Foundation. On the occasion, Dr RS Dubey said the treatment of incurable diseases has been possible only in homeopathy. "Homeopaths have achieved success in treating patients during the Corona period", he said. SBL and Biogene Lab also cooperated in the investigation in which Dr Haridwar Sharma, Dr Dilip Mishra, Anand Dwivedi, Uttam Pandey, Anil Yadav, Sanjay Pal, Anish Srivastava, Manish Tomar, Dinesh Singh, etc were present. The doctors were welcomed by VPC president Arun Mishra. It was also attended by KPS chief Atri Bhardwaj, general secretary Akhilesh Mishra, treasurer Pankaj Tripathi, VPC secretary Vinay Shankar Singh and many others.

Children present poems, songs using sign language

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The first year students of BED Department of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, visited Deaf and Envision School on Monday. Before the visit, Principal Prof Anju Chaudhary motivated the students and praised their work. During this



The Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, organised a programme under the Mission Shakti campaign on Monday.

visit, the students of BED Department used sign language to communicate with the children and were extremely happy to see that the children listened and understood their words with full attention. The teachers there told that the children here are not only taught about the educational curriculum but are also trained about various aspects of life like social behaviour, hygiene and self-reliance. The children gave various presentations in which they presented poems and songs through the sign language they had learnt. This scene was extremely inspiring and proved that if the right guidance and opportunity is given, then disability can never be an obstacle. Professor Pragya Srivastava, Head of the BED Department, while giving a good advice to all the students, said, "This school visit is an unforget-

table experience for us. Everyone has equal right to education. By spending time with these children the students of BED department will learn the art of living life happily even with difficulties and problems". In the programme various types of songs, dances, games etc were presented by the students of the department and namkeen, biscuits, fruit etc. were distributed to the students of the school. The cooperation of all the lecturers of the department was commendable in the entire programme. Along with this, a special school visit was made by the volunteers of NSS in which everyone was made aware of the topic of 'Beti Bachao'. The programme was organised under the direction of NSS in charge Dr Namrata Pandey and Mission Shakti in charge Dr Saba Yunus.

TRAINING CAMP: The fifth training camp for EWS children will start at The Sportz Hub (TSH) from December 2. The registration for free training in 10 sports was open till November 17. The distribution of registration form has started on Monday while the trials for selected children will be held on November 23. At a meeting of the coordination committee held in presence of the members, Sanjay Pathak, Devesh Dubey, Rajiv Garg and Harsh Agarwal, recently many important decisions had been taken. Addressing the members, Sanjay Pathak and Devesh Dubey informed that in the ensuing camp, EWS children would be given training in 10 sports, including badminton, basketball, boxing, judo, kabaddi, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis and taekwondo by coaches of national and international repute. It may be recalled that best performing players were felicitated with the cash prizes by the Board of Directors of TSH.

35-year-old woman swallows poisonous substance, dies during treatment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A 35-year-old married woman swallowed a poisonous substance after a family dispute in Chaprala village under Meja police station area and died during treatment. On receiving the information, her maternal family created a ruckus. The police pacified the enraged people by convincing both the parties and took the body in possession and sent it to for postmortem.

Kaushalesh of Chaprala village was married to Sangeeta of Bedouli village. A week ago, a dispute ensued with Sangeeta over some work in her in-laws' house. On Sunday night, once again a dispute took place with Sangeeta. Angered by this, she locked the room and swallowed a poisonous substance. When the family came to know about it they panicked and took her to the nearest hospital for treatment where she died. The incident was reported at the maternal home of the deceased. The girl's side arrived and started creating a ruckus. Police reached the spot after getting information about the dispute between the two sides. Police somehow pacified them. After this, police took the body into their possession and sent it for the post-mortem examination. Police is investigating the case on the basis of the complaint of the girl's side. Meja inspector Rajesh Upadhyay said investigation is being done as per the complaint. The body has been sent for postmortem. Meanwhile a joint team of Kotwali Police and Prayagraj unit of STF arrested an accused Anshu Gupta carrying a reward of ₹50,000 from Latit Nagar New Water Tank Railway Colony. On being tipped off by an informer the accused Anshu Gupta was arrested by Kotwali Police in association with the STF Unit, Prayagraj. Police team that made the arrest included SHO Kotwali Rohit Kumar Tiwari, sub-inspector (S-I) Kamlesh Kumar Giri, Outpost in charge Sarajkund, S-I Rituraj Singh, Outpost in charge Ghantaghar, S-I Ranendra Kumar Singh, STF Unit Prayagraj and others.

MR vaccine to be administered from Nov 25 to Dec 6

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Health department has made a plan to make Varanasi free from measles and rubella (MR). All children from nine months to five years of age in the district are being given MR vaccine to protect them from measles and rubella. The remaining children up to five years of age who have not received the first and second MR vaccine will be given in the catch-up round. According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, for this, a head count survey is being conducted in all the blocks of the urban area, Kashi Vidyapeeth and Pindra respectively, from November 6 to 14. After the survey, the MR vaccine will be administered from November 25 to December 6. The CMO said that measles is a highly contagious virus and its symptoms include high fever and severe skin rashes. "When a woman is infected with the rubella virus in the early stages of pregnancy, there is a risk of the virus spreading to her foetus. This can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth or severe birth defects called Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS). There is a high pos-

sibility of measles increasing in the winter months of December and January", Dr Chaudhary said, adding that it can be prevented by administering a vaccine and appealed to the parents to get their children vaccinated and protect them from this disease. District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr AK Maurya said that the routine vaccination on Wednesday and Saturday will continue as before. "Vaccination will be done by making a separate plan for the catch-up round. The first vaccine will be given to children between nine months to 12 months and the second vaccine will be given to children between 16 months to 24 months. Till the month of October, the first MR vaccine has been given to 5,253 children and the second MR vaccine has been given to 49,036 children", he informed. He said that rubella is an infectious disease which spreads through a virus. Its symptoms are similar to measles. It can infect both boys and girls. If a woman gets infected with it in the early stages of pregnancy, then CRS can occur which can prove fatal for her newborn baby. Therefore, parents must get the measles-rubella vaccine and protect their children from these diseases, he added.

Students observe loco manufacturing process at BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The students of Government High School, Harichandanpur, Bhadohi made an educational tour to Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Monday in which they, along with their principal and teachers, closely observed the process of locomotive manufacturing. This tour was organised with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of the students, where they understood the technical aspect of Indian Railways. During the detailed tour of the Banaras Locomotive Works workshop, the students observed the manufacturing, design and various complex processes of the rail engine with great curiosity. They got

the opportunity to know how high quality rail engines are manufactured by BLW, which strengthened the credibility of Indian Railways in the country and abroad.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Banaras Locomotive Works Rajesh Kumar informed the students about the historical background of the factory and the work done here. The students thoroughly enjoyed this new experience and were overwhelmed to know the intricacies of the railways. This educational tour was not only an informative trip for the students but also generated a sense of pride and respect in their minds towards BLW, a leading production unit of Indian Railways.



Students witnessing locomotive manufacturing process at BLW in Varanasi on Monday.

Oath of drug-free India administered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An awareness and education programme on drug addiction and substance abuse was organised in the auditorium of Araziline development block here on Monday. The main objective of the programme was to make the youth aware not to consume drugs and intoxicants. In the programme, mainly Block Pramukh representative Dr Mahendra Singh Patel, Block

Development Officer (BDO) Surendra Singh Yadav, Career Guru Ravindra Sahay, District Coordinator Anoop Rai from Health department, Regional and Welfare Officer Reena Yadav, gram pradhans of Pradhan Sangh and Nehru Yuva Mandal officials were present. The programme was conducted by Dr Nandkishore Rai. Addressing the function, Ravindra Sahay said that drug addiction destroys the youth in five ways —

physical, mental, moral, spiritual and character. He said that do not become a slave of drug addiction and get addicted to serving the country. Surendra Singh Yadav said that if one changes oneself, the society and country will change itself. Dr Mahendra Singh Patel said that serving humanity is the true service of God and appealed to the youth not to consume drugs. Anup Rai appealed to the youth that if they come forward then the country can

be freed from addiction. Ashok Kumar Patel, Aditya Patel, Rajesh Rai, Jaiprakash, Pravesh Maurya, Pradeep Kumar Patel, Shrinam Patel, Priti Rai, Abhishek Kumar, Ajit Tandon, Kamlesh Yadav etc were present in the programme. Regional youth welfare officer Reena Yadav proposed the vote of thanks. At the end of the programme, Youth Icon Awardee Ram Singh Verma administered the oath of a drug-free India.

People determined to bring change: PM Modi to BJP workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Congress is trying to break the collective strength of SC, ST and OBC by creating divisions among them to weaken their voice and eventually end the reservation for them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he called for unity among these communities. "That's why I keep saying 'ek rahenge, toh safe rahenge (if you remain united, you would be safe),' he said while interacting with BJP workers in Jharkhand under the 'mera booth sabse mazboot' programme through the NaMo app. The state goes to assembly polls on November 13 and 20. Modi also highlighted the

"failures" of the JMM-Congress-RJD combine's five-year rule and said the state has to be freed from "corruption, mafiaism and misrule" to put it on the path of progress. The kind of blessings that the BJP is receiving at booth levels, it's clear that the "corrupt" JMM-led government is set to be ousted, Modi asserted. "The countdown has begun," he said. Modi said "everyone from the royal family" of the Congress -- from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi -- were "staunch opponents" of the provision of reservation and the party crushed all the voices rising in its favour till it was at the helm from "panchayat to Parliament" as the Dalit, OBC and Adivasi societies were scattered then.

But, gradually they started understanding what B R Ambedkar had said and came together posing a challenge to the Congress in many of the states, he said. "The OBC society could not come together till 1990. But when they came together, the Congress suffered severe losses. "Since then, the Congress has not been able to form its government with a full majority. It has its government in just three states in the country today," he added. Modi said the Congress has decided to break "the collective strength" of the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Other backward Classes (OBC) as its "royal family is angry".



"It has become their (Congress) agenda over the past few years. It's because the states, which have the highest number of Dalits, OBC, Adivasis, are under the BJP-NDA rule today and there is no possibility of the Congress coming to power in these

with each other. "When these societies break into smaller castes, their voice as SC, ST and OBC will become weak. The day this happens, the Congress' conspiracy will succeed. It will take away reservation as well," he said. "That's why I keep saying 'ek rahenge, toh safe rahenge (if you remain united, you would be safe). All the OBC, SC and ST societies should remain united," Modi said. "People have shared on social media an old advertisement given by the Congress during elections... Perhaps Rajiv Gandhi was the leader of the party then. "The SC, ST and OBC have been painted so ugly in this advertisement. In their adver-

tisement, they have clearly said that reservation has to be taken away from the SC, ST and the OBC," he added. Modi launched an all-out attack on the Congress, JMM and RJD and accused them of making tall claims but failing to deliver on their promises. He said in these polls, the people of Jharkhand are determined to bring change. The biggest reason for this, the prime minister said, is that JMM, Congress and RJD have attacked Jharkhand's 'roti, beti and maati' (bread, daughters and land). "They made tall claims in the last five years, but today the people of Jharkhand can see that most of their promises are false," Modi said. He said despite the lack of cooperation from the state

government, the Centre is trying its best to develop the state with its mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'. Dynastic parties are not only corrupt but also the biggest hurdle for talented youth of the society, he said. Modi said that the JMM too has learned these tricks from the 'royal family' of the Congress. It now only cares for power and money, the prime minister alleged. Earlier, the rich had gas cylinders in their homes and the poor could not even think of having a gas cylinder, he said adding the reason being that Congress had the nature of catering to the rich. The BJP delivered gas cylinders to the homes of people through the government's 'Ujjwala' scheme, Modi noted.

SC stays warrant against Shivraj Singh Chouhan in defamation case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the execution of bailable warrant against Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and two other BJP leaders in a defamation case filed by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti sought Tankha's response on a plea of Chouhan and others challenging the October 25 order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court refusing to quash the defamation case. The bench said, "The execution of bailable warrants against the petitioners shall not be executed subject to their effective participation in the proceedings before the court in the case." Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for Chouhan and others, said the purported statements mentioned in the complaint by Tankha were made on the floor of the house



and were covered by Article 194 (2) of the Constitution. Article 194 (2) states, "No member of the Legislature of a State shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a House of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings." Jethmalani submitted it was unheard of that in a summons case, a bailable warrant was issued by the court, when the

parties could appear through their counsel. On October 25, the high court had refused to quash the defamation case lodged by Tankha against former Madhya Pradesh CM Chouhan, BJP state president V D Sharma and former minister Bhupendra Singh. Tankha, in his complaint in the trial court, said defamatory statements were made in the run-up to Panchayat elections in the state in 2021. On January 20, 2024, a special court in Jabalpur registered the defamation case against the three BJP leaders under IPC Section 500, summoning them in court.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as 51st CJI



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was on Monday sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at a brief swearing-in ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Khanna took the oath in English in the name of God. Born on May 14, 1960, Justice Khanna will serve as the CJI for a little over six months and

demit office on May 13, 2025, on attaining the age of 65 years. He succeeds Justice D Y Chandrachud, who demitted office on Sunday. Hailing from an illustrious Delhi-based family, Justice Khanna is the son of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Dev Raj Khanna and the nephew of renowned former apex court judge HR Khanna. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former CJI J S Khehar were among those present on the occasion, besides Justice Chandrachud. Justice Khanna, who served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, has been part of several landmark judgments such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the granting of interim bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Indian Navy, Sri Lankan Navy review preparedness to jointly combat transnational maritime crime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India and Sri Lanka on Monday reviewed their preparedness to jointly combat transnational maritime crime and regional cooperation in the seventh annual High Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) at Colombo, ICG said here. Giving details, officials said this meet marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to combat transnational maritime crime and promote regional cooperation. This annual meeting follows the institutionalized mechanism as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between both the maritime agencies in May 2018. The four member ICG delegation is led by its Director General S Paramesh while the SLCG side is led by Rear



Admiral YR Serasinghe, Director General, Sri Lanka Coast Guard. The HLM underscores the commitment of both the Coast Guards to jointly address maritime challenges while focusing on a range of regional maritime contemporary issues, including drug trafficking, marine pollution, safety of mariners, adoption of best practices, capacity-building programs and other collaborative arrangements. The outcome of the meeting reiterates enhancing mutual cooperation in addressing these challenges, thereby strengthening the maritime safety and security framework in the region.

Gwalior murder: Foreign pistols, phones seized from two aides of Khalistani terrorist Arsh Dalla

PTI ■ GWALIOR

Two firearms made in Australia and China as well as mobile phones with foreign IMEI rpt IMEI numbers have been seized from Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Singh Gill's two aides who allegedly shot dead a man in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior last week, a police official said on Monday. The two accused, identified as Navjot Singh alias Neetu and Anmolpreet Singh alias Vishal, were arrested in Punjab on Sunday in connection with the murder of a YouTuber there, as per police. They had allegedly shot dead Jaswant Singh Gill on November 7 outside his house in Dabra area in Gwalior, the official said. Gill was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing his wife's cousin Sukhvinder in 2016 and was out on parole since October 28. The official said Sukhvinder's brother Satpal possibly transferred Rs



2.50 lakh from Canada to his cousin Jitu Singh alias Jita here to facilitate the November 7 killing. "The two firearms, an Australian Glock and Chinese-made pistol, are worth Rs 15 lakh each. One of these pistols and the high-end mobile phones with foreign IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) were used in the November 7 murder here. Our probe has found since October 28. The official said Sukhvinder's brother Satpal possibly transferred Rs

1 lakh to Jita when victim Gill came out on parole, and the remaining Rs 1.50 lakh was sent online after the November 7 murder. "After Navjot and Anmolpreet reached Chandigarh, Satpal made some online payments on their behalf. We were monitoring Satpal's online transactions and shared all information with our Punjab counterparts. Satpal and his family migrated to Canada after Gill killed Sukhvinder. But Satpal continued to visit here once in a while," the official said. The official said the two alleged shooters are from Dalla's gang as per Punjab police, adding he would not comment on whether the Canada-based Khalistani terrorist has any role to play in the November 7 murder. Arsh Dalla, who has been accused of involvement in targeted killings, terror financing and extortion in Punjab, was in January last year designated a terrorist by the Indian government.

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Shaan, Raghu Dixit, Jasleen Royal among singers performing at ASEAN India Music Festival 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Shaan, Raghu Dixit, Jasleen Royal and singer duo Sukriti-Prakriti are among the singers performing at the upcoming third edition of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) India Music Festival 2024 here, starting November 29. The three-day festival, to be held at iconic Purana Qila, will feature performances from top Indian artists and talented ASEAN bands, offering a unique opportunity to experience diverse musical traditions. Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and cultural organisation Seher, the festival this year will celebrate 10 years of friendship between India and ASEAN under India's 'Act East Policy'. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be the chief guest of the musical event. "The ASEAN India Music



Festival is a beautiful reminder that despite our different backgrounds, music has the power to unite us all. It allows us to connect not only as artists but as individuals who are part of a much larger global community. "It is not just about showcasing talent, but about celebrating the bonds we've built over the years and the new ones we'll form through the universal language of

melody," Sanjeev Bhargava, founder director of Seher, said in a statement. While the festival will feature performances by India's beloved music icons, Raghu Dixit and Shaan on day one; the second day will witness performances by the vibrant 'Western Ghats' and the dynamic duo Sukriti-Prakriti bringing an eclectic mix of sounds to the stage. It will come to a grand con-

clusion on December one with a soulful performance by Jasleen Royal, known for her hit singles such as "Heeriye" and "Ranjha". In addition to the Indian artists, the festival will also showcase an eclectic line-up of ASEAN bands, offering audiences a chance to experience the rich and diverse musical traditions from across the ASEAN region. 'Television Off' from Thailand, 'Buc Tuong' from Vietnam, 'Floor 88' from Malaysia, 'Subsonic Eye' from Singapore, 'Chet Kanchna' from Cambodia, 'MRTV' from Myanmar are among the bands performing on the occasion. The event will be attended by the Heads of Missions from all 10 ASEAN member nations, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Committee under Shah approves three projects under 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A high-level committee, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has approved three projects of Rs. 725.62 crore under "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the states" for Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal, ministry of home affairs said here in a statement on Monday. The Committee has approved Rs. 147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh, Rs. 201.10 crore for Odisha and Rs. 376.76 crore for West Bengal. The committee comprises Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog as members. To fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of disaster resilient India, Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective man-



agement of disasters in the country. A number of steps have been taken to prevent any extensive loss to life and property during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system in India. The Central Government has allocated a total of Rs. 5000 crore under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the states", proposals of 15 states at a total outlay of Rs. 2,542.12 crore had already been approved. Under the leadership of Prime

Minister Modi and guidance of Home Minister Shah more than Rs. 21,026 crore has already been released to the states during this year. This include Rs. 14,878.40 crore from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to 26 States, Rs. 4,637.66 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 15 States, Rs. 1,385.45 crore from State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 States and Rs. 124.93 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to three States.

IFFI 2024: "Better Man" to open gala, Satyajit Ray award to filmmaker Noyce

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Better Man, a semi-autobiographical film about British pop singer Robbie Williams, will open the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), where Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce will be presented the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award. The annual film gala, which will run through November 20-November 28 in Goa, will present over 180 international films from 81 countries, including 15 world premieres, three international premieres, 40 Asian premieres and 106 Indian premieres. The curtain raiser press conference for IFFI 2024 was held on Monday at the National Media Centre here. The event was attended by L Murugan, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Sanjay Jaju, Secretary Information and Broadcasting ministry, Shekhar Kapur, Festival Director and Prasoon Joshi, Chairman, CBFC. The IFFI is "not less than the

Cannes Film Festival", said Murugan. "You can compare our IFFI with Cannes and some of the other festivals... We are giving the same festivals in IFFI. The response that we are getting from the international audience and delegates is great... There are roadshows about the festival in Mumbai and Chennai. Another roadshow will happen in Hyderabad. We are seeing how the industry is owning the festival, taking responsibility," the minister told reporters. The festival will open with the Asia premiere of Michael Gracey's "Better Man", an Australian film that offers a captivating glimpse into the life of popstar Robbie Williams, portrayed as a chimpanzee by Jonno Davies in a groundbreaking motion-capture performance. Noyce, known for films such as the Angelina Jolie-starrer "Salt", "Patriot Game" starring Harrison Ford, and "The Bone Collector" featuring Denzel Washington and Jolie, will receive the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFI



2024. The upcoming gala will have 47 films directed by women and 66 works by young and debut filmmakers, reflecting "the festival's commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices". Jaju said the team behind IFFI is excited to be charting a new path. "This is the first time in the history of the film festival that we have started this tradition of handing over the festival to the industry. Now, Shekhar Kapur has taken over as the festival director. This is the festival of the industry being completely led and run by the industry. "We look at the festival as the biggest because we are the world's biggest filmmaking nation. The content we make in

our country is made at one-millionth of the cost at which the content is made outside," he added. The theme of this year's festival is 'Young Filmmakers - The Future is Now', following which the Creative Minds of Tomorrow initiative has been enhanced to support 100 young talents from 75 in the previous editions. Kapur said that theatrical films are becoming less and less important. "But we need to nurture this idea of theatricals without saying that it's the only important medium. Because storytelling can be anything. I can give you a 30-second video and tell you a story. I can't tell you a story in 30 seconds, 1 minute or 5 minutes, then nobody is going to remember you. We took a Western technology from 'Raja Harishchandra' and we made the biggest film industry in the world," the filmmaker said. A new award of Best Debut Indian Director has been instituted to recognise the young filmmaking talent across India. The winner will be awarded a certificate and cash prize of Rs

5 lakh at the closing ceremony. India is a country of "restless dreams and storytellers", added Joshi. "If we want our stories to be diverse, we need the courage to tell stories that come from our roots. Filmmaking has become more about courage than talent. It's become a property of those who are courageous. Now, why should that be? Many stories face story infanticide because they don't have resources. In such a case, IFFI is a national stage that platforms those who don't have sufficient funds or facilities," he said. Australia will be the Country of Focus for IFFI 2024, with a dedicated package of Australian films and a strong presence at the festival. The film festival will mark the centenary of four icons of Indian cinema Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), and Mohammed Rafi at its upcoming 55th edition, honouring them with in-conversation series, exhibitions, and screenings of the restored versions of their timeless classics.

India bears the brunt

This year's high death toll and losses due to climate change underscore the urgent need for policy action

With over 3,200 fatalities, extensive crop damage across 3.2 million hectares, and 2.3 lakh buildings destroyed in the first nine months of 2024 alone, the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events is undeniable. These findings of the 'India Climate Report 2024' from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) give a shocking picture of the impact of climate change on the country. The report underscores that 93 per cent of the days between January and September were marked by extreme weather, a clear indication that climate-related disasters are becoming not only more frequent but also more severe. The report's findings reveal a staggering increase in extreme weather events. In 2024, India faced climate extremes on 255 out of 274 days, a record when compared to previous years. Notably, over 35 of the 36 states and union territories experienced such events, with states like Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh witnessing over 40 additional days of climate extremes compared to 2023.



The grim statistics point to a significant toll on human life and livelihoods. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Assam were the hardest-hit states in terms of fatalities, while Andhra Pradesh saw the greatest destruction of homes, and Maharashtra experienced the largest crop damage. Among the notable phenomena in 2024 were prolonged heatwaves and an unprecedented number of warm nights. Besides, the monsoon season was particularly disastrous, with heavy rains, floods and landslides occurring every single day from June through September. Assam, for example, faced extreme weather on 111 days out of 122, highlighting the relentless impact of intense rainfall and flooding. The 2024

India Climate Report also points to a significant data gap. While the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has made strides in tracking events like warm nights, it lacks absolute temperature benchmarks, which many other countries use to enhance climate data accuracy. The lack of comprehensive, real-time data on climate-related damages impedes effective planning and resource allocation, especially in vulnerable regions. Several factors have contributed to India's vulnerability which must be addressed. The lopsided development, scant regard to the climate impact and allowing reckless construction in hills must stop. This pattern of 'bad development' worsens the impact of natural disasters, transforming regions with poor infrastructure or unplanned urban sprawl into high-risk areas. As the world approaches the dangerous threshold of 1.5°C of warming above pre-industrial levels, India's situation signals the urgent need for effective climate policies, mitigation strategies and public awareness. The 'India Climate Report 2024' serves as a somber reminder of the escalating costs of climate inaction. A collective and urgent response is needed, one that includes better data collection, sustainable urban planning and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Only then can India hope to protect its people and environment.

PICTALK



A baby monkey eats a slice of bread by the side of a road, in New Delhi

PTI

A Journey of imagination, resilience and self-discovery

Dreams can teach us resilience, guide us through adversities and keep us striving for something more

All of us dream with our eyes open. It matters not whether we succeed in all of these. The beauty of the journey also enriches our lives in ways that we may not immediately fathom. My innumerable dreams keep me moving. My father got me a comic adaptation of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens when I was 6. I was impressed by the way David tackled the adversities in his life. He was sent to the boarding school by his stepfather and was saved from being bullied by James Steerforth. The two formed an unlikely friendship that ended with the death of James. Steerforth was a rakish scoundrel, but David looked at all that was good in him. My dream at that tender age depended on my frame of mind. Sometimes I would want to be like David, overcoming all adversities, other times I would want to be a loveable scoundrel like James, ready to help friends. I guess I imbibed a bit of both. I had studied mostly



in Hindi medium all boys' schools in my formative years. I was shy of speaking to girls the first time that I went to a co-ed school when I was only 12. I would look enviously at boys who could speak with girls in fluent English. I would want to be like them. In later years, I understood that it was important to communicate, language was secondary. Two heroes entered my life around this time. Sunil Gavaskar from the cricket world and Bjorn Borg of the lawn tennis fame. I looked enviously at their ability to display no emotions whether winning or losing. I was and continue

to be sentimental. My face is transparent and displays all my emotions. However, I have come to realise that being sentimental is also akin to being passionate about your goals and is not a weakness. My dreams were not so spectacular in my intervening professional years. They were the routine dreams about going up the career ladder to reach the top, whether in the government sector, where you are bound to move up at a steady pace to a point predetermined by your age and seniority; or to earn better money in the private sector. Then I quit the system. Free of the invisible shackles, I went berserk with my dreams. I spent a lot of time in the kitchen during the COVID-19 days, baking bread and making wine. Surprisingly, even my wife stopped objecting to my presence in a space that she had always considered as her private domain. I started harbouring dreams of recognition as a renowned chef. I also started writing at

this late stage in life and another dream was born. I started thinking of winning a Booker prize or a Sahitya Akademi award. Once you have crossed 60, you want to be immortal. What could be better than to be remembered centuries after you are gone? My dream is for my books to occupy pride of place on someone's bookshelf in the 23rd century; like the books of my favourite author, Charles Dickens, on my bookshelf, 200 years later. I now understand that no dream is irrational, outlandish, bizarre, or not worth pursuing. What is this life if we do not dream and strive for them? We may fail to attain many, but we will succeed in a few. That is what makes life extraordinary. Lee Kuan Yew's words are apt, "If you are just realistic, you become pedestrian, you will fail. You must be able to soar above the reality and say, 'this is also possible.'" (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

Trump's win sets stage for 'America First' revival



V K BAHUGUNA

Trump's second term promises to reshape alliances and influence critical issues, including US-India relations, climate policy and the global energy market

Donald Trump has made history by winning the 2024 US Presidential election, securing 292 Electoral College votes and defeating Kamala Harris, the media's favoured candidate. His resounding victory marks a significant comeback and has reignited debates globally about what his second term might bring. This election wasn't without its drama, as Trump survived an assassination attempt on September 15, 2024, amid allegations of interference from powerful interest groups attempting to prevent his reelection. The victory was further shaped by the support of influential figures, including Indian American Vivek Ramaswamy, a former Republican hopeful who backed Trump. "Trump's comeback is America's comeback," Ramaswamy remarked, applauding Trump's strong persona as a "badass Commander-in-Chief" that many believe the US needs. A substantial part of Trump's campaign success was due to substantial financial support from allies like Elon Musk, who reportedly contributed \$119 million to the campaign. Musk's active presence on X (formerly Twitter) and outspoken defence of Trump against media criticism played a key role, particularly in swing states like Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. This unconventional alliance between Trump and Musk has sparked speculation and surprise, even influencing figures abroad, such as Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus. Previously critical of Trump, Yunus has become a reluctant admirer following Trump's success. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also likely pleased with Trump's return. The two leaders share a warm rapport, marked by a mutual understanding rooted in their strong nationalist stances. Though Modi was unable to meet Trump during his September 2024 visit to the US due to protocol issues, Trump's victory strengthens India-US ties and suggests a renewed focus on strategic cooperation between the two nations.



Trump's "America First" policy will likely shape his approach to foreign relations in this term. Expect him to push allies, including NATO and the European Union, to shoulder more of their defence costs. He may scale back US involvement in international conflicts, aiming instead to negotiate peace agreements that align with American interests. A notable example is his stance on Ukraine: Trump's reelection could mean a reduction in US military and financial support for Ukraine, possibly pressuring the country toward a peace settlement with Russia—a development that could lead to a significant de-escalation of the conflict. In the Indo-Pacific region, Trump's focus will likely remain on curbing China's influence and India could play a pivotal role in these efforts. India's strategic importance as a counterbalance to China in the region aligns well with Trump's vision. The US-India partnership could expand in sectors like defence, technology and energy security. Trump's push for "reshoring" American manufacturing from China may create new investment opportunities for India, especially in high-growth industries like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and renewable energy. Energy collaboration will also likely be a highlight of US-



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India relations. With India's growing energy needs, Trump's focus on US energy independence could lead to mutually beneficial trade in oil, natural gas, and renewable technologies, while US firms may look to invest in India's energy infrastructure. However, Trump's immigration policies, particularly concerning H-1B visas for skilled workers, may remain a point of contention. While Trump generally supports highly skilled professionals, further restrictions on visas could push India to enhance its own tech ecosystem, promoting more in-country growth and innovation. Trump's stance on climate change negotiations may remain divisive. Given his scepticism toward multilateral climate agreements, he could once again withdraw the US from global climate accords. This could impact the efficacy of initiatives like the Paris Agreement, where developed countries have pledged \$100 billion to support developing nations. So far, only a fraction of this amount has materialised, raising concerns about the long-term viability of global climate targets. Trump's reluctance to support these accords without substantial changes could weaken international resolve on climate issues. India will closely watch Trump's policies on counterterrorism, particularly regard-

ing Pakistan, a country that has historically been linked to terrorism in the region. Trump's past rhetoric and strong stance against terrorism suggest he may align with India's concerns. A tougher US stance on Pakistan could address India's longstanding issues with cross-border terrorism, potentially strengthening US-India ties in this area. Trump's complex relationship with the US media, especially during the 2024 campaign, added another layer to the narrative. Musk was one of the few who openly supported Trump on X, condemning what they saw as a biased media landscape that often criticised Trump. This approach may have contributed to his strong showing in swing states, bolstered by Musk's strategic influence on social media. As Trump prepares to re-enter the White House in January 2025, the world anticipates how his policies will unfold. His administration's priorities are expected to bring significant shifts in US domestic and foreign policy, from trade and immigration to international alliances and climate action. Global leaders and citizens alike are waiting to see how Trump's assertive approach to governance will redefine America's role on the world stage. (The writer is former member of Indian Forest Service; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMERICA CHOOSES TRUMP

Madam — With 295 electoral votes, the American people have chosen Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States. Many entrepreneurs from the business sector have welcomed Trump's reelection, indicating that development is a key issue for the US. According to Google CEO Sundar Pichai, of Indian descent, "We are in the golden age of transformation in America and are committed to working with the administration. This will benefit everyone. Similarly, Jindal also responded positively to Trump's win. Trump's strong opponent, Kamala Harris, who received 226 votes, mentioned that the process of transitioning power would be completed as quickly and peacefully as possible. In her concession speech, Harris emphasised moving forward but mentioned that she would resist when given the opportunity. Speaking at her alma mater, Harvard University, Harris stated, "Never give up. Our allegiance remains with the American Constitution, and the fight to protect the country's fundamental principles will continue. Overall, the US presidential election was thrilling and closely contested. In the coming period, a key point of interest will be how the new administration under Trump addresses issues faced by immigrants and tackles unemployment in the country. But the business world is happy. Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

CANADA VISA BARRIER

Madam — Apropos of the headlines (Nov 10), the impasse over Student Direct Stream for Indian students chasing for studies in Canadian universities in furtherance of diplomatic tussle is going beyond proportions. This should be seen as an opportunity, as the compulsively foreign-bound students should explore alternatives and preferably shed their obsession for foreign universities, as the standards of our premier engineering, medical and management institutions are superb and provide better

Manipur needs peace



It is unfortunate that ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei and the hills-based Kuki-Zo tribal communities began on May 3, 2023, still unabated. The latest incident

happened in the Bishanpur district of Manipur on Saturday, when militants fired a group of farmers, killing a 34-year-old woman. Since the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, it has so far claimed the lives of more than 250 people and about 60,000 others were displaced, besides a devastating economic loss to the state. Despite a great loss of men and material, the government (Centre and state) has done very little to initiate a meaningful dialogue between the warring communities. To obviate further clashes, there is a greater need to maintain peace in the entire state but deploying force alone cannot quell a situation that requires sensitivity and compassion in equal measure. S K Khosla | Chandigarh

AMU MINORITY STATUS

Madam — The simple logic that guided the 5-judge SC judgement depriving the minority status of AMU, "that the university was neither established by Muslims nor administered by Muslims," has been declared null and void by a majority judgement of the 7-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India. Surprisingly, the majority of SC judges led by the CJI overlooked the fact that it is a Central University run by the Union of India constituted under a Constitution that is essentially SECULAR. It took 7 long years for the bench to arrive at the judgement declaring Status Quo about the question, and according to Dipankar Dutta, one of the dissenting judges, this judgement was hastily delivered without the ideal procedure of consultations and discussions before the final draft. Still, the Supreme Judges expect the highest regard for their deeds from the people of this country. Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

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Vinod Johri | Delhi

FIRST COLUMN

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF BURNOUT

Addressing mental health with managerial support is essential for a healthy workplace



SAKSHI SETHI

Numerous studies found that high job demands, low control, low social support and job insecurity are significant risk factors for depression in the workplace while, factors such as excessive workload, lack of control, poor work-life balance and unsupportive work environments trigger burnout. Research in all these areas has grown substantially in recent years, revealing valuable insights into how these mental health challenges affect individual employees and organisations. In today's fast-paced and high-pressure work environment, burnout and depression have become prevalent challenges affecting employees across industries. While burnout is often a result of chronic workplace stress characterised by exhaustion, cynicism and a feeling of reduced accomplishment, depression on the other side, is a mental health disorder marked by persistent sadness, lack of motivation and feelings of hopelessness that may affect all areas of a person's life. Both can severely impact employee wellbeing, workplace productivity and organisational success. Burnout and depression in the workplace are typically rooted in multiple factors often exacerbated by modern work conditions and expectations such as excessive workload and unrealistic expectations, lack of control and autonomy, poor work-life balance, toxic work environment and insufficient recognition and reward. There is no denying that when employees lack the time and resources to recover and recharge or have no input into their work, their sense of helplessness can contribute to both, they become more susceptible to burnout and over time, even depression. Moreover, a hostile or untrusting work environment can erode employee morale and mental health contributing to burnout and, in some cases, even depression. The impact of burnout and depression extends beyond individual suffering and affects the workplace as a whole. As stated earlier, to maintain productivity, employees experience burnout and depression which may consequently lead to decline in productivity thereby impacting the profitability and overall performance. It is quite often stated that absenteeism and presenteeism both have significant implications for workplace productivity and team morale. Now when the levels of burnout and depression within an organisation are high, it will create a culture of dissatisfaction, resulting in a lack of engagement and trust among employees and as a result can harm collaboration, innovation and the company's reputation, thereby making it difficult to attract and retain top talent. It will end up driving employees to leave their jobs in search of a healthier work environment. Addressing burnout and depression in the workplace requires both—structural changes within the organisation as well as individual efforts. By creating a culture where employers foster an environment that values open communication and employees express concerns without the fear of stigma or reprisal; training managers to identify symptoms of burnout and depression and to respond effectively; providing small gestures of appreciation through praise, bonuses, or other rewards can significantly improve job satisfaction, and help in reducing stress and the likelihood of burnout. Organisations can create a healthier, more productive and more sustainable work environment where employees and the company can thrive.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)



Trump's return and the US-India trade challenge



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The evolving global trade landscape may offer India an opportunity to capture markets left by China, positioning it as a key partner in America's strategy to diversify supply chains



The world is galvanised, shaken, in a trance with Donald Trump's return to the US presidency. There are hope, aspirations, anxiety and speculations of a changing world. One knows the reality but the uncertainties around rock. Would it be a stable or turbulent India? Sizeable Indians are celebrating his victory against Kamla Harris, who possibly lost because she is a woman than any other reason. Not surprisingly, Indians obsessed with Trump, who exceeded the limits of decency, in the uses of words and even a 'B....' word are rejoicing. An Indian newspaper headline was eloquent or jocular as its banner blared "Kamala Harris", an intended pun may be to express the happiness that she was destined to lose. 'Harris' in Hindi and some other Indian languages means defeat. So, an unsavoury person gets the support against a dignified woman, whose Indian origin did not enamour Indians either in the US or India. Would Trump, supposedly a 'friend' of India, spread out the red carpet for India? Does India matter much for the US, strategically or economically? The US is India's export partner with total exports of \$77.5 billion in FY24 and total bilateral trade was about \$120 billion. Obviously, this balance of trade in favour of India spurs the US to counterbalance it. Trump has often criticised India's trade policies for creating barriers to American products, framing them as unfairly protectionist. During his previous term, Trump argued that India imposes some of the highest tariffs in the world, pointing to examples such as the 100 per cent tariff on Harley-Davidson motorcycles, though it was later reduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.


terms. The new US President's economic policy is expected to focus on higher tariffs on all imports – 10 per cent across the board, and as high as 60 per cent on those from China, restrictions on immigration as well a reduction of corporate tax rate to 15 per cent for all companies manufacturing in the US. All this could eventually fuel higher inflation in the US and subsequent action by the Federal Reserve. For India, it could impact key export sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles and IT services. This may affect sectors where India has maintained high tariffs to protect domestic industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing. This is a highly sensitive issue for the Indian policymakers. The NDA government has taken conscience steps to ensure protection for the domestic industry, agriculture and other sectors. The IT companies, like TCS, Infosys and Wipro, rely heavily on the US for both revenue and talent deployment. "It could make Indian exports less competitive in the US market, impacting revenue," says a report by the economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). It may hit China the most being the largest US trade partner. Many Indians believe that Indian exporters could benefit from the vacuum created as they also expect to fill the Bangladesh garment export fall by 6.2 per cent. The expectations may not be a reality, as the US itself strives to be a manufacturing hub, which is termed "America First". Besides, if a new tariff regime begins it may require intense effort and allowing concessions for increasing Indian exports. While the barriers are high, apart from the government's diplomacy, some large companies are already in touch with the Trump coterie to mollify the issues as they are keen on setting up new ventures in the US or with US companies. His previous immigration policies affected Indian professionals, especially those reliant on H-1B visas. Stricter immigration conditions may hinder the mobility of Indian IT workers and engineers to the US, posing potential challenges for the Indian tech industry. The IT companies are giving preference to indigenous US workers. It reduces opportunities for new entrants. India's leading status as a generic drug exporter to the US could be hit with new regulatory hurdles and tariffs, impacting companies like Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's. Additionally, India's steel and aluminium industries may suffer if Trump reinstates tariffs on these metals, as he did during his previous term. His preference for fossil fuels and his resistance to international climate commitments could discourage joint US-India investments in renewable energy, a priority for India. It could impact Indian solar and renewable energy companies. Trump's support for India in defence and security matters is unpredictable. His prior attempts to mediate between India and Pakistan on issues like Kashmir created unease in New Delhi, which values its autonomy in regional matters. Possibly sensing this China entered into a border agreement with India after four years of logjam. An Indian concern is that the West Asia war zone extends to Iran now. India is simultaneously developing ties with the Taliban in Afghanistan. The recent rate cut by the US Fed Reserve and the latest presidential polls have disturbed Indian stock markets, which continue to fall. Along with this, rupee parity with the dollar touches new lows with a one-day fall of 21 paise to Rs 84.30 on November 6 and a further decline to Rs 84.38 on November 8. It may go down to Rs 85, the market says. There are also positive aspects in the US-India relationships, which Trump ensured earlier too. His personal equation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had warmed up the ties. It is expected that high-profile events like Howdy Modi in Houston and Namaste Trump at Ahmedabad will be repeated to cement public engagements, and personal diplomacy and strengthen people-to-people ties. Indian exports and trade with the US might increase under Donald Trump for several reasons, despite his protectionist "America First" stance. India, with its growing manufacturing sector and cost advantages, emerged as a potential alternative to China for certain goods. If Trump continues to push for decoupling from China, India could benefit by positioning itself as a substitute supplier in many areas including semiconductors. Despite many issues, it is expected that US firms moving away from China could set up shops in India. Some like Ford set up 200,000 vehicle manufacturing units in Chennai for exports. McDonald's is also expanding. Ups and downs apart, India and the US are likely to have better ties for strategic reasons by engaging in intense negotiations also to end proposed sanctions against 19 Indian companies.

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

Women waste pickers in India: Transforming waste management amidst challenges

Recognising the intersection of caste, gender and class in the waste sector is essential to building a cleaner, more equitable world for all

In India, women waste pickers play a vital role in waste management, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. They are part of a larger, often invisible workforce within the informal waste sector, which comprises around 1.5 million workers. These women, mostly from marginalised backgrounds, undertake roles in waste collection, sorting, and sometimes even in supervisory capacities. Despite contributing significantly to recycling operations, they earn approximately 33 per cent less than their male counterparts, underscoring deep-rooted gender inequalities in this sector. The rise of initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission



SANJAY K GUPTA

(SBM) has shifted the landscape of waste management in India. Many Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) now employ more women in front-end roles, such as door-to-door waste collection and material sorting at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). This inclusion has led to improved Swachh Survekshan rankings for these ULBs, reflecting

enhanced cleanliness and waste management efficiency. Despite this progress, women waste pickers continue to face multifaceted challenges, including gender-based violence, caste discrimination and limited economic mobility. **Case Studies:** Studies from cities like Ambikapur, Bengaluru, and Tinsukia highlight the significant positive changes brought about by involving women in waste management. **Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh:** With a population of around 146,000, Ambikapur became the cleanest town in its population category, mainly due to a large female workforce in waste management. Out of 550 jobs created, 457 were filled by women, resulting in

an 80 per cent female workforce that greatly contributed to cleanliness and operational efficiency. **Bengaluru, Karnataka:** In collaboration with the NGO Hasiru Dala, Bengaluru created over 1,200 jobs in the waste sector, with 92 per cent occupied by women. These women played various roles, from collecting fees to supervising sorting operations, positively impacting the city's cleanliness and Swachh Survekshan rankings. **Tinsukia, Assam:** Once one of the dirtiest towns in Assam, Tinsukia witnessed a remarkable transformation due to the involvement of women waste workers employed by an NGO. Of 108 jobs created for waste collection and supervision,

46 were allocated to women, enabling the town to achieve the status of the fastest-moving clean city in its category. **Challenges Faced by Women Waste Pickers:** Despite their essential contributions, women in the waste sector face a range of difficulties. Hazardous working conditions expose them to toxins and diseases and their work often goes unrecognised. Many women waste pickers are Dalits or

Adivasis who endure societal stigma, which reinforces their marginalisation and limits their social mobility. They lack access to formal recognition, fair wages and safety measures, making them some of the most vulnerable in India's workforce. The absence of specific policies addressing women waste pickers aggravates these issues. The informal nature of their work, coupled with limited research on gender dynamics in waste management, restricts policy interventions, leaving women out of leadership roles and decision-making processes. **Intersection of Caste and Gender in Waste Work** Caste adds another layer to the marginalisation of women in waste manage-

ment. Often seen as "dirty work," waste picking and sorting are stigmatised, especially for women from marginalised castes. This reinforces social hierarchies that exclude them from fair participation and economic upliftment. Scholars like Nancy Fraser and Martha Chen emphasise that caste and gender intersectionality compounds discrimination, limiting women's bargaining power and political representation in waste management. Addressing such complex intersections requires policies that recognise these overlapping identities and create inclusive opportunities for women waste pickers. To address these challenges and create a more equitable waste management system, policies should adopt a gender-sensitive approach, ensuring that women have access to leadership roles and opportunities for entrepreneurial development. By promoting women in management roles, their economic empowerment and social standing can be enhanced. The inclusion of women not only enhances cleanliness but also contributes to larger goals of social justice and economic empowerment. Recognising the intersection of caste, gender and class in the waste sector is essential to building a cleaner, more equitable world for all.

(The writer is Global Advisor and Consultant on waste management; views are personal)



Karnataka Congress leader stirs racial pot at poll rally

PTI ■ RAMANAGARA

BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, a Cabinet minister in the Karnataka government, has courted a controversy by calling HD Kumaraswamy, union minister and former CM, a racist slur for being dark complexioned. Retorting strongly, the Janata Dal Secular (JD(S)) demanded that the Congress government should sack Khan from the cabinet for his racist slur. Addressing an election rally in Ramanagara on Sunday, Khan said CP Yogeeshwara, the Congress candidate from Channapatna, had no other option but to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) earlier. "Due to some differences in our party (Congress), he contested as an independent. He had no option but to join



the BJP. He was not ready to join the JD(S) because "Kaaliya Kumaraswamy" was more dangerous than the BJP. Now he (Yogeeshwara) has come back home," said Khan.

Yogeeshwara is contesting Nikhil Kumaraswamy, Kumaraswamy's son who is contesting as an NDA candidate on the JD(S) ticket, in a direct contest in the Channapatna Assembly

bypoll. Khan also alleged that Kumaraswamy had said he did not need Muslim votes. At the rally, Khan played an audio of the purported statement where Kumaraswamy is allegedly heard saying, "My politics is not dependent on Muslim votes. I am making this clear. I don't need Hijab or Pajaab." The minister asked those gathered, "Kumaraswamy says he does not want Hijab or Pajaab but he wants Muslim votes. Will you vote for him?" He said Kumaraswamy is under the impression that he can buy Muslim votes. "Aye Kumaraswamy, tell me your bidding amount. The Muslim community will generate funds that can buy your entire clan," Khan said amid cheers of the crowd. The JD(S) in a post on 'X' called Khan a 'racist'. "Your power and greed that you

will buy the family of Deve Gowda who brought you up politically will not last long," the JD(S) post read. The party sought to know the colour of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, ministers HC Mahadevappa, Satish Jarakiholi, Priyank Kharge and KH Muniyappa. "Dismiss such a low mentality person from the Cabinet immediately," the party further demanded. Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, too condemned Khan's slur. "I strongly deplore Congress Minister Zameer Ahmed calling Union Minister & Ex CM of Karnataka Sh. Kumaraswamy 'Kaaliya Kumaraswamy'. This is a racist remark, same as Rahul Gandhi's adviser calling South Indians look like Africans, North East as Chinese, North Indians as Arabs," Rijiju wrote on 'X'.



Disclosing marks obtained in public exams not invasion of privacy: Bombay HC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday said the recruitment process for public posts must be transparent. It further observed that marks obtained by candidates were not private information and their disclosure would not amount to any unwarranted invasion of privacy. A division bench of Justices MS Sonak and Justice Jitendra Jain said withholding such information allows doubts to linger, which is not healthy in promoting transparency and accountability in the working of public authorities and public recruitment processes. The bench passed the order on a plea filed by one Onkar Kalmankar, seeking details of the marks obtained by candidates who appeared for the tests in 2018 for the post of junior clerk in the Pune district court. Kalmankar had appeared for the tests but was not selected.

The court directed the concerned authorities to furnish the petitioner with the marks obtained by the selected candidates in the written test, Marathi and English typing test and interview within six weeks. The bench, in its order, said the case pertains to the selection process for the post of junior clerk in the district court in Pune, for which applications were invited through a public advertisement. "In that sense, this public process must be transparent. The marks obtained by the candidates in such a selection process cannot ordinarily be held to be personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest," the court noted. It observed that provisions of the Right To Information (RTI) Act have exempted only such personal information, the disclosure of which has no

relationship to any public activity or interest. "Given that such selection processes must be transparent and above board, it would be in the public interest to disclose such information rather than withhold it and allow any doubts about the process to linger," the court further noted. The bench also said in the context of public examination for selection to a public post, it was doubtful whether disclosure of marks obtained by the candidates would amount to any "unwarranted invasion of privacy". Kalmankar had participated in the recruitment process and passed the written and typing tests but did not clear the interview. He had initially sought information under the RTI Act from the public information officer and the state information commissioner, but his request was denied, following which he approached the high court.

Two linked to Arshdeep Gill arrested for murder in Punjab

PTI ■ GWALIOR

Two firearms made in Australia and China respectively, as well as mobile phones with foreign IMEI numbers, have been seized from Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Singh Gill's two aides, who allegedly shot dead a man in Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Gwalior last week, a police official said on Monday. The two accused, identified as Navjot Singh alias Neetu and Anmolpreet Singh alias Vishal, were arrested in Punjab on Sunday in connection with the murder of a YouTuber, as per police. They had allegedly shot dead Jaswant Singh Gill on

November 7 outside his house in Dabra area in Gwalior, the official said. Jaswant Gill was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing his wife's cousin Sukhvinder in 2016 and has been out on parole since October 28. The official said Sukhvinder's brother Satpal possibly transferred Rs2.50 lakh from Canada to his cousin Jitu Singh alias Jita here to facilitate the November 7 killing. "The two firearms, an Australian Glock and Chinese-made pistol, are worth Rs 15 lakh each. One of these pistols and the high-end mobile phones were used in the November 7 murder here. Our probe has found Navjot



Gwalior, Punjab police was contacted, he said. "We sent our Punjab counterparts their photos. The duo was arrested on Sunday and Punjab police are questioning them at present. Later, we will bring them here on transit remand. They had come to the hotel on November 7. Jita gave them local inputs," he said. The official said Satpal transferred Rs 1 lakh to Jita when victim Jaswant Gill came out on parole, and the remaining Rs 1.50 lakh was sent online after the November 7 murder. "After Navjot and Anmolpreet reached Chandigarh, Satpal made some online payments on their behalf. We were monitoring Satpal's online

transactions and shared all information with our Punjab counterparts. Satpal and his family migrated to Canada after Jaswant Gill killed Sukhvinder. But Satpal continued to visit here once in a while," the official said. The official said the two alleged shooters are from Dalla's gang as per Punjab police, adding he would not comment on whether the Canada-based Khalistani terrorist has any role to play in the November 7 murder. Arshdeep Gill, who has been accused of involvement in targeted killings, terror financing and extortion in Punjab, was in January last year designated a terrorist by the Indian government.

Haryana Assembly's winter session from November 13

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Assembly's winter session will begin on Wednesday, during which the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government will bring in some bills including one on ensuring job security for contractual employees. After a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told reporters on Monday that it has been decided that the session will be held on November 13, 14 and 18. The session will begin with the Governor's address followed by a discussion in the House on the motion of thanks. The chief minister will reply on November 14. The opposition Congress, still reeling from the defeat in assembly polls, is yet to decide



its Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader. Geeta Bhukkal, Congress leader, indicated that the decision is likely to be taken by the party high command after the Maharashtra and Jharkhand polls. She said the opposition will raise issues such as the shortage of fertilizers that is affecting farmers. The Haryana CLP, which had held its first meeting here on October 18 after the

Assembly poll results were announced on October 8, had passed a resolution authorising the party high command to appoint its next leader in the house. Bhukkal told reporters that since Assembly elections are being held in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, "We hope it will be decided soon". Former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was the Leader of Opposition in the previous House and after the string of losses, a section of leaders wants the younger generation to take over. It will be the first full-fledged session of the 15th Haryana Assembly. The 90-member assembly met on October 25 but the House was adjourned sine die on the same day after newly elected MLAs were administered oath and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker were elected.

Kamal Hasan renounces honorary titles

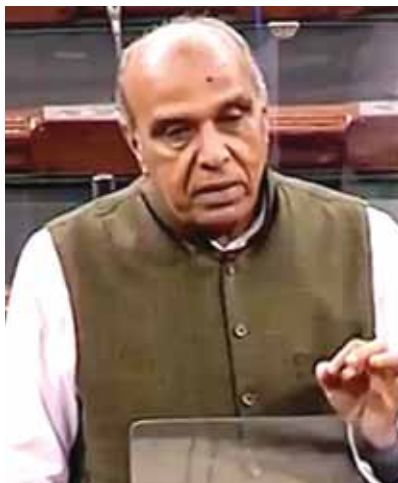
PTI ■ CHENNAI

Asserting that cinema is bigger than any individual and that he remained a student, actor Kamal Haasan on Monday announced his decision to renounce titles such as Ulaga Nayagan (universal hero) bestowed on him and said he may be addressed by his name. "Such accolades, given by the people and recognised by esteemed colleagues and admirers, have always been humbling and I have been genuinely moved by your love in conferring it upon me," the actor said.He said it was his humble belief that artists must not be elevated above the art.

JPC on Waqf bill meets stakeholders in Odisha

PTI ■ BHUWANESHWAR

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 has started hearing different stakeholders here on Monday. During the first half period, the JPC held discussions with representatives from the Odisha government, state minority commission, state waqf board, senior advocates, social activists and other different stakeholders from the state, said the panel's chairman Jagdambika Pal. "The stakeholders have given their views and opinions on the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Our JPC will examine the views and incorporate the contents in its report," he told media persons. Pal said it is the responsibility of the JPC to hear the stakeholders of Odisha and it is doing so. "Whether someone has joined or not, it doesn't make any difference," he said when asked about the absence of the opposition members in the meeting. The committee will submit its report to the Lok Sabha Speaker by the last working day of the upcoming winter session of the Parliament, he said.



The opposition members of the JPC had decided to boycott this tour, alleging that the chairperson was acting in an arbitrary manner and their request to defer the trip was unheeded. Since the formation of the JPC in August this year, the panel has held discussions with different stakeholders for over 100 hours in 25 formal settings in New Delhi only, said Dilip Saikia, a

member of the JPC. "We have taken views and suggestions from different stakeholders including waqf boards, minority commissions and Muslim institutions and organisations," he said. The MP said the panel has completed its first phase of tour to different states including Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. However, the opposition members have boycotted the second phase tour starting from Guwahati on Saturday, which is "unfortunate", Saikia said. "The waqf boards need to be accountable for proper management of its properties, to empower the poor Muslims and to give its benefits to marginal sections of society," he said. Prior to Bhubaneswar, the panel visited other major cities, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Guwahati, where discussions covered a range of issues surrounding Waqf property management and proposed amendments to the Wakf Act, 1995. From Bhubaneswar, the committee will leave for Kolkata, and then is scheduled to visit Patna and Lucknow, official sources said.

Fasten that helmet ladies...

From page 1

The bike taxi service, introduced by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in partnership with the First And Last Mile Connectivity India Pvt. Ltd, comprises a total of 50 SHERYDS and 150 RYDR motorbikes, which will operate from these stations in a radius of around three to five kilometres between 8 am and 9 pm. The rides have a minimum charge of Rs. 10 followed by Rs. 10 per

kilometre for the first two kilometres and thereafter, Rs. 8 per kilometre. "Subsequently over 100 stations will be covered with this facility in a month's time, and remaining stations will be covered in next three months thus further strengthening the last mile connectivity across all 250 Metro stations of DMRC thereby taking the total count of SHERYDS and RYDER to around 1000 each," the official said.

Stuck in a crossfire?...

From page 1

"We encourage adventurers, especially those venturing into high-security areas, to always share their travel plans with the nearest police station. This communication helps us prepare and respond swiftly should any unforeseen issues arise," he noted. "Locals, tourists, and especially trekkers should reach out to us if they

encounter any situation that requires urgent attention. Dialling 100 or contacting the nearest police station helps us coordinate with ongoing operations and ensures rapid assistance," Birdi said. After the tourism department opened up several trekking sites across different parts of Kashmir valley several amateur trekkers undertook weekly treks in the precincts of Mother Nature.

Harris, Trump dependent on India: MP CM

PTI ■ GWALIOR

Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, on Monday claimed that during the recently concluded American elections president-elect Donald Trump and Kamala Harris were dependent on India. Talking to reporters in Gwalior, Yadav said that all superpowers in the world wanted to associate with

India. "Our prime minister is a shubhankar (mascot). India has also shown the strength of its democracy to the world. Today, any big superpower sees a benefit in associating with India. We have seen in the US presidential elections that whether Trump or Harris won, both were dependent on India. We are happy that president-elect Trump has been a personal friend of Modi ji. The Russian president is also looking the

same (towards India)," Yadav said. He said no one can measure the depth of Modi's popularity in India, which resulted in him forming a government for the third time in a row after a gap of 60 years. The chief minister expressed confidence that the BJP will win elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand and the bypoll to Budhni and Vijaypur assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh. People of the Budhni

and Vijaypur assembly seats are with development, he said. Ramniwas Rawat, the BJP candidate from Vijaypur, is a six-time MLA from the Congress and a minister, he said. Rawat left Congress as he failed to develop the region despite being a minister and joined the BJP for development, Yadav said. State forest minister Rawat will face the bypoll necessitated after his resignation as MLA.

Terrorist Pannun threatens Ayodhya Ram...

From page 1

Pannun has also called for violence against Indian diplomats, indicating a broader attempt to provoke unrest and tension within Indian and expatriate communities. Pannun's SFJ has been involved in various anti-India activities, aiming to promote the idea of a separate Sikh state. Pannu has issued several incendiary statements aimed at destabilising communal harmony. Pannun was designated as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in July 2020. The government of India has also issued multiple warrants for his arrest. However, he continues to function from the United States and Canada.

Murder trial against Jagdish Tytler will...

From page 1

Tytler's plea challenging the framing of murder and other charges against him is listed on November 29 but he moved court with the plea to stay the trial. His plea said the evidence of the prosecution witness was recorded by the trial court and her cross-examination by the defence counsel was scheduled for November 12. "The criminal revision petition (of Tytler) raised substantial questions upon the motivation of the prosecution and the investigation conducted by the CBI. Therefore, an order/direction from this court for the trial court to not proceed with the captioned matter till the pendency of the revision petition is expedient

in the interest of justice," his plea read. Tytler has claimed being a victim of a "witch-hunt" and contended the trial court's order framing charges against him was "perverse, illegal and lacked application of mind". "Trial court has erroneously framed charges against the petitioner overlooking the settled principles of law on the point of charge," his petition stated. While Tytler's counsel raised the plea of alibi, claiming his absence at the time of the incident, the counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and victims argued the plea of alibi had already been decided and rejected by the high court. Tytler argued there was no

credible evidence to corroborate the allegations against him and the trial court's order was "misconceived" passed "mechanically" and liable to be set aside. He alleged it was a case of harassment wherein he was made to face the trial for alleged crimes committed more than four decades ago, and referred to being 80-years old and suffering from several ailments, including heart disease and diabetes. The trial court on September 13 framed charges against him after he pleaded not guilty. Besides murder, the trial court ordered the framing of charges pertaining to unlawful assembly, provocation, rioting, murder, promoting enmity between different groups,

house trespass, and theft, among others. The CBI on May 20, 2023, filed a chargesheet against Tytler in the case saying he "incited, instigated and provoked the mob assembled at Pul Bangash Gurdwara Azad Market" on November 1, 1984. The mob, the agency claimed, provoked by Tytler, set a gurdwara ablaze and killed three men, Thakur Singh, Badal Singh, and Gurcharan Singh. Anti-sikh riots erupted in several parts of the country in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, by her sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. A sessions court had in August, 2023, granted anticipatory bail to Tytler in the case.

MCD Mayoral election on November 14

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The long due mayoral elections for Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), slated to be held on November 14, will finally bring a Dalit candidate in the office, however with a reduced tenure after a seven-month standoff between the AAP and BJP. The standoff between the parties led to repeated disruptions of the MCD House besides delaying the polls for five months initially scheduled for April this year. With the elections approaching, both the ruling

AAP and the opposition BJP are intensifying their campaigns, setting the stage for a closely-contested battle to decide Delhi's next mayor. However, the new mayor and the deputy mayor will only get to serve for a period of five months. According to MCD rules, mayoral elections are held annually in April with five-year tenure comprising five single-year terms on a rotation basis. The first year is reserved for women, the second for open category, the third for reserved category, and the final two years again for the open category. This will be

the third mayoral term since the AAP came to power in the MCD in December 2022, ending the BJP's 15-year rule. Current Mayor Shelly Oberoi has started holding meetings with the officials of all the 12 zones of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to review the pending works and projects to ensure they are completed before the elections. Projects such as park fencing, beautification, gate installations, road repairs, street lighting, electricity supply, and the covering of open drains have been put forward for approval, an official said.

Trump, Putin discuss ending war in Ukraine, but Kremlin denies

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the phone and discussed ending the war in Ukraine amongst many other important topics, according to a media report.

However, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the media report of the phone call between Putin and Trump.

After winning the recent presidential elections, Trump has spoken to over 70 world leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were among the firsts.

“The two men discussed the goal of peace on the European

continent and Trump expressed an interest in follow-up conversations to discuss ‘the resolution of Ukraine’s war soon,” one of the people said,” The Washington Post said in an exclusive report published on Sunday.

One former US official who was familiar with the Putin call said that Trump likely does not want to enter office with a fresh crisis in Ukraine prompted by Russian escalation, “giving him the incentive to want to keep the war from worsening,” the daily said.

Trump is scheduled to be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2025. Ukraine has been

informed about the Trump-Putin call.

“During the call, which Trump took from his resort in Florida, he advised the Russian president not to escalate the war in Ukraine and reminded him of Washington’s sizable military presence in Europe, said a person familiar with the call, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter,” The Washington Post reported.

However, Kremlin spokesman Peskov in Moscow said the Western media reports of the phone call between Putin and Trump are “untrue,” state-run TASS news agency reported.

“There was no conversation... This is completely untrue; it’s pure fiction,” Peskov said.

Meanwhile, Steven Cheung, Trump’s communications director, told PTI he would not comment on the private calls between President-elect Trump and other world leaders.

“President Trump won a historic election decisively and leaders from around the world know America will return to prominence on the world stage. That is why leaders have begun the process of developing stronger relationships with the 45th and 47th President because he represents global peace and stability,” Cheung said.

Netanyahu admits Israel’s role in pager, walkie-talkie attacks on Hezbollah

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the first time admitted that Israel was behind the pager and walkie-talkie attacks on Hezbollah in September that left at least 39 people dead and more than 3,000 injured, local media reports have said.

“The pager operation and the elimination of (Hezbollah leader Hassan) Nasrallah were carried out despite the opposition of senior officials in the defence establishment and those responsible for them in the political echelon,” The Times of Israel newspaper quoted Netanyahu as saying.

Netanyahu’s remarks came during Sunday’s weekly Cabinet meeting, according to Hebrew

media reports.

Israel had so far not taken responsibility publicly for the attacks, but it was widely speculated that it was behind the complex successfully orchestrated attacks that took the world by surprise. Thousands of pagers containing explosives exploded on their Hezbollah owners across Lebanon and parts of Syria on September 16.

While the world was still absorbing the news of pager explosions, walkie-talkies met the same fate a day later on September 17, shocking the world at the level of Israeli intelligence preparation in its war against the Lebanese Shia militia.

Netanyahu’s statement is being interpreted in the context of his firing of Defence Minister Yoav

Gallant and efforts to shore up personal popularity by taking credit for war successes.

Gallant was fired from the defence minister’s position on November 5.

Netanyahu and Gallant have clashed repeatedly over the course of their time in government together.

Netanyahu also tried to get rid of him in March 2023 as well, a day after Gallant called for pausing the legislation process of the government’s contentious judicial overhaul plan arguing that it caused divisions that posed a threat to national security, but had to reinstate him due to massive public protests.

He was the defence minister when Hamas committed its deadly terror assault in southern

Israel on October 7 last year and had so far carried out his duties in the subsequent war in the Gaza Strip, the fighting on the northern border, and the ground operation in southern Lebanon.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Gallant said that he was fired because of differences on the issue of the need to draft ultra-orthodox men in the Israel Defence Forces, the imperative to bring back the hostages from Gaza, and the need for establishing a state commission of inquiry to look into the October 7 Hamas terror attack and the ensuing war.

Netanyahu has resisted taking responsibility for the country’s security oversights, blaming Israel’s security forces for the failure to foresee Hamas’ October 7 massacre.

Russian glide bombs, drones, ballistic missile kill 6, injure 30 in Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others.

Russia recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone.

“Every day, every night, Russia commits the same terror,” Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging app.

“Except that an increasing number of civilian objects are becoming targets.”

Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the war after Donald Trump takes office in January. The US is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine but Trump has chided the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid.

The major cities struck Monday by Russia are close to the war’s around 1,000-km (600-mile) front line.

Russian drones hammered the southern city of Mykolaiv, killing five people and injuring a 45-year-old woman, local authorities said. Around two



In this image provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service on Monday, a firefighter works on a site of a Russian attack on residential area in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. AP/PTI

dozen people sought psychological help following the attack that damaged houses and stores, officials said.

Mykolaiv, located about 60 km (37 miles) northwest of the front line in the Kherson region, frequently comes under Russian attack. An overnight attack on Zaporizhzhia, also in the south, with three powerful glide bombs killed one person and injured 21, including a 4-year-old boy, Ukraine’s National Police said.

The strikes partially destroyed a two-story apartment building and damaged a dormitory.

A five-story apartment building in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy’s hometown in central Ukraine, was hit by a Russian ballistic missile, injuring at least eight people. Emergency services were searching through the rubble, Oleksandr Vikul, head of Kryvyi Rih Military Administration said.

The missile destroyed all five stories in one part of the build-

ing, he said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s intelligence agency claimed in a statement it destroyed a Russian Mi-24 assault helicopter parked at the Klin-5 airfield in the Moscow region. The claim could not be independently verified.

The Russian Defence Ministry said Monday that 17 Ukrainian drones were destroyed over the Russian regions of Kursk, Belgorod and Voronezh overnight and in the morning.

Trump names Tom Homan as ‘border czar’

AP ■ NEW YORK

President-elect Donald Trump says that Tom Homan, his former acting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, will serve as “border czar” in his incoming administration.

“I am pleased to announce that the Former ICE Director, and stalwart on Border Control, Tom Homan, will be joining the Trump Administration, in charge of our Nation’s Borders,” he wrote late Sunday on his Truth Social site.

Homan was widely expected to be offered a position related to the border and Trump’s pledge to launch the largest deportation operation in the country’s history. In addition to overseeing the southern and northern borders and “maritime, and aviation security,” Trump said Homan “will be in charge of all Deportation of Illegal Aliens back to their Country of Origin,” a central part of his agenda.

He says he had “no doubt” Homan “will do a fantastic, and long awaited for, job.” Such a role does not require Senate confirmation.

In an interview on Fox News Channel’s “Sunday Morning Futures,” Homan said the military would not be rounding up and arresting immigrants in the country illegally and that ICE would move to implement Trump’s plans in a “humane manner.”

“It’s going to be a well-targeted, planned operation conducted by the men of ICE. The men and women of ICE do this daily. They’re good at it,” he said.

“When we go out there, we’re going to know who we’re looking for. We most likely know where they’re going to be, and it’s going to be done in a humane manner.”

Israeli strike kills 3 in central Gaza

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Palestinian medical officials say an Israeli strike hit a tent sheltering a displaced family in the central Gaza Strip, killing at least three people, including the parents of twins.

The strike late Sunday in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp wounded the two children, aged 10, who were being treated for seri-

rounding Israel’s creation.

At least 24 people were wounded and taken to the Awda hospital in Nuseirat, said Mohamed Muhareb, head of the hospital’s ambulance service.

The Israel-Hamas war began after militants stormed into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others. Israel’s military response in Gaza has killed more than



ous injuries at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the nearby city of Deir al-Balah.

The details of the casualties were listed in hospital records and an Associated Press reporter saw two of the bodies.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and accuses them of hiding among civilians.

Palestinians reported heavy bombing late Sunday in the western areas of Nuseirat camp, which dates back to the 1948 war sur-

rounding Israel’s creation.

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Japan’s parliament re-elects Ishiba as Prime Minister

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan’s parliament reelected Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Monday after his governing coalition suffered the worst election loss in more than a decade, forcing the struggling leader to form his second Cabinet in just over a month since taking office.

Ishiba’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito together lost their majority in the 465-seat Lower House, the more powerful of Japan’s two-house parliament, in the Oct 27 election due to continued voter outrage over financial misconduct by his party and its lukewarm response.

A special parliamentary session convened Monday to pick a new leader in a vote required within 30 days of a general election.

Ishiba beat top opposition leader Yoshihiko Noda 221-160 in the

first runoff in 30 years.

Ishiba reappointed most of his previous Cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, but had to replace three who lost seats or were affected by the election results.

Ishiba is expected to hold a news conference to explain his new Cabinet and policies.

Ishiba has refused to step down and showed willingness to cooperate with additional coalition partners to boost stability and help him pursue his party’s policies.

Ishiba will struggle in the coming months as he must gain consent from the opposition on policies including the budget and other legislation, experts say.

He is eyeing a rising smaller, conservative opposition, the

Democratic Party for the People, whose seats quadrupled to 28 under its popular leader Yuichiro Tamaki, whose proposal for raising the basic tax-free income allowance and increasing take-home wages garnered support from low income and younger voters.

Tamaki only wants to cooperate with Ishiba’s party on policy — not as part of a coalition — since he wants to use his leverage to increase his party’s standing ahead of the next election.

However, Tamaki was recently stung by a magazine article exposing an extramarital affair, which he admitted to on Monday.

Ishiba’s government is preparing for his trip later this month to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Group of 20 summits, as well as a possible meeting with President-elect Donald Trump on his way home.

Judge to rule on president-elect’s immunity claim

AP ■ NEW YORK

A gut punch for most defendants, Donald Trump turned his criminal conviction into a rallying cry. His supporters put “I’m Voting for the Felon” on T-shirts, hats and lawn signs.

“The real verdict is going to be Nov 5 by the people,” Trump proclaimed after his conviction in New York last spring on 34 counts of falsifying business records.

Now, just a week after Trump’s resounding election victory, a Manhattan judge is poised to decide whether to uphold the hush money verdict or dismiss it because of a US Supreme Court decision in July that gave presidents broad immunity from criminal prosecution.

Judge Juan M Merchan has said he will issue a written opinion Tuesday on Trump’s request to toss his conviction and either order a new trial or dismiss the indictment entirely.

Merchan had been expected to rule in September, but put it off “to avoid any appearance” he was trying to sway the election.

His decision could be on ice again if Trump takes other steps to delay or end the case.

If the judge upholds the verdict, the case would be on track for sentencing Nov. 26 — though that could shift or vanish depending on appeals or other legal maneuvers.

Trump’s lawyers have been fighting for months to reverse his conviction, which involved efforts to conceal a \$130,000 payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels, whose affair allegations threatened to disrupt his 2016 campaign.

Trump denies her claim, maintains he did nothing wrong and has decried the verdict as a “rigged, disgraceful” result of a politically motivated “witch hunt” meant to harm his campaign.

The Supreme Court’s ruling gives former presidents

immunity from prosecution for official acts — things they do as part of their job as president — and bars prosecutors from using evidence of official acts in trying to prove that purely personal conduct violated the law.

Trump was a private citizen — campaigning for president, but neither elected nor sworn in — when his then-lawyer Michael Cohen paid Daniels in October 2016.

But Trump was president when Cohen was reimbursed, and Cohen testified that they discussed the repayment arrangement in the Oval Office. Those reimbursements, jurors found, were falsely logged in Trump’s records as legal expenses.

Trump’s lawyers contend the Manhattan district attorney’s office “tainted” the case with evidence — including testimony about Trump’s first term as president — that shouldn’t have been allowed.

Prosecutors maintain that the

high court’s ruling provides “no basis for disturbing the jury’s verdict.”

Trump’s conviction, they said, involved unofficial acts — personal conduct for which he is not immune.

The Supreme Court didn’t define an official act, leaving that to lower courts. Nor did it make clear how its ruling — which arose from one of Trump’s two federal criminal cases — pertains to state-level cases like Trump’s hush money prosecution.

“There are several murky aspects of the court’s ruling, but one that is particularly relevant to this case is the issue of what counts as an official act,” said George Mason University law professor Ilya Somin.

“And I think it’s extremely difficult to argue that this payoff to this woman does qualify as an official act, for a number of fairly obvious reasons.”

Trump’s efforts to erase the verdict have taken on new urgency since his election, with a sen-

tencing date looming at the end of the month and possible punishments ranging from a fine or probation to up to four years in prison.

Presidents-elect don’t typically enjoy the same legal protections as presidents, but Trump and his lawyers could try to leverage his unique status as a former and future commander-in-chief into something of a “Get Out of Jail Free” card.

One likely argument: Trump wouldn’t just be saving himself from a potential prison sentence, he’d be sparing the nation from the calamity of its leader behind bars — however remote that possibility is.

“He’ll ask every court in the world to intervene if he can, including the Supreme Court, so that could drag things out a bit,” said Syracuse University law professor David Driesen, author of the book, “The Specter of Dictatorship: Judicial Enabling of Presidential Power.”

China working on nuclear propulsion for new aircraft carrier

AP ■ BANGKOK

China has built a land-based prototype nuclear reactor for a large surface warship, in the clearest sign yet Beijing is advancing toward producing its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, according to a new analysis of satellite imagery and Chinese government documents.

China’s navy is already the world’s largest numerically, and it has been rapidly modernising. Adding nuclear-powered carriers to its fleet would be a major step in realising its ambitions for a true “blue-water” force capable of operating in seas far from China in a growing global challenge to the United States.

“Nuclear-powered carriers would place China in the exclusive ranks of first-class naval

powers, a group currently limited to the United States and France,” said Tong Zhao, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC.

“For China’s leadership, such a development would symbolise national prestige, fueling domestic nationalism and elevating the country’s global image as a leading power.”

Researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California said they made the finding while investigating a mountain site outside the city of Leshan in the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan, where they suspected China was building a reactor to produce plutonium or tritium for weapons.

Instead they concluded that China was building a prototype

reactor for a large warship. The project at Leshan is dubbed the Longwei, or Dragon Might, Project and is also referred to as the Nuclear Power Development Project in documents provided to The Associated Press.

Neither China’s Defence Ministry nor Foreign Affairs Ministry responded to requests for comment.

Satellite images and public documents helped identify likely carrier project: There have long been rumours that China is planning to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury team is the first to confirm that China is working on a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a carrier-sized surface warship.

“The reactor prototype at

Leshan is the first solid evidence that China is, in fact, developing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier,” said Jeffrey Lewis, a professor at Middlebury and one of the researchers on the project.

“Operating a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is an exclusive club, one that China looks set to join.”

Drawing on satellite images and public documents including project tenders, personnel files, environmental impact studies — and even a citizen’s complaint about noisy construction and excessive dust — they concluded a prototype reactor for naval propulsion was being built in the mountains of Mucheng township, some 70 miles (112 kilometers) southwest of Sichuan’s provincial capital Chengdu.

The reactor, which procure-

ment documents indicate will soon be operational, is housed in a new facility built at the site known as Base 909, which houses six other reactors that are operational, decommissioned or under construction, according to the analysis.

The site is under the control of the Nuclear Power Institute of China, a subsidiary of the China National Nuclear Corporation, which is tasked with reactor engineering research and testing.

Documents indicating that China’s 701 Institute, formally known as China Ship Research and Design Center, which is responsible for aircraft carrier development, procured reactor equipment “intended for installation on a large surface warship” under the Nuclear Power Development Project as well as

the project’s “national defense designation” helped lead to the conclusion the sizable reactor is a prototype for a next-generation aircraft carrier.

Satellite mages from 2020 to 2023 have shown the demolition of homes and the construction of water intake infrastructure connected to the reactor site. Contracts for steam generators and turbine pumps indicate the project involves a pressurized water reactor with a secondary circuit — a profile that is consistent with naval propulsion reactors, the researchers say.

An environmental impact report calls the Longwei Project a “national defense-related construction project” that is classified “secret.”

“Unless China is developing nuclear-powered cruisers,

which were pursued only by the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, then the Nuclear Power Development Project most certainly refers to a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier development effort,” researchers wrote in a detailed 19-page report on their findings shared exclusively with the AP.

Jamie Withorne, an analyst at the Oslo Nuclear Project who was not involved in the research and reviewed the findings, said Middlebury’s team made a “convincing argument.”

“From the identifying reports, co-location with other naval reactor facilities, and correlating construction activity, I think it can be said that it is likely the Longwei Project is housed at Base 909, and it could potentially be located at

the identified building,” she said.

The research does not, however, provide clues as to when a Chinese nuclear-powered carrier could be built and become operational, she said.

Sarah Laderman, a senior analyst with Open Nuclear Network, a program of the U.S.-based NGO PAX sapiens foundation, said the findings were “carefully conducted and thoroughly researched.”

“Given the evidence presented here, I see a compelling case made that China seems to be working towards building a nuclear propulsion system for its naval surface ships (likely aircraft carriers) at this location,” said Laderman, who is based in Vienna and was not involved in Middlebury’s research.

RBI issues framework for reclassification of FPI to FDI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday issued an operational framework for reclassification of investment made by a foreign portfolio investor to foreign direct investment (FDI) if the entity breaches the prescribed limit. Currently, an investment made by foreign portfolio investor along with its investor group (FPI) should be less than 10 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis. Any FPI investing in breach of the prescribed limit has the option of divesting their holdings or reclassifying such holdings as FDI subject to the conditions specified by the RBI and Sebi within five trading days from the date of



settlement of the trades causing the breach. The RBI has issued an operational framework for reclassification of foreign portfolio investment by FPI

to FDI. As per the framework, the FPI concerned will have to take necessary approvals from the government and concurrence of the Indian

investee company concerned. However, the facility of reclassification shall not be permitted in any sector prohibited for FDI, the RBI said.

For reclassification, the entire investment held by such FPI should be reported within the timelines as specified under the Foreign Exchange Management (Mode of Payment and Reporting of Non-Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019. Post completion of reporting, the FPI should approach its Custodian with a request for transferring the equity instruments of the Indian company from its demat account maintained for holding foreign portfolio investments to its demat account maintained for holding FDI, the RBI said. The directions have become operative with immediate effect, the central bank added.

IRF writes to PM expressing concern at growing road fatalities in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The International Road Federation (IRF) has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing concern at growing number of road accident fatalities in the country. IRF president emeritus K K Kapila in the letter suggested implementing strategies aimed at raising awareness, influencing policy, and advancing road safety measures. According to the latest government data, about 5 lakh road accidents occur in India annually. Of this, there are 1.5 lakh fatalities, while 3 lakh suffer injuries. Recently, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had

highlighted that this caused 3 per cent loss to the country's GDP. "Despite running of various campaigns involving road safety by the government, corporates and non-government bodies, India remains one of the most dangerous places for road users," Kapila said. He further said it is therefore, essential to galvanize public awareness, political will, and continuous engagement at

every level of society. As the leader of the nation and someone who embodies India's values and aspirations, IRF humbly requests the Prime Minister's support in promoting road safety initiatives, Kapila said. Some of the suggestions and actions made by IRF include incorporating road safety into PM's various addresses with a brief mention of road safety, the importance of obeying traffic rules, and reducing road fatalities, which could reach millions of people, especially youth. Other suggestions are spreading the road safety anthem prepared by IRF in 23 Indian languages and 10 foreign languages in schools, offices etc.

Sensex, Nifty close flat amid unabated foreign fund outflows, muted earnings



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat in highly volatile trade on Monday as continuous FII selling, disappointing quarterly earnings and weak trends from Asian markets dented investor sentiment. After gyrating between highs and lows, benchmark Sensex eked out gains of 9.83 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 79,496.15. The barometer gyrated 1,100.8 points between the day's high of 80,102.14 and a low of 79,001.34. The NSE Nifty dipped marginally by 6.90 points or 0.03 per cent to 24,141.30. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints tumbled over 8 per cent after the company on Saturday reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 693.66 crore for

the September quarter, impacted by soft-demand conditions, material price inflation and a decline in decorative and coatings business in the domestic market. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, NTPC, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finserv and Larsen & Toubro were also among the laggards. However, Power Grid, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and ICICI Bank were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,404.04 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, Indian markets remain under pressure, largely due to relentless foreign investor selling.

"The actions of FIIs are dominating the current market momentum, which is backed by a weak set of earnings and expectations from Trump policy. The risk of further downgrades in Nifty earnings casts clouds over investor sentiment, while the IT sector continued to outperform due to the strong US dollar and in anticipation of a revamp in US IT spending," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. India is also looking forward to the CPI data with a muted view as food prices are likely to be higher on MoM basis, essentially forging RBI to hold the interest rates in the short term, Nair added. In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo and Shanghai ended higher. European markets were trading on a firm note. Wall Street ended in positive territory on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.83 per cent to USD 73.26 a barrel. On Friday, the BSE benchmark gauge declined by 55.47 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,486.32. The Nifty dipped 51.15 points or 0.21 per cent to 24,148.20.

Star India to make web series on Reserve bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Star India will make a web series on the Reserve Bank of India's 90-year-long journey to help people have a better understanding about the central bank's vital role in the country's fast-growing economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up in 1935, completed 90 years in April this year. Star India Private Limited, Viacom 18, Zee Entertainment Network Limited and Discovery Communications India were in the fray for "Production and distribution of Web Series Commemorating 90 years of RBI" after the central bank floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) in July. While Zee Entertainment Network and Discovery Communications India did not qualify beyond the technical evaluation round, Star India Pvt Ltd and Viacom 18 made it to the final round. According to the RBI, Star India has been awarded the tender for Rs 6.5 crore to make the web series. As per the RFP document, the RBI had desired the creation of a web series of

five episodes of approximately 25-30 minutes each, which can be aired on national TV channels and/or OTT platforms, commemorating 90 years journey of the RBI. The five-episode series will serve as a valuable resource for enhancing public understanding of the central bank's vital role in the economy, fostering greater engagement, and building trust and confidence in its operations and policies, it said in the document. The RBI had invited proposals from production houses, TV channels, and OTT platforms. The primary objective of the project, according to the RBI, is to create a comprehensive and engaging series to provide an in-depth exploration of the RBI functions and operations

over its 90-year journey. "By achieving these objectives, the series with a total of 5 episodes with a duration of approx. 25-30 minutes each will serve as a valuable resource for enhancing public understanding of the central bank's vital role in the economy, fostering greater engagement, and building trust and confidence in its operations and policies," said the RBI's Request for Proposal (RFP) issued in July. The series aims to highlight the central bank's vision and mission, showcase its significant achievements and initiatives, and provide insights into ongoing developments and collaborations. "Through compelling storytelling, expert interviews, and high-quality visuals, the web series seeks to enhance transparency and build trust in the central bank's operations and policies," the RBI has said while inviting the bids. The series aims to make complex financial concepts accessible and interesting to a broad audience, thereby, contributing to financial literacy.

Sugs Lloyd emerges as lowest bidder for two govt projects worth Rs 300 crore in Bihar



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

EPC services provider Sugs Lloyd on Monday said it has emerged as the lowest bidder for two government projects worth Rs 300 crore in Bihar. The contracts involve supply, installation, testing, and commissioning (SITC) of a power substation, along with high-tension (HT) and low-tension (LT) lines, the company said in a statement. Sugs Lloyd has achieved a significant milestone by emerging as the lowest bidder (L1) for two government projects worth a combined initial value of over Rs 300 crore from the

Bihar government entities, the statement said. Sugs Lloyd CEO Satyakam Basu said, "We are thrilled to be declared as the L1 bidder for these critical infrastructure projects in power networks and solar vertical. We are also contemplating raising funds through an IPO very soon to expand our business and meet working capital requirements". Sugs Lloyd is engaged in the business of electrical engineering, civil and electrical EPC projects (Engineering, Procurement and construction) and renewable energy.

Maruti Suzuki unveils all-new Dzire compact sedan, priced between ₹ 6.79 lakh and ₹ 10.14 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday introduced the all-new version of its compact sedan Dzire and said the automaker would continue to cater to all customer segments in order to preserve its high market share in the domestic market. The automaker introduced the new Dzire priced between Rs 6.79 lakh and Rs 10.14 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). While the SUV segment has been growing, other segments are also important to the company in order to maintain high market share, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI)



MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi told reporters here. He said Dzire has been a global success for the automaker with around 30 lakh units sold so far across markets.

Takeuchi noted that the company has invested around Rs 1,000 crore on the development of the model. MSI Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Partho Banerjee said the company's endeavour is

to serve all customer segments. MSI currently has over 40 per cent market share (wholesales) in the overall domestic passenger vehicle segment. In terms of retail sales the company posted its highest-ever performance in October with 2.02 lakh units. In the sedan segment it has over 50 per cent market share. In the entry compact-sedan segment, which also has Honda Amaze, Hyundai Aura among others, MSI has a market share of over 61 per cent in the April-September period of this fiscal year.

Equity mutual funds see record ₹ 41,887 crore inflow in October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Equity mutual funds witnessed a record inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October, marking a surge of over 21 per cent on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, fuelled by robust investments in thematic funds. This also marks the 44th consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds, highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Monday. "October's numbers are indeed phenomenal, especially given the backdrop of a steep market correction. While earlier this year,

equity inflows were buoyed by strong market performance, October marked a stark reversal. "The 5-6 per cent drop in both the Sensex and Nifty was one of the sharpest in recent years, similar to what we last saw in March 2020. Despite this, retail investors have shown remarkable resilience, with inflows

1.57 lakh crore into debt schemes. The industry's net assets under management rose to Rs 67.25 lakh crore last month from Rs 67 lakh crore in September. As per the data, equity-oriented schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October, as compared to Rs 34,419 crore in September. Before this, equity schemes saw an inflow of Rs 40,608 crore in June. Within the equity schemes, sectoral thematic attracted investors with the highest net inflows of Rs 12,279 crore during the month under review. However, flow in the segment was less compared to Rs 13,255 crore in September. The huge inflow was due to investments to the tune of Rs exceeding Rs 40,000 crore," Santosh Joseph, Co-founder and CEO of Germinate Investor Services, said. Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an inflow Rs 2.4 lakh crore in the month under review, after an outflow of Rs 71,114 crore in September. The huge inflow was due to investments to the tune of Rs

Arun Duggal ceases to be chairman of Icra Ltd board

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic rating agency Icra on Monday said Arun Duggal ceased to be the chairman and independent director on the board of the company upon completion of his term. In a regulatory filing, Icra said the second consecutive term of appointment of Arun Duggal and Ranjana Agarwal as Independent Director(s) of the company ended on November 10, 2024. "Consequently, Duggal ceased to be the Chairman and an Independent Director of ICRA Limited and Agarwal has also ceased to be an Independent Director of the company with effect from November 11, 2024," it said. Shares of Icra were trading at Rs 6,878.75, down 1.40 per cent over the previous close on the BSE.

Coca-Cola India FY24 profit falls 42 per cent to ₹ 420.29 crore revenue rises 4 per cent to ₹ 4,713.38 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Beverages major Coca-Cola India's consolidated profit fell 41.82 per cent to Rs 420.29 crore in FY24 while its revenue rose 4.24 per cent to Rs 4,713.38 crore, according to the company's filing to RoC (Registrar of Companies). Its total income, which also includes other income, was up 4.19 per cent to Rs 4,801.84 crore during the fiscal ended March 2024, according to financial data accessed through business intelligence platform Tofler. In FY23, Coca-Cola India Pvt Ltd, an unlisted entity, had reported a net profit of Rs 722.44 crore and revenue from operations at Rs 4,521.31 crore. Its expenses on advertising and sales promotion were up 35.47 per cent to Rs 1,520.21 crore during the financial year under review. This was at Rs 1,122.11 crore a year ago.

Moreover, royalties paid to its US-based parent the Coca-Cola Company also went up 4.68 per cent to Rs 507.51 crore. The total tax expense of Coca-Cola India in FY24 was down 35.34 per cent to Rs 171.42 crore. This was at Rs 265.14 crore a year earlier. Coca-Cola India's total expenses in FY24 was up 16.27 per cent to Rs 4,210.11 crore. The company, which

operates with power brands in Indian markets, including Coca-Cola, Thums Up, Limca, Sprite, Maaza and Minute Maid, is owned by Atlanta-based US beverages major The Coca-Cola Company. India is the fifth largest market for Coca-Cola. Besides, Coca-Cola also has a bottling unit, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) Private Ltd, which operates 16 plants.

Tata Power-DDL Gains International Recognition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) has gained international recognition by winning the acclaimed 'International Smart Grids Action Network (ISGAN) Award of the Excellence 2024' for its project 'enhancing grid Resilience through End-User behavioural demand response.' The award ceremony was held on October 2, 2024 in Foz Du Iguaçu, Brazil, where the Tata Power-DDL's project received an 'Honorable Mention' for its approach to flexible grid resilience among an exceptional group of nominees. Commenting on the win, Mr

Gajanan S. Kale, Chief Executive Officer of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "We're honored to have received this recognition. With the objective of promoting groundbreaking advancements in smart grid technologies, this international recognition reflects the Tata Power-DDL's leadership in grid quality and resilience in energy's evolving scenario tilting towards renewable sources. This timely award will motivate us to keep striving for excellence & innovation in the area of smart grids." The awardees were selected by a highly distinguished international jury in collaboration with the Global Smart Energy Federation (GSEF).

INBRIEF

VIT-AP UNIVERSITY EMPOWERS RURAL TOPPERS

AMARAVATI: VIT-AP University is proud to announce the distribution of free laptops to students under the STAR (Support the Advancement of Rural Students) Scheme. This initiative reflects VIT-AP's dedication to supporting academic excellence among top-performing students from rural areas across Andhra Pradesh.



SRM TO HOST INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUMMIT IRIS'24



KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) is proud to announce the upcoming Industrial Research and Innovation Summit (IRIS'24), scheduled for 22-23 November, 2024, in Chennai.

VIT-AP UNIVERSITY HOSTS VIKAS 2024 INDUSTRY SUMMIT

AMARAVATI: VIT-AP University successfully hosted its flagship industry summit, VIKAS 2024, on November 8th.



India beat Malaysia 4-0 in women's ACT hockey opener

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Young striker Sangita Kumari scored a brace as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 4-0 to open their campaign at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on a confident note here on Monday. Sangita (8th, 55th minutes) struck twice, while Preeti Dubey (43rd) and Uditia (44th) were the other goal getters for the hosts. India will next play South Korea on Tuesday. In other matches of the day, Japan and Korea played out a 2-2 draw, while reigning Olympic silver medallist China thrashed Thailand 15-0. The Indians completely dominated the proceedings in the first quarter even though Malaysia had the first shy at the goal in the form of a penalty corner in the fifth minute which they wasted. Thereafter, it was India all the way as they mounted attack after attack to put pressure on the Malaysian defence. India secured two penalty corners in two minutes and Sangita scored with a variation from the second effort in the eighth minute. Preeti then came close to doubling



India's lead twice. First, her push from close range was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper, and then a minute from the first quarter, she

struck the side post. Just seconds from the first quarter, India secured another penalty corner but wasted the opportunity.

India continued in the same vein and dominated the share of exchanges with persistent attacks on Malaysia but lacked the

finishing touch. The Indians earned four penalty corners in the second quarter but failed to capitalise on a single opportunity to go into the breather with a slim one goal lead despite dominating the match. The Indians kept up the pressure after the change of ends and secured another penalty corner two minutes after the changeover but failed to get past the Malaysian goalkeeper. Minutes later, Malaysia secured their second penalty corner but didn't trouble the Indian backline. In the 43rd minute, India doubled their lead through Preeti who deflected in Navneet Kaur's flick as India went for another variation from a set piece. A minute later, India extended their lead when Uditia found the net with a slap shot from another penalty corner. The Indian secured yet another penalty corner in the 50th minute but this time Uditia's slap shot was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper. Five minutes from the final hooter, Sangita scored a brilliant field goal. She first collected an excellent through pass from the deep, ran past two defenders and slammed the ball into the net with a fierce reverse shot.



Barcelona hit by absence of injured Yamal, loses to Sociedad in Spanish league

AP ■ MADRID

Missing injured Lamine Yamal, Barcelona saw its seven-game winning run come to an end with a 1-0 loss at Real Sociedad in the Spanish league. Yamal, one of the team's key players this season under new coach Hansi Flick, was ruled out before the game because of a right ankle injury. He was replaced by Fermin López and the team's attack - by far the best in the league with 40 goals scored in 13 matches - struggled in the Basque Country, unable to get a single attempt on target against Sociedad. Sheraldo Becker scored a 33rd-minute winner to move Sociedad, which had lost two of its last three games in all competitions, to eighth place. Barcelona has a six-point lead over second-place Real Madrid, which routed Osasuna 4-0 at home on Saturday with a hat trick from Vinicius Júnior. Madrid has a game in hand after its visit to Valencia was postponed because of the deadly floods in the Valencia region. "We have to analyze what happened and keep working after the international break," Barcelona midfielder Pedri said. "We have been playing well and we are still in first place." Barcelona had won seven in a row in all competitions since a 4-2 loss at Osasuna in the league in September. Its only other loss this season had been at Monaco in the Champions League. All of its other 14 matches were victories. Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski, the league's leading scorer with 14 goals, had a first-half goal disallowed for offside. **Yamal injury** Barcelona said Yamal sustained a "severe right ankle contusion" in last Wednesday's game against Red Star in the Champions League. "Over the past few days, he has

undergone treatment, but the discomfort has yet to subside. His recovery will determine his availability," the club said. Flick said the club tested Yamal on Sunday to see if he could play "but it was not possible." Atletico Madrid back in third place Julián Álvarez scored a second-half winner as Atletico Madrid moved back into third place with a 1-0 victory at Mallorca. That left Atletico one point behind Madrid. It moved two points ahead of Villarreal, which defeated visiting Alaves 3-0 on Saturday. Álvarez scored Atletico's winner in the 61st minute after Giuliano Simeone's assist. Simeone, the son of Atletico coach Diego Simeone, beat a defender to a long pass and set Álvarez for an easy strike from close range. Goalkeeper Jan Oblak had another solid performance for Atletico, which earned its seventh clean sheet in the league this season, the most by any club. Atletico was coming off a 2-1 midweek win at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League. **Betis draws late** Marc Bartra scored a stoppage-time equalizer as seventh-place Real Betis salvaged a 2-2 home draw against 11th-place Celta Vigo. Celta had moved ahead with Anastasios Douvikas' goal in the 82nd. The visitors earlier took the lead through Javi Rodriguez in the 13th before Vitor Roque equalized for Betis in the 40th. **Other results** Midtable Girona won 1-0 at 17th-place Getafe with a first-half goal by Yangel Herrera, while sixth-place Athletic Bilbao was held at second-to-last-place Valladolid, with the Basque Country club earning the equalizer with Gorka Guruzeta in stoppage time after the hosts had taken the lead with Raúl Moro in the 79th.



Sindhu, Lakshya hope to regain form at Kumamoto Masters Japan

PTI ■ KUMAMOTO (JAPAN)

Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Sand Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain form when they lead the Indian challenge at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday. Both players have struggled to find their best form since disappointing performances at the Paris Olympics. While Sindhu reached the quarterfinals at the Denmark Open Super 750, Lakshya Sen suffered early exits at both Arctic Open Super 500 and Denmark Open. The two players have struggled to close out deciders after staying competitive in their matches. Sindhu, after a shock first-

round exit to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland, made it to the quarterfinals in Odense but lost to Paris bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in a tense deciding game. Lakshya, on the other hand, fell short against Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen and China's Lu Guang Zu in Finland and Odense. Despite these setbacks, Sindhu has expressed confidence in her preparations, having worked closely with new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun Il. "I'm in good shape, physically and mentally fit," said Sindhu, who will open her campaign against eighth-seeded Thai Busanan Ongbamrungphan. "We've been working on

different aspects, like speed and defence. I hope to perform well in Japan and China with their guidance." In the men's singles, Lakshya possesses the game to challenge the world's best, but his mental resilience has been questioned following his near-miss at the Tokyo Olympics, where he slipped from a medal position in a heartbreaking loss. The 23-year-old will open against Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao, with a potential showdown against eighth seed Anthony Ginting of Indonesia in the next round. The only other Indian pair in action will be the women's doubles team of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who will face Taipei's Hsu Yin-Hui and Lin Jhih Yun in their opening match.

Shubhankar Sharma finishes 32nd as Warring grabs title in Abu Dhabi

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma produced his best card of the week, a superb seven-under 65, in the final round to sign off at tied 32nd position at the HSBC Abu Dhabi Championships. After 71-73 on the first two days, Sharma had a great weekend as his final two rounds of 66 and 65 had an eagle each. On the final day, Sharma, who retained his DP World card, had seven birdies, an eagle and two bogeys. Paul Waring held off a stellar chasing pack to win the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship and claim his first Rolex Series title. The Englishman displayed nerves of steel in his bogey-free closing 66 as he got to 24 under par and two shots ahead of four-time Rolex Series winner Tyrrell Hatton, with Race to Dubai leader Rory



McIlroy, England's Matt Wallace and Dane Thorbjorn Olesen a shot further back. Waring had taken control of the first event of the new DP World Tour Play-Offs with a course-record 61 at Yas Links on Friday but saw his five-shot halfway lead reduced to one as he posted a 73 a day later. The 39-year-old, whose only previous DP World Tour title came at the Nordea Masters more than six years ago, made a fast start with two opening birdies and added two more at the seventh and 10th. He responded to being caught by Hatton with a moment of

magic as he converted from 40 feet at the 17th, before hitting a perfect drive at the last, running a three-wood through the back of the green and getting up and down to seal victory. McIlroy had the chance to make his lead in the Race to Dubai Rankings in Partnership with Rolex unassailable and was first to make an early charge as the four-time Major winner birdied four of his first six holes. He bogied the fifth and added five more gains to sign for a 64, but the Race continues into the season-ending DP World Tour Championship after closest challenger Thriston Lawrence recorded two eagles and four birdies in his round of 64 to get to 20 under and a tie for sixth alongside two-time Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship winner Tommy Fleetwood, and French pair Ugo Coussaud and Antoine Rozner.

Skillhub Online Games Federation launches inaugural Grandmasters Series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Skillhub Online Games (SOG) Federation on Monday unveiled the first edition of the SOG Grandmasters Series in a bid to promote skill-based mind sports and establish a competitive framework for the online gaming industry in India. For its inaugural event, the SOG Federation will host three skill-based mind sports: the Indian Chess Masters (ICM), Indian Chess Masters for Blind (ICMB) and Indian



Rummy Grandmasters (IRG). After online qualifiers, "phygital" zonals -- blending physical and digital presence-- will begin with the South Zone on December 18-19 in

Bengaluru, followed by other regions. To conclude the inaugural SOG Grandmasters, two zonal finalists from chess, two from blind chess and six from rummy will compete in the Nationals in early March 2025 in Delhi for their respective titles and a consolidated prize pool of more than Rs 2 crore. The SOG Federation has also tied up with the International Mind Sports Association. "By providing a premier platform for talented players, we aim to foster a culture of excellence, competitiveness,

and integrity in the gaming community," said Shankar Agarwal, President, Skillhub Online Games Federation. "Our strategic partnership with the International Mind Sports Association ensures that we also adhere to global standards, paving the way for sustainable growth and recognition of skill games as legitimate mind sports in India. "We are committed to shaping a vibrant ecosystem that empowers players and enriches the gaming landscape in India."

Arsenal's winless run goes on after 1-1 draw with Chelsea and Man United beats Leicester 3-0

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Arsenal's Premier League title challenge took another hit after a 1-1 draw with Chelsea. It's now four games without a win in the league for Mikel Arteta's team, which is nine points behind leader Liverpool. While a point saw Arsenal climb up to fourth in the standings, its winless run has seen a gap open up at the top. Chelsea is third, ahead of Arsenal on goal difference. Gabriel Martinelli had fired Arsenal in front in the 60th minute at Stamford Bridge, but Pedro Neto equalized 10 minutes later. "It's about transforming these performances into victories," Arteta said afterward. Arsenal was runner-up to Manchester City in each of the last two seasons and expected to be the closest rival to the defending champion again. Instead it is Liverpool, under new manager Arne Slot, that has powered ahead at the start of the campaign and taken advantage of the faltering form of both City and Arsenal. City is five points back in second after two-straight losses in

the league. "It is a long season - long way to go. We had a tough period in December last season and came back," Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard told Sky Sports, as reported by the BBC. Odegaard was making his first start since sustaining ankle ligament damage in September. "We know the quality and mentality we have and we just have to keep going." Behind the top two the league is bunching up. Just four points separate Chelsea and 13th-place Manchester United after 11 rounds of the season. **Injury concerns** Declan Rice went into the match with a broken toe and was taken off in the 71st, while Bukayo Saka was substituted 10 minutes later, placing doubts over whether they will be available for England's Nation League games against Greece and the Republic of Ireland. "I don't know whether to expect them to be fit, because if not they don't come off," Arteta said. **New era** Over to you Ruben Amorim. United's incoming head coach will



take over a team on the up after a 3-0 win against Leicester made it four games unbeaten in all competitions under interim boss Ruud van Nistelrooy. Amorim officially starts on Monday after serving out his notice period at Sporting Lisbon -

where his last game in charge Sunday was a 4-2 win at Braga in the Portuguese league - and comes into a club that looks to be in a much healthier position than it was when Erik ten Hag was fired at the end of last month. "We said Let's make the most of

these four games, get the maximum out of it," and I think we did an okay job," Van Nistelrooy said. "I really enjoyed it, it's been a short but amazing period." Van Nistelrooy, Ten Hag's former assistant and an iconic striker for the club in his playing days, has

secured three wins and a draw during his four-game temporary reign. Now he is seeking clarity from United's hierarchy about his own future once Amorim takes over. "I expect to hear today or tomorrow from them," he said. On his 250th appearance for the club Bruno Fernandes scored with a brilliant curling shot from the edge of the area in the 17th minute at Old Trafford. His effort in the 38th then saw Victor Kristiansen accidentally divert the ball past Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen to double United's lead before the break. Substitute Alejandro Garnacho scored an even more spectacular goal than Fernandes' in the 82nd when sweeping the ball into the top corner from outside the box. Fernandes said later that the Argentina international didn't fully celebrate the goal because he believes some fans have lost faith in him. **Newcastle fights back** Nottingham Forest's rise has been one of the stories of the season, but it missed the chance to close the

gap on Manchester City in second after falling 3-1 to Newcastle. City's 2-1 loss against Brighton on Saturday meant Forest could have moved to within a point of Pep Guardiola's team and it got off to an ideal start through Murillo's goal in the 21st at the City Ground. But second-half goals from Alexander Isak, Joelinton and Harvey Barnes completed eighth-place Newcastle's comeback. Defeat saw Forest drop from third to fifth on goal difference. **Ipswich wins** Ipswich won for the first time in the league this season with a 2-1 victory at Tottenham that saw it climb out of the relegation zone. It was promoted Ipswich's first Premier League win in 22 years. Ipswich was the only top-flight team without a win heading into Sunday and led 2-0 at halftime against a Spurs side that could have moved into the top four with victory. Sam Szmodics and Liam Delap put Ipswich in control at that break. Rodrigo Bentancur pulled one back for Tottenham, but couldn't prevent Ange Postecoglou's team falling to a fifth league loss this season.

Bumrah to lead, Rahul likely to open in Perth: Gambhir

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday said Jasprit Bumrah, as designated vice-captain, will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the game due to personal reasons. The straight-talking former opener also indicated that KL Rahul could be asked to open the innings in place of Rohit. The second batch of the Indian players is leaving for Perth, but Rohit has stayed back. Uncertainty remains if Rohit will compete in the series-opener. "At the moment, there is no confirmation. We will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully, he is going to be available, but everything you want to know, you will get to know before the start of the series," Gambhir said. "Bumrah is the vice-captain, so obviously If Rohit is not available, he is going to lead in Perth," the coach added. Rahul likely to open Rohit's possible absence also leaves a spot vacant at the top of the batting order and Gambhir said one among the uncapped

Abhimanyu Easwaran and KL Rahul, who both played in the unofficial Tests against Australia A for India A, will be picked. "Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is KL there. We will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available. "There are options. There are quite a lot of options in this spot. Once it gets closer to the first Test match, we will try and play the best playing XI who is going to do the job for us," he added. However he gave enough indications that Rahul's experience might prevail over rookie Easwaran's current form. "There are times when you go with the experienced players as well and that is the quality of the man. He (Rahul) can actually bat at the top of the order, he can bat at number 3 and at number 6 as well," said the former southpaw. "So you need quite a lot of talent to be doing these kind of jobs as well and he has kept wickets in One-day format as well. So imagine how many countries have players like KL who can actually open the batting and can bat at number 6 as well?"



"So I feel that if needed be, I think he (Rahul) can do the job for us, especially if Rohit is not available for the first Test

match," Gambhir said. Team moving forward, coach hints on Shardul non-selection The coach backed uncapped

all-rounder Nitish Reddy, who has a batting average of 21 in first-class cricket, and was picked ahead of veteran pace

bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur. "It is also about moving forward and I feel that this is the best set of players that

we have selected to do the job for the country," Gambhir said. Indicating that doors are closed on Shardul for the time being. Shardul was one of India's heroes at the Gabba with handful of wickets and a half-century. He has been seamer all-rounder in SENA countries. "We have picked the best squad who can do the job for us. Nitish Reddy, we all know that how incredibly talented he is and if given an option, he will deliver for us," Gambhir said. Why Harshit Rana wasn't sent for A tour? Rana was not sent with the India A squad for the unofficial 'Tests' in Australia to be ready for the BGT series but Gambhir said the management did not want to add to his workload by getting him to play First-Class games. "He had played a first-class game against Assam and he did reasonably well (took five-for and scored half-century). We all thought that he has had enough bowling under his belt rather than just sending and playing him another first-class game," Gambhir said. "For us, it is important for a fast bowler to be fresh as well. It is going to be a long tour, it is going to be a five-Test match

series. The bowling coach, the physios and the trainers thought that he has had enough under his belt and that was one of the reasons," he added. While there is no Mohammed Shami and tremendous pressure on Jasprit Bumrah to carry the pace bowling load, Gambhir feels that the attack is potent even with three inexperienced speedsters in Rana, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep. "We have got quality. We have got tall guys who can hit the deck like Prasidh and Harshit. All five guys have different skill sets. That makes our fast bowling attack very very potent." 10 days of training good enough Gambhir, who will be travelling with the second batch of Indian squad on Monday, said adjusting to conditions in Australia over the next 10 days will be vital for the team. "We have got a lot of experienced players who have been to Australia a lot of times. Their experience will come in handy for the young players as well. These 10 days are going to be very crucial but come 22nd morning, we should be absolutely ready to fire from ball one," he said.



Ponting should be concerned about Australian cricket, not India's: Gambhir

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday fired a shot back at Ricky Ponting for questioning Virat Kohli's form and place in Indian team, saying the Australian legend should only be concerned about cricket in his country. Ponting had recently said Kohli's form is a concern, given the Indian batter has scored only two Test centuries in last five years but also felt that the Indian legend has it in him to roar back to form and there is no better place than Australia to do so. "What does Ponting have to do with Indian cricket? I think he should think about Australian cricket. More importantly, I have got no concerns whatsoever for Virat and Rohit," Gambhir said during an interaction with media before leaving for Australia. Kohli has just one fifty this year - 70 against Bangladesh in Kanpur Test - while his last Test century came in July 2023 against the West Indies. Someone, who averaged above 50 in Test cricket from 2016 to 2019, Kohli has managed only 1838 runs from 34 Tests at an

average of 31.68, with two centuries since then. In 2024, the 36-year-old averaged only 22.72 in six matches, the lowest in his career. Speaking in a recent episode of the ICC Review, Ponting said if it was not for Kohli, surviving in Test cricket was tough with such a dismal record. "I saw a stat the other day about Virat, it said he's only scored two (three) Test hundreds in the last five years. That didn't seem right to me, but if that is right, then that is, I mean, that's a concern," Ponting said. "There wouldn't be anyone else probably even playing international cricket as a top-order batsman that's only scored two Test match hundreds in five years." "I've said it before about Virat, you don't ever question the greats of the game. There's no doubt, he's a great of the game. He loves playing against Australia. In fact, I know he loves playing against Australia. And as I said, his record (in Australia) is very good. If there's a time for him to turn it around, it'd be this series. "So I wouldn't be surprised to see Virat make runs in the first

game." When asked if the form of the two Indian senior batters Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma, who scored 93 and 91 runs respectively in the team's 0-3 loss to New Zealand, is a concern, Gambhir said, "Not at all." "They are incredibly tough men, they have achieved a lot for Indian cricket and they will continue to achieve a lot in future as well. "For me, the most important thing is that they still work really hard and they are still passionate, they still want to achieve a lot more and that is something which is very important," he added. Gambhir said the hunger to do well is "incredibly important" for the Indian team especially after the loss to the Kiwis. "The hunger in that dressing room is incredibly important for me and for the entire group of people as well and especially after what has happened in the last series," he said. Indian batters were collectively exposed by New Zealand on a seaming track in Bengaluru in the first Test and spin-friendly pitches for the last two Tests at Pune and Mumbai.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former England captain Michael Vaughan says he "won't be surprised" if retired pacer Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai Super Kings as the former champions prefer a fast bowler who can swing the ball. The 42-year-old Anderson, who retired from Test cricket earlier this year, surprised everyone by registering himself for the IPL for the first time. "You mention James Anderson, I would not be surprised if Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai Super Kings," Vaughan said on the 'Club Prairie Fire Podcast' which also featured former Australian great Adam Gilchrist. "They are a team that like someone who can swing it inside the first few overs. They have always had a swinger, whether it is Shardul Thakur or



someone else. It would not surprise me if Jimmy Anderson ends up at Chennai," Vaughan added. The veteran pacer, who last played a T20 10 years ago in 2014, has never competed in a global franchise T20

league, prioritising red-ball cricket. He has a base price of Rs 1.25 crore for the mega auction. Asked about the decision, the veteran pacer said he has listed himself for the auction to enhance his knowledge

about the game. "There is still definitely something in me that thinks like I can still play. I have never done the IPL; I have never experienced it and I think for a number of reasons I feel like I have more to give as a player," Anderson had said on a BBC Radio podcast last week. "I have done a little bit of coaching since I have finished in the summer. I have been around the England team doing a bit of mentoring or whatever you like to call it," he said. "I just think opening my eyes to something like that and experiencing it, sort of might help me grow my knowledge of the game and help further down the line," Anderson had said. Over 1500 players have registered for the IPL mega auction, slated to take place on November 24 and 25 in Jeddah.

Shooters Aishwary, Samra disappoint as little-known Rameshbhai clinches silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading Indian rifle shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sift Kaur Samra failed to make an impact even as little-known Smit Rameshbhai Moradiya clinched the men's 10m air rifle silver after an extremely close fight for gold in the World University Shooting Championship here on Monday. On a day when Rameshbhai was the only Indian to win a medal, his more illustrious counterpart, Olympian Tomar finished fifth in the event, while Samra, a member of the Paris Games contingent, ended at fourth in the women's 50m rifle three-positions event. Rameshbhai, who hails from Gujarat, missed the gold medal to Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky by just 0.1 point, scoring 252.1 in the final. It was a grand double for Privratsky, who shot 252.2 to claim the top-podium finish and add to the men's 50m rifle three-positions gold he won on Sunday. The 23-year-old Privratsky had recently clinched a silver (50m rifle 3-positions) and bronze (10m air



rifle) in the year-ending ISSF World Cup Final held at the Karni Singh Range here last month. Tomar shot 187.7 for a fifth-place finish, while

another Indian, Umamahesh Maddineni (208.8), finished fourth. Earlier, in the qualification round, Rameshbhai shot 630.0 to enter the eight-shooter final in second place. Umamahesh and Tomar shot 629.8 and 628.3 to enter the final in third and fifth place respectively. Samra, one of the best 50m rifle exponents in the country, was a big disappointment, finishing fourth with 439.6. France's Agathe Girard (462.3) won the gold medal, while Poland's Julia Piotrowska (462.0) and Anna Janssen (450.2) clinched the silver and bronze respectively. Samra had earlier secured a place in the eight-shooter final at seventh in the qualification round with a score of 587. India have so far won nine medals, including a gold struck by the 10m air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma on Sunday. As many as 220 shooters from across 23 countries are competing in the championship. The event is being hosted by Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies.

Last three years were tough, changed everything about my bowling: Chakaravarthy

PTI ■ GOEBERHA

Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has described the three-year gap from international cricket as "tough," saying he had to completely overhaul his bowling after finding that his orthodox side-spin wasn't working at higher levels. The 33-year-old recorded his career-best figures of 5 for 17 in Sunday's second T20I against South Africa, though his efforts could not prevent India from losing by three wickets. "I had to go to the drawing board and check out all my videos. I figured out that I was bowling side spin and it was not working out in the higher levels," he told Jio Cinema. "I had to change everything about

my bowling. It took me two years and I started bowling in the local leagues and IPL also. It worked there and I have started bowling it in the international stage and it's working out for me." While side spin creates enough revolutions to make the ball drift sideways, over-spin generates a sharp bounce and turn. Talking about what worked for him as he added a fifer on Sunday to the three wickets he scalped in the first T20I in Durban, Chakaravarthy said: "It is a combination of both my consistency and overspin. "The overspin I bowl has more bite from the pitch and hopefully I can keep doing that and hopefully I can keep contributing for the country." Chakaravarthy was axed from the Indian team after going

wicketless during the 2021 World Cup but he earned his place back after his exploits in the last two editions of the IPL. He snapped 20 wickets in IPL 2023 before finishing as the second highest wicket-taker this year. "Definitely, the last three years were a little tough," Chakaravarthy told media after the match. "The only thing I could do was play lots of cricket. And I started playing a lot of the domestic league (TNPL) in India. And that definitely helped me understand my game better. And that's what helped me." Chakaravarthy was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning team this year under Gambhir, who recently took over as the coach of the Indian team and he credited the role clarity



provided by the coach for helping him to regain his lost form. "Yes, we played the Bangladesh tour and he was coaching the team. And definitely we spoke a lot and he gave me a lot of role

clarity. "He told me, even if you go for 30-40 runs, it doesn't matter. All you have to look is to pick wickets. So that's your role in the team. The clarity which they gave

definitely helped me." Chakaravarthy's match-changing spell reduced South Africa to 66 for 6 while chasing a modest target of 125, but a gritty partnership between Tristan Stubbs (47) and Gerald Coetzee (19) saw the hosts home in 19 overs, ending India's 11-match winning streak. "During the innings break, Surya (skipper Suryakumar Yadav) came and told us that let's not think about the result and let's just go all out. And that's what we tried to do. We did our best and we could have pulled it off. "Obviously, the mindset has to be aggressive when the score is low. You have to pick wickets and that's when we can win the match. That has to be my approach in the next two games also because it's going to be a do-

or-die match for us," he said. The spinner added that performing against a formidable team like South Africa would serve as a confidence booster heading into the remaining matches. "Definitely, when we came to South Africa, we knew that it's going to be a challenging tour because the Proteas, they are one of the best teams right now and they have a powerful batting lineup. "Doing well against them definitely gives me motivation to do more better and definitely I can. Hopefully I can do well in the upcoming games." India will face South Africa in the third and final T20Is on Wednesday and Friday at Centurion and Johannesburg, respectively.

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