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Review



AMIT SHAH ATTACKS CONGRESS OVER ITS LEADERS' LINK IN DRUG BUST CASE



STRIKE IN BEIRUT KILLED HEZBOLLAH'S COMMUNICATIONS **COMMANDER: IDF**



16 INDIA TEAM GEARS UP FOR 1ST T20 AGAINST **BANGLADESH**

28 Naxalites gunned down in Chhattisgarh

AGENCIES DANTEWADA

In one of the biggest operations against Maoists in Chhattisgarh, security personnel killed 28 Naxalites in a fierce encounter in the Bastar region on Friday, a senior police official said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said the 'double engine' government (BJP government in the state and at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thulthuli and Nendur villages in Abhujmaad on the Narayanpur-Dantewada inter-district border, when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal op-



Representative image

eration, Inspector General a cache of weapons, includof Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said. ing an AK-47 rifle and one Personnel belonging to SLR (self-loading rifle),

the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and encounter spot, he said. Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said. Sundarraj said that 28 Naxalites were gunned down in the killed in the gun battle. encounter.

out in the forest area when a joint *team of security* personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation said, "There is news of 28 Along with the 28 bodies,

The gunfight broke

Naxalites gunned down in an encounter with security forces in the border area of Narayanpur-Dantewada were recovered from the districts. The great success achieved by the soldiers is commendable. I salute Earlier, Dantewada Superintendent of Potheir courage and valour." lice Gaurav Rai had said "Our fight to eliminate around 30 Naxalites were Naxalism will end only after reaching its conclu-In a post on X, CM Sai sion. Our double engine

government is determined for this. Eliminating Naxalism from the state is our aim," he added.

With this latest encounter, 185 Maoists have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year, police said. In April, 29 Naxalites

were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh in August had said India will be free from Left Wing Extremism

(LWE) by March 2026, and

a strong and ruthless strat-

egy was required to launch

the final assault against the

menace.



Indian Air Force fighter jets form a tricolour during the rehearsal of an air show, at Marina Beach in Chennai on Friday. ANI

HARYANA VOTES TODAY IN HIGH-STAKE BATTLE

BJP confident of consecutive 3rd term while Congress eyes a comeback; hope floats for regional parties INLD, JJP and their allies BSP and ASP

NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

'aryana is all set to vote on Saturday in fiercely contested Assembly election, with polling set to take place individuals from the third across 20,632 booths. More gender. Among the electorthan 2 crore voters will decide the future of the state. The ruling BJP aims for a third consecutive term, while the Congress seeks to reclaim power after a decade in opposition. The stakes are high, with both national and regional parties vying for control of the state's political landscape. The single-phase polling, which will determine the composition of the 15th Haryana Legislative Assembly of 90 seats, has seen intense campaigning from the BJP, Congress, and key regional players such as the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Jannayak Janta Party (JJP). The BJP, which won 40 seats in the 2019 elections and formed a coalition government with the JJP, is hoping to secure a majority this time around. However, the BJP-JJP alliance has since collapsed, leaving both parties to contest separately in

this election. According to Harvana's Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal, the state has 2.03 crore registered voters, including 1.07 crore men, 95.77 lakh women, and 467

ELECTORATE AT A GLANCE			
Men	1.07 crore		
Women	95.77 lakh		
3rd gender	467		
Booths	20,632		
Candidates	1,031		
Women contenders	101		
Independents	464		
First time voters aged 18-19	5.24 lakh	Voters	
Voters above age of 85	2.31 lakh		
Voters with disabilities	1.49 lakh	2.03 crore	

POLLING BEGINS

AT 7 AM; LAST VOTE AT 6 PM



"Backward and Dalit communities are angry with Congress for its failure to prevent caste-based violence. The people of Haryana are ready to punish Congress once again.

PM to release today Rs 20k cr to 9.4 cr farmers via DBT

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release the 18th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on Saturday, at an event in Washim, Maharashtra.

According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, scheme will surpass Rs 3.45 this instalment, amounting lakh crore, benefiting more to more than Rs 20,000 than 11 crore farmers across

Agricultural Cooperative Societies, and five lakh Common Service Centres.

Launched in February 2019, the PM-KISAN scheme provides an annual financial benefit of Rs 6,000 to landholding farmers, disbursed in three equal instalments. With this 18th instalment, the total disbursement under the

about 91.51 lakh farmers will

receive over Rs 1.900 crore.

also distribute an additional Rs 2.000 crore to Ma-

harashtra's farmers under

the fifth instalment of the

Namo Shetkari Mahasan-

P4

The Prime Minister will

ate, 5.24 lakh are first-time voters aged 18-19, while 2.31 lakh voters are above the age of 85. Additionally, 1.49 lakh voters have disabilities. Polling will begin at 7 AM and conclude at 6 PM. A total of 1.031 candidates, including 101 women, are in the fray for 90 Assembly seats. Of these, 464 candidates are

contesting as Independents. The results of the Haryana Assembly elections will be declared on October 8, alongside those of Jammu and Kashmir, making this one of the most closely watched electoral battles in recent times.

As the campaign season wrapped up on Thursday, the BJP sought to highlight its governance track record, while the Congress hammered the ruling party over unemployment, economic mismanagement, and alleged crony capitalism. Prime Minister Narendra

Key battlegrounds and high-profile candidates

NEERAJ MOHAN

With Haryana going for voting on Saturday, all eyes are on the key battleground constituencies that could shape the future of the state's political landscape. With the ruling BJP aiming for a historic third consecutive term, and the Congress hoping to return to power after 10 years in opposition, the elections promise to be a high-stakes affair. The elections also see

participation from regional players such as the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) **P**4

"Unbelievable, if

true. Whilst Modiji,

builds Swachhata as

a people's movement,

people for toilets

here is Congress taxing

— Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister



and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), adding layers of complexity to the race. With issues like anti-incumbency, the farmers' protests, and the Agnipath scheme at the forefront, voters are poised to decide the fate of not just political heavyweights, but also the state's governance for the next five years. Election results will be declared on October 8. The BJP is banking on its

10-year record of development, but it faces strong headwinds due to anti-incumbency sentiment, particularly over the handling of the farmers' protests and the controversial Agnipath scheme. Congress, capitalising on this dissatisfaction,

is positioning itself as the party of change, focusing on rural distress and unemployment. Regional



prospers."

N P4

- Narendra Modi, **Prime Minister**



"The unemployment crisis created by the BJP has jeopardized the future of Haryana's youth. Under BJP rule, the backbone of employmentgenerating systems in the state has been broken. Congress will restore jobs, protect the youth, and ensure that every family

> Rahul Gandhi , LoP in Lok Sabha

crore, will be disbursed the country. through Direct Benefit Maharashtra alone has Transfer (DBT) to over 9.4 seen the transfer of Rs 32,000 crore to around 1.20 crore farmers in the state, and in this latest instalment,

crore farmers nationwide. ensuring financial support without the involvement of intermediaries. The occasion is being marked as PM-KISAN Ut-

sav Divas across India, with around 2.5 crore farmers expected to join the event via webcasts from over 732 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), one lakh Primary

but the result of

reforms brought in

SC sets up West Asia figures in team to probe Cabinet talks laddu row

NEW DELHI: The Supreme NEW DELHI: A meeting Court on Friday constituted of the Cabinet Committee on Security was held under an independent SIT to probe the chairmanship of Prime into the allegations of the use Minister Narendra Modi, in of animal fat to make laddus which the discussions unto serve as prasadam at Sri folded on the ongoing West Venkateswara Swamy Tem-Asia crisis and its possible ple in Tirumalawhere Lord impact globally. Venkateswara is worshipped. DETAILS P4

DETAILS P4

Forex reserves soar past \$700-bn mark

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high again, crossing the USD 700 billion milestone. In the week that ended on September 27, the forex reserves kitty rose from USD 12.588 billion to USD 704.885 billion, as per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. Last week, the kitty was at the previous high of USD 692.296 billion.

DETAILS 7

Toilet tax reports 'baseless': Himachal CM

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Himachal Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday firmly denied claims of any 'toilet tax' being imposed or proposed in the state.

While speaking to reporters in New Delhi, he described these claims as baseless and cautioned against their use for political purposes. He said, "In the light of Haryana Vidhan Sabha elections, the BJP is either playing the



religion card or sometimes raising the fabricated toilet tax issue. No one should attempt to politicise issues purely for political gains, especially when the allegations are far from reality.'

Muizzu to visit India during October 7-10

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu will be travelling to India on a state visit from October 7-10 and it will be his first bilateral visit to India, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Friday.

The BJP slammed the Congress over reports of its While addressing a weekly government in Himachal media briefing on Friday, Pradesh imposing toilet Jaiswal stated that the Maldivian President's visit to In-P4



dia is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between two nations. He said that Muizzu, during his visit to India, will be travelling P5

India profitable for investors' PUNE: Prime Minister Na-"The optimism rendra Modi on Friday said around India is not that the optimism around India by global leaders and a mere coincidence, financial experts was not

'Reforms of past decade made

iust a mere coincidence, but the result of reforms brought in by his government over the past decade.

by the government Addressing the third edition of the Kautilya Economic Con-

clave, PM Modi said that India is growing at over 7 per cent "This conclave is being organised at a time when there is a war situation in two big regions of the world. Both these regions are very important for the global economy, especially energy security ... ' DETAILS P7

his wife Poonam and there

were exit wounds in the two children which con-

firms that they were killed

by bullets. Post-mortem

findings have been submit-

Amethi MP Kishori Lal

Sharma questioned the

state government and said

the investigation should be

"This is a gruesome

crime. I have been in touch

with the deceased's father

since yesterday... I have

talked to the DM and asked

for an investigation keeping

all angles in mind... If the state government applauds

itself for the law and order

situation in the state, why

ted to the police."

speeded up.

AMIT SHAH ATTACKS CONGRESS OVER ITS LEADERS' LINK IN DRUG BUST CASE

NEW DELHI

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the Congress party over the alleged involvement of a Congress leader in a massive Rs 5,600 crore drug consignment recently seized in Delhi.

Taking to X, Amit Shah wrote: "While on one hand, the Modi Government is adopting a zero-tolerance policy for 'Drug Free India', the involvement of a prominent Congress leader in the Rs 5,600 crore drug consignment seized from North India is extremely dangerous and shameful."

He further accused the Congress party of trying to take the youth into the 'dark world of drugs', assuring



that the Congress leader's use of their political influence to push the youth into the quagmire of drugs will never be allowed to be ful-

filled by Modi. "Everyone has seen the plight of youth in Punjab, Haryana and entire North India due to drugs during the rule of Congress. While the Modi government is taking the youth towards sports, education and inno-

NATION

vation, the Congress wants to take them into the dark world of drugs, Shah added in his post." "The sin of Congress lead-

ers of using their political influence to push the youth into the quagmire of drugs will never be allowed to be fulfilled by the Modi government. Our government is determined to make India a 'drug-free country' by destroying the entire drug

According to police, Tushar Goyal, who was reportedly an office bearer of the Congress Party, is the mastermind and main accused in this case.

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> network, without looking at the political position or stature of the drug dealers," Home Minister Shah stated The Home Minister's remarks came after Delhi Police busted an international drugs syndicate and seized drugs worth Rs 5600 crore in Delhi.

According to police, Tushar Goyal, who was reportedly an office bearer of the

Congress Party, is the mastermind and main accused in this case. Additional CP Kushwaha said that 15 kg of cocaine was recovered from the personal possession of the accused Tushar Goyal, Himanshu and Aurangzeb, while the remaining marijuana and cocaine were found in the godown. According to the Police, Tushar Goyal himself revealed during the Special Cell's interrogation that he had been the head of the Delhi Congress' RTI Cell for

a brief period. The seizure links have also been found connected to Dubai, police said. Delhi police said that the name of a big businessman from Dubai, who is a major supplier of cocaine, came up during the Special Cell's investigation.

Uttar Pradesh: Family of four shot dead in Amethi

TDG NETWORK AMETH

In a gruesome murder that occurred here in Oharwa Bhawani on Thursday evening, the family of a 35-year-old teacher was shot dead at their residence. On the eve of Navratri, the assailants had barged into the residence of the victim, Sunil Kumar and shot dead him and his family, consisting of his wife Poonam Bharti, and his two daughters, aged five and two.

As per police, the deceased wife had filed an FIR against Chandan Verma, a probable accused in the case under various sections of IPC at the Rae Bareli Police Station.

Further information from the police has revealed that there are no signs of forced entry of the assailants in the house.

entered the home and shot dead the teacher, his wife and his two daughters, aged five and two. The case does not appear to be of robbery. A case had been filed against a man identified as Chandan Verma around August 18 in connection with the commission of offences under the SC/ST Act. We are investigating if that is a possible reason for the murder," said Superintendent Anup Singh.

A panel of doctors here have conducted the postmortem of the bodies of the deceased and have sent them to Sudampur in Raebareli, the village of the deceased.

are such crimes happen-Anshuman Singh, CMO ing?... Rahul Gandhi had Amethi said, "In the post asked me to visit the family mortem findings, one buland on his instructions. I let was recovered from have been in touch with the Sunil Kumar and two bul-

family since yesterday," KL "Unknown people had lets were recovered from Sharma said. CM Nitish Kumar inspects flood-affected areas and relief work carried out in state

Amid the heavy flood situations, Chief Minister Nitish

Some rivers are at or above danger levels in many bordering districts. A massive volume of water

Bijnor: Around 150 people fall sick after consuming poisonous buckwheat flour



of Muzaffarpur

rary refuge.

was released from the Kosi and Gandak barrages, affecting northern Bihar and Nepal. Floods in Sitamarhi followed a breach in the Mandar dam in the Belsand

block on September 29. On October 3, several residents were forced to move out of their waterlogged has risen due to the increase homes due to the excessive in the Bagmati River's water level and breaches in dams flooding in the Aurai block

monitoring this." To support the flood affected people, community kitchens have been established in the most impacted areas. "Community kitchens

have been set up, especially in the two most-affected Several residents have districts...They have also erected tarpaulin sheets to been set up wherever peocreate makeshift tents along ple have made a demand. People have asked for comthe roadside in as tempomunity kitchens near their Muzaffarpur District houses, so that they need Magistrate Subrat Kumar not commute," the District Sen said, "The water level

Magistrate said.Due to accessibility challenges, authorities have allowed boat movement in flooded areas

UP: 10 labourers killed in accident at Mirzapur



Army officials salute while paying last respects to the mortal remains of soldier Narayan Singh who lost his life in the 1968 Indian Air Force aircraft AN-12 crash was recovered and brought to his native village, in Chamoli on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

Need own weapon systems to deal with security challenges: IAF chief

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI Ahead of Indian Air Force



have them being bought and rely on that supply chain. It is imperative that we have

TDG NETWORK PATNA

Kumar on Friday inspected the flood-affected areas and check the relief work being carried out in the state, as per a statement from the Chief Minister's office.

Several parts of the state have been grappling with severe flooding due to heavy water discharge from the Kosi Barrage in Birpur following relentless rainfall in the catchment areas of Nepal.

Day (IAF), Air Chief Marshal AP Singh stressed on Friday the country's need to have an indigenous weapon system to deal with the security challenges, saying relying on foreign weapons 'can create a choke point' for the country due to 'changing intrest'.

Speaking at a press conference, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said, When it comes to conflict situations, if you are relying on getting your weapons from outside, there will always be different interests and changing interests, which can create a choke point for you. If you need to fight the war... you have to have them being manufactured in India. You cannot afford to have them bought and rely on that supply chain. It is imperative that we have these things being produced in In-

Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, and Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, arrive for the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

dia...we can't be stocking up everything forever. These things will have life. If we keep stocking up, we'll have wastage...'

He further called upon manufacturing agencies to come forward and increase their production rate

ing the capacity, one is capability, another one is capacity. So building the capacity, it becomes important for our

manufacturing agencies to come forward and increase their production rate. When it comes to conflict situations, if you are relying on

getting your weapons from outside, there will always be different interests and changing interests which can create a choke point for

"When it comes to buildyou. If you need to fight the war...vou have to have them being manufactured in India. You cannot afford to

these things being produced in India...we can't be stocking up everything forever. These things will have life. If we keep stocking up, we'll have wastage ... '

On Agnipath scheme, he said that the Indian Air Force could absorb more than 25 per cent of Agniveers, if asked to do so.

"Our feedback on Agniveers has been very positive. We were asked if we could absorb more than 25% Agniveer and we said that we could.

The decision has to be taken by the government," AP Singh added.

When asked if the IAF had the capability to carry out attacks like the Israelis did with their adversaries, he said: "We have the capability to strike our enemies in foreign lands and we showed it in the Balakot air strikes."

TDG NETWORK

On the first day of the Sharadiya Navratri festival, on Thursday, several people in Bjnor started to feel unwell after eating food made from allegedly poisonous buckwheat flour. Hundreds

of people started showing symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach aches, and body tremors. They were immediately admitted to nearby CHC centres.

The CHC Centre health department was overburdened by the increasing number of patients. Those in critical condition were admitted to the district hospital, where treatment is ongoing.

Assessing the situation, Bijnor's DM, SP, and CMO, Ankit Kumar Agarwal, said, "Many people have fallen ill after eating buckwheat flour. People have suffered from vomiting and diarrhoea. 125-150 such patients have been identified. Some patients have been referred to the district hospital. Samples have been sent to the lab; strict action will be taken against the culprits."

"It is sad that adulterators do not hesitate to play with faith as well as health for a little greed. Something similar happened in some villages of the Chandpur area of Bijnor, UP, where yesterday was the first day of Sharadiya Navratri. People associated with faith had also kept the first fast. Last evening, to break the fast, people ate dishes made of buckwheat flour. After some time, the whole family started falling prey to food poisoning. Complaints of vomiting, diarrhoea and tremors in the body started coming.

TDG NETWORK MIRZAPUR

cial said.

Ten labourers were killed while three others were injured in a collision between a truck and a tractor that occurred near the Kachhwa border in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur on Friday, an offi-

According to the police, the incident occurred on GT Road at the Mirzamurad Kachhwa border when a truck that had gone out of control hit a tractor from behind, which was carrying 13 people going from Bhadohi district towards Banaras. Police rushed to the spot af-

ter receiving the information and sent 3 injured people to Banaras Hindu University (BHU) hospital for treatment. The 13 people used to work as labourers in Bhadohi and were returning to their village, police said.

in connection with the accident; further investigation is underway

"At around 1 AM, we received information that an accident had occurred on the GT Road at the Mirzamurad Kachhwa border, in which a tractor carrying 13 people, which was going from Bhadohi district towards Banaras, was hit from behind by a truck that had gone out of control. On receiving this information, we reached the spot and rescue work was started. Out of those 13 people, 10 died and 3 who were injured were immediately sent to BHU for treatment. All these 13 people used to work as labourers in Bhadohi and were returning to their village. FIR is being registered. Further necessary legal action is being taken,' Mirzapur Superintendent of Police, Abhinandan said.

A FIR has been registered

SC refuses to stay demolition at Gir Somnath, seeks Gujarat govt's reply

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Gujarat Government to file the reply on plea seeking contempt proceedings against the official concern in relation to alleged demolition of the Dargah and other places in Gir Somnath by Gujarat authorities.

The Supreme Court, however, refused to stay the demolition but clarified that if they find there is contempt of its order in this matter, then it will not only send the alleged erring officials to jail

but also order to restore the structure

> A bench of justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan made these observations when it was hearing a plea. The top court listed the matter for October 16 for further hearing. Eventually the top court was inclined to issue notice but Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in-

tervened and said that the eviction proceedings were initiated in 2023 and the land belongs to the government

> SG Mehta also said that the structures were next

to a water body and after following the procedure, this action was taken. After hearing the SG, the top court said that it won't issue notice but seek a reply from the state.

Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde and Advocate Anas Tanwir, appearing for the petitioners, urged the top court to maintain the status quo. However, the court was not convinced. In the meantime, it made it clear that it will pass the order, which will apply equally to all.

Summast Patni Musslim Jamat has filed a petition



through advocate Anas Tanwir and sought to initiate contempt proceedings against Gujarat authorities for wilful and deliberate contravention of the order dated September 17. On September 17, the top

court directed that till the next date of hearing, there shall be no demolition anywhere across the country without seeking leave of this court. However, on September 17. the court clarified that its order would not be

applicable if there is an unauthorised structure in any public place, such as a road. street, footpath, abutting railway line or any river body or water bodies, and also to cases where there is an order for demolition made by a court of law.

The organisation said that Gujarat authorities have carried out an early morning illegal demolition of centuries old Muslim religious places of worship, including mosques, eidgahs, dargahs, mausoleums and residential places of Mutawallis of the said dargahs, on Sep-

tember 28, 2024, without issuing any notices for such demolition and without granting any opportunity

of hearing. "The respondents herein, by carrying out the said demolitions, have blatantly defied the aforementioned order, thereby lowering the majesty of the court in the eyes of the general public relaying utter disrespect to the orders of the court," the petitioner said.

The petitioner, which is a trust representing the Patni Muslim community of Prabhas Patan, sought to

protect religious sites that have significant historical and spiritual importance. "These include Haji Man-

groli Shah Baba's tomb, dargahs, mosques, and graveyards that have been used and revered by the local Muslim community for over a century.

The tomb and surrounding gravevards have existed since the time of the State of Junagadh, with the matter of their ownership and usage being resolved as early as 1903 by a legal resolution passed under the supervision," the petitioner said.

NATION

TIRUPATI LADDU ROW: ISSUE NOTICE TO AR DAIRY FOOD, HC DIRECTS FSSAI

TDG NETWORK MADURAI

he Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to issue supplementary notice and grant time to AR Dairy Food to respond to it in the case relating to the supply of ghee used for making Tirupati laddus.

The petition filed by G. Kannan on behalf of AR Dairy Food was heard on Thursday by Justice N. Sathish Kumar. The company had challenged the show-cause notice issued to them regarding the supply of ghee.

The petition filed by G. Kannan on behalf of AR Dairy Food was heard on Thursday by Justice N. Sathish Kumar.

The company had challenged the showing. cause notice issued to them regarding

the supply of ghee. AR Dairy Food started supplying ghee on June 4

and received approval from

TTD's in-house testing laboratory for four consignments in June. However, in July, four more consignments were supplied but rejected without reason. The company was asked to explain why their contract should not be cancelled

and why they should not be blacklisted. AR Dairy Food responded to the notice, and the case is currently pend-The company responded

to the notices and the matter was pending. TTD had relied upon the findings of lab reports of samples by Gujarat based NDDB-Calf which was not a food safety officer prescribed under the FSSA Act, 2006, he said. On September 20, FSSAI issued a show cause notice seeking an explanation from the company as to why the Central licence should not be suspended for contravention under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011.

FSSAI does not follow the procedure of FSSA Act. Samples were taken from the Dindigul unit only after the notice was issued. A reply was filed on September 22 denying the allegations. Later on September 27 again, a notification was issued to NDDB-Calf, he said, challenging the notice

Important for Marathi, other languages to have elite language status: Pawar

TDG NETWORK

Following the centre's decision to include Marathi and four other languages as the "classical language" category on Thursday, NCP-SCP chief Sharad Pawar expressed his gratitude towards the Central Government and said that the decision would help the state for the promotion

and development of Marathi. Addressing a press conference on Friday, Pawar said it was very important for Marathi and the other four languages--Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali-- to be given the status of elite languages and that politicians, officials from Marathi Sahitya Parisahad and other litterateurs were involved in raising their demand on this matter for a long time.

However, Pawar said that the decision was taken a little late but it was important that the decision was taken.

"According to the news we

पवा रकार

have received today, Marathi portant thing is that this deis one of the five languages cision has been taken and it that have been given the stawill have many benefits for tus of elite languages. This is the promotion and developvery important for Marathi ment of Marathi. For this, and other languages that I thank the central governhave been given the status ment," Pawar added. of elite languages. Everyone

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved to confer the status of classical language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali languages.

The Government of India litterateurs were also raising decided to create a new category of languages as "classical languages" on October "This decision has been 12, 2004, declaring Tamil as taken a little late but the ima classical language.

The government also set a criterion for the status of classical language: the language must be of high antiquity in its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years, a body of ancient literature/ texts that is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers, and the literary tradition must be original and not borrowed from another speech community. A linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) was constituted by the Ministry of Culture under Sahitya Akademi in November 2004 to examine the proposed languages for the status of classical language. The criteria were revised in November 2005,

classical language. The Government of India, has conferred status of classical languages to Tamil in 2004, Sanskrit in 2005, Telugu in 2008, Kannada in 2008, Malayalam in 2013, and Odia in 2014.

and Sanskrit was declared a

Bengal junior doctors end ceasework, announce fast-unto-death after 24 hrs

on leave.

doctors.

their agitation.

The striking junior doc-

tors went in a procession

from RG Kar Medical Col-

lege and Hospital to Espla-

nade, the heart of the city, to

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE KOLKATA

At the end of another day of fast-paced developments, the agitating junior doctors in West Bengal today called off their "total cease work" keeping the impending Durga Pujas in mind but announced that they would go for indefinite hunger-strike from Saturday evening if the State Government did not replace the State Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam within the next 24 hours. They highlighted the lackadaisical approach of the Mamata Banerjee Government towards fulfilling the doctors' 10-point demand for better security and the end of "threat culture" in the Government-run hospitals.

After holding a governing body meeting throughout Thursday night (October 3, 2024), the junior medics decided to hold a rally on Friday afternoon (October 4,

"The governing body meeting concluded this morning. We have decided to suspend the total cease work for now, but our demonstrations will continue.

2024), to announce their decision to withdraw the "total cease work," a source said.

"The governing body meeting concluded this morning. We have decided to suspend the total cease work for now. but our demonstrations will continue. We are mindful of the large number of patients relying on State-run hospitals every day," one of the agitating doctors told The

Daily Guardian. The junior doctors said that one of the major reasons for the withdrawal call

was to reduce the problems substantial police contingent at Esplanade. of common citizens during the Durga Puja period dur-

Yesterday, at a meeting of ing which a lot of doctors the senior and junior doctors, the senior counterparts in both Government and private health facilities go had urged them to suspend the cease work in light of the "We have given the State hardships faced by ordinary Government a deadline to patients

fulfil our demands, particu-The junior doctors relarly in light of the attacks newed their cease work on doctors face in various hos-October 1 after an attack on pitals. If our demands are health workers by a patient's not met, we will launch a family at the State-run Colfast unto death agitation," lege of Medicine & Sagore added Aniket Mahata, one Dutta Hospital the previous of the leaders of the junior week.

Previously, the doctors had gone on a complete ceasework for 42 days following the rape and murder of a fellow medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

announce the next phase of They ended their strike on September 21 after discus-They also alleged that one of their colleagues had been sions with State officials. resuming essential services manhandled by the police at Esplanade, leading to heated under directives aimed at arguments with the senior ensuring safety and efficient police officers leading the healthcare.

Bhubaneswar Airport capacity to increase to 80 lakh per year: Aviation Minister

TDG NETWORK BHUBANESWAF

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu conducted a review meeting on the development and expansion of Bhubaneswar Airport on Friday. He said that efforts were going on to develop Bhubaneswar in the civil aviation sector and to increase the capacity of the

in the next one month. Ram Mohan Naidu said, "I am very happy to be here on the land of Lord Jagannath. I have come here to review the Bhubaneswar airport. I have done a review with officials of the Airport Authority of India. There has been a lot of development that has happened at



the Bhubaneswar airport. Today Bhubaneswar Airport is connected to 20 cities and internationally it is connected with 4 cities. We have been making efforts to develop Bhubaneswar in the civil aviation sector."

made efforts to get Marathi

the status of an elite lan-

guage. Politicians were also

involved in this; people from

Marathi Sahitya Parishad

were also involved and other

this demand for a long time,"

he said.

He further said that the the next 2 years the capac-NDA government was ity would increase. We will formed in Odisha and the place a new CAT II lighting effort was to take the state in the next one month. We will build a new T3 Termiforward in the civil aviation nal," he said. sector.

a tree under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at Bhubaneswar airport on Friday. The Link Building between Terminal T1 and T2 at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar marks a significant milestone in enhancing passenger convenience and operational efficiency. This facility, spanning

The Minister also planted

3360 sqm, seamlessly connects T1 and T2, allowing passengers traveling through the International Terminal (T-2) to access Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) available in the Domestic Terminal (T-1). This integration addresses the needs of international airlines and enhances the overall passenger experience.

Arunachal: Headmaster arrested for sexually harassing girl students

Maharashtra: 21-yr-old girl raped by three in Pune's Bopdev Ghat

"T1 Terminal of Bhu-

baneswar Airport has a ca-

pacity of 40 lakh people per

vear. In the next one month

after security reorganisa-

tion, we will take the capac-

ity to 80 lakh per year. We

will build a new terminal. In

Airport to 80 lakh per year



VIBRANT SHOW

Artists perform Garba dance at the inauguration of 'Vibrant Navratri Festival-2024', at the Gujarat University Ground in Ahmedabad on Friday. ANI

TDG NETWORK CHANGLAN

Arunachal Pradesh Police have arrested a headmaster of a government school in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district for allegedly sexually harassing minor students of the school, an official said. Reportedly, the accused allegedly sent messages with objectionable content to the victim's mobile phones.

Changlang district Superintendent of Police Kirli Padu told ANI that police arrested the headmaster of Government Secondary School, Diyun, on Thursday in connection with the alleged sexual harassment of minor girl students and that a case also had been registered.

Reportedly, the accused allegedly sent messages with objectionable content to the victim's

mobile phones.

"We are investigating the matter. We arrested the headmaster (I/C) of the school. We have also taken the statements of the victim students. Further investigation is underway," the Superintendent of Police told ANI.

According to the report, police received a complaint against the accused headmaster on October 2.

TDG NETWORK PUNE

A 21-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three unknown men in the Bopdev Ghat area in Pune on Thursday night, as per reports by the Kondwa police.

As per the police, the girl had gone to the ghat with her friend, where she was allegedly raped by three unknown accused at around 11 pm.

However, the incident was reported to police at around 5 am on Friday. The search for the accused is still underway and ten teams of the Crime Branch and Detective Branch were formed for the search and arrest of the accused, as per Pune Joint Commissioner

'Lot of coal scams made in Dhanbad': Marandi

of Police Ranjan Kumar Sharma.Following the incident, NCP-SCP working president Supriya Sule said that it was a very infuriating incident and questioned the safety of women in Pune and across the state.She further criticised the state home department for not taking any action to stop such incidents. "Very infuriating! What is going on in Pune? The incident of gang rape of a girl in Bopdev Ghat has come to light. Incidents of violence against women are continuously increasing in Pune and across the state. The home department does not seem to be doing anything to stop these incidents. Unfortunately, it has to be said that Maharashtra is not safe for women. The

government should arrest the accused in the said incident and take strict action against them," Sule said in a post in X.

NCP-SCP chief Sharad Pawar said that there is a lot of anger among people dues to increasing atrocities on women."The government started the Ladki Behan Yojana to help women. Women are benefiting from this. On one hand, there is the Ladki Behan Yojana and on the other hand, there are atrocities on women. On one hand, there is an attempt to provide financial assistance to women through the Ladki Behan Yojana and on the other hand, there is a lot of anger among the people due to the increasing atrocities on women," Pawar said.

Odisha court sentences man to 20 years RI for raping minor

TDG NETWORK BALASORE

A court in Odisha's Balasore district on Friday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a 14-year-old girl and impregnating her last year.

Special judge, POCSO court, Balasore, Ranjan Kumar Sutar convicted 34-year-old Sukura Singh, a resident of Ganipur village in Remuna police station area in the district, for the rape and also imposed

a penalty of Rs 5,000, the failure of payment of which will attract an additional jail term of two years, according

to the court order. According to the prosecution, the father of the survivor lodged an FIR at the police station on July 3 last year alleging that Singh had

sexually assaulted the girl while she was working at a brick kiln at Kharagpur in adjoining West Bengal.

When the girl returned home, her family members noticed her physical and be-

tion.

havioural changes and upon enquiry found out about the rape which led to impregna-

The girl narrated her ordeal and it was found out that she was four-month pregnant by that time, the complainant said in the FIR. The police, after registering a case under several sections of IPC and POCSO Act, arrested the accused. The court examined 17

witnesses and 23 exhibits, Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

TDG NETWORK

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jharkhand unit President Babulal Marandi slammed the JMM-led Jharkhand government and alleged its involvement in a coal scam in Dhanbad

Speaking to ANI on Thursday, Babulal Marandi said, "... There has been a coal scam in Dhanbad. All records have been broken and new records have been created... There will be an investigation into this... He (Hemant Soren) will have to answer ... "

On Thursday, in a post on X, Babulal Marandi welcomed the Jharkhand High Court's

decision for a CBI investigation in the Dhanbad coal scam.

"The order of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court for CBI investigation in the Dhanbad coal scam case is welcome. By posting a corrupt SP in Dhanbad despite objections, Hemant Soren created the ground for a scam of billions of rupees in Dhanbad and caused huge financial loss to the government treasury; an impartial and detailed investigation of that scam was necessary," he

wrote on X. He further accused Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren of 'ruining' the econHe further accused Fharkhand CM reads. Hemant Soren "Hemant, who committed of 'ruining' the

economy of the state

by 'plundering' important natural resources like Coal.

omy of the state by 'plundering' important natural resources like Coal.

"Hemant ruined the economy of the state by plundering important natural resources like coal. The functioning of

the Hemant government in the above case was questionable," Babulal Marandi's post

the sin of weakening the state by protecting corrupt officials despite being warned several times by me in writing letters, should still learn a lesson and immediately suspend the tainted officials and cooperate in the CBI investigation," he added in his post. Earlier on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the Bharatiya Janata Party workers at Ranchi airport and appreciated their efforts in serving the party."At Ranchi Airport, I talked to the workers serving in the BJP office. I am proud that there are many such workers in our party who are working day and night to strengthen the party," PM Modi posted on X. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated and launched various projects worth over Rs 83,300 crore in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh.

Addressing the public gathering in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, PM Modi said that 40 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are being inaugurated and foundation stones have been laid for 25 more EMRS.

Mehta, representing Centre,

said that there was nothing

wrong with the state-SIT and

that it could be supervised by

Solicitor General said that if

there is any element of truth

in the allegation, it's "unac-

"Devotees are all over the

country, food safety also

there.I did not find against

members of state SIT." said

Senior advocate Mukul Ro-

hatgi, appearing for Andhra

Pradesh, said that they wish

to go ahead with the SIT con-

stituted by it and any officer

of the court's choice can be

"There can be no allegation

against the present SIT," said

Rohatgi.Senior Advocate

Kapil Sibal, appearing for

Rajya Sabha MP and Ex-TTD

Chairman YV Subba Reddy,

urged the top court for con-

stitution of an independent

State SIT can't be expected

to carry out an independent

investigation in light of the

prior statements made by the

Chief Minister Chandrababu

Senior advocate Siddhar-

tha Luthra, appearing for

Tirumala Tirupati Dev-

asthanams (TTD) said the

ghee consingments which

reached the hill on July 6

and 12 were contaminated

and the contract was given

to the supplier in December

In the earlier hearing, the

top court questioned the

by the previous regime.

added in the team.

investigation.

Naidu, Sibal said.

an officer from Centre.

ceptable".

Mehta.



THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW SATURDAY | 05 OCTOBER 2024 NEW DELHI

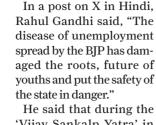
RAHUL PROMISES DRUG-FREE HARYANA

The Congress leader also promised two lakh govt jobs if his party is voted to power in the election

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Just a day ahead of the crucial Haryana assembly polls in Haryana, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the disease of unemployment spread by the BJP has ruined the future of youth and put the safety of the state in danger.

He also said that if Congress forms the government in the state it will fill the vacancy of 2 lakh posts in the state government and make the state drug free.



He said that during the 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra' in Haryana, sisters gave shelter, and served food with love and explained the problems of the state. Rahul Gandhi, who is also

the former Congress chief, has taken out three-day Vijay Sankalp Yatra in the state on September 30, October 1 and 3 and travelled in several parts covering several assembly constituencies.

The Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareli said, "Today in India, there is highest unemployment in Haryana. And the main reason for this is the one decade-long rule of BJP which broke the spine of every sector that provided employment opportunities.



implemented GST and deforestation broke the backbone of small businesses, Agniveer scheme broke the courage of youths who are preparing for the recruitment into armed forces, the three black farm laws broke the strength of agriculture businessmen, by taking away the support to players it has shattered the dreams of the players, and by stopping rhe recruitment through the family identity cards it shattered the dreams of families.

The Congress leader He said that wrongly said the result of this led

to youths talent is being ruined in drug addiction, youths raking route of crime, and many families getting destroyed due to Dunki route immigration. "The Congress government coming to power in Haryana will provide 2 lakh assured government jobs and make Haryana drug free. Have made promise to sisters of Haryana that will stop this destruction and protect their

children, employment will return and every family be haply in the state," Rahul Gandhi said. His remarks came a day

ahead of the crucial assembly polls in the state.

Rahul Gandhi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, party General Secretary Privanka Gandhi Vadra. former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Lok Sabha MPs Kumari Selja and Deepender Singh Hooda had campaigned extensively in the state to ensure the victory of the party.

and Babasaheb's principles.

I call upon my brothers and

sisters from the Dalit and

backward communities to

unite behind Congress and

ensure a big mandate that

sends a message across the

nation.", he said after his

Congress leader Ajay

Maken, who was present

during Tanwar's rejoining

ceremony, expressed confi-

dence that Tanwar's return

would boost the party's ef-

forts to secure a victory in

joining.

Haryana.

Cabinet discusses crude oil supply, trade in light of West Asia crisis

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which the discussions unfolded on the ongoing West Asia crisis and its possible impact globally, according to the sources. The sources further point-

ed out that there could be a possibility that the supply of crude oil in India will be affected and the prices will increase in the international market amid the crisis. Apart from ministers, se-

nior officers were also present in the meeting held on Thursday. "The meeting was held be-

fore the cabinet meeting yesterday. The West Asia crisis and its possible impact on India were discussed in the meeting, apart from senior ministers, officers were also present. Due to the crisis in West Asia, there is a possibility that the supply of crude oil in India will be affected and the prices will increase in the international market," the sources said.

India has expressed its concern over the crisis in West Asia, and is closely monitoring the situation.

The sources further stated, "This may also affect trade with India. India has expressed its concern over the crisis in West Asia. India has said that this conflict should not take a wider form. India is closely monitoring the situ-

Key battlegrounds

players like INLD and

influence in key constituencies, while AAP is making its presence felt by targeting urban voters The following hot seats witnessing an in-

tense battle as fate of several key contenders like chief minister Nayab Saini, wrester turned politician Vinesh Phogat, former Home Minister Anil Vij, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, his uncle Abhay Chautala and industrialists Naveen Jindal's mother Savitry Jindal at stake JULANA: The Julana constituency in Jind has become a notable battleground as Olympian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, representing Congress, enters the political arena. She is up against BJP's Captain Yogesh Bairagi and AAP's Kavita Dalal, a former WWE wrestler. This contest brings together athletic prowess and political ambition in a high-stakes fight. LADWA: Kurukshetra's Ladwa seat has gained prominence as Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is contesting from here. Saini faces a stiff challenge from Congress' Mewa Singh, the sitting MLA, and AAP's Joga Singh. Historically, no party has won Ladwa for two consecutive terms, making this election even more unpredictable. UCHANA KALAN: Located in Jind district, this seat is pivotal for JJP leader Dushyant Chautala, former Deputy Chief Minister and scion of Haryana's prominent Chautala family. Chautala, facing challenges within his Jat voter base, is up against Congress' former IAS officer Brijendra Singh, BJP's Devender Attri, and AAP's Pawan Fauji In 2019, Chautala secured the seat for JJP, and this election will test whether he can retain it amidst shifting voter loyalties. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Dushyant Chautala, great-grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, faced Congress candidate and former IAS officer Brijendra Singh. AAP has fielded Pawan Fauji, while the BJP has nominated Devender Attri. In 2014, it was held by BJP's Prem Lata. AMBALA CANTT: This constituency has garnered significant attention due to the entry of independent candidate Chitra Sarwara, a former Congress leader contesting against her party's candidate Parvinder Pal Pari. BJP's veteran leader Anil Vij, who has held the seat since 2019, is also seeking reelection. With candidates from INLD, AAP, and JJP joining the fray, the competition is fierce. In the 2019 Assembly elections, Anil Vij secured a decisive victory in Ambala Cantt, winning with a margin of 16.7%, garnering 53.04% of the vote. He defeated independent candidate Chitra Sarwara,

ation in West Asia." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the Iranian missile attack on Israel as a "big mistake" and said Tehran would pay for it. "Iran made a big mistake today and will pay for it. The

Iranian regime does not understand our determination to defend ourselves and our determination to take revenge on our enemies," he had said.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei also made a social media posting on the Iranian attack firing over 180 ballistic missiles on Israel. Khamenei captioned the post as "Victory from God and a near conquest ... ".

In another post, he said, "The strikes of the resistance front on the worn-out and decaying body of the Zionist regime will be more striking."

The Israeli Defence Forces launched precision strikes on the Lebanese capital in Beirut last week, which led to the death of Nasrallah. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that the airstrikes targeting Hassan Nasrallah resulted in civilian casualties, with at least six people killed and dozens injured.

Following the death of Nasrallah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a warning to Iran's Ayatollah regime and asserted that those who target Israel will face 'consequences' and that "no location" in Iran or the Middle East is "beyond Israel's reach."

who received 36.48%. The upcoming elec-

tion in Ambala Cantt has become particu-

presence as an independent candidate. A

Congress rebel, Sarwara is the daughter

didate for the Ambala City seat. Sarwara

was suspended from the Congress party

for six years on September 23, 2024, adding

of Nirmal Singh Mohra, the Congress can-

larly intriguing due to Chitra Sarwara's

SC constitutes team to probe laddu row

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday constituted an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the allegations of the use of animal fat to make laddus to serve as prasadam at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh, where Lord Venkateswara is worshipped. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan

said sentiments of crores of devotees across the world are involved with Tirumala prasadam. "We don't want this to turn into political drama. If there is an independent body, there will be confidence," said the bench as it disposed of the petitions. The apex court constituted a new SIT, and ordered that the SIT will consist of two officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) who will be nominated by the CBI director, two officers of the Andhra Pradesh state police to be nominated by the state government and a senior official of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The top court said that SIT will be supervised by CBI director and the new SIT will replace the one set up by the the State govern-

ment. It clarified that its direction should not be seen as a reflection on the credibility of the members of the SIT, which was constituted by the State government. "We clarfy that we will not

Chief Minister of Andhra permit the Court to be used Pradesh making public alas a political battleground," legations about the use of said the apex court in the adulterated ghee for preparation of laddus for prasadam order.

Solicitor General Tushar at the temple.

Kisan Samman Nidhi

CONTINUED FROM P1

man Nidhi Yojana. In a significant step to strengthen agricultural infrastructure, Prime Minister Modi will dedicate

Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will also benefit from this event, with the Prime Minister dedicating around 9,200 FPOs formed under a Central Secseveral projects under the tor Scheme (CSS) that aims to establish 10.000 FPOs

Ensure Cong victory: Tanwar to Dalits

TDG NETWORK CHANDIGARH

A day after his appearance with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in an election rally in Haryana, former Congress MP Ashok Tanwar officially rejoined the Congress on Friday.

Soon after his joining a day before the polling in Haryana, Tanwar urged Dalits, the backward classes, and other marginalized sections to deliver a decisive mandate for the party. Tanwar's return to Congress is seen as

a setback for the BJP, which had earlier welcomed him into its fold.

Tanwar had informally joined Congress a day earlier at Rahul Gandhi's rally in Mahendragarh, marking a symbolic move against what he termed as the "divisive politics" of the BJP. Speaking at the event, Tanwar emphasized that his political journey began with Congress, and his brief stint with the BJP left him disillusioned due to its disregard for the Constitution and the

ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

"My political career started with Congress. For a brief period, I was with the BJP, but I realized there was no respect for the Constitution or for Babasaheb's values there. The BJP works to divide people, while Rahul Gandhi, through his Bharat Jodo Yatra, has brought people together," said Tanwar, reaffirming his commitment to the Congress' core ideals. "We have taken an oath to protect the Constitution

Haryana votes today **CONTINUED FROM P1** drug-free. Addressing vot-

Modi, in a last-minute push to voters, took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to criticize Congress's stance on reservations and its handling of accused Congress leaders of being out of touch with Haryana's needs, adding, "Haryana's backward and Dalit communities are angry with Congress for its failure to prevent caste-based violence. The people of Haryana are ready to punish Congress once again. From every corner of the state, the message is clear-trust from the heart, BJP again." In a contrasting message, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appealed to the people to hold the BJP accountable for high unemployment rates in the state. He promised that a Congress government would provide 2 lakh permanent jobs and work towards making Harvana

ers on X. Gandhi wrote. "The unemployment crisis created by the BJP has jeopardized the future of Haryana's youth. Under BJP rule, the backbone of caste-related issues. He employment-generating systems in the state has been

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited Mansa Devi Temple in Panchkula, performing a 'havan yagya' for the party's success. Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Leader of Opposition, was in Rohtak meeting party work-

CONTINUED FROM P1 JJP aim to leverage their

broken. Congress will restore jobs, protect the youth, and ensure that every family prospers."

While the BJP and Congress dominate the headlines, regional parties such as the INLD, JJP, and their respective allies—Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Azad Samaj Party (ASP)-are also expected to play crucial roles in the election outcome. With fractured political alliances, the possibility of a hung assembly looms, making these regional outfits potential kingmakers. On Friday, party candidates and workers were seen making last-minute efforts to solidify support. Harvana

ers, while BJP stalwart and former Home Minister Anil Vij was in Ambala meeting BJP functionaries.

With the BJP banking on its governance track record and Congress appealing to marginalized communities and unemployed youth, the results are expected to have significant national ramifications, particularly as both parties prepare for the upcoming general elections in 2025. All the parties have offered freebies ranging from monthly financial assistance to women voters, procurement of crops on MSP, cheaper LGP cylinders and electricity and over two lakh government jobs.

Muizzu to visit India **CONTINUED FROM P1** relations with the Maldives

to Mumbai and Bengaluru for business engagements. Announcing the upcoming visit of Maldivian President, Jaiswal said, "President of the Republic of Maldives Dr Mohamed Muizzu will be travelling to India on a State visit during 7th to 10th October. This will be the first bilateral visit of President Dr Muizzu to India. As you know, he had earlier visited India, in June 2024 to attend the swearingin ceremony of the PM and council of ministers. During the visit, he will also be visiting Mumbai and Bengaluru, where he will have business engagements.'

"The visit of the President of Maldives to India after the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to the Maldives is testimony to the importance India attaches to its and the visit is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between the two countries," he added. He will visit India following an official invitation extended by President Droupadi Murmu, according to a Maldivian President's Office press release. During his visit, Muizzu is scheduled to hold high-level meetings with President Murmu, PM Narendra Modi, and other senior officials of the Indian government. "During his visit, President

Dr Muizzu is scheduled to hold high-level meetings with President Murmu, Prime Minister His Excellency Narendra Modi, and other senior officials of the Indian government. Discussions will focus on strength-

ening bilateral cooperation and further enhancing the longstanding relationship between the two nations," the Maldivian President's Office stated.

> During the visit, Mohamed Muizzu will be accompanied by a high-level delegation from the Maldives

In a statement, Maldives President's Office stated, "President Dr Muizzu remains committed to enhancing bilateral ties with nations that play a crucial role in the development and growth of the Maldives, ensuring a dynamic and proactive foreign

policy for the nation." Recently, on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, Muizzu told ANI, that he is planning to visit India as soon as possible.

further political drama to the contest. ELLENABAD: A traditional stronghold for the INLD, Ellenabad remains a key constituency with party leader Abhay Singh Chautala defending his seat. Facing BJP's Amir Chand Talwara and AAP's Manish Arora, Chautala is aiming for his fifth consecutive victory. Congress' Bharat Singh Beniwal adds further heat to this contest. GARHI SAMPLA-KILOI: Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress is running from this Rohtak constituency, his stronghold since 2009. Hooda, a key figure in Haryana's politics, faces BJP's Manju Hooda and AAP's Pravin Guskhani. Known for his Jat-centric policies, Hooda is hoping to retain his grip on the region. Hooda has won this seat in 2009, 2014, and 2019. In 2019, he defeated BJP's Satish Nandal by over 58,000 votes. SIRSA: Sirsa has emerged as one of the most hotly contested seats in the Haryana Assembly elections, with a direct battle between the HLP-INLD-BSP alliance candidate Gopal Kanda, representing the Vaishya community, and Congress candidate Gokul Sethia, from the Punjabi community. Gopal Kanda has been a key political player, supporting the BJP government for the last five years. Before that, he also played a crucial role in forming the Congress government. On the other hand, Gokul Sethia comes from a political lineage as the grandson of former minister Laxmandas Arora. GURGAON: Known as the Millennium City, Gurgaon's seat will see a battle between BJP's Mukesh Sharma, Congress' Mohit Grover, and AAP's Nishant Anand. The region, marked by rapid urbanization, has a large pool of urban voters who could swing the election in unexpected directions. Meanwhile, Mukesh Sharma and Congress' Mohit Grover are facing a tough challenge from BJP rebel Naveen Goyal. Goyal has potential to change the game on this seat. **HISAR:** A prominent constituency, this has garnered even more attention due to Savitri Jindal, India's richest woman, entering the race as an independent candidate. Jindal's decision to run independently follows the BJP's refusal to grant her a ticket, opting instead to renominate the sitting MLA and state Health Minister, Kamal Gupta.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) that have been completed in the first 100 days of the new government. Launched in 2020, the AIF provides medium- to long-term financing aimed at improving post-harvest management and community farming infrastructure. Over 10,066 projects have been sanctioned nationwide, with more than 7,500 projects already completed. These projects are crucial in boosting storage, processing, and logistics facilities for farmers, enabling better value addition and market

nationwide.

These FPOs, which now have a combined annual turnover of Rs 1,300 crore, support 24 lakh farmers, including 8.3 lakh women and 5.77 lakh SC and ST beneficiaries.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance the livelihoods of small. marginal, and landless farmers by improving market access and building strong value chains.

The Prime Minister will also launch new initiatives aimed at improving dairy farming.

Toilet tax? **CONTINUED FROM P1**

access.

seat tax in the urban areas. According to some reports, the state government has imposed a monthly fee of Rs 25 for every toilet seat in homes located in the urban areas. This amount will be added to the existing sewerage bill and transferred to the account of the Jal Shakti Department, which manages water and sanitation services in the state. Reacting to the reports, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a post on X said, "Unbelievable, if true. Whilst PM Narendra Modiji, builds Swachhata (cleanliness) as a people's movement, here is the Congress taxing people for toilets," the senior BJP leader said, adding, "Shame that they didn't provide good sanitation during their time, but this step will shame the coun-

try.' Sukhu said before the 2022 Vidhan Sabha elections, the previous BJP government had introduced free schemes worth Rs 5,000 crore, including provisions for free water, in an attempt to win electoral success. Despite these efforts, the people voted in favour of the Congress Party, leading to its victory in the state. In light of this, the current government has decided to rationalise the water subsidy and impose minimal charges of Rs 100 per connection per month in rural areas. The Chief Minister noted that families who can afford to pay their water bills should do so for the state's benefit. Earlier in the day, Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti department clarified that there is no tax imposed on commercial toilet seats in the state.

DELHI LIKELY TO SEE 'POOR' AIR QUALITY, 166 AQI

put in much effort every

issue that happens in Delhi

and nearby areas can be

resolved, but the problem

is increasing every year.

Now, the Supreme Court

Ghaziabad recorded an AQI of 171, 184 AQI in Meerut and Noida recorded an AQI of 184.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

ith monsoon season retreating here, the pollution levels in the city started rising again. The city recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) here was recorded as 166 over the last 24 hours, indicating challenging air quality for the national capital. Some of the most polluted areas in Delhi include Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 231, Mundka with an AQI of 273, AQI of 201 in Loni and the Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering recorded an AQI of 243 which is considered unhealthy and hazardous. Additionally, the current PM2.5 concentration in the city is 5.5 times above the recommended limit given by the World Health Organization's 24-hour air quality guidelines value. Meanwhile, pollution has



Representative image

- Delhi's AQI recorded an average of 166 over the last 24 hours, indicating deteriorating air quality
- Anand Vihar (AQI 231), Mundka (273), Loni (201), and Delhi Institute of Tool Engineering (243) were among the most polluted areas.
- PM2.5 levels in the city are 5.5 times higher than WHO's recommended limits
- Ghaziabad (AQI 171), Noida (184), and Meerut (184) also experienced rising pollution levels.
- Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh

also increased in nearby areas. Ghaziabad recorded an AQI of 171, 184 AQI in Meerut and Noida recorded an AQI of 184. Earlier on October 3, Shi-

romani Akali Dal leader, Daljit Singh Cheema appealed to the Supreme Court to take action against the states of Punjab and



as an alternative to stubble burning, in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI)

Cheema appealed to the Supreme Court for action against Punjab and Haryana for worsening air pollution.

- The Supreme Court criticized the lack of action by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), noting no
- prosecutions and inadequate meetings. • The court directed Punjab and Haryana to comply with CAQM directions and submit a report by October 16.
- Supreme Court expressed dissatisfaction tion with the CAQM's efforts to control air pollution, urging stricter enforcement

Haryana hours after the has again spoken to the top court pulled both states Punjab and Haryana govover the air pollution. ernments," Cheema told "Supreme Court has always ANI.

The SAD leader addtime so that the pollution ed, "I appeal to the Supreme Court to take action against them...then they will start acting on it... every time they can't blame farmers, they have

Delhi Government launches free of-cost bio-decomposer to provide farmers with adequate facilities ... "

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court expressed disappointment over the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) effort to implement its directions concerning air pollution. "From the affidavit of compliance we find that no effort is being made by CAOM for implementation of its directions, not a single prosecution has been initiated and the last meeting was only held on August 29," said the Supreme Court. Supreme Court directed the States of Punjab and Haryana to comply with CAQM directions and to file an affidavit within a week. Supreme Court posted the case for hearing on

Doctor shot dead: One accused apprehended

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Police have apprehended one juvenile in connection with the murder of Unani practitioner Dr Javed Akhtar, police said. Efforts are currently underway to apprehend the second suspect involved in the crime, police added.

"Southern Range Crime Branch has apprehended one juvenile in connection with the murder of Dr Javed Akhtar. The apprehended juvenile admitted his involvement in the crime. Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the co-accused. A team has been dispatched for further investigation," an official from Crime Branch said.

"During the investigation, the police discovered that two boys, aged between 16 and 17 years, arrived at the clinic at 1 am on October 2 to change the dressing they had received the day before. After changing the dressing, both boys went to Unani doctor Javed's cabin, and then the sound of a gunshot was heard.

The police identified both suspects from CCTV footage," police said. The police were able to apprehend the accused after they obtained clues about



Hospital is a small nurs-

ing home Nargis Masjid

in Khadda Colony under

Kalindi Kunj PS area. It is

a three-bed setup. Unani

practitioner Javed was on

Yesterday, two boys came

there. One of them had in-

juries in his leg, he asked to

duty there.

one of the suspects from his Instagram account. "The police obtained clues about one of the suspects from his Instagram account. After the murder, he posted a story in which he was holding a pistol and claimed to have committed the first murder of 2024," police said.

dress his wound. Doctor Javed Akhtar After that, the boys sudwas shot dead inside Nima denly went to Javed and shot Hospital, Jaitpur under the him in the head.' Kalindi Kunj area. As per "This was an unprovoked incident of firing. Investigahospital staff, two boys had come to the hospital with an tion revealed that the two injury, after dressing they boys visited the nursing had demanded to meet the home last night to dress the doctor and shot him dead wound. once they entered his cabin, So, it seems to be a tar-

Delhi Police said. geted killing. This was un-"The motive behind the provoked killing, so there murder of the doctor recan be several angles. We mains unclear in the invesare probing all angles. We tigation so far," police said. have identified the accused. Earlier, while speaking to We will nab them shortly," ANI, DCP (South-East) DCP (South-East) Rajesh Rajesh Deo, said, "Nima

Deo added. Heritage park to come up at Delhi's **Chandni** Chowk

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Following his resignation as the Delhi Chief Minister, AAP Supremo Arvind Kejriwal begun vacating the official CM residence on Friday. According to party sources, he will be relocating to a bungalow at 5 Ferozshah Road, which is currently allotted to AAP Raiva Sabha MP Ashok Mittal.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) confirmed the move, stating, "Arvind Kejriwal will shift to the bungalow allocated to party MP Ashok Mittal at 5, Ferozshah Road." Notably, as per sources, Mittal had himself extended the offer for Arvind Keiriwal to shift to his residence. The visuals from Former Delhi Chief Minister's residence show mini trucks entering the residence. AAP RS MP Ashok Mittal who offered his official



Former Delhi CM and AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal hands over the keys as the family vacates the CM residence, in New Delhi on Friday.

stay with me until he gets a residence to Kejriwal said house. So, this is delightful he was happy that the for me as an AAP worker AAP National Convenor was going to stay with him. and MP. I would get the op-"When Arvind Kejriwal portunity to learn from him. resigned as the CM a few I hope that in the upcoming days back, I came to know Delhi elections, public will sometime later that he support him like always and from where he is an MLA, doesn't have a house to live he will be the CM of Delhi



October 16.

Former Delhi CM and AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal vacates the CM residence along with his family, in New Delhi on Friday.

Kejriwal will soon leave CM residence and search for his new house has been intensified.

He is giving preference to living around New Delhi, to remain connected with

"AAP convenor Arvind 17, Kejriwal tendered his resignation as Chief Minister to Delhi LG VK Saxena, following which Atishi

staked claimed to form the new government days after the AAP chief was released on bail from Tihar jail in the excise policy case. Kejriwal said that he would return to the post only if he gets a renewed mandate and a "certificate of honesty" from the people of Delhi in the assembly polls likely to be held in February 2025.

Opposition Questioning His 'Aam Aadmi' Image

TIKAM SHARMA NEW DELHI

Oppositions have criticized Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal for utilizing facilities meant for a Member of Parliament (MP) under the name of MP Ashok Mittal, stating that it is inappropriate for an MLA to benefit from privileges provided to an MP.

Delhi BJP Media Head, Praveen Shankar Kapoor, wrote a letter to former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, urging him to publicly burn the affidavit he signed on June 7, 2013, in which he pledged never to accept a government bungalow, vehicle, or security. Kapoor reminded the public that Kejriwal has frequently done the opposite of what he promised. The affidavit, which was distributed door-

to-door, had Kejriwal vowing not to use governmentprovided cars, bungalows,

or security. Kapoor acknowledged that while Kejriwal was Chief Minister, taking a bungalow, security, and other facilities was part of his protocol and necessary for security reasons. However, now that Kejriwal has stepped down from the role and is only an MLA, his continued use of these privileges contradicts his earlier commitments, proving the promises in the

affidavit false. Kapoor also highlighted that it is improper for an MLA to use the benefits reserved for an MP, which include free services such as water, electricity, telephone, and staff. Currently, these services are being utilized by Kejriwal's family under MP Ashok Mittal's name.

A new heritage park is being constructed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Chandni Chowk area at an expenditure of Rs 2.03 crore, civic body officials said on Friday. Work has started for building a wall around the park, which is adjacent to the Meena Bazaar -- one of Delhi's oldest markets. The construction work is part of the second phase of the heritage park development project in Chandni Chowk. "We have started building the boundary wall for the heritage park adjacent Meena Bazaar. The wall will feature ancient jaali designs, and work is currently in progress," said Kamleshwar, the architect in charge of the project.

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NEW DELHI

in. I invited him to reside in mv Delhi house as my guest. Perhaps other workers and leaders of the party also invited him...I am delighted to know that he has chosen my home and decided to

once again with an absolute majority," Ashok Mittal. Earlier, the party stated, "Arvind Kejriwal is looking for a property which is dispute-free and there is no problem in living there."

the people. Many MLAs, councillors, party workers and common people are offering their houses to the AAP Chief." AAP added in the statement. Notably, on September

Villagers to start indefinite protest at Jantar Mantar: Solanki

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

Palam 360 chief Chaudhary Surender Solanki, who is the voice of Delhi's entire rural belt on Friday announced that the villagers will begin an indefinite sit- in protest on October 6 at Jantar Mantar against sorry state of basic facilities across city's villages where people are forced to live in deplorable conditions.

The rural representative said that the city's villages are facing worst civic woes with water logged streets, broken roads, bad sewerage system, lack of proper garbage disposal, overflowing drains and several other sanitation issues. The Palam 360 Pradhan while addressing a press conference here informed that there are long pending issues of the city's villages that remain unaddressed. forcing the people of villages lead a compromised life.

"The movement to adress the problems of Delhi rural belt will continue until all our issues are fully resolved," Solanki said.

He emphasized that Delhi's rural areas are neither urban nor rural, but have become



THE LONG PENDING ISSUES OF THE 360 VILLAGES **OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AS PER SOLANKI ARE**

- Ownership rights to poor farmers under Section 74/4
- Alternative plots for those whose lands were acquired
- Ownership rights for ancestral property under Swamitva Scheme (without stamp duty)
- Development of villages into smart villages (GDA policy, 2041 Master Plan, amended land pooling policy)
- Repeal of Section 81 and 33
- Withdrawal of cases under Section 81
- Halt on sealing and demolition drives
- Stop MCD interference in villages
- Increase the circle rate of Delhi village land

akin to slum areas.

Earlier, the villagers had thanked Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena who accepted two of their demands, that include reopening the mutation process and lifting restrictions on

electricity meter installation in villages.

Solanki, however added that the remaining issues are also crucial for the rural population, and now they will not sit quiet unless their problems are resolved.

Artists perform during the first day of Luv Kush Ramleela, at Red Fort Ground in New Delhi on Thursday. (ANI)

Aarti performed at Delhi's Jhandewalan Mata Temple

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

On the auspicious second day of Shardiya Navratri, devotees gathered at the Jhandewalan Mata Temple on Friday morning as Aarti was performed. On this day, Goddess Durga is worshipped in the form of Mata Brahmacharini. Aarti was also performed at Shri Adhya Katyayani Shaktipith Mandir in Chhatarpur, Delhi, on the second day of Shardiya Navratri. On this day, devotees worship Maa Brahmacharini,

one of the avatars of Maa Durga. According to Hindu scriptures, Maa Brahmacharini was a great Sati, and her form symbolises the severe penance performed by Goddess Parvati. Maa Brahmacharini wears white clothes, holding a chanting rosary in her right hand and a kamandal in her left. It is believed that worshipping her enhances the power of chanting and penance in devotees. To worship Goddess Brahmacharini, devotees can chant the mantra dedicated to her: "Om Devi Brahmacharinyai

Namah." The idol of Maa Brahmacharini is bathed in honey and milk, and a teeka is applied to the idol's forehead. A special bhog of sugar is also offered to the Goddess during Navratri. Navratri, which means 'nine nights' in Sanskrit, is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga and her nine avatars, known as Navdurga. Hindus observe four Navratris throughout the year, but only two--Chaitra Navratri and Shardiya Navratri--are widely celebrated, as they coincide with the changing of the seasons.

Joint Commissioner reviews security at CR park Durga Puja pandal

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Joint Commissioner of Po-

lice (Southern Range), San-

jay Kumar Jain, conducted

a detailed inspection of the

Durga Puja pandal at CR

Park on Thursday, a popu-

lar location that attracts

large crowds during the fes-

Speaking to ANI, Jain

said, "The Durga Puja

pandal at CR Park is very

famous. People come here

not only from CR Park or

Delhi but from across the

National Capital Region.

The event is organised on

a grand scale, and for its

security, we started prepa-

rations a month ago."

Iain mentioned that the

police have been working

closely with pandal organ-

"We have held separate

meetings with all the or-

ganisers at the police sta-

tion and district levels,

considering their problems

and past experiences. We

have prepared checklists

to ensure security, fire

safety, entry-exit plans,

crowd management, and

isers.

tive season.

medical facilities so that devotees have a smooth and pleasant experience." He also highlighted a unique initiative this year. "We introduced a healthy competition among ourselves to see which pandal manages the best security, crowd control, and entry-exit systems."

Additionally, Jain discussed coordination with the traffic department to ensure smooth vehicle movement during the celebrations. "We had a separate meeting with the traffic police to ensure smooth traffic flow, create vehicle-free zones, and minimise any inconvenience to the public," he said.

The inspection is part of broader efforts to ensure safety and security during Durga Puja celebrations in the area. Meanwhile, the Durga Puja pandal at Mela Ground, one of the largest in North India, is nearing completion, with an expected daily footfall of 1.25 to 1.5 lakh visitors. This year's pandal, inspired by Mayapur's Rajbari, focuses on eco-friendliness and hygiene.

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ELVISH YADAV CALLED BY POLICE FOR PROBE INTO RS 500 CR FRAUD MISS SUMMONS

TDG NETWORK

our social media influencers, including Elvish Yadav, who had been summoned in connection with an app-based fraud of Rs 500 crore, did not appear before the Delhi Police on Friday, officials said.

The IFSO Unit (Special Cell) of the Delhi Police has issued notice to the social media influencers Abhishek Malhan, Elvish Yadav, Lakshay Choudhary and Purav Jha to join investigation.

"These YouTubers/social media influencers were asked to join investigation today. But no one appeared before IFSO. Reminder notice will be sent to them again," a senior police officer said.



30 to 90 per cent in a month, the DCP said. The app was launched

in February 2024. Over 30,000 people invested money in the app. The main accused in the scam, Sivaram (30), a Chen-

nai resident, has already been arrested, police said. As per the complainant,

NEWS

statement that it is investi-

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW SATURDAY | 05 OCTOBER 2024

NEW DELHI

gating the role of two payment platforms -- Easebuzz and PhonePe.

In a statement, Easebuzz said it has proactively blocked the merchant being probed by the police in July 2024 prior to the investigation by authorities. "Moreover, Easebuzz has

filed the Suspicious Transaction Report (STR) under the Financial Intelligence Unit, India (FIU) reporting norms immediately on receipt of our internal transaction monitoring system alerts in place and has blocked the merchant from transacting as per our company compliance policies," the statement said.

"Further, Easebuzz is confident in its merchant onboarding and due diligence policy and necessary details of the merchant (KYC details, transaction ledger and others documents) as required by the authorities have been duly submitted. Easebuzz ensures to remain compliant and cooperate with the authorities in the investigation process against the merchant," it

Kalkaji stampede temple authority issues directions for checking all electrical points

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Kalkaji Temple authority on Friday issued fresh directions to check all the electricity points, a day after a 17-year-old boy got electrocuted while standing in a queue to entre the premises that resulted in a stampede. "It is an unfortunate in-

cident and we are with the family members of the victim," an authority member said. "During navratri, a large number of people offer prayers at Kalkaji Temple. We got to know that some people climbed a railing to reach inside. During this time, one of them took support of an electricity wire which malfunctioned and touched an iron railing," he

said. When the 17-year-old boy touched the same railing,



Volunteers have been

asked to maintain the crowd

and only allow 50 people at

a time to enter the temple

to avoid such situations, he

said. "More than 500 to

600 volunteers, along with

security forces, are deployed

to maintain law and order,"

the authority member said,

adding that they have in-

The last rites of Mayank

"We were waiting for our

Court grants bail to senior official of

Avantha Group in money laundering

against the accused does

not appear to be prima facie

genuine going by the said

evidence/material collected

during the investigations, as

Further keeping the ac-

cused under incarceration

any further in view of the

afore discussion would

be violative of his right to

speedy trial and would de-

prive him of his fundamen-

tal right to liberty under Ar-

ticle 21 of the Constitution.

discussed above.

said the court.

he got electrocuted, resulting in a stampede-like situation, he said.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, Mayank got electrocuted while standing in a queue to enter the temple. This resulted in a stampede in which six people got injured.

stalled over 1,000 CCTV After this incident, we have asked electricians to cameras to keep strict vigil. check every single electrical point and verify that no were held on Friday. such condition will happen in future, the member said. relatives to come. Mavank's

last rites were carried out today", his brother, Ritik Sharma said and demanded strict action against the temple authorities.

According to the police, the boy was waiting in the queue, when he touched the railing and got electrocuted. He came to Kalkajit temple with his family members to pay obeisance.

A case under section 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 125(9) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharativa Nyaya Sanhita has been registered and further investigation was taken up.

This was the second incident at Kalkaji Temple this year. On January 28, a stage collapsed during an event, claiming the life of a 45-yearold woman and injuring 17 people.

E-Cigarettes worth Rs 2 crore seized; 8 arrested

"Search of a Gujarat-

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

Banned e-cigarettes worth over Rs 2 crore have been seized and eight members of inter-state gangs involved in importing and selling them arrested, Delhi Police said on Friday.

On Thursday, information regarding the import and transportation of prohibited electronic cigarettes in the north district was received. they said.

These e-cigarettes were being transported from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur to Delhi, the police said in a statement.

A team conducted a raid near a private hospital and upon checking, 24 cartons containing 4,740 units of e-cigarettes made in China were recovered, Deputy



were apprehended, it said, Commissioner of Police adding that on the instance (north) Manoj Kumar Meeof Nitin, eight boxes of 1,600 e-cigarettes were also recov-

Tempo driver Saddiq Ali (47) revealed that e-cigaered from his godown. rettes were being taken to a godown in Karol Bagh based kingpin and his other area to be delivered to Niassociates is going on," said tin through his associate, the DCP. Sheikh Kamal, the state-In another incident, the

na said

Delhi Police apprehended ment said. five people for allegedly Subsequently, Sheikh Kamal (30) and Nitin (25) storing, transporting and worth around Rs 5 lakh were recovered from their possession along with Rs 4 lakh in cash.

According to the police, 257 e-cigarettes

selling e-cigarettes in the national capital. According to the police,

257 e-cigarettes worth around Rs 5 lakh were recovered from their possession along with Rs 4 lakh in cash

At around 2 am on October 2, a team out on night patrol spotted an Ertiga car parked at an abandoned place near the Ashok Park Main Metro station, which raised suspicion, Deputy **Commissioner of Police** (West) Vichitra Veer said. Soon another car stopped near the vehicle and people started to shift boxes into the Ertiga, he said.

The police apprehended both the drivers and seized 20 boxes containing 10 ecigarettes in each of them. They also seized Rs 4 lakh in cash from their possession, the DCP said.

"The duo has been identified as Ritik Uppal (22) and Sabi Kumar (32). During interrogation, they named three others -- Aniket (32), Pawan Chaurasia (42) and Dikshant Kumar (28) -- who also stored and sold e-cigarettes," the officer said.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi on Friday granted bail to Madhav Acharya, a senior official of the Avantha Group, in connection with a money laundering case. This case stems from a June 2021 FIR filed by the CBI against Gautam Thapar, his company CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd., and other associates.

Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa represented Madhav Acharya before Special Judge Sanjeev Agarwal at Rouse Avenue, where Acharya was granted regular bail under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The judge, while passing

the order, said the evidence tions of money laundercollected against the acing linked to the Avantha Group and Gautam Thapar, cused by the investigating amounting to approximateagency in the present case, even on broad probabilily Rs. 1,929.88 crores and Rs. ties, is not sufficient to at-6.33 crores. tract the rigours of Section This is among few bail ap-45 of PMLA, as the case

plications in recent times, decided post satisfying the twin conditions contemplated under sections 45 PMLA. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recently provisionally attached immovable properties valued at approximately Rs 678.48 crore belonging to various entities of the Avantha Group, controlled by businessman Gautam Thapar. These properties, located in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand, were attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The case involves allega-

BJP launches campaign to highlight potholes issues, attributing AAP's incompetence corrupt government."Delhi

TIKAM SHARMA NEW DELHI

On Thursday, October 3, the party's MPs, district 2024, the Delhi unit of the

BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, accompanied by presidents, councilors, and



who are busy hosting media events while we reveal the true situation," he said.

Baoli leaves a negative im- protests in Nehru Vihar, pression on visiting traders. that these potholes have the voice of Delhi's citizens. pothole-filled streets. MP

Burari, and Wazirabad MP Praveen Khandelwal Road, where they dis-Sachdeva further alleged added that the BJP is raising played "cut-outs" on the

rather a result of a decade of corruption in road maintenance.

MP Yogendra Chandolia. along with councilor Gajendra Daral and party workers, protested at Mundka, where streets have been waterlogged for months, placing "cut-outs" on the potholes. He stated that the entirety of outer and rural Delhi has fallen victim to the incompetence and corruption of the Kejriwal government, leaving the area in disrepair.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a campaign to highlight the potholes on roads, attributing them to the incompetence and corruption of the Arvind Kejriwal government. The party placed "cut-outs" on the damaged roads with the message, "Congratulations Delhi! These potholes are brought to you by the most state officials, hit the streets today, placing "cut-outs" at numerous locations across the city to highlight the issue of damaged roads

In the presence of MP Praveen Khandelwal and Delhi BJP Media Head Praveen Shankar Kapoor, Sachdeva revealed the poor condition of roads at Khari Baoli, Church Mis-

sion Road, and Old Delhi Railway Station Road. Addressing the public, Sachdeva stated that the party is exposing the false claims of the Kejriwal government,

which has demonstrated 10 years of incompetence and corruption regarding Delhi's roads. "We are exposing Chief Minister Atishi Marlena and her ministers,

450 per 10 gm on festive demand

ing near an all-time high.

moves as participants

widened their bets on a

firm spot demand seen in

physical markets due to the

start of the festive season in

India," Maneesh Sharma,

AVP - Commodities &

Silver contracts for De-

"In silver futures on Co-

existed for a decade, with MLAs demanding commissions of up to 35% under the guise of road construction. He noted that the roads around Old Delhi Railway Station, Church Mission Road, and Khari Baoli are all severely damaged. As a major commercial hub. the poor condition of roads in Chandni Chowk and Khari He accused the Kejriwal government of looting every department, from electricity and water to roads, health, and education. "We are on the streets today to expose the corrupt and dishonest Arvind Kejriwal government," Khandelwal said. Similarly, Manoj Tiwari, along with Poonam Chauhan and Manoj Tyagi, led

Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, joined by councilor Seema Pandit and party workers, highlighted the poor state of roads in Palam Ward, using hoardings to emphasize the corruption of the Kejriwal government. Bidhuri asserted that the deplorable condition of Delhi's roads is not solely due to one monsoon, but

DMA submits memorandum Gold hits fresh all-time high of Rs 78 to Police to address violence against doctors

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

A delegation from the Delhi Medical Association (DMA) met Sanjay Arora, Commissioner of Delhi Police, on Thursday, to submit a memorandum addressing the rising incidents of violence

On September 9, a female postgraduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered inside the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

the release

against the medical professionals, as per a press release. The points discussed include, "Raising awareness among police personnel regarding the Prevention of Violence Against Medical Professionals Act, 2008."

The mandatory provision of institutional FIRs in cases of violence. Establishment of dedicated distress numbers in each district to address violence against healthcare professionals.

Satish Lamba from the Delhi Medical Association. On September 9, a female postgraduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered

Monga, Sunil Singhal and

inside the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The incident sparked nationwide protests from doctors and trainees around the country demanding justice for the victim and enhanced security measures for the medical professionals.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

"Conducting regular sensitization meetings with Gold prices rose by Rs 150 police leadership to foster to hit a fresh all-time high of collaboration and protec-Rs 78,450 per 10 grams in tion," DMA stated as per the national capital on Friday on increased demand The delegation of doctors from jewellers and retailers included Alok Bhandari, driven by the ongoing festive Prakash Lalchandani, VK season

> The precious metal closed at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Silver surged Rs 1,035 to Rs 94,200 per kg from Rs 93,165 per kg in the previous session, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5

per cent purity climbed Rs 200 to reach an all-time high level of Rs 78,100 per 10 grams

Bullion traders attributed Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, the rise in precious metal prices to the emergence of said. buying by jewellers and retailers driven by the ongoing cember delivery climbed Rs

'Navratri' festival. 219 or 0.24 per cent to Rs 93,197 per kg on the MCX. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for mex suggest prices remain December delivery rose Rs firm towards the start of the 131 or 0.17 per cent to Rs next week with new highs

76,375 per 10 grams, hovermay be tested in the upcoming sessions," Sharma "Silver witnessed steady added

> In the Asian trading hours, Comex gold is trading flat at USD 2,678.90 per ounce.

"Gold prices continue to trade steady as safe-haven demand from escalating tensions in the Middle East offset pressure from a stronger dollar after investors toned down expectations of another big interest-rate cut from the US Federal Reserve,"

Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Vijender Gupta, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, has accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of misguiding the people on the issue of the reinstatement of bus marshals.

The LoP said that instead of staging dharna, the Aam Aadmi Party government in the national capital could sign an order to reinstate the former bus marshals.

"It is extremely cheap politics! Aam Aadmi Party and its leaders like Saurabh Bhardwaj are hell bent on destroying the future of 10,000 bus marshals who their former CM @ArvindKejriwal terminated," Gupta

said in a post on X. "Instead of staging dharna, the new CM, Atishi Marlena, could sign the order to reinstate them and save their jobs! However, to hide their failures, AAP is misguiding the people," he added.

Bharadwaj, joining the protest, said that they are waiting for BJP to join them in holding discussion with the LG on the issue.

Speaking to ANI, he said, "We are not here to fight. On 26th September, it was decided at the Delhi Assembly that on October 3rd, all MLAs and Ministers of AAP and BJP would go to meet (Delhi) LG and we would sign whichever paper we were asked to sign and they (bus marshals) would be appointed. We have come here today and we are waiting for BJP."

The AAP official handle on X also posted about the protest and demanded LG VK Saxena to reinstate the bus marshals

"Aam Aadmi Party MLAs have joined the protest of Bus Marshals and supported the demand for their reinstatement. LG sahab should reinstate these bus marshals soon so that they can also celebrate the festival happily with their children and family," the AAP stated.

October last year. Earlier in the day, Saurabh

Instead of staging dharna, AAP govt could reinstate bus marshals: Delhi LoP TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI



Meanwhile, Delhi Minister

and AAP leader Saurabh

Bharadwaj and other party

members were detained by

police on Thursday while

protesting at Chandgiram

Akhara in Delhi, demand-

ing the reinstatement of

While being detained,

Saurabh Bhardwaj said,

"We are with the bus mar-

shals. They are poor. They

have been removed as part

of a conspiracy. Arvind Ke-

jriwal will get them reinstat-

ed." The bus marshals have

been protesting for getting

reinstated after Delhi Lieu-

tenant Governor VK Saxena

terminated their services in

marshals in buses.

REFORMS IN THE PAST DECADE MADE INDIA PROFITABLE FOR INVESTORS, SAYS PM

PM Modi highlighted India's unprecedented infrastructure investment and ongoing process reforms, key drivers of the nation's decade-long growth.

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rime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the optimism around India by global leaders and financial experts was not just a mere coincidence, but the result of reforms brought in by his government over the past decade. Addressing the third edi-

tion of the Kautilya Economic Conclave in the national capital, PM Modi said that India is growing at over 7 per cent despite global uncertainties.

"This conclave is being organised at a time when there is a war situation in two big regions of the world. Both these regions are very important for the global economy, especially energy security. Amid this big global uncer-



Conclave, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

tainty, we are here discussing 'The Indian Era', it shows that today the trust in India is of different level."

India's GDP grew by an impressive 8.2 per cent during the financial year 2023-24, continuing to be the fastestgrowing major economy. The

economy grew by 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 and 8.7 per cent in 2021-22, according to official data.

Many global rating agencies and multilateral organisations have also revised their growth forecasts for India upwards.

the Euro, Japanese Yen, and

Pound Sterling. The RBI

closely monitors the for-

orderly market conditions,

aiming to contain excessive

volatility in the exchange

rate without reference to any

pre-determined target level

volatile currencies in Asia.

"Investors believe that it's the right time to invest in India. It's not a coincidence, rather, it's the result of reforms that have happened in India over the past decade," the Prime Minister told the gathering.

He highlighted that today India is the world's fastest growing and the 5th largest economy, tops in fintech adoption with half of the global real-time transactions taking place in the country. It is the largest manufacturer of twowheelers and tractors, and second largest manufacturer of mobile phones, he said.

"India has moved from being an importer of mobile phones to being a producer. In every sector, there are ample investment opportunities

in India," PM Modi said. "Our commitment is to make India a developed nation, and it that endeavour we will continue our structural reforms," he said. "Today, India is not just striving to reach the top, but also to sustain its position at the top," he said in his address at the Kautilya Economic Conclave.

"Inclusive spirit" is yet another notable factor of India's growth story, the Prime Minister said, adding that his government is ensuring that the benefits of India's growth are reaped by everyone. "We have increased invest-

ment in infrastructure on an unprecedented scale in the last decade. India has made Process Reforms a part of the continuing activities of the government," PM Modi said. Apple to open four more exclusive retail stores in India

NATION

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Apple plans to open four more retail stores in India - each in Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai, the US multinational electronics manufacturer announced on Friday.

In April 2023, Apple opened its first two stores in India - in Delhi and Mumbai.

Apple said that the iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max which are made in India will soon be available for local customers and for export to "select countries" across the world.

Apple had begun manufacturing the iPhone in India in 2017. It has now over 3,000 employees in India. Apple is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including the iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India.

In its annual event that happened on September 9. Apple introduced the iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, featuring Apple



Intelligence, larger display sizes, innovative camera features, improved graphics for immersive gaming, and more - all powered by the A18 Pro chip.

iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max are available in four finishes: black titanium, natural titanium, white titanium, and desert titanium. Pre-orders began September 13, with availability beginning September 20. "Our stores are incred-

ible places to experience the magic of Apple, and it's been wonderful to deepen our connection with our customers in India," said Deirdre O'Brien, Apple's senior vice president of Retail.

"We're thrilled to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India because we're inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across this country. We can't wait for them to have even more opportunities to discover and shop for our amazing products and services, and connect with our extraordinary, knowledgable team members," O'Brien said.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme by the Central government is also likely to have attracted several gadget makers, including Apple, to set up shop in the country.

In the July-September

2024 quarter, office leasing

hit a quarterly record of 19

India's forex reserves soar past Office leasing to hit record 70 mn sq ft in 2024 \$700 bn milestone

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high again, crossing the USD 700 billion milestone.

In the week that ended on September 27, the forex reserves kitty rose from USD 12.588 billion to USD 704.885 billion, as per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. Last week, the kitty was at the previous high of USD 692.296 billion.

This buffer of foreign exchange reserves helps insulate domestic economic activity from global shocks. According to the latest data from the apex bank, India's foreign currency assets Foreign exchange reserves (FCA), the largest compoare generally held in reserve nent of forex reserves, were currencies, typically the US at USD 616.154 billion. Dollar and, to a lesser extent,

The gold reserves are currently worth USD 65.796 billion, as per Friday's data. As per estimates, India's

foreign exchange reserves are now sufficient to cover over a vear of projected imports. In the calendar year 2023, India added about USD 58 billion to its foreign ex-

change reserves. In contrast, India's forex reserves saw a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. Forex reserves, or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves), are assets held by a nation's central bank or TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

India's office leasing market is projected to achieve a record high of nearly 70 million sq. ft. in 2024, driven by the expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), eign exchange markets and according to a report by intervenes only to maintain CBRE

GCCs are expected to account for 35-40 per cent of the total office leasing activity across India's top nine cities.

or band. The RBI frequent-Bengaluru continues to ly intervenes in the market lead office space absorption, through liquidity manageaccounting for 30 per cent of ment, including the sale of total leasing from January to dollars, to prevent a steep September 2024, followed by Delhi-NCR and Hyderdepreciation of the rupee. A decade ago, the Indian abad with 14 per cent each, Rupee was one of the most Chennai with 13 per cent, and Mumbai and Pune con-



Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune also dominated supply additions, collectively representing 63 per cent of new office space during this period. The last peak in office leas-

ing was recorded in 2019, with 66.6 million sq. ft.

leased. However, the growing demand from both global and domestic occupiers is set to surpass this level in 2024. Between January and September 2024, India's office sector witnessed gross absorption of 53.8 million sq. ft. across the top nine cities, reflecting a 19 per cent year-

on-year growth and marking the highest leasing activity for this period. A total of 37.5 million sq. ft. of new office supply was also recorded during this time.

tal office space absorption,

BFSI firms at 16 per cent.

Engineering and manu-

facturing firms made up 9

per cent, while life sciences,

along with research, con-

sulting, and analytics, each

Domestic firms led office

absorption with a 42 per

cent share, primarily driven

by flexible space operators,

technology companies, and

accounted for 7 per cent.

million sq. ft., with Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Hyderabad driving nearly two-thirds of Technology companies led the leasing market, accountthe total leasing. ing for 23 per cent of the to-

BFSI firms.

Technology companies held a 19 per cent share, folfollowed by flexible space lowed by BFSI firms (18 per operators at 19 per cent and cent), flexible space operators (17 per cent), and engineering and manufacturing firms (9 per cent).

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said, "A growing number of industries are recognising the potential of Indian talent and establishing their GCC operations.'

India Post, Amazon Asia-Pacific private credit markets set for rapid expansion: Moody's partner for nationwide ture, and manufacturing leveraged buyouts (LBOs),"

ing in the region means pri- Pacific investors are also years earlier.

monetary authority.

vate credit markets are still interested in the global Despite this rapid growth,

sectors, as well as from Moody's Ratings said. "Long-term institutional investors with higher risk appetites are the main investors in private credit in

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Private credit markets in the Asia Pacific region have grown rapidly over the past decade and it will continue to expand, driven by niche demand amid growing economies, said Moody's Ratings

That said, the continued dominance of banks in lend-

small The global rating agency asserted that the private credit sector in Asia-Pacific will continue to expand. led by large economies, as robust economic growth boosts overall financing

> needs. In addition, Moody's Ratings noted that Asia-

private credit market and will continue to allocate their investments into the US and Europe. Private credit assets un-

der management (AUM) earmarked for lending to Asia-Pacific companies have roughly doubled to

about USD 120 billion at the end of 2023 from four

private credit markets in Asia-Pacific remain relatively small, accounting for just 6-7 per cent of total transactions globally over the past decade.

India's private credit market will continue to grow strongly, driven by financing demand from the real estate, infrastruccompanies that are not yet listed or in growth stages, it said.

"Private credit will continue to draw demand from middle-market companies, helping to fill their funding gaps. It can also be a valuable financing option for projects such as infrastructure development and

Asia-Pacific." Large developed economies, such as Australia, Japan and Korea have more sophisticated financial and legal systems and larger investor pools.

e-commerce expansion



TDG NETWORK NFW DFLF

to enhance parcel transmis-

sion and delivery across the

This partnership, which

dates back to 2013, has been

instrumental in utilising

the DoP's deep reach, par-

ticularly in rural and remote

Amazon transportation

services said that in the

last 2-3 years, India Post's

footprint across Amazon's

logistics network has more

than doubled with pickup

points growing from 6 loca-

tions to 13 locations across

Amazon provides an end-

to-end integrated cash-on-

delivery solution with India

Post. This has resulted in

a nearly 3X increase in the

country.

regions.

the country.

volume of Amazon parcels delivered via India Post in the past 18 months.

The Department of Posts Ms Vandita Kaul, Secre-(DoP) under the Ministry of tary (Posts), Department Communications and Amaof Post said, "India Post, zon Transportation Services with its extensive network Private Limited has signed of about 165000 post ofa Memorandum of Underfices, is uniquely equipped standing (MoU) to expand to democratize e-commerce their ongoing collaboration. across the nation. Our part-According to the Ministry nership with Amazon repof Communications, the resents a significant leap MoU, signed in New Delhi, forward in our efforts to aims to leverage the vast bridge the digital divide, enpostal network and Amahancing eCommerce across zon's technological prowess

all citizens.' The MoU outlines the integration of logistics operations between Amazon and DoP, focusing on knowledge-sharing and improved

efficiency. Amazon will gain increased access to DoP's network of over 1.6 lakh post offices, enabling it to serve customers in even the most

far-flung corners of India. To ensure the partnership's progress, both parties will conduct regular reviews and identify further areas of collaboration. For Amazon, the partnership ensures streamlined logistics, reducing delivery times and enhancing customer reach, particularly in rural India.

MS Dhoni boosts investment in Garuda

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Legendary cricketer and most decorated captain of Indian cricket history, announces in a Facebook post that his journey with IPO-bound Garuda Aerospace continues to grow from strength to strength as he tops-up investment in the drone start-up. He also stated that he believes in the vision of Garuda to make India a Drone hub by 2030.

About his association with Garuda, Brand Ambassador and Investor. M S Dhoni said, "As Garuda spreads its wings across the world, I am proud to be associated with the team's journey in positively impacting Agriculture, Defence, Industry 4.0 & consumer drone sector as their

captain' Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO of Garuda Aerospace added, "Mahi Bhai has been an inspiration for all of us at Garuda Aerospace. His encourage-



ment and unwavering support enthuses each one of us to always deliver to the best of our ability.

"From a Fan Boy to a Founder, I've always loved MS Dhoni. However, the value he brings to the emerging drone technol-

ogy is immense. Mahi Bhai is the epitome of a rural youth success story and both agri and consumer drones resonate with our target audience. His star



power has helped Garuda reach the deepest pockets of India" added Agnishwar Jayaprakash

Garuda Aerospace was the 1st ever Drone Startup to receive dual DGCA Certifications for Both Manufacturing & Training. Having cemented Dominance

in the Agri & Consumer Drone sectors with a 50% Market Share, Garuda Aerospace has eyed global expansion.

In 2022, MS Dhoni commenced his association with Garuda Aerospace after 100 drones were flagged off by PM Narendra Modi in 100 locations. Since then; Garuda Aero-

space has scaled in revenue & become one of India's most valuable Drone startups

> Garuda Aerospace in the past has signed on significant international partnerships with companies like Thales (France), Agrowing (Israel), and Spirit Aeronautics (Greece). These collaborations focus on technology transfer and local manufacturing, reducing costs while creating job opportunities for the Indian youth.

A leader in agricultural and consumer drones, it aims to expand its footprint in defence technology by transitioning into the defence drone sector. The company is working on developing cutting-edge drones for defence applications and is aiming to become a market leader in the defence segment within

About Garuda Aerospace Garuda Aerospace is India's leading Drone tech start-up focused on disrupting two major multibillion-dollar sectors, Precision Agri Tech and Industry 4.0 upgradation. Garuda Aerospace is asset-light, recessionproof, and agnostic, and focuses on eliminating labourers in the agricultural field with drones focusing on designing, building, and customization of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Founded in 2015 with a team of 5, Garuda has scaled to a 200+ member team having the largest drone fleet in India with over 400 drones and 500 pilots operating in 84 cities. Garuda Aerospace

liance, Swiggy, Flipkart, Delhivery, L&T, Survey of India, SAIL, NTPC, IOCL, Smart cities, Intel, Amazon, Wipro, IISC, MIT Boston, NHAI for various projects, the company recently partnered with global giants such as Lockheed Martin, Cognizant and Elbit Systems. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji launched the drone yatra where 100 drones were flagged off simultaneously across 100 villages in India. Garuda Aerospace is the first drone company to get DGCA approvals for Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation. Garuda is on a mission to impact 1 billion lives positively using affordable precision Drone Technology. Mahendra Singh Dhoni has invested in the company and is the manufactures 30 types of Brand Ambassador.

drones and offers 50 types of services. Having served over 750 clients including TATA, Godrej, Adani, Re-

the next two years.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH CONFLICT: A DANGEROUS MOMENT

Conventions governing escalation have been cast aside: Peace and prosperity seem an illusion

OPINION MAJ GEN JAGATBIR SINGH. **VSM (RETD)**



The risks that the Gaza War could ignite a wider regional conflict, including a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran, were apparent from the outset. Hezbollah entered the fray and began launching cross-border attacks on Northern Israel since O8 October. Israel responded with increasingly expansive counterat-

Hassan Nasrallah assassitacks. The violence led to nation is a severe blow not the displacement of tens of thousands of Israeli and only to Hezbollah but also Lebanese civilians on both to Iranian-backed proxies across the region. Hezbolsides of the border and laid bare the reality of a region. lah was Iran's closest ally Many clung to the illu-

and critical deterrent force, the central pillar of Tehran's "axis of resistance." For Israel, his death was a bold escalatory step. His death and the limited ground invasion into Lebanon that followed resulted in a retaliation from Iran, by them launching nearly 200 ballistic missiles at military targets in Israel.

INTRODUCTION

Since 07 October last year, Israel has consistently demonstrated a willingness to up the ante in its fight against Hamas's regional backers, including Iran and Hezbollah. Over the last year, Israel has been systematically killing top operatives of Hezbollah and IRGC. It has steadily degraded Iran, based on a premise that Iran was unwilling to enter a full-scale war with Israel. Simultaneously Israel also felt they needed to take decisive military action regardless of the costs in order it to manage and contain the threats on its borders.

fered and the manner in

and has now turned its attention towards the North. After the Hamas attacks, Israel felt the pressure of an active Hezbollah on its border and has the feeling that a diplomatic solution would not deter future attacks. Moreover, Israel may have assessed that Hezbollah and Iran, were reluctant to go too far in their military

conflict with Israel. Before Iran's latest missile attack, Israel indicated that it only planned to carry out a limited military operation into Lebanon and not to occupy Southern Lebanon again. But there are no guarantees the war will remain limited or short, based on the history of conflict between the two and given the likely resistance Israel will face from Hezbollah, even in its diminished state. With direct Iranian-Israeli confrontation as the backdrop, the Lebanese war front could intensify further. Israel by its pager and sion that the conflict on the walkie talkie explosions was Northern front could be determined to change the equation with Hezbollah. contained because no one The question now is how far wanted a full-scale war. Hezbollah largely limited Israel plans to go. If Gaza is its attacks to targets close any indication, Lebanon and to the border, which were its people may face increaswithin the rules of engageing violence in the weeks ment. But as the fighting in ahead. As per Save the Chil-Gaza dragged on, both Israel dren families are struggling and Hezbollah tested the to find safety in shelters and at least one million people elasticity of their red lines a fifth of the population are with attacks that reached now displaced. In addition, deeper into each other's tera number of Syrian refugees ritory. Eventhough the casu-

who had taken shelter in alty count rose, the conflict remained containable. Lebanon are now return-The risk that full-scale war ing to Syria. could erupt was a given. One was the possibility of mis-**THE IRANIAN** calculation that an attack DILEMMA by one party would lead to Iran is also facing a dilemunanticipated casualties and ma regarding how to respond to Nasrallah's death force the other side into an unwanted war. This came to and Israel's targeting of Hezbollah. The manner in the fore with Israel's attack which Iran responded to on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus that the killing of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, in late July,

killed top Iranian Commanders in early April. Iran With its deterrence and retaliated launching its firstinvincibility having suf- ever direct missile attack on wider regional war. As per even Iranian political lead-Israel. A US led coalition was able to repel the strike and quickly contain it, but the attacks demonstrated how tensions quickly escalate, and this is repeating itself again. The other factor leading towards a full-scale war is a change in strategy. There is no doubt that Israel has its reasons for upscaling up its attack on Hezbollah in Lebanon even when preoccupied in Gaza. Maybe Israel feels it has dealt a blow to Hamas



veil of 'plausible deniability' needed to be removed. Their leaders might also have assessed that Israel was prepared to attack Iran directly, emboldened by the weakened state of Iran's most lethal deterrent against Israel, the Hezbollah. Prime Minister Netanyahu reinforced this by his statement on 30 September in which he stated, "there is nowhere in the Middle East Israel cannot reach."

Tehran therefore acted by launching missiles at Israel for the second time on O1 October. Its targets included military facilities in heavily populated parts of Israel. As before, Israel's missile defence system, the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow 2 & 3 and US military assistance successfully repelled the attack, limiting the damage. However, if these attacks increase in scale, they will begin to put pressure on its missile defence system.

ISRAEL IS LOOKING FOR TOTAL VICTORY

Netanyahu has now declared that Iran "would pay" for the attack. Given the direct nature of Iran's strike and Israel's expanding target list, Israeli retaliation is nearly certain. What is less certain is whether this new round of direct Iranian-Israeli confrontation will end as quickly as the April exchange.

Israel might now decide to seize the opportunity indicated a degree of caution to increase the targeting and willingness to avoid a of IRGC Commanders, or General Hasnain:'Iran is a ers and strike oil installations or even Iran's nuclear facilities. Each of which has its own ramifications. But there is also the possibility that Israel may limit its response to another calibrated and targeted strike on Iran, as it did in April, allowing both sides to step back from the brink. One could be US resistance to expanding the war. There are reports that Iranianaligned militia forces in Iraq have threatened to target

US personnel if the US intervenes, and it is unlikely that President Biden would like to seek a direct war with Iran with the Presidential elections due next month. But in war nothing can be ruled out.

On the other hand, there is speculation that Iran could respond to the degradation of its proxy deterrence and compensate for its own conventional military weakness by moving toward weaponisation of its nuclear program. This would only increase the risk of Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear

sites. Israeli forces remain deeply entrenched in Gaza, maintaining control in the Philadelphi corridor on the border with Egypt. In the West Bank, Israeli settlement expansion continues. IDF incursions into Palestinian cities, such as massive raids in Jenin and Tulkarm, have increased in recent months as control by the Palestinian Authority weakens

An Israeli ground movement into Lebanon is underway and there is talk about the possibility of reinstating a buffer zone in Southern Lebanon, similar to the one Israel established after its invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and maintained until Israel's unilateral withdrawal in 2000.

If operations continue, Israel could, by design or by default, end up reoccupying parts or all of Gaza, the West Bank, and even Southern Lebanon. Israel's degradation of Hamas and cupation harms everyone. Hezbollah will deepen the belief that only hard power can make them secure. High-tech fences were not enough to keep the Hamas out. While missile defence limits the damage an adversary can inflict, there is a feeling that by taking the fight to the enemy and reoccupying land, Israel will be secure. But is seizing land the best road to ensure se-

tions for a two-state solution of Palestine co-existing in peace with Israel, and destabilise the entire region. Also, the steps being taken presently by Israel could undo decades of efforts by previous Israeli Prime Ministers for peace in the region.

CONCLUSION

Tragically, the picture today is one of continued fighting, increasing death tolls, physical destruction, mass displacement, and pathetic humanitarian conditions. Meanwhile, the remaining Israeli hostages who we hope are still alive continue to languish in the tunnels beneath Gaza. It's a dangerous moment as conventions governing escalation have been cast aside and peace and prosperity seem an illusion.

In the current escalatory environment. US and international efforts to encourage a diplomatic settlement to the war in Lebanon or Gaza are unlikely to succeed, even though calls for a cease-fire have become shriller in view of the confrontation between Israel and Iran. Declaring UN Secretary General as a persona non grata by Israel is a pointer that they are not looking towards a diplomatic solution; but looking for total victory.

There is also a school of thought that states that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political survival and popularity and the stability of his government depends on war. In addition, there are feelings that Israel has the tacit approval of the US.

Though we are in a period characterised by the constancy of conflict the question remains as to whether there is the possibility of a brighter future in the region after the war. Continued military conflict and oc-A case in point being Iraq and Afghanistan. Clausewitz famous dictum; 'war is a continuation of politics by other means.' implies that while the military can achieve their objectives the political end state needs to defined. If that involves Israeli reoccupation of Gaza and Southern Lebanon, and greater control over the West Bank and change of leadership in Iran victory is unlikely to result

in perpetual peace.

PERSPECTIVE

BJP FAILS TO MAKE IT JATS VS NON-JATS CONTEST IN HARYANA

The Bharatiya Janata Party that has been in power in Haryana for the last ten years, is struggling for survival in the ongoing Assembly polls, largely because its tried and tested formula of pitting Jats Vs Non Jats, does not appear to be succeeding. In fact, the contest is now between the BJP and the Saffron Brigade on one hand, and the people on the other hand. The Congress would be the obvious beneficiary and though short of resources, the grand old party has managed to sustain its pole position due to a superior strategy. While it is not fair to speak about numbers while the polling is taking place, it is a foregone conclusion that short of a miracle that can work for the BJP, the Congress is poised to return to power. The reason for the Congress being so confident is that people want a change and this would be reflected very clearly on the counting day. In Haryana, the anger against the ruling party is largely directed against the policies of the Central government and to a lesser degree against the State administration. In state where every household is virtually in a competition to send its young boys to the Army and the armed forces, the Agniveer scheme has been the subject of great criticism. Unlike earlier times, when one could see young men training and preparing for the Army recruitment at the various stadiums, there is no longer any enthusiasm despite repeated assurances by central leaders. The farmers agitation and the inability of the government to deal with the demands in an amicable manner, has made the BJP immensely unpopular in the rural belt, where party candidates were struggling to make their presence felt. In addition, the treatment meted to the Wrestlers while they were protesting on the streets of New Delhi, is deeply etched in the minds of the people. The majority of medals which the country won in the recent Paris Olympics were won by athletes from the state.

The slogan, Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Pehalwan has an emotional connect, and essentially is responsible for the BJP's dismal situation by and large. Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who has been spearheading the campaign has been successful in exposing the fault lines in the State government's policies. He is being fully backed by Rahul Gandhi, for whom, defeating the BJP is the primary target. Ajay Maken, who was the chairman of the Screening Committee, has provided the data support to the campaign, by identifying issues and candidates for this crucial election. On Thursday, Ashok Tanwar, who was the BIP nominee for the Sirsa Lok Sabha seat in the Parliamentary elections, and who lost to Kumari Selja, rejoined the Congress at an election rally of Rahul Gandhi and Hooda. Sources confirmed that it was pressure from his family, wife and son, and his supporters which eventually changed Ashok Tanwar's mind. For record's sake, Ashok was with the Congress since his NSUI days and occupied many crucial positions. He had certain reservations because of which he had unexpectedly left, and subsequently did some party hopping before returning back to the Congress fold. The BJP success in the polls both in 2014 and 2019 was because it had adhered to the Bhajan Lal formula of pitting the non-Jats vs the Jats. It succeeded till the going was good but at the end of the day, the performance of the state government left a lot to be desired. Moreover, the expectations, people had from the party remained unfulfilled. During the 10 years, neither the non Jats or the Jats, as the BJP tried to classify them for the polls, thrived. On every parameter the State government seemed to be lacking and this is what is going to be seen when the result comes out. The debate in Haryana is on whether the ongoing polls were a referendum on the Centre or the State. In this context, it is important to point out that the results would not in any manner affect the stability of the Central government, where Narendra Modi, will continue to be supreme and remain in power. However, it would certainly be a cause of worry, and force the Centre to have a relook at some of its policies. Another dimension to the possible BIP defeat is that all the Northern States, Himachal, Punjab, probably J&K and Delhi, shall have non-BJP governments. Therefore, in order to distract attention from this reality, the BJP could launch Operation Lotus in some areas to weaken the IN-DIA bloc. The BJP would also be concerned over how the Maha Yuti government in Maharashtra would fare in the Assembly polls there. And if there was to be change of guard in the State, it would be a development that shall not be good news for any BJP supporter. One of the factors, other than those stated above which is going against the party in Haryana, is that like in the past, it had not entered the fray as a cohesive and united entity. Its leaders were unhappy and the selection of nominees left many upset. Efforts to contain anti-incumbency by changing Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayeb Singh Saini, has apparently not worked. The debate now is only about numbers. How much would the party get eventually. There is also speculation whether the Congress would repeat its 2005 performance or be somewhere around that figure. The answers shall come on October 8th.

which the war in Gaza is progressing in spite of the large-scale destruction and collateral damage inflicted Israel has now turned its focus on Hezbollah and Iran. Its recent attacks in Iran and Lebanon have also demonstrated both, the degree to which its intelligence agencies have extensively penetrated both Iranian and Hezbollah networks as also its vast mining of data and technological edge.

reluctant fighter and has only done lip service to response' and this has been reinforced by Ambassador Talmiz Ahmed who stated that Iran's response was calculated and restrained

> and more a demonstration of capacity.' But Israel's recent attacks have increased pressure within Iran to respond more forcefully and to support its proxies. The response needed to be overt and the

curity? Reoccupations will squash Palestinian aspira-

PANKAJ VOHRA/

Candid classification of conference creatures

between. Many delegates

do listen to the talks with

the focus level of the Kota

classrooms. But they may

have to bear with the 'mik-

ers'- the speakers who hold

on to the mike after the end

of stipulated time despite

warnings from the alarm

bells and the chairpersons.

Sometimes, the presenta-

tion finishes well in time,

but the question answer

session gets stretched-like

an argument between

However, if a breakaway

session is being held in a

smaller hall, the speaker

semi-compatible spouses.

FROWNING PROHIBITEI

JAS KOHLI



In the last six months, I have attended four national conferences on plastic sur-

gery and aesthetic sciencesan exemplification of 'overdose'. I could have attended one every fortnight- there were so many of them on varying topics. A few days ago, a colleague of mine said in jest, 'Someday, there will be separate conferences on left hand and right hand!' Since I needed 'masala' for penning down the article on conferences, I observed the delegates

and the organizers with the vigilance of a jasoos. A conference is defined in

the dictionaries as a formal may face a vexatious situameeting of people with a tion-miniscule audience or shared interest. But there even a no show. Once, I was is a twisted definition tooa witness to such a situait is an event where we eat. tion. The witty speaker began drink and be merry in the his talk with, 'Respected guise of academics. The truth is somewhere in-

chairpersons and empty chairs!' However, soon afterwards, the organizers, including myself, coaxed or rather entreated a few delegates to sit in the hall. The organizing teams could take a cue from the political parties and have some fake delegates ready- just in case.

I have a few friends who are in the category of 'conference friends'. I can locate them easily them without having to make a phone call. The 'receivers' are the ones who listen to the talks and are met during lunch & dinner time. The 'stallers'

the stalls of the trade exhibition. The 'outliers' come to conferences purely for socializing and hover around the tea and coffee counters. The 'bunkers' are a special category. After marking their presence at the registration counter, they disappear, only to show up on the last day. If some delegate talks

are found roaming around

with affability which is out of proportion to the proximity with you, he or she is likely to stand for elections for the office bearer of the organization in future. The favourite part of a conference for most delegates is the elections. The lobbying and the canvassing charges

up the 'mahaul'. To keep the organizers on their toes, there are delegates who get nicknamed

as fufa ji or fufad ji- they get upset over issues as minor as someone staring at them. Of course, a few lacunae are there in every conference. Some organizers feel that conducting of a conference is even tougher than the marriage of one's daughter. At the end of every conference, I say to myself, 'Enough is enough. I am not attending any conference for at least six months. Then, I get invited by the organizers of a future conference to deliver a talk or conduct a workshop. Also, I often bump into a stall wherein the registration of the next conference is offered at a discount as an early bird offer.

At a conference, do gain knowledge and expertise but don't ignore the social animal in you!

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ENDURING LEGACY, UNTOLD STORIES OF INDIA'S CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The recognition of Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit as classical languages emphasizes efforts to preserve their historical significance.

ndia's linguistic diversity is unparalleled, with a history spanning millennia. Classical languages such as Sanskrit, Tamil, and Kannada have shaped the nation's intellectual, cultural, and spiritual heritage, providing a rich foundation for literature, philosophy, and religious discourse. Despite this, many classical languages and their contributions remain underexplored in mainstream discourse. Recently, there has been growing interest in reviving and preserving these languages through digitization, research grants, and educational reforms, although much of their history still remains hidden from modern audiences.

CRITERIA FOR CLASSICAL STATUS:

To be recognised as a classical language by the Government of India, a language must meet several stringent criteria: it must have an ancient literary tradition dating back over 1,500-2,000 years, possess a body of classical literature, and show a distinct difference between its classical form and its modern spoken version. Tamil was the first to receive this recognition in 2004, followed by Sanskrit, Telugu, and Malayalam, among others.

Recently, the recognition of Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit as classical languages highlights the ongoing efforts to acknowledge the historical significance of these languages. The Union Cabi**net's decision** has sparked renewed attention toward the preservation of ancient manuscripts, academic research, and cultural which was finally approved tourism related to these languages. For instance, the addition of Pali-a key language for Buddhist scriptures-has rejuvenated interest in studying ancient Buddhist texts and philosophies, particularly in countries like Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka,



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved granting classical language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw called it a historic decision, aligning with the government's emphasis on celebrating India's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

tion, languages such as Pali

and Prakrit, which are critical

for understanding Buddhist

and Jain traditions, will see

increased efforts in digitiz-

which share this cultural literary works and manuheritage. scripts. With this recogni-

HISTORICAL **AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS BEHIND THE DECISION:**

The recognition of these languages follows a longstanding demand from various linguistic communities. For example, the demand for Marathi to be granted classical language status began over a decade ago, with the **Maharashtra** government submitting a proposal in 2013. Political leaders from Maharashtra have continually pressed for this recognition, viewing it as essential for promoting Marathi culture and linguistic pride. Similarly, West Bengal, Assam, and Bihar have lobbied for the inclusion of Bengali, Assamese, and Pali, respectively, citing the historical and cultural significance of these languages. In 2024, after con-

sultations and revisions to the criteria, the **Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC)** recommended the classical status for these languages, by the Union Cabinet.

the Central Institute of Classical Tamil was established to support scholarly

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde wrote to PM Narendra Modi

for approval for Marathi's classical language status on August 25, 2022.

funding for language studable scholarly attention, ies. For example, after the texts in Prakrit, Pali, and recognition of Tamil as a Assamese are less studclassical language in 2004, ied but equally valuable. **Prakrit**, for example, was the language of Jain literature, with the **Agamas** 今月代 :并没好了: 本 并 甘西方: 安急 子 日本的 · 本 好 万 · 花有多多 त्र राज्य र मनाः मधाः शा कुम कुः सहातः कृत प्रतः भ म मेः च के प्र राज्य महित्य मुग्रा व्यक्त र मार्थ्य क्रिया मह पार्थ मह रा 到了到了 就有不是 到 如何 新有 गे ये सा र र सा रे र सा र मा न मा र मा र मा र न मा र 1:22 - 42 . 42 . 4 . 4 . . 4 & W . . 4 & W. र्मन्द्र मा मध्यत्र पर्य नेम भाषे स्तर ए र नेमिन्द्र 「「ない」を、ないない、しない、し、ないない、、してない、 你不可是你不可以不能不可不可不不能是""可可以你"不言 小田 小子 四 : 王王子 如此 王子 北王马王 मार्ट वर्गा मनामार मडल डर्र गरा थ mer binner

NATION

On July 2, 2022 the the University Grants Commission (UGC) released list of research journals publications in at least 15 Indian languages, including Pali and Prakrit. Then these were not among the 22 officially recognised languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.



This year on February 21, marking International Mother Language Day, Oxford University Press (OUP), part of the University of Oxford, announced the release of a bilingual English-**Assamese Dictionary**

ing and conserving ancient research and translation eftexts. This provides access to forts. A similar trajectory is future generations of scholars expected for the newly recand promotes global research ognized languages, creating opportunities for research centers and scholarships dedicated to these linguistic traditions.

Ancient Buddhist texts written in Pali, such as the Tipitaka, influenced the development of Theravada Buddhism in countries like Thailand and Myanmar. Similarly, Prakrit literature, particularly 7ain texts, traveled across regions, influencing local cultures in present-day Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

collaborations, such as the Sanskrit Manuscripts Proiect at Cambridge University, are making these texts ac-

cessible to scholars and the

general public. For example,

HOW CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS **CHANGES THINGS:**

1. Preservation of ancient texts and knowledge: One of the most significant benefits of classical language status is the preservation of ancient

into India's intellectual and cultural history.

2. Cultural and academic growth: The classical status promotes academic research by introducing specialized courses in universities and increasing

3. Political and regional **pride:** The recognition of classical languages often serves as a political victory for regional leaders and communities, reinforcing regional identity. In the case of Marathi, for instance, this recognition strengthens the cultural pride of the people of Maharashtra, affirming their language's importance in India's historical and literary landscape. This regional pride often intersects with broader cultural preservation efforts, leading to a revitalization of traditional art forms, literature, and local festivals.

4. Economic impact through cultural tourism: The recognition of classical languages also has economic implications, particularly in the tourism sector. Cultural heritage sites, such as those linked to Assamese and Bengali literature or ancient Pali inscriptions, are likely to receive increased attention from both domestic and international tourists. This boost in cultural tourism not only helps local economies but also encourages investment in heritage preservation

THE FORGOTTEN **TEXTS AND THEIR** INFLUENCE **BEYOND INDIA:**

While Sanskrit and Tamil have received considerbeing central religious texts, while Pali is integral to Buddhist teachings. These languages influenced not just Indian scholars but also had a significant impact across Southeast Asia. Ancient Buddhist texts

written in Pali, such as the Tipitaka, influenced the development of Theravada Buddhism in countries like Thailand and Myanmar. Similarly, Prakrit literature, particularly Jain texts, traveled across regions, influencing local cultures in present-day Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

THE UNDECIPHERED SCRIPTS AND THEIR MYSTERIES:

India's classical languages are further enriched by ancient scripts that remain undeciphered, such as the **Indus script**. This script, found in the ruins of the Harappan civilization (2600-1900 BCE), is yet to be fully decoded, despite decades of research. The potential breakthroughs in deciphering the Indus script could unlock a deeper understanding of the early urban societies

of the Indian subcontinent. Similar to how the discov-

ery of the Rosetta Stone in Egypt led to the decipher-

ment of Egyptian hieroglyphs, there are hopes that a key discovery could help unlock the meaning of the Indus symbols. Ongoing efforts, such as those by Iravatham Mahadevan, an expert in Indian epigraphy, continue to generate new leads.

THE EVOLUTION OF SCRIPTS:

India's classical languages are also deeply tied to the evolution of scripts such as Brahmi and Kharosthi. These ancient scripts laid the foundation for many modern Indian scripts, including **Devanagari** and Tamil-Brahmi. Brahmi, in particular, is known for its inscriptions on Ashoka's edicts, which date back to

the 3rd century BCE. The Brahmi script's spread across Asia, especially through Buddhist texts, influenced the development of scripts in countries like Thailand and Cambodia. The use of Brahmi by Emperor Ashoka to propagate his edicts marked one of the earliest uses of writing for governance and public communication.

DEMAND FOR RECOGNITION OF OTHER LANGUAGES:

There is an ongoing movement to grant classical

the ongoing digitization of Sanskrit and Tamil texts is helping preserve these cultural treasures for future generations. **Economic Impact:** The push to digitize and promote status to more Indian lanclassical languages has guages, such as Maithili and Meitei. Recognition is not

just a matter of academic

prestige but also one of cul-

tural pride and identity. For

instance, Meitei speakers in

Manipur have long demand-

ed classical language status

for their ancient language,

citing its historical signifi-

cance and rich literary tra-

Scholars from Bihar have

similarly advocated for Mai-

thili, a language with a docu-

mented literary history dat-

ing back to the 7th century

CE. Texts like Vidyapati's

poetry are celebrated in both

India and Nepal, highlight-

ing the cross-border cultur-

al heritage of the language.

ROLE OF CLASSICAL

MODERN SOCIETY:

Classical languages continue

to play a crucial role in shap-

ing modern India's identity.

With the growth of **cultural**

tourism, sites associated

with these languages-such

as the Ajanta and Ellora caves,

which contain inscriptions in

Prakrit and Sanskrit-have

become focal points for heri-

Additionally, the digitiza-

tion of classical manuscripts

has gained momentum. The

National Mission for Manu-

scripts and international

tage tourism.

LANGUAGES IN

dition.

also spurred job creation in areas such as manuscript preservation, translation, and cultural tourism. The increased visibility of classical languages in the global academic community has opened new opportunities for researchers, translators, and digital archivists.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION:

Classical languages are experiencing a revival in Indian and global academia. Historically, institutions like Nalanda University were hubs for scholarly pursuits in Sanskrit, Pali, and other classical languages. Today, universities like JNU and **BHU** offer advanced degrees in Sanskrit and Tamil, while foreign universities such as Harvard have established dedicated chairs in these languages.

However, classical language studies face hurdles, such as declining student interest and inadequate funding. Scholars have suggested incorporating classical languages into interdisciplinary programs that combine linguistics with fields like philosophy and AI to attract a younger generation.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

President Ram Nath Kovind presents Padma Vibhushan to Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra for Art, in New Delhi on November 9, 2021. She is a playback singer/vocalist, she has made notable contributions to non-film genres of music like Carnatic classical, traditional and devotional music in various languages. ANI



10 LEGALLY SPEAKING

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW SATURDAY | 05 OCTOBER 2024 NEW DELHI

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SUPREME COURT REFUSED TO PASS STATUS QUO ORDER AGAINST **DEMOLITIONS IN SOMNATH, SEEKS GUJARAT'S RESPONSE** The bench headed by Jusdemolition of centuries old

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court in the case Summast Patni Musslim Jamat v. State of Gujarat and Ors in Jamiat Ulama I Hind v. North Delhi Municipal Corporation observed and has sought the response of the State of Gujarat on a contempt petition alleging the illegal demolition of Muslim religious and residential places by authorities on September 28 at Gir Somnath.

The court in the case observed and has refused to pass an interim order of status quo with respect to the demolitions.

The bench comprising of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case was hearing the petition filed by Summast Patni Musslim

Jamat, a Trust representing the Patni Muslim community of Prabhas Patan

The counsel, Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde submitted before the court that the issue related to structures which date back to 1309. In. Hegde stated that, Issue notice to the parties, there was no mention of any demolition, wherein saying the threat. that the actions of the authorities are against the Supreme Court's order dated September 17, wherein the court directed that there demolition drive in Assam. should be no demolition

without the prior permission of the Court. The counsel submitted before the court that about 5 dargahs, 10 mosques and 45 houses spread over an



area of 57 acres were facing Court in the September 17 order for encroachments The counsel also placed in public spaces and lands reliance on the recent order

abutting waterbodies. of status quo passed by the The Solicitor General in Supreme Court on Sonpur the case stated that the subject matter of the case is government land and the pro-On the other hand, the ceedings for eviction were Solicitor General of India initiated in the year 2023. Tushar Mehta appearing

The Solicitor General, SG for the State of Gujarat, said that the demolition drive stated that the notices were issued and a personal hearwas falling within the exing was given to the parties. ception carved out by the

Although the parties approached several authorities, including the Waqf Tribu-

nal, they got no relief. The Solicitor General submitted that, 'This is abutting a waterbody, namely the sea. This being 340 meters away from the Somnath temple. So after following the procedure, this action is taken. It falls within the exception carved out by your lordships.' The bench headed by Jus-

tice Gavai told the SG that, 'We will not issue notice, you file your reply.'

The Senior counsel Hegde then requested a status quo order.

The SG pointed out that the Gujarat High Court yesterday passed a detailed order declining to direct status quo against the demolitions in the area.

tice Gavai stated that the order dated September 17 clarified that it would not apply to encroachments in public places and areas

abutting waterbodies. It has also been arrested by Hegde that the properties won't fall within any of the exceptions. He voiced the apprehension that by the next day of the hearing, the entire properties would be razed down and the status quo of the whole area would be changed.

Hegde pressed that, '9 structures are demolished. How many structures are there?'

The bench of Justice Viswanathan asked that, 'This is an area of 57 acres granted during the old Junagadh state...5 dargahs, 10 mosques and 45 hous- out an early morning illegal

es...status quo as on today should be maintained.'

Muslim religious places of worship including mosques, The bench in the case observed and has declined to eidgahs, dargahs, mausolegrant the interim relief and ums and residential places posted the matter to Octoof Mutawallis of the said dargahs on September 28, ber 16, while clarifying that 2024 without issuing any if the authorities are found to have acted in contempt of notices for such demolition the Court order, then they and without granting any will be held liable to restore opportunity of hearing. The petitioner in the plea the properties.

The bench headed by Jusclaimed that the authorities tice Gavai stated that, 'This in Gujarat violated the orcourt find that they are in der dated September 17 by contempt of our order, we carrying out demolitions will ask them to restore the without providing any status quo ante. prior notice. The petition In the present case, the seeks initiation of contempt petition is filed by Sumproceedings and impleads **Gujarat State's Principal**

mast Patni Musslim Jamat, a Trust representing the Secretary, a Collector and District Magistrate, SP (Gir Patni Muslim community of Prabhas Patan, wherein Somnath) and others as it is stated that the responparty-respondents. dents herein have carried The petition was filed through AoR Anas Tanwir.

Madras High Court Issued Notice On Plea To Remove Delhi High Court Rejected Sukesh Chandrashekhar's Plea Against His 'Transfer' Dialogues Glorifying 'Encounter' In Upcoming Vettaiyan Movie From Mandoli Jail To Any Other Prison

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court in the case Palanivelu v The Chief Secretary To Government of TamilNaduandOthers observed and has ordered notice in a petition filed seeking to remove dialogues glorifying encounters in the upcoming Rajnikanth starrer film Vettaiyan. The bench comprising of

Justice R Subramanian and Justice Victoria Gowri was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case ob-

served and has ordered nosuch unconstitutional dialogues were permitted to be tice to the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Censor screened, the public would Board of Film Certification, soon start demanding enand Lyca Production in a counters in every criminal petition filed by Palanivelu case rather than putting the offender behind bars by jufrom Madurai. dicial trials.

The petition filed by Palanivel pointed out that in the recently released trailer of the movie Vettaiyan, Rajnikanth's character was seen saying that "encounter is not only a punishment but also a preventive action to stop such crimes.'

It has also been pointed the court that the movie out by Palanivel that if was not legally qualified

for a U/A certificate when an unconstitutional extraiudicial killing was glorified and justified as legal and constitutional.

Further, Palanivel also submitted that the movie must be restricted to adults only Adding to it, Palanivel stated as a child would take the that such a situation would word of a top hero as a sanclead to the accused being detified one in his young mind. fenseless by losing his fun-Adding to it, Palanivel statdamental right to defense ed that Tamil cinema has ingrained under Article 21 always played a big role in changing the psychology of Palanivel submitted before the people and there was a chance that the people would start seeking justice

through fake encounters thinking it as a way for speedy justice.

Further, Palanivel submitted that characterizing Rajnikanth's role as a renowned encounter specialist would promote ruthless Police Raj rather than having faith in the judicial system and other constitutional organs. It has also been submitted by Palanivel that he was approaching the court since the Cinematograph Act 1952 did not have any provision for a third party to make an objection and get redressal.

The Delhi High Court in the case Sukash Chandrashekhar @ Sukesh v. State Govt NCT Of Delhi observed and has rejected the prayer of alleged conman Sukesh Chandra Shekhar, booked in an extortion case, wherein seeking directions upon the jail authorities not to transfer him from Mandoli jail to any other prison in the na-

The bench headed by Justice Neena Bansal Krishna in the case observed and has stated that three days' notice be given to Chandrashekhar in case he is shifted from Mandoli jail to another jail.

The court in the case observed and has disposed of the petition filed by Sukesh Chandra Shekhar, which also sought direc- ments and he was being tion from the authorities



had been suffering from various ailments, which includes Gall Bladder stones since 2020, and had been taken to Safdarjung Hospital and RML

It has been submitted by him before the court that the transfer would interfere with his medical treatment.

The bench headed by Justice Krishna in the case noted that Chandrashekhar was being taken to Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital for his ailtreated outside hospitals

ent condition is stable However, the Central Jail, Tihar also has similar facility of psychiatric treatment. Such directions which interfere with the administration of Jail should not be made unless there are any compelling reasons or mala fides reflected on the part of Jail Administration. Adding to it, the court stated that, considering that the treatment which the petitioner is undergoing can easily be made available to him at other Iail complexes, this Court

Psychiatrist and his pres

Makers Of 'Emergency' Film Tell Bombay High Court: Issues Have Been Worked Out For Release Of Movie Certification, CBFC, Zee tion, CBFC would verify **TDG NETWORK** Studios and Manikarnika the same and issue a cer-NEW DELHI

The Bombay High Court in the case observed and has informed that the makers Emergency, have 'worked

Ranaut, the issue has been worked out. of the controversial film The counsel, Senior Ad- pose of the petition filed by the certificate citing vari- referred the matter to its appearing for Zee Studios informed the judges that the makers will need at least two weeks time in order to comply with the changes suggested by the revising committee of the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC. Further, the judge informed that after the compliance, the Central

Films Productions which tificate for the film which is owned by Kangana is to be released. In the present case, a

prayer was made to disvocate Sharan Jagtiani Zee Studios and the judges ous objections to the film. agreed to the same. The bench in the case was hearing the petition filed by Zee Studios, wherein seeking a direction to the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC to issue a certificate for the release of the film. It has been contended by the co-producer before the court that the censor Board of Film Certificaboard has initially grant-

of the Constitution.

ed an e-certificate and had also intimated Ranaut about the same through emails.

However, it refused to hand over the hard copy of

film and take a decision by September 18.

Earlier, the bench was irked to know that the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC has now

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tional capital.

out' the issue with regards to the cuts and edits to be made so that it can be released for public viewing. The division bench comprising of Justice Burgess Colabawalla and Justice Firdosh Pooniwalla was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case was informed that after communications between the Central Board of Film raised particularly by the Sikh Community.

On the other hand, the CBFC has maintained that it never issued an e-certificate and that the emails, which are being relied upon by Ranaut and Zee, were auto-generated mail. The bench ordered Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC to consider the objections, if any, to the

revising committee. It has been alleged by Zee Studios before the bench, that the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC was acting on behalf of the Central Government and was thus purposely delaying the film's release as the BJP, which is in power, does not want the film to

impact the upcoming elections in Haryana, since it is being seenas'Anti-sikh.'

to give four days' advance notice to him in case of the transfer.

It being the case of him that he be not transferred from Mandoli Jail as he

for his physiological aildoes not find any necessity for issuing directions ments.

The court observed that for not transferring the it is being claimed that he petitioner to other jails, if is suffering from anxiety so necessitated for the adand is being treated by a ministrative reasons.

Supreme Court: Judges Of Bombav High Court Overburdened, Can't **Fix Timeline For Disposal**

Karnataka High Court Stayed Order Directing OLA Cabs To Pay Compensation To Customer Who Alleged Sexual Harassment By Driver

of the Sexual Harassment

of Woman At Workplace

(Prevention, Prohibition

and Redressal) Act, 2013,

POSH Act. The process is

to be completed within the

period of 90 days and a re-

port needs to be submitted

The court in the case held

that the driver of OLA

would be considered an

to the District Officer.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

The Karnataka High Court in the case ANI **Technologies** Private Limited & Ms X & Others observed and has stayed till October 28, 2024, a single judge bench order wherein the court had directed ANI Technologies, which owns and operates OLA Cabs, to pay a sum for an amount of Rs 5 lakh towards compensation to a woman who allegedly faced sexual harassment at the hands of their driver, during a trip in the year 2019.

The vacation bench comprising of Justice S R Krishna Kumar and Justice M G Uma was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed and has stated that, 'The matter requires consideration." Then it issued notice to the respondents which is returnable on October 28 and has said that, 'Notice to respon-



The petitioner was allegedly subjected to sexual harassment in 2019 and the complaint of her to ANI Technologies, seeking action against the driver was not entertained.

dents, there shall be stay of the order till next date of hearing.'

A single judge bench of Justice M G S Kamal in its order dated September 30, wherein the court directed the Internal Complaints Committee of the company to hold an inquiry into the complaint in accordance with provisions

employee as stated under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, POSH Act.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Dhyan Chinnappa appearing for the appellant submitted before the court that OLA does not employ the driver, and so the implementation of the Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013, PoSH Act would be doubtful.

The court in its order had also cautioned the stakeholders in order to ensure compliance with Section 16 of the Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal, POSH Act and see that the identity of persons involved in the matter is not disclosed. The court directed the ANI Technologies to pay an additional amount of Rs 50,000 towards litigation expenses. The petitioner was allegedly subjected to sexual harassment in 2019 and

the complaint of her to ANI Technologies, seeking action against the driver was not entertained. Therefore, the internal Complaints Committee in case had declined to hold an enquiry in the present matter upon the advice given by 'external legal counsel' that it did not have jurisdiction to enquire into the matter. However, she approached the high court wherein seeking direction on the company to inquire into

the complaint. Further, the court in its order directed the Karnataka State Road Transport authority, which had issued notice seeking an explanation from ANI Technologies, to proceed with the matter and complete the process within the period of 90 days, after affording the opportunity of hearing. The court imposed an amount of Rs. 1 lakh cost on the State, purportedly for failure to respond to the petition.

The Supreme Court in the case observed that the judges of the Bombay High Court are 'overburdened'. the court turned down a prayer to fix a time-line for the disposal of an execution

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case considered the fact that the judges of the Bombay High Court are overburdened such a direction cannot be issued especially when there may be older execution applications which are pending.

The bench headed by Justice Oka, whose parent High Court is the Bombay High Court, spoke about the case load of the judges there.

The bench of Justice Oka in the case observed that, the sanctioned strength of Bombay High Court is 92 judges, there are 64 judges. Every judge has more than 100 matters on the cause list. In the present case, the



The bench in the case considered the fact that the judges of the Bombay High Court are overburdened such a direction cannot be issued especially when there may be older execution applications which are pending.

special leave petition was filed against the delay in the disposal of the execution petition, saying that it has been adjourned over 35 times. The counsel appearing before the court submitted that the matter was directed to be disposed of within two months in October last year.

The bench of Justice Oka stated that, 'In Bombay High Court Original Side the judges have more than hundred and fifty matters (daily).' The court in the

case clarified that the petitioner is at liberty to request the High Court for a priority hearing.

On September 24, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the elevation of nine advocates as the Bombay High Court judges. Last Week, the bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, while hearing a similar matter concerning the Bombay High Court observed that the appointment of the new judges to the High Court was likely to takeplacesoon.

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matter.

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WORLD

BEIRUT STRIKES KILLED HEZBOLLAH'S COMMUNICATIONS COMMANDER: IDF

AGENCIES TEL AVIV

precision strike by Israel in the Lebanese capital Beirut resulted in the death of Mohammad Rashid Sakafi, the commander of Hezbollah's communications unit. Sharing a post on X, the IDF wrote on Friday, "Mohammad Rashid Sakafi, the Commander of Hezbollah's Communications Unit, during a precise, intelligence-based strike in Beirut yesterday.' According to the Israeli

Defence Force (IDF), Sakafi was allegedly affiliated with Hezbollah and played a key role in enhancing the organisation's communication infrastructure across its units. "Sakafi was a senior Hezbollah terrorist, who was responsible for

Russia has evacuated 60

family members of its dip-

lomats from Lebanon as

the Israeli offensive against

Hezbollah intensifies, the

state-run TASS news outlet

reported Thursday.

AGENCIES

BEIRUT



the communications unit since 2000. Sakafi invested significant efforts to develop communication capabilities between all of Hezbollah's units," the IDF said.

The IDF has also conducted raids in southern Lebanon, which led to the discovery and seizure of weapons, including rocket launcher munitions, antitank missiles, and rockets.

Sharing a post on X, the IDF wrote, "24hr Operational Recap in Southern Lebanon: During precise intelligence-based raids, IDF troops discovered rocket launcher munitions, antitank missiles and rockets

inside a residential home." It added, "Additionally, dozens of weapons--aimed at Israeli territory--were left behind in buildings and

The escalation follows a

country's southern regions.

On Wednesday, Israel an-

nounced a limited incursion

into Lebanon after heavy air-

strikes left hundreds dead.

The Israeli Defence Forces

(IDF) stated that they had

killed 60 Hezbollah opera-

tives and struck more than

200 targets in the past 24

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Prime Minister Imran Khan's

sisters - Aleema Khan and

Uzma Khan, from D Chowk

in Islamabad "for exercising

her right of peaceful protest."

Calling the government

"fake and victim of panic,"

Imran Khan-founded party

said that the government is

crossing all limits of fascism

by depriving people of their

basis rights to maintain their

"illegitimate power." In a post

on X, PTI stated, "Former PM

Imran Khan's sister Aleema

Khan has been arrested by

the police at D Chowk for

exercising her right of Peace-

ful Protest. Such is the state

of affairs in Pakistan under a

fascist regime where citizens

have been completely ripped

of their fundamental rights."

hours alone.



civilian homes, including anti-tank missiles, firearms, observation posts and an explosive device buried by the enemy in the area."

Earlier, Israel, in the early hours of Thursday, bombed central Beirut, killing at least six people and injuring eight others, Lebanon officials had stated.

Moscow condemned Isra-

el's attack, calling on Israeli

authorities to "immediately"

withdraw their troops from

Lebanon. In its statement,

Russia urged for restraint

from all parties involved

and for the protection of ci-

vilians caught in the conflict,

reported The Moscow Times.

Israeli forces have also

called on residents of 25

villages in southern Leba-

non, including the city of

Nabatieh, to evacuate im-

mediately. This marks the

first time Israel has ordered

evacuations north of the Lit-

ani River, a strategic area in

ers landed in open areas.

the conflict.

IDF had said in a statement that soldiers backed

by aircraft had "eliminated terrorists and dismantled terrorist infrastructure through precision-guided munitions and close-range engagements" in several southern Lebanese areas.

A multi-story block in the Bachoura locality of Beirut housed a Hezbollah-affiliated health centre, which Israel's military said was hit in a "precision" attack.

Russia evacuates families of diplomats from Lebanon infrastructure, including observation posts, weapon depots, and operatives, the

Times of Israel reported. Russia is closely monitoring the conflict as tensions escalate between Israel and Hezbollah. As the humanitarian crisis worsens, Moscow has made clear its intention to continue evacuations if necessary and to provide further humanitarian sup-

port to the region. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that over 1,000 Lebanese citizens have been killed and 6,000 wounded in the conflict in recent weeks, with many casualties believed to be Hezbollah

As of Thursday morning, Hezbollah had fired more fighters. than 75 rockets into north-Israel's intensified air and ern Israel, with no immediground operations, aimed ate reports of casualties. The IDF stated that many rockets were intercepted, while oth-Israel's air force has continued to target Hezbollah's

at dismantling Hezbollah's military infrastructure, have drawn widespread international attention and sparked

calls for restraint from various global powers.

Khameini calls Iran's missile attack on Israel legal, legitimate

AGENCIES TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in his first address in five years to a Friday gathering, defended the "legal and legitimate" missile attack by Iran on Israel and called for 'Muslim unity."

After leading prayers at the Imam Khomeini's Grand Mosalla in central Tehran, Khamenei in his sermon stated that Iran missile strikes are the "least punishment" for Israel.

He strongly reaffirmed support for anti-Israeli militia groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, portraying this as an Islamic duty. Further he issued warnings of potential direct missile strikes from Iranian soil if deemed necessary.

"We neither procrastinate nor hurry in fulfilling our duty. What is reasonable and correct according to the opinion of political and military decision-makers will be done in due time and will be done again in the future if necessary," Khamenei said in a thinly veiled warning for Israel as cited by IRNA

news agency. He said the Muslims will no longer be negligent, and must tighten the belt of defence.

"The Quran's policy for Muslims is that Islamic governments should be in solidarity with each other. If you have this solidarity, God's honour is yours, and



Mosque.

"We neither

procrastinate nor burry in fulfilling our duty. What is reasonable and correct according to the opinion of political and military decisionmakers will be done in due time and will be done again in the future if necessary, "

- Seyyed Ali Khamenei

you will be victorious over your enemies...The enemy's policy is to divide and rule. They implemented these policies in different ways in Muslim countries, but today, the nations have woken up; today is the day when you can overcome this trick of the enemies of Islam and Muslims..." Khamenei said.

"Muslims should no longer be negligent. We must tighten the belt of defence and independence in all Islamic countries, from Afghanistan to Yemen," the

tine again." "The Palestinian nation has the right to stand against the enemy who has occupied its land and ruined its life. Defending the Palestinians is legitimate, and helping them is also legitimate,' Khamenei said. "The Al-Aqsa Storm Operation was a legitimate move, and the Palestinians were

In a strong message to Is-

rael, the Supreme leader of

Iran, said, "If needed, Iran

will attack occupied Pales-

right. The defence of the Lebanese people of Gaza is a legitimate and legal move. The brilliant operation of our armed forces was completely legal and legitimate," he said on the October 7, 2023 attacks.

Iran launched approximately 200 ballistic missiles at targets in Israel ealier this week on October 1 this in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week and following the July 31 assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Russia reaffirms support for China on Taiwan issue

AGENCIES

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has reaffirmed Moscow's support for China on the Taiwan issue, aligning with their longstanding position, Taiwan News reported.

"Russia's position on the Taiwan issue has been un-



a peace proposal consisting of a conference with leaders from Russia and Ukraine. He also affirmed that Ukrainian President Voldodymyr Zelenskyy rejected the idea, forming his "victory plan" and insisted on restoring Ukraine's 1991 post-Soviet borders.

The 'One China principle'

out on an IL-76 aircraft designed to carry heavy cargo. The aircraft also brought 33 tons of humanitarian aid to September.

plies, and generators. The Russian Embassy in Beirut told RBC business news that over 3.000



try, the families were flown from Beirut airport.

Beirut, which included food, medicines, essential sup-

Rossiskaya Gazeta newspa per said. week of intense airstrikes in Lebanon and an Israeli ground offensive against Hezbollah forces in the

Russian media sources have reported that over 1.000 citizens had already expressed their desire to leave Lebanon as of late

"If the situation in the country continues to heat up, the evacuation flights will be continued," the state-run

of Pakistan ahead of PTI protest

Internet shut down in major cities

AGENCIES ISLAMABAD

Internet services have been shut down across major Pakistani cities like Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Karachi, ahead of the planned protests by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

Ary News reported that services have been suspended in several parts of the country and netizens have been facing issues in accessing social media apps.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's PTI is holding protests to mark the party's displeasure over the degrading law and order situation in the country. Volunteers in large numbers are expected to show up for the protest.

The protests are taking place against the constitutional amendments proposed by the Shehbaz Sharif government. The Tehreek-e-Insaf party said it will also be raising the issue of failing independence of the judiciary, and the party is mobilising the masses to put pressure for the release of Khan, who has been in prison under a slew of cases against him

Lahore's D-Chowk or Democracy Chowk is known in Pakistan as the place where various protests routinely take place. In the past, Imran Khan had a126-day sit-in protest here in 2014. Section 144 has been imposed in the Punjab prov-



ince of Pakistan ahead of the **Police arrests** rally's call so as to ban politi-Imran Khan's cal gatherings, protests and rallies. It will be imposed sisters from from October 4 till October Islamabad 6. It has been imposed key cities like Lahore, Attock, AGENCIES SLAMABAD

and Sargodha. In addition, Rangers have been called in to assist in maintaining law and order, Ary News reported. The decision to impose the restrictions and deploy Rangers was made based on recommendations from the district administration. Separately, in response to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf call for a protest, the Islamabad police have 'formed' seven teams to arrest protestors, Ary News stated.

According to sources, special police teams consisting of 15 to 17 policemen have been created to manage the law and order situation ahead of the protests across the country. The teams will operate under the leadership of Superintendents of Police with each team being headed by a sub-inspector rank officer. Ary News claimed.

aid for Afghanistan to help country deal with crisis

UN donor's conference raises

AGENCIES DUBAI

The United Nations hosted a donor's conference for Afghanistan in Dubai.

According to Khaama news, both domestic and international organizations, along with political representatives from various countries participated in the conference held on October 3 and discussed aid to Afghanistan, which is currently under Taliban control and facing a severe humanitarian crisis.

They exchanged views on the best approaches towards the situation and reaffirmed

their commitment towards continuing to offer humanitarian support to the people of Afghanistan. Participants also expressed that Afghanistan remains at the centre of the strategies of donor orga-

nizations and countries. The conference also addressed the challenges. posed by the Taliban's new restrictions under the "Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice" law. This law has imposed severe limitations. particularly against women. Under this law, women cannot leave their homes without a male guardian, and their voices are considered

changed support for China's territorial integrity." He said this support has been expressed at different levels, "including at the very top," Lavrov said on Thursday during an interview with a Russian government newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta. Further, he criticised the US for "deliberately stirring up the situation in the Taiwan Strait.'

"In violation of the 'One China' principle that they recognise, they are strengthening ties with the island's administration," Lavrov said.

Lavrov said the two countries felt similar "in assessing the risks associated with the advance of the West" in

the Indo-Pacific region. He said the US and NATO discredited the security mechanisms in Europe and Euro-Atlantic affairs, as per Taiwan News. The Russian foreign minister called for a "new architecture for Eurasian security. He said Russia supports China in opposing US attempts to influence the region.

In addition, Lavrov commended China's balanced approach to the Ukraine War. He said both countries sought to stop the war's causes, which they said were NATO's expansion eastward and the creation of an "anti-Russian military bridgehead in Ukraine."

Lavrov said that China and

tribute to further destruction

resulting in landslides and flash floods," the authority

The authority has also

alerted people to be cautious

before travelling. It also has

requested all to take shelter

in safer places along the

highway in case of heavy

rain. The warning comes af-

ter the Weather Forecasting

Division said that monsoon

stated in the notice.

is a position held by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that there exists only one sovereign state under the name China, with the PRC serving as the sole legitimate government of China, and Taiwan.

Meanwhile, Taiwan reports multiple air and sea incursions almost every day. So far this month. Taiwan has tracked 407 Chinese military aircraft and 206 ships. Since September 2020, China has increased its use of gray zone tactics by incrementally increasing the number of military aircraft and naval vessels operating around Taiwan.

Nepal floods: India offers relief assistance

(PTI) said on Friday that po-AGENCIES lice arrested former Pakistan KATHMANDU

Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, has expressed his heartfelt condolences to Nepal after the Himalayan nation was battered by heavy flooding and landslides in a massive disaster last week, and reaffirmed India's commitment to providing assistance in relief and reconstruction efforts

In a gesture of solidarity, Srivastava conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and assured that 'India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal at this difficult time.' "I convey on our behalf and the Government of India, sincere condolences for the recent floods that have caused tremendous loss of lives and damage to the property," the ambassador said.

indecent in public spaces.

"As Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote in a letter to KP (Sharma) Oli, the Prime Minister of Nepal; India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal at this difficult time, We are also ready to extend all possible assistance as required by the Government of Nepal for its relief and reconstruction efforts. We look forward, as in the past, to further cooperation in these efforts for our

people," he added. After the heavy rainfall since last week of September, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority recently



issued warnings of possible heavy rainfall across various locations in Bagmati and Koshi, urging people to exercise caution while travelling.

Issuing a notice, the authority warned that heavy rainfall is expected till Friday. "After the heavy rainfall since last week of September, land mass in various locations have weakened and light rainfall can also con-

winds are currently affecting the country.

The death toll from the rain-induced disaster, which began last Saturday, has risen to 241, with 29 still missing, according to the Armed Police Force (APF).

According to the hydrology department's readings on September 28, three weather stations in Kavrepalanchowk recorded record-high rainfall. Khopasi weather station recorded 331.6mm, Panchkhal recorded 232.5mm, and Dhulikhel recorded 224.6mm of rain.

On the same day, 22 other weather stations across Nepal also recorded record rainfall, despite earlier projections that the country would receive above-average rainfall this year.



COMET AT MOONRISE



Fondly known as comet A3, this new visitor to the inner Solar System is traveling from the distant Oort cloud. The comet reached perihelion, its closest approach to the Sun, on September 27 and will reach perigee, its closest to our fair planet, on October 12, by then becoming an evening sky apparition. But comet A3 was an early morning riser on September 30 when this image was made. NASA photo

BIDEN: 'IN DISCUSSION' ON POSSIBLE STRIKES ON IRAN'S OIL FACILITIES

AGENCIES **WASHINGTON D**

nited States President Joe Biden on Thursday stated that he is "in discussion" about possible strikes on Iranian oil facilities.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Biden, when asked if he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities, responded, "We're in discussion of that. I think -- I think that would be a little -- anyway.'

Oil prices rose following Biden's suggestion that US and Israeli officials were considering a possible Israeli strike on Iranian oil facilities, as reported by the Washington Post. Later, before boarding Air

Force One for a trip to Flor-



ida and Georgia to inspect stated that he would not damage caused by Hursupport Israel attacking ricane Helene, Biden was Iranian nuclear sites. asked whether he would allow Israel to retaliate had told reporters on against Iran. According to Wednesday when asked a White House statement, about this. Biden said, "First of all, we don't allow Israel. We advise the Israelis what they're going to do," he added, noting Israel. And nothing is going to happen today. We'll talk that all G7 countries agree about that later." that Israel has "a right to

A day earlier, Biden had

respond in proportion."

He further mentioned that he had called for a meeting of the G7 countries, and they were working on a joint statement. "... obviously, Iran has gone way out of--I mean, is way off board. We're putting together a joint statement. It hasn't been finalised yet. It will be done soon, probably by the time we land. And there are going to be some sanctions imposed on Iran," Biden told reporters. Biden also said he would speak "relatively soon" with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu had warned of the consequences Iran would face after Tehran launched around 200 rockets in a direct missile at-

Will continue to provide Ukraine aid to defend herself: US defence secy

AGENCIES WASHINGTON

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said on Friday that he discussed battlefield dynamics with the Minister of Defense of Ukraine Rustem Umerov.

"The answer is no," Biden

"We'll be discussing with

respond, but they should

Austin said that he also discussed US President Joe Biden's recent meeting with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In a post on X, he said, "Today, I spoke with Minister Rustem Umerov to discuss battlefield dynamics and the outcomes of Biden's recent meeting with Zelenskyy. The United States, together with more than 50 Allies and partners, will continue to provide Ukraine the sup-



tack on Israel on October 1.

port it needs to defend its freedom and sovereign territory.'

Earlier on September 27, Zelenskyy met with Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss the details of Ukraine's Victory Plan amid the ongoing war with Russia.

During the meeting, Zelenskyy expressed his gratitude for the support of the United States, highlighting that the two nations have stood together since the beginning of the Russian invasion.

Geneva: Activists at UN highlight human rights abuses in Pakistan

AGENCIES

Human rights activists condemned Pakistan on Thursday for a range of severe human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture aimed at silencing dissent.

The event, titled "Human Rights Situation in South Asia: Enforced Disappearances, Extrajudicial Killings, Arbitrary Detentions & Torture in Pakistan," took place on the sidelines of the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The event was led by Fazal Ur Rehman Afridi, a Pashtun political activist and Principal Representative of TUMUKU (ECOSOC), an NGO.

Other panellists included Shunichi Fujiki, Managing Director of the International Career Support Association; Naseem Baloch, Chairman of the Baloch National Movement; Vermaut Andy, a journalist and human rights defender; Jafari Reza, Chairman of the Afghan Peace Dialogue; and Jabarkhail Azizullah, a member of PTM International Advocacy (USA).

Afridi condemned the actions of the Pakistani military against Pashtun activists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recounting how, even the day before, Pakistani forces had targeted benefit of people of two countries and

Jaishankar, Sri Lankan prez Dissanayake discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties partnership. "Concluded wide-ranging

AGENCIES согомвс

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Friday. The two leaders discussed ways to deepen cooperation and strengthen bilateral ties to benefit the people of India and Sri Lanka.

During the meeting, Jaishankar conveyed warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu to Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

In a post on X, Jaishankar stated, "Honored to call on President @ anuradisanayake today in Colombo. Conveyed warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and PM @ narendramodi. Appreciate his warm sentiments and guidance for the India-Sri Lanka relations. Discussed ways to deepen ongoing cooperation and strengthen India-Sri Lanka ties for the



the region.

Jaishankar arrived in Sri Lanka earlier this morning, marking his first visit to the island country since President Anura Kumara Dissanayake took office. After arrival in Colombo, Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Sri Lankan counterpart Vijitha Herath, where both leaders discussed a range of matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Jaishankar conveyed India's continued support for Sri Lanka's economic rebuilding, emphasising the importance of their bilateral and detailed talks with FM Vijitha Herath today in Colombo. Congratulated him once again on his new responsibilities. Reviewed various dimensions of the India-Sri Lanka partnership. Assured him of India's continued support to Sri Lanka's economic rebuilding. Our Neighbourhood First Policy and Sagar outlook will always guide the advancement of India-Sri Lanka ties," Jaishankar wrote on X.

Following their meeting, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs shared pictures of the meeting. In a post on X, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vijitha Herath welcomed visiting Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar at @ MFA_SriLanka this afternoon and discussed a range of matters of mutual interest." Vijitha Herath, who assumed office on September 24 this year, is also the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Security, and Mass Media.

Melania Trump supports abortion rights in contradiction to Trump's views on the issue

AGENCIES WASHINGTON, DC



have been upset by the Union Minister of Comformer president's chang- merce and Industry, Piving opinions during his Presidential campaign. The US presidential elections are scheduled to be held on November 5 this year. Trump's selection of three justices to the Supreme Court resulted in the overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022 and opened the door for 22 states to impose abortion access restrictions, reported CBS News.

AGENCIES WASHINGTON DC



India regards US as most reliable trade partners: Goyal

India and the US had signed an MoU on critical minerals few years ago. to keep supply chains open "The Trade Policy Forum,

Goval further stated that regularly, a notable improvement compared to a

and foster collaboration be- the Commercial Dialogue

Ahead of the release of her memoir, former US First Lady, Melania Trump has voiced her support for abortion rights, putting forth contradictory views to her husband, who has taken credit for the Supreme Court's decision that ended the constitutional right to abortion, CBS News reported. "Individual freedom is a fundamental principle that I safeguard," Melania

said in a video posted on social media on Thursday. Notably, Melania Trump's memoir, "Melania," is set to be released in the US on Tuesday. "Without a doubt, There is no room for compromise

when it comes to this essential right that all women possess from individual freedom -- What does my body, my choice, really mean?" she wrote on X. Those who are advo-

cating for a national ban

ush Goyal, on Friday stated that US-India relations are expanding across various sectors, including trade, technology, and investment. Goyal emphasised that India places great importance

on its relationship with the United States. "Let me be clear: India regards the United States as one of our most reliable trade partners. We are increasingly expanding our relations and trade across

goods, services, technology, and investment. We deeply value this partnership. Under the Modi government, we have enjoyed excellent relations with the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations, and we expect this to continue in the future," he said.

tween India's Ministry of Mines and the US government.

"During my four-day visit to the US, we signed the MoU on critical minerals to ensure supply chains remain open and to foster collaboration between India's Ministry of Mines and the US government," he said.

Goyal highlighted that trade policy forums and commercial dialogues with the US are now occurring

with the US Commerce Secretary, and the India-US CEO Forum are all in regular contact. There was a time when such meetings were rare, with years passing without engagement. Today, they are focused, agenda-driven, and frequent," he said.

He also underscored that high-level meetings between India and the US are now consistently taking place.

ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT ENTERS PERILOUS STAGE INVOLVING WHOLE OF WEST ASIA

espite knowing the fact that violence, conflicts and wars do not benefit any country in any way, countries not only engage in violent conflicts, they also pose a serious challenge to global peace, security, humanity and economy. Ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict can be quoted as a classic example here. First, Hamas, a worldwide ill-famed terrorist organisation, attacked Israel on 7th October 2023. Rattled with the barbaric terrorist attack on its people including children and women, Israel announced a war against Hamas until it is eliminated completely. Since then, both Israel and Hamas are fighting a war that is impacting innocent people, and global peace and security by and large. Involvement of the surrounding nations and their proxies like Hezbollah and Houthi into the war, has further fuelled the tensions, and this week observed an

unfortunate situation when Iran unprecedently attacked Israel, taking this war to an unimaginable level and dimension.

No one wished for another violent conflict after Russia-Ukraine war, but another war between Israel-Hamas not only defied institutionalised peace, it is escalating with every passing day. The situation in the West Asia is increasingly precarious, with the potential for a comprehensive regional conflict looming on the horizon. The war will complete one year on 7th October.

Last year, this was the date when Hamas attacked Israel during the late hours causing many causalities including women and children. Israel responded, as expected, and since then, more parties are getting added to the war, making the whole situating very complicated. After Hamas,

WORLD RECAP

Hezbollah and Houthis ity of the situation and the came into the picture as heightened tensions in the region. After this shocking the proxies of Iran and other countries who have attack from Iran this week, been supporting Hamas. Israel has pledged to retali-This must be noted that ate against Iran following a significant launch of balthese terrorist organizalistic missiles directed at tions don't have their own territory and hence when its territory, marking a day of intense military escala-Israel attacked back, it was considered as an attack on tion. Israeli PM Benjamin Lebanon and Yemen. In Netanyahu remarked after this irregular warfare, Iran Iran's attack, "Iran made a added to the fuel when it big mistake tonight - and it attacked Israel by firing apwill pay for it". Iran is facing proximately 200 ballistic condemnation from many missiles aimed at Israeli countries and multilateral military installations, repplatforms like G-7, but Isresenting the largest offenrael has also been criticised sive of its kind to date. This for stopping the Secretary assault triggered alarm General of the UN to enter sirens throughout Israel into its territories. and activated the nation's Though the reactions

advanced defence systems, seem to be a mixed bag so underscoring the severfar, one thing is certain, this

war may not remain limited to the region. Israel's decision to attack or not to attack Iran would decide the future nature of this war. Israel has already killed the

chief of Hezbollah, and is an 'all out' mode against Hezbollah. If Israel persists with its airstrikes (there are no land borders between Israel and Iran) against Iran, the potential consequences from Iran are likely to be noteworthy. It is quite likely that Hezbollah could also be instructed to utilize a substantial portion of its surface-to-surface missile arsenal. However, in recent weeks, Israel has successfully neutralized or destroyed around one-third of Hezbollah's pre-conflict inventory. But, should Hezbollah decide to launch even half of the remaining missiles in consecutive waves aimed at critical targets such as Tel Aviv, military installations, Mossad operations, and Jerusalem, the ensuing devastation and loss of civilian life could be severe, notwithstanding the advanced air defence systems that Israel has in place. Another significant point is related to the safety and security of the countries that are located between Israel and Iran. Undoubtedly, it is an alarming situation for the whole international community.

On the other hand, the Israeli military has also mandated the evacuation of villages and towns in southern Lebanon situated north of a buffer zone established by the UN following the 2006 conflict. This week's warning indicates a potential expansion of Israel's military operations into southern Lebanon, which have thus far been limited to areas adjacent to the border. The situation has been exacerbated by Iran, contributing to heightened tensions in the West Asia, characterized by a series of escalating con-

frontations. As both parties continue to engage in hostilities, global stock markets are experiencing significant declines, driven by weak international indicators and growing concerns over the possibility of a full-scale war in the region. The US, amid the final stage of its presidential elections, does not want the war to further escalate. Biden has been indicating throughout these days that they are not in favour of any kind of escalations. He has expressed scepticism regarding the likelihood of any Israeli military actions against Iran occurring this week, as the region remains on edge in anticipation of Tehran's significant missile assault on Israel. Concurrently, the US also indicated that it was engaged in conversations with Israeli officials concerning potential responses to Iran's missile strike that took place earlier in the week. Amid the escalating war, we should

also look at the number of causalities, crashing stock markets, closed airspace by Israel, suspended flights from other countries, foreigners leaving the countries involved into conflict, soaring oil prices, and most of all, the suffering of the people.

India has so far put forward a very mature face by stating clearly on one hand that it stands with Israel against the brutal terror attack by Hamas, while reiterating its support for free Palestine on the other hand. This 'two-state solution' can be adopted to resolve the whole conflict. Though more than the armies and the countries, it seems that the sentiments are involved in the whole war. But the leaders need to understand what India keeps stating, 'this is not the time for war!' I can only hope at this point that the leaders realize this. (The author is Professor, School of International Studies, JNU)

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW SATURDAY | 05 OCTOBER 2024

NEW DELHI

MOVIES & OTT 13

KANGANA'S 'EMERGENCY' TO GO THROUGH CUTS



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TDG NETWORK мимва

Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Manikarnika Films Production House, informed the Bombay High Court on Friday that it has agreed to the cuts suggested by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for the film 'Emergency'.

be cleared for release if certain cuts, recommended by the board's revising committee, were made.

Earlier in September, Kangana Ranaut, in an interview, had opened up about the repercussions being faced by the makers of the 'Emergency' due to delay in the release of the film.

bearing a huge loss. De-

lay release is a loss for all.

I think the Censor Board

should take the responsi-

bility to release this film at

the earliest," she said.

During the hearing, the producers requested two weeks to make the required edits in line with CBFC's recommendations before resubmitting it for certification.

During the hearing, the producers requested two weeks to make the required edits in line with CBFC's recommendations before resubmitting it for certification. The CBFC also informed the court that they would verify the modifications and finalize the film's certification within two weeks after the changes are implemented.

'Emergency' originally scheduled for release on September 6, has faced delays due to ongoing issues with its certification. Last week, the CBFC told the court that the film could

LADY GAGA REVEALS HOW MICHAEL **PROPOSED HER FOR WEDDING**

to 1977.

PICTURE PERFECT

Kareena Kapoor is posing with her sistersin-law Soha Ali Khan (Right) and Saba Ali Khan (Left) at her house in a fam-jam on Thursday. (Source: Instagram)



BRAIN PICKING

We are all somewhere or the other a little grey, not black and white. We have our imperfections.



-KRITI SANON (Indian Actress)

KIM KARDASHIAN CALLS FOR RELEASE OF **MENENDEZ BROTHERS**



TDG NETWORK **OS ANGELES**

After recently visiting the controversial Menendez Brothers in prison, reality TV star Kim Kardashian penned an essay demanding Erik and Lyle, who were convicted of killing their parents in 1996, be freed.

reported.

experiences. They shape who we were, who we are, and who we will be. Physiologically and psychologically, time changes us, and I doubt anyone would claim to be the same person they were at 18. I know I'm not," she said. Advocating for a

akers of Alia Bhatt "I know how I made this film... I did not get any support from the film industry. release date for the film. It's made on a huge budget. I along with Zee and other made on the official social partners created Emermedia handles of Yash Raj gency, and now with the Films. release delay, everyone is

PHA will rise! Get ready for an action-packed holiday... 25th Dec, 2025.

shivrawail | #YRFSpyUniverse," the post read.

The film, a biographical political thriller, delves into the life of Indira Gandhi, release date details on it. who imposed a 21-month emergency period from 1975 shoot for the film.

> shared a scenic photograph from the Kashmir shoot.

The image features Alia forming a heart shape with and Sharvari looking away their hands.

from the camera against The post was accompanied by the caption "Love, the backdrop of Kashmir's breathtaking natural scen-ALPHA" and a collision ery. They both were seen emoji, further enhanced by embracing each other with the movie's theme music. one arm draped over the

enthusiasm for the project by posting a picture with director Shiv Rawail, expressing her excitement about the

Her caption read, "It doesn't get bigger than this! Super stoked to start my #Alpha journey today! Trust me...

Govinda discharged from hospital after gunshot injury

TDG NETWORK

Actor and Shiv Sena leader Govinda has been discharged from Mumbai's CritiCare hospital after sus-

In a recent Instagram update, Sharvari shared her

journey ahead.

Kardashian wrote the essav for NBC News, Variety

"We are all products of our

their Beverly Hills home. In 1996, after two trials, they were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. As is often the case, this story is much more complex than it appears on the surface. Both brothers said they had been sexually, physically and emotionally abused for years by their parents. According to Lyle, the abuse started when he was just 6 years old, and Erik said he was raped by his father for more than a decade. Following years of abuse and a real fear for their lives, Erik and Lyle chose what they thought at the time was their only way out -- an unimaginable way to escape their living night mare," she continued. Kim's essay came shortly after news emerged that prosecutors in Los Angeles are reviewing new evidence in the case after attorneys for the Menendez brothers asked a court to vacate their conviction.

ALIA, SHARVARI'S SPY DRAMA 'ALPHA' **TO BE RELEASED ON CHRISTMAS 2025**

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

and Sharvaristarrer 'Alpha' have locked Christmas 2025 The announcement was

"On Christmas 2025, #AL-

@aliaabhatt|@sharvari@

The makers also shared

the film's new poster with Recently, both Alia and Sharvari visited Kashmir to

Taking to Instagram, Alia

other's shoulder while





TDG NETWORK WASHINGTON

During a recent appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live!, Lady Gaga shared heartwarming details about her engagement to Michael Polansky.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the pop icon revealed that the proposal came shortly after her birthday, surprising her in a special way.

"He proposed to me right after my birthday, so my birthday passed and I was like, 'Oh, I thought he was going to propose,'" Gaga recounted to host Jimmy Kimmel.

However, a delightful twist awaited her during a rock climbing trip they had planned together.

"We went on a trip together, and we went rock climbing and we've been rock climbing before, which was super fun," she explained, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

When Kimmel inquired about her rock climbing experience, Gaga humorously responded, "I do now. I would do anything for love."

Gaga went on to describe the moment of the proposal, noting Polansky's thoughtful approach.

"He actually -- it was very Michael -- he asked me if he could ask me. He wanted to know if it was OK to propose before he proposed. And I was like, 'Yes, it's so OK!"" she said.

While Kimmel questioned why Polansky didn't pop the question at the peak of their climb, Gaga suggested it was a wise choice. "It was smart. It was safe.

He had the ring in his backpack, so it was super cute," she explained.

Though Polansky didn't get down on one knee during the proposal, Gaga expressed her satisfaction with the moment.

"He didn't, but I'm a modern lady. I like what he did," she remarked.

Regarding their wedding plans, Gaga revealed she has considered a simple ceremony.

"We actually talk a lot about just going to a courthouse just the two of us and just ordering Chinese food," she said with a laugh, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

However, she also joked that knowing her personality, the wedding could easily turn into "a circus with unicorns.'

Gaga and Polansky were first romantically linked in 2020, making their public debut during the Super Bowl in Miami.

At that time, Gaga shared a photo on Instagram of the couple enjoying their time together on a yacht, captioning it, "We had so much fun in Miami.'

On Friday afternoon, Govinda made his first public appearance following the mishap. After exiting the hospi-

taining a bullet injury.

tal, he spoke with media personnel and thanked his well-wishers for their

prayers. "I thank everyone for

their prayers... I thank CM Shinde, police and the press. I especially thank my fans for praying so much for me. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their love," Govinda said.

The 'Hero No.1' star was in a wheelchair with his leg in a cast. His family members were by his side.

Govinda was rushed to the

TDG NETWORK MUMBA

> Loved watching Salman Khan in 'Kick'? If yes, then there's great news for you all. Bollywood superstar, fondly known as 'Bhaijaan', is all set to come up with 'Kick 2'.

> > On Friday, Producer Sajid Nadiadwala took to Instagram and shared a candid photoshoot of Salman Khan. In the image, Salman can be seen flaunting his biceps.

However, it's Sajid's caption that caught everyone's attention.

"It was a great Kick 2 photo shoot Sikandar.!!! From Grand Sajid Nadiadwala (sic)," he wrote, leaving fans excited. Within no time, fans chimed in the comment



hospital on October 1 after his licenced revolver allegedly misfired, resulting in a bullet wound to his knee. The incident took place at approximately 4:45 am on Tuesday.

According to the Mumbai Police, Govinda was preparing to leave for Kolkata and was putting his revolver back in the cupboard when

it accidentally discharged. His manager, Shashi Sinha, provided further details said, "Govinda was getting ready to leave for Kolkata and was putting his licensed revolver back in the cupboard when it slipped

from his hand, and the gun went off, hitting him in the leg. The doctor has removed the bullet, and his condition

is stable. He is still in the hospital."

In a message to his fans from hospital, Govinda expressed his appreciation for their prayers and wellwishes. "Hello, this is Govinda. With the blessings of my fans, my parents, and God, I am doing better now. I was hit by a bullet, which

SALMAN KHAN TO SHINE IN

has now been removed.

re-evaluation of their life sentences, Kim argued that the Menendez Brothers are not "monsters". "You think vou know the story of Lyle and Erik Menendez. I certainly thought I did: In 1989, the brothers, aged 21 and 18, respectively, viciously shot

RAKUL SLAMS POLITICIAN OVER CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Actor Rakul Preet Singh lashed out at Telangana Minister Konda Surekha for allegedly using her name in a speech, and asked the Congress leader not to use her name for gaining "political mileage." Taking to social me-



its creativity and profes-

sionalism. I've had a great journey in this beautiful

related parties and phone dia platform X on Thurstapping and blackmailing day, Rakul Preet shared female actors. Surekha a long note. She said it also made comments on pains to hear "baseless Rakul Preet's marriage. and vicious rumours" be-"Telugu Film Industry is known worldwide for

of her fraternity. The 'Yaariyan' actor also stated that what is more "disheartening" is the fact that the remarks were made by another woman, in a responsible position.

ing spread about women

gana Minister K Surekha linked former Minister and BRS leader KTR to the divorce of Samantha and Naga Chaitanya, accusing KTR of tapping the phones of actors and blackmailing them.

She accused KTR of being involved in drug-

industry and still very much connected. It pains to hear such baseless and vicious rumours being spread about the women This comes after Telanof this fraternity. What's more disheartening is the fact that this is being done by another woman

who's supposedly in a very responsible position. For the sake of dignity, we choose to remain silent but it is misconstrued as our weakness," Rakul Preet stated in her post.



section and expressed their excitement about 'Kick 2'. "Super excited...can't wait for Kick 2," a social media user wrote. "Best news...all the best bhaijaan," another user wrote. Directed by Sajid Nadiad-

wala, 'Kick' was released in 2014. It also starred Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Randeep Hooda and Jacqueliene Fernandez. Meanwhile, Salman is busy shooting for 'Sikandar'. A.R. Murugadoss is directing the film.

It is set to release next Eid. Recently, Salman shared a picture from the sets of the 'Sikandar'.

In the picture, Salman is wearing a light blue shirt and smiling at a screen nearby.

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KEEPING THE HEART HEALTHY four times higher than the



DR. SATISH GUPTA

ntil the 1960s, heart disease was observed only in affluent people aged 60 years or more. But by the 1990s, doctors had begun seeing heart patients who were in their forties, and even thirties, and they came from different sections of society. Several studies around that time found that the prevalence of heart disease in individuals with Type A personality - constantly stressed because of their work or the pressure of time, perfectionists, cynics who found fault with others, sensitive and aggresgeneral population. People with anger, depression, and those unable to vent their feelings, also had higher incidence of heart problems. Today, heart disease is reported more in young and middle-aged people than in the elderly. I have seen numerous cases of patients who underwent angioplasty to open blocked arteries, or had bypass surgery following a heart attack, and some months later they were back with complaints of chest pain or blocked blood vessels. This happened repeatedly. It was clear that conventional methods of treatment were merely palliative and did not address the root cause of the disease. But when we change the patients' life-

style, it not only reverses their heart disease, but also every other disease of the mind and body. Studies have shown that regular practice of meditation and a healthy diet and

'off', and 'happy genes' that promote good health can be lifestyle can change gene sive types – was three to expression – the process by turned 'on'.



The key to preventing heart attacks is managing stress through meditation and healthy ventilation.

which a gene's information is turned into a function, such as making proteins. This can happen within three months. Genes associated with coronary artery disease, cancer, obesity, hypertension, and insulin resistance can be turned

This finding underlines the need for a three-dimensional approach to healthcare, which addresses our spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. There is a strong link between the mind and body. The mind has four aspects, together called TEAM - thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and memories. Each negative

thought, emotion, or attitude triggers the release of a chemical in the brain. The chemicals reach every cell in the body through the bloodstream. When this happens over a period of time, the stress hormones come into play, we feel stressed, switch to the fight or flight mode, and begin to feel uneasy and unwell.

start unburdening their These biochemical changes cause maximum damage heart in this manner, their to the part of the body that is already weak because of genetic or other factors, and it becomes diseased. There-

arterial blockages begin to regress within weeks, and they disappear altogether. It is important to note that

Genes associated with coronary artery disease, cancer, obesity, hypertension, and insulin resistance can be turned 'off', and 'happy genes' that promote good health can be turned 'on'.

fore, having a healthy mind is vital for physical health, and for that it is important to be able to express our feelings.

The single most effective practice for management of heart disease is writing a letter to God before going to bed each night. Write an emotional letter, not a logical one, and convey your feelings about your health, family, work and all that is happening in your life. When patients the arterial blocks do not trigger a heart attack. It is when the plaque sticking to the walls of arteries ruptures and forms blood clots, that a heart attack occurs. The rupture is triggered by stress, which can be caused by any of a variety of factors, including anger, anxiety, and fear. This can happen even in sleep, when a troubled mind generates stressful dreams. So, the

key to preventing heart at-

tacks is managing stress

through meditation and healthy ventilation.

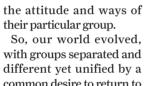
Recognising that we are all souls, maintaining this spiritual awareness, and relating to others on that basis brings to the fore the soul's innate qualities of purity, peace, truth, and love. When we function on the basis of these virtues, there is no stress, and consequently no hormonal imbalance that would precipitate a disease. All the factors that bring about illness, including bad habits, poor diet, addictions, and an unsound lifestyle, stem from spiritual weaknesses such as anger, lust, greed, attachment, and laziness. Meditation addresses the root cause of illness by empowering the soul, removing its defects, and shaping the mental and physical conditions that keep us peaceful, happy, and healthy.

Dr. Satish Kumar Gupta is Director, Medicine & Cardiology, at the RMM Global Hospital Trauma Centre in Abu Road, Rajasthan.

Towards a unified world



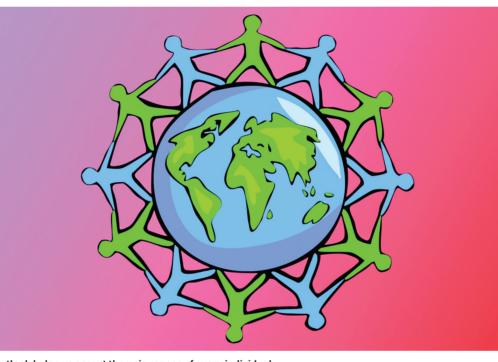
The life we know was not always as we see it. Once there was a celebration of life, an extraordinary gathering where all were involved in its music, joy, and the pleasure of being alive - in harmony with the natural world and all creation. At its end, all wandered off in different directions, perspective and philosofilled with the resonance phy. to make sense of their



common desire to return to that time of original happiness and well-being.

As time passed, the original memory of their beginnings grew dim and distant, and interpretations and ways to reach it changed. Individual communities became absorbed in many pressing needs

and issues and the original dream slowly slipped away, lost in tales of legend and folklore. Gradually, communities and lands developed their ways of living and lifestyle, creating their own



A spiritual outlook helps us accept the uniqueness of every individual.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The consciousness of 'mine' acts like a hand that grabs onto things and people. When I think that someone is mine, my partner, my children, I live with the illusion that I own them. This makes me feel I have the right to clutch and control. Then I lose my freedom. Just as a bird clutches a branch for temporary support but is able to let go and fly at will, my spirit flies when I am able to let go of the consciousness of mine. I feel lighter and my relationships are easier. Today let me experience the freedom of letting go.

of its beauty and feelings of well-being.

Wherever these people went, they formed new groupings, communities or societies, where each endeavoured to resurrect and reflect the experience living in their memory. Each tried to revive, relive, and recreate that time of celebration and happiness, framing that memory according to situation and lives. This loss of vision and the non-

alignment of communities from their original purpose is one of the leading causes of societal unrest and inner and outer discontent, leading to a general state of confusion

It is with spirituality that we can forge the link whereby the individual can connect with their in-

It is in meditation that each connects to their original spiritual self, enabling their natural nature to emerge and moving them into a life of empowerment and fulfilment. As a result, the current codes of conduct and the numerous accumulated, misguided opinions

can be abandoned, creating a focused and unified approach to living and relationships. ner original self and in so doing, accept the uniqueness of each one, thus helping resolve the fragmentation of societies and world communities. It is in meditation that each connects to their original spiritual self, enabling their natural nature to emerge

and moving them into a life of empowerment and fulfilment. As a result, the

current codes of conduct and the numerous accumulated, misguided opinions can be abandoned, creating a focused and unified approach to living and relationships.

Jim Ryan has a background in education. He is an author and a Brahma Kumaris Rajyoga teacher, based at the Global Retreat Centre, Oxford, UK.

Healing the anger wound



ASH PATEL

'If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape 100 days of sorrow'. Chinese proverb

The destructive force of anger is easy to recognise. The damage it causes is incalculable. What many of us find hard to understand is where the rage that bubbles to the surface actually comes from, and therefore we are unable to change the habit of becoming angry, despite our best efforts. If we succeed in holding the anger in, swallowing it, it will take

immense effort to release it. Retaining this ingested anger over a long period of time does untold harm to us and to those around us. We need to be able to recognise what is going on and work on the level of the heart.

All anger comes from one particular habit that we all have, and that is of taking sorrow from situations and others. If we are able to change that habit into one of giving happiness, then everything can change for us. The habit of taking sorrow takes many years to overcome, but does progressively get better and better, when we learn to know ourselves at the level of the heart, and hold such a clean space that we no longer hold on to the hurt and sorrow.

There are five subtle forms of anger that are experienced on the spiritual journey at some time or another. These aspects of anger are rarely understood for what they are, but by recognising them and addressing them,



endeavours become really

hard work. Disappointment

sets in and this is a form of

All anger comes from the habit of taking sorrow from situations and others.

sorrow and subsequently anger, can become things of the past. These aspects are: disheartenment, apathy, quiet frustration, rejection and trauma.

Disheartenment: When we begin to make spiritual effort and find that certain aspects of my nature that I

would like to change, simply anger turned inwards. To stubbornly remain, then we overcome this, we need to may become disheartened. look closely at the value we It can lead us to give up add; our virtues, our skills, hope of ever changing; and and our honest desire to lose heart, enthusiasm, succeed. and energy. Our spiritual

Apathy: Disheartenment can lead quickly to apathy and tiredness. We can lose interest in anything that

is around us and begin to disengage. We need to take power again and this is accumulated through a connection with the self at a deep level and a connection with the Divine power. To connect with the self, we can use the tool of journaling. To inspire the self, we can surround ourselves with people who are living their own change. Listen to success stories of transformation because they inspire us to carry on. We can encourage ourselves with love, kindness, and gentleness, but we must also keep practising the spiritual disciplines with firmness and determination. To take power, we connect in silence to the Divine.

Quiet frustration: Sometimes things do not go as planned and situations come from left field and take us by surprise. This can result in a feeling that our spiritual progress is in jeopardy, and a quiet frustration sets in. For example,

we may develop a health issue that stops us from being as fully engaged in everything as we were before. This can slowly erode our feelings of good wishes, and we start to disengage. We subtly reject situations and the individuals involved. We can fool ourselves into thinking that disengagement is simply the virtue of being detached, but it is not. Keeping oneself at a distance is not detachment. Detachment is holding good wishes, being present and yet not being affected by anything or anyone. This disengagement can bubble into hostility. The key to this is to begin the healing which only comes when we begin the practice of extended periods of silence. In these periods of silence,

the heart can flush out the anger it has been holding. **Rejection:** The avoidance

of feelings is a form of rejection. We need to uncover what we are rejecting; the self, others, parts of our

story that we do not like. Judging and holding on to something constitutes rejection and a subtle form of anger. We need to arrive at a point of no longer wanting to carry all this and wanting to change, otherwise nothing will change. Rejection connects with trauma.

Trauma: Sometimes we have uncontrollable reactions of anger. These are connected with a distant past trauma, perhaps from childhood, that we have not understood or dealt with. Spiritual understanding can do little to help in this, we need deep silence and space for it all to slowly settle.

Anger can be dissolved, over time, with a connection in deep silence with the Divine. Daily practice with determination and an open heart will give us the freedom we long for.

Aashish Patel works in IT and coordinates Brahma Kumaris activities at the Lighthouse Retreat Centre, Worthing, UK.

DIWALI DECISIONS: WHEN WOMEN LEAD THE WAY IN GIFTING DECISIONS

WOMEN WISE



NAMRATA KOHLI

'ow can women decide the consumption habits of a family? Well to my mind, a woman lies at the very epicentre of purchasing decisions. She is the one who triggers most decisions for her home and family- be it related to retail, restaurant or even real estate. In fact, to borrow an analogy from the automobile sector, women have as pivotal a role as the steering wheel of a car, not that of a stepney, when it comes to decisions pertaining - to buy or not to buy.

As women, we ought to consider ourselves nothing less than the CEOs of our home. After all, you are the ones balancing budgets, nurturing individual members and yet integrating their goals with the overall family goals, looking at the

micro and the macro- almost in the same breath. If your teenager is taking that important exam or a member is ailing, you would know that time is not right to get the home whitewashed, no matter how long overdue a thing

that may be. You are the

ones setting the values or norms for behavior in the household be it emphasizing saving, opting for minimalism. I cannot help but recall how my mother was dead against food wastage and we weren't allowed to waste a single morsel and today I find myself telling my kids - Swallow only as much as you can chew, get a second or a third helping but don't waste food.

At this moment in history, when we cannot afford to generate more waste because global warming and climate change are no longer just conversations in the air; they are simply staring us into the face, and its high time to shift our gifting patterns and embrace sustainable practices. Recently, I heard that the Amazon Great Indian Festival witnessed a record 11 crores customer visits in the first 48-hours of Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024. But in all this festive frenzy and shopping madness, let's pause a moment and look at what we need, rather than our endless greed which remains a bottomless pit. It

is my observation that too many of us are spending money we haven't earned, to buy things we don't need, to impress people we don't like. I feel, those who indulge in mindless spending eventually come to realize that life's true treasures are the ones money simply can't buy.



your hand on your heart and ask yourself these questions. Are we making decisions on what to purchase based on the present or future? Is what we are giving to others, passing the test of our conviction or convenience? Are the cones going to be constructive or destructive? Practice

these three golden rules until they become a part of your DNA. There is no better time to emphasize thrift than this festive season. After all, if we can employ discipline

even during the mother of

wali, followed by winter, weddings when wallets are unleashed, we can actually stop the world from further disaster and damage. What's more, our habits tend to have a ripple effect on others around us. Personally, I give gifts to

a few people but always do that in person. For me, gifting is an excuse to meet my people and forge deeper connections and engage in meaningful conversations. I also like to personalise my gifts and give as per their taste and preferences, rather than passing the parcel. I know that Poonam likes natural beauty products but for Sangita, her heart beats for traditional Indian items like handicraftsso even a phulkari key chain will bring a smile on her face. Our gifts must be

WOMEN

gifts often carry more emotional value, allowing both the giver and receiver to focus on the sentiment behind the gesture rather

than the material worth. Also you must know what not to gift. For instance, alcohol gifting can backfire if the recipient doesn't drink. But gifting an experiential gift card like a concert ticket for a culture enthusiast can emphasize thoughtfulness rather than extravagance. So, finally, this Diwali let women pave the way for deciding what to gift and make the entire experience transformational, not transactional

all spending seasons Dimore thoughtful than fanciful. Simple, intentional

Why is it critical for leaders and talent in an organization to cultivate a development mindset?



RANJINI CHAKRABORTY

A growth mindset is the belief that abilities are not fixed but can be developed through effort, learning, and mentorship. Introduced by psychologist Carol Dweck, this concept encourages individuals to continuously evolve, pushing beyond their limits. For HR leaders, fostering a growth mindset is crucial to unlocking the full potential of employees. A study by the Harvard Busi-

ness Review shows that employee experience directly impacts revenue and profit. Therefore, creating a work environment where growth is encouraged benefits both individuals and organizations.

In the workplace, just like children are continuously challenged to unlock their potential, employees need to be motivated to grow, re-

main engaged, and stay productive. But leadership plays a critical role in this process. Before encouraging others to adopt a growth mindset, leaders must first exemplify it.

HOW LEADERS CAN FOSTER A GROWTH

employees. Here are four effective strategies for leaders to adopt: 1. Embrace Criticism and Unlearning Leaders need to cultivate

an environment where feedback is embraced, not feared. Criticism should be seen as an opportunity for growth, not a sign of failure.

Leaders must acknowledge that learning is a continuous process and that sometimes unlearning outdated practices is necessary. By remaining open to change, leaders can create a culture that promotes development and progress.

2. Accept Failure and Encourage Mistakes Normalizing failure is



to view them as learning experiences. Acknowledging mistakes and discussing the lessons learned can help employees grow and improve. By supporting team members through training and coaching, leaders create a safe space where employees feel empowered to take risks everyone is committed to and innovate. growth and success. 4. Debunk Hierarchy and

3. Recognize, Reward, and **Reap the Benefits** Recognition is a powerful

With Generation Z making motivator. By celebrating up a significant portion of

tive, which can drive innovation and growth. According to a report by Great Place to Work India, Gen Z employees are more motivated when leadership is authentic and delivers on promises. Leaders should break down hierarchical barriers, encourage open communication, and promote learning across all levels of the organization.

THE FUTURE OF LEAD-**ERSHIP: INCLUSIVITY AND GROWTH**

Inclusive leadership is essential in 2024. A study by Deloitte found that increasing feelings of inclusion within teams leads to a 17% improvement in perfority drives innovation and improves overall organizational success.

To ensure inclusivity, organizations must invest in reskilling and development, particularly for women and underrepresented groups. Some steps leaders can take

include: 1. Focus on Reskilling Initiatives: Invest in departments where women are overrepresented, such as HR or administrative roles, to prevent talent loss.

2. Set Targets for Female Participation: Aim for high female participation in leadership and reskilling programs and regularly review progress.

3. Involve Female Leaders

4. Offer Flexibility: Provide flexible learning and working options to accommodate the demanding schedules of

women employees. 5. Reskill Senior Leaders: Ensure senior leaders continue to learn and adapt to maintain relevance in today's dynamic work environment.

Conclusion: Growth Mindset for Success

In 2024, inclusive leadership that fosters a growth mindset will be vital for organizational success. By promoting learning, collaboration, and inclusivity, leaders can ensure employees remain engaged, innovative, and productive. Organizations that embrace a growth mindset culture will not only keep pace with the evolving workplace but will also drive long-term success.



MINDSET CULTURE Creating a growth-focused culture requires collaboration between leaders and

fostering a growth mindset. Instead of treating mistakes as something to hide, leaders should encourage employees

employee achievements and rewarding efforts, leaders can encourage further growth and development.

today's workforce, leaders must be adaptable. This generation brings fresh ideas and a new perspec-

Promote Inclusivity

mance, a 20% increase in decision-making quality, and a 29% improvement in collaboration. Inclusiv-

Include female role models in leadership roles and reskilling programs to inspire others.

Understanding Premenopause, Perimenopause, and Menopause Let's know from the expert



DR. SHOBHA GUPTA

As women age, they experience various hormonal changes, particularly surrounding the menopause transition. Understanding the differences between perimenopause, premenopause, and menopause is essential for managing these phases effectively, both physically and emotionally.

Premenopause refers to the period in a woman's life when she has regular menstrual cycles and no signs or symptoms of menopause. During this time, a woman's reproductive system functions normally, with balanced hormone levels, regular ovulation, and the potential for pregnancy. "Premenopause is essentially the phase when a woman is still fertile, and her ovaries produce eggs



regularly. It's the calm before the hormonal shifts that lead to perimenopause," explains Dr. Shobha Gupta.

Perimenopause, also known as the menopausal transition, refers to the time when the body begins to undergo changes in preparation for meno-

pause. This phase can start anywhere from a woman's late 30s to her 40s and may last several years. Estrogen and progesterone levels fluctuate significantly, causing a range of symptoms, including irregular periods, hot flashes, mood swings, fatigue, and sleep disturbances. Perimenopause is a dynamic phase where women may experience a wide range of symptoms.These symptoms can



be mild or disruptive, depending on the individual, and it's crucial to monitor these changes as they can impact both physical and

emotional well-being." One of the distinctive characteristics of perimenopause is its unpredictability. Periods may become erratic, with changes in cycle length and flow. Women may also experience night sweats, breast tenderness, weight gain, and changes in sexual desire. Although fertility declines during this time, pregnancy is still possible, so contraception is necessary if a woman wishes to avoid conception.

Menopause is marked by the complete cessation of menstrual cycles for 12 consecutive months, signaling the end of awoman's reproductive years. Menopause is a natural biological process, signifying the end of menstruation and fertility. However, it's important to remember that post-menopausal health risks, such as osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, and weight management, need to be closely monitored.

While premenopause is the phase of regular reproductive function, perimenopause signals the start of hormonal changes that lead to menopause. Menopause signifies the end of menstruation and fertility. Managing these stages with medical support can helpwomenmaintain a better quality of life throughout the transitionconcluded Dr. Shobha Gupta

Dr. Shobha Gupota, Medical Director, Gynecologist and IVF Specialist from Mother'sLap IVF Centre New Delhi and Vrindavan

Weekend planning: Time management tips to make the most of your days off

TDG NETWORK

Weekends are a precious opportunity to recharge, relax, and reset for the week ahead. However, without proper planning, they can easily slip by in a blur of chores or aimless scrolling through social media. To make the most of your days off, mastering time management is key. Here are some practical tips to help you optimize your weekends for both productivity and relaxation.

1. PRIORITIZE YOUR TASKS

Start by identifying the essential tasks you need to complete over the weekend. Make a list and categorize them into "must-do" and "nice-to-do" items. By prioritizing, you ensure that important tasks like grocery shopping or preparing for the week don't get overlooked. Once your non-negotiables are handled, you can focus on more enjoyable activities.

2. TIME BLOCK FOR **ACTIVITIES**

Time blocking is an effective way to allocate specific hours to different tasks. Set aside time for work-related



Prioritize your tasks, block time for activities, incorporate self-care, and plan social engagements in advance. These time management strategies will help you make the most of your days off, leaving you refreshed and ready for the week ahead.

3. INCORPORATE errands, household chores, SELF-CARE and personal activities. For Weekends are the perfect example, dedicate your time to unwind and focus on Saturday morning to cleaning and the afternoon for self-care. Whether it's readleisure. This structure preing a book, taking a walk, vents procrastination and meditating, or indulging ensures you have time to in a spa day, make sure to relax without feeling overcarve out time for yourself. whelmed by unfinished Schedule these activities just tasks. like any other task to ensure

they don't get pushed aside.

4. PLAN SOCIAL AC-**TIVITIES IN ADVANCE**

Spontaneity can be fun, but planning social activities in advance can prevent the stress of last-minute decisions. Reach out to friends or family earlier in the week to schedule dinners, outings, or even a casual coffee meet-up. Planning allows you to structure your weekend without losing time figuring out what to do.

5. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

It's easy to get sucked into endless scrolling on social media or binge-watching TV shows, but too much screen time can leave you feeling lethargic. Set a time limit for digital activities, and instead, engage in more fulfilling pursuits like hobbies or outdoor activities.

With a little planning, you can make your weekends more productive and enjoyable. Prioritize your tasks, block time for activities, incorporate self-care, and plan social engagements in advance. These time management strategies will help you make the most of your days off, leaving you refreshed and ready for the week ahead.

16 SPORTS

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW SATURDAY | 05 OCTOBER 2024 NEW DELHI

INDIA TEAM GEARS UP FOR 1ST T20 AGAINST BANGLADESH

TDG NETWORK GWAL IOF

he Indian cricket team is preparing for the first T20 match against Bangladesh in Gwalior on Sunday. In preparation, players were seen sweating in a fielding drill conducted by fielding coach T. Dilip and assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

A video posted on the official BCCI X handle on Friday showcased the team's training session. "Gearing up in Gwalior with radiant rhythm and full flow. Team India hones their fielding skills ahead of the India vs Bangladesh T2O series opener.

Fielding has notably improved under T. Dilip, who introduced the Best Fielder Award during the World Cup matches.

In the video, Dilip was observed instructing the Indi-



an players, emphasizing the importance of technique.

"Get your feet where you are throwing, as simple as that. I am not looking at intensity, but rhythm and flow are something we have to achieve today. Once we break into that, we'll move and take 15 catches," he said. All-rounder Hardik Pan-

dya and spinner Varun Chakravarthy were seen putting in significant effort during the drills. Head

Parag and Nitish Kumar coach Gautam Gambhir

closely monitored the players as they engaged in their fielding practice.

Additionally, India skipper Suryakumar Yadav, opener Abhishek Sharma, and spinner Ravi Bishnoi were seen taking some remarkable catches. Following the Test series,

India and Bangladesh will lock horns with each other in the three-match T2OI series. Right-hand batter

Suryakumar Yadav will continue to lead the Men in Blue in the shortest format of the game. Sanju Samson and Jitesh Sharma have been picked as the wicketkeeper-batters in the side. Young left-hand opener Abhishek Sharma returned to the squad after not being picked in the Sri Lanka T2O. The players who will accompany him will be Riyan

Reddy. Hardik Pandya, Washington Sundar, and Shivam Dube have been included in the squad as the all-round-

Ravi Bishnoi and Varun Chakaravarthy have been picked as the spinners of the team, whereas Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, and Mayank Yaday are added to the team as seamers.

The first match of the series will be played at Gwalior on October 6 followed by

the second and third matches to be played on October 9 (Delhi) and October 12 (Hyderabad), respectively. India squad: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, and Mayank Yadav. Bangladesh squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon (wicket-keeper), Tawhid

Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Das (wicket-keeper), Jaker Ali Anik (wicketkeeper), Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Mustafizur Rahman, Rakibul Hasan.

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra poses for a group picture with children during his visit to the Museum of Solutions (MuSo), in Mumbai on Friday. ANI

Golf: Angad Cheema cards 70 to inch closer to Vizag Open title

TDG NETWORK VISAKHAPATNAM

Chandigarh's Angad Cheema posted a one-under 70 in the penultimate round to maintain his dominance at the Rs1 crore Vizag Open here on Friday. Cheema (69-61-70), the overnight leader by four

shots, had a rock-solid penultimate round barring a setback on the final hole to head into round four with a three-shot advantage at a total of 13-under 200.

Patna-based Aman Raj (66-68-69) put together a two-under 69 to end day three in second position at

10-under 203. Gurugram's Kartik Sharma delivered the day's best score of seven-under 64 to be placed tied third along with Noida's Amardeep Malik (65) and Yashas Chandra (68) of Mysuru at the East Point Golf Club (EPGC).

Dominant South Africa crush Sana's all-round show leads Pakistan to win over Lanka West Indies by 10 wickets

SUNIL YASH KALRA DUBAI

South African women kicked off their ICC T20 Women's World Cup 2024 campaign in style, registering a commanding 10-wicket victory over West Indies on Friday in Dubai. Chasing 119, captain Laura Wolvaardt led from the front with an unbeaten 59 off 55 balls, while Tazmin Brits contributed 57 not out off 52 balls, helping South Africa wrap up the chase with 13 balls to spare.

Earlier, West Indies struggled against a disciplined South African bowling attack, managing 118 for six. The total could have been much lower if not for Stafanie Taylor's gritty 41-ball 44. South Africa's left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba was the pick of the bowlers, claiming career-best figures of 4/29, while Marizanne a dominant performance. Kapp added 2/14 to keep the pressure on the Windies. South Africa's bowlers maintained tight lines from the start, with Kapp getting the early breakthrough by dismissing Hayley Matthews (10 off 11) caught behind. Mlaba followed with a key wicket, bowling Qiana Joseph in the fifth over. West Indies soon found

TDG NETWORK

counter on Friday.

Hojlund scoring.

Manchester United salvaged

a point against FC Porto in

the Europa League, courtesy

of Harry Maguire's stoppage-

time header, in a thrilling en-

men, United appeared des-

tined for defeat. Yet, they

showed remarkable resil-

ience to secure another draw

in the competition, following

their home match against FC

Twente. Substitute Harry

Maguire demonstrated his

aerial prowess from set-piec-

es, heading in the equalizer in

the dying moments to make it

NEW DELH



suffered a 31-run defeat against Pakistan in their opener, with their batting lineup collapsing as nine players registered singledigit scores. Next, they face the formidable six-time champions, Australia, today. Led by Alyssa Healy, Australia's experienced squad, including Beth Mooney and Elysse Perry, 57 guided the Proteas to an will aim to kick-start their campaign with a win, even with 13 boundaries hit by without regular captain Meg Gardner and Alana King

TDG NETWORK

Pakistan produced a superb all-round display to beat Sri Lanka in the second match of the ICC Women's T2O World Cup at Sharjah on Thursday, with skipper Fatima Sana leading from the front.

Sana's side defied the form book to beat the Asian Cup Champions by 31 runs, posting 116 in the first innings and then bowling superbly to restrict Sri Lanka to 85/9. Pakistan's captain Sana (2/10) made the crucial early breakthrough to remove Sri Lanka opener Chamari Athapathu and give hope that her side could successfully defend a relatively modest first-innings total.

And her fellow bowlers kept things impressively tight, denying Sri Lanka South Africa, capped off Lanning. With Ashleigh boundaries and picking up frequent wickets as the scor-



ed, with Sri Lanka's bowlers also keeping Pakistan in check in the first innings, taking frequent wickets to restrict a batting lineup that proved unexpectedly fluid, with big-hitting skipper Sana top-scoring with 30 from 20 balls down the order - runs that proved match-winning in the final shake-up. Three bowlers stood out, with Athapaththu almost bagging a hat-trick and finishing with figures of 3/18, with Udeshika Prabodhani and Sugandika Kumari also taktaking frequent wickets to restrict a batting order that proved unexpectedly fluid. It was a strong start for the Asia Cup champions, who removed both openers through the impressive Sugandika Kumari, who had both Gull Feroza (2 from 4) and Muneeba Ali (11 from 14) caught behind to restrict

Pakistan in the powerplay. And a middle-order recovery was unable to have a huge impact as Chamari Athapaththu removed Sidra Amin (12 from 10), before Omaima Sohail (18 from 19) and Nida Dar (23 from 22) were dismissed by Kavisha Dilhari and Udeshika Prabodhani respectively. Pakistan's batting strategy was clear to see as captain Fatima Sana and Aliya Riaz were pushed down the ordesignated 'finishers', coming in at seven and eight respectively, two places lower than initially carded. But the prospect of a late flurry was impacted by Athapaththu's double strike, as she removed Tuba Hassan and Riaz off consecutive deliveries, narrowly missing out on a hat-trick as she fizzed a gem past the outside edge of Diana Baig.

Rest of India collapse to lay one hand on Irani Cup

Mumbai spinners spark

TDG NETWORK

UCKNOW Seasoned spin duo of Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian became catalysts of Rest of India's sudden middle-order collapse that saw them lose six wickets for only 23 runs here Friday, putting Mumbai within sniffing distance of an Irani Cup triumph despite Abhimanyu Easwaran's heroic 191. In reply to Mumbai's first innings score of 537, RoI were cruising along at 393 for 4, riding on Easwaran and Test team's second keeper Dhruv Jurel's (93) 165-run

stand for the fifth wicket. However, left-arm spinner Mulani (3/122 in 40 overs) broke Rest's resistance with quick dismissals of the two der, revealing their status as set batters in a space of 10 minutes to give the match a



for 6 with an overall lead of 274.

RoI off-spinner Saransh Jain (4/67 in 18 overs) and left-arm spinner Manav Suthar (2/40 in 17 overs) looked way more menacing in the second essay with a lot of deliveries keeping low along with appreciable turn on offer.

On a track which looked like a batting paradise for better part of the first three days, 12 wickets fell on Day 4 with spinners accounting for 11 of them.

Survival is extremely difficult and even if Rest chases something in the range of 325 in 75 overs, it will be an uphill task to face Mulani and Kotian on an abrasive surface where one needs to put the ball in right areas, allowing the track to do the rest. Saransh, who plays domestic cricket for Madhya Pradesh, isn't known to be a big turner of the ball but uses his height to get

West Indies managed 12 boundaries in their innings but couldn't match South Africa's consistency. South Africa now prepares to face England in Sharjah on Monday, 7th October, while West Indies must regroup quickly as they face debutants Scotland tomorrow

Europa League: Manchester United

secures 3-3 draw against FC Porto

themselves at 32/3 when

Kapp removed Deandra

Dottin (13 off 11), leaving

them in trouble. Despite

Taylor's resistance, they

couldn't muster enough

runs to pose a real challenge.

In reply, Wolvaardt and

Brits made light work of the

target. Wolvaardt's com-

posed 59 and Brits' solid

easy victory. The pair's un-

beaten partnership, along

In other news, Sri Lanka

crucial with the ball, Australia looks set for another strong tournament run. In an exclusive sports show called Cricket Predicta powered by 1XBAT on NewsX former UAE Skipper Charvi Bhatt shared her experience with a pitch of Sharjah Cricket Stadium. She Said "The Sharjah pitch will heavily

support the spinners."

ing rate soared.

Only opener Vishmi Gunaratne (20 from 34 with one four) and Nilakshika Silva (22 from 25) reached double figures as Sri Lanka's chase petered out, finishing on 85/9, still 31 runs shy of their target. Sadia Iqbal (3/17) was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan. It was a game where ball largely dominat-

3/20 respectively. But they were ultimately outshone on the day by Pakistan's attack. Pakistan's new captain Fatima Sana enjoyed an initial positive in her first moment in charge of the team at a major tournament, winning the toss and opting to bat first in Sharjah. But Sri Lanka's bowlers kept Pakistan in check in the first innings,

ing three wickets - 3/19 and

Hockey India League set to return after seven years

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Hockey India League (HIL) is set to return this vear, as announced officially on Friday after a long break of seven years.

The HIL 2024-25 will be held from the last week of December 2024 to the first week of February 2025, in a window sanctioned by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). The tournament will witness the participation of 8 men's teams and 6 women's teams.

For the first time in the history of the HIL, the tournament will feature not only men's teams but women's teams as well, with both categories receiving equal prominence. This landmark move underlines Hockey India's progressive vision to promote women's hockey and expand the talent pool of female players across the country.

Notably, the Men's and Women's HIL will run simultaneously, marking a unique moment in global sports leagues. The auction of the league will take place on October 13, 14, and 15 in New Delhi.

Hockey India has long been committed to maintaining parity between the Men's and Women's national teams. Whether in terms of facilities, international exposure, or match rewards, both teams enjoy equal support. This includes providing the same financial incentives for winning international matches and equal prize money for securing trophies at international events. Hockey India's approach has been instrumental in inspiring women athletes and boosting the morale of the entire women's squad. FIH President Dilip Kumar Tirkey took to social media and shared his feelings on the league's return. "The Hockey India League returns after seven long years, bigger and better, with eight men's teams and

six women's teams ready to showcase their talent.

decisive turn on the fourth day. Off-spinner Kotian (3/101 in 27 overs) then polished off the tail as RoI were all out for 416, handing a 121-run first innings lead to Mumbai

Prithvi Shaw (76 off 105 balls) then came out all guns blazing as the ball started turning square with Mumbai finishing the day at 153 bounce.

Revenge for Medvedev, **Tsitsipas at Shanghai Masters**

TDG NETWORK SHANGHA

Both Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas served sweet revenge at the Shanghai Masters on Friday, vanquishing old foes in straight sets as they progressed through to the third round. World number five Medvedev came from behind in both sets to beat Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild 7-5, 7-5, while Tsitsipas battled through a tight match against Japan's Kei Nishikori to win 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Medvedev and Seyboth Wild have only met once before, but it was memorable. The Russian, then world number two, was unceremoniously ejected from the 2023 French Open by qualifier Seyboth Wild in the first round.

The tenacious Brazilian did not make it easy for Medvedev on Friday, setting the tone by breaking first to pull 1-3 ahead.

But Medvedev persevered, making up the gap and then getting a crucial break in the 11th game, before winning the set 7-5.

Sevboth Wild pulled ahead early in the second set too, but again Medvedev caught him and repeated his earlier feat.

"It was not easy," Medvedev said on court after the match. "Thiago played great... some shots were unbelievable.'

"It was a very tough night and I'm very glad I was able to stay in it... and give him pressure."

Tsitsipas -- who suffered a shock defeat to Nishikori in Montreal in August -- said he was happy with his own "great fighting spirit". The Greek, once ranked third in the world, has

slipped out of the ATP top 10 in recent months to now stand at 12th. The loss in August to Nishikori, who is a former world number four but was ranked 576th at the beginning of the Montreal tournament, was followed swiftly by Tsitsipas dropping his father as coach after publicly criticising him. "I did want to put out a fight and I wanted to show that I can go out there and play a good match against (Nishikori)," the 26-year-old said Friday.

The match was closely fought, with the first set ending with a nail-biting tiebreaker that could have gone either way. "Being able to win (the tiebreaker), coming back and helping me win the first set was an important and critical moment," Tsitsipas told reporters after the match. "Overcoming it was good, because it felt like I was able to restart now with a new mindset and it helped me get a bit of confidence." In the second set, 34-yearold Nishikori, who has been plagued in recent seasons by injury, required a medical time-out. Despite encouragement from the crowd, he never recovered his momentum and Tsitsipas won four of the last five games to close out the match.

Erik ten Hag's squad breached the defences of Porto's captain and goalkeeper Diogo Costa twice, with Marcus Rashford and Rasmus However, Porto responded with headers from Pepe and Samu Omorodion before the break, and Omorodion's second goal early in the second half seemed to condemn United to a disappointing loss. Bruno Fernandes was sent off for the second consecutive game. Down to 10

3-3. The first half was actionpacked, with United taking the lead after surviving early pressure from Porto. Andre Onana was into action within minutes, saving a shot from Galeno. Despite valiant into another save with a pow-

defensive efforts at the other end. Ten Hag's side continued to press, and Porto's defense nearly conceded an own goal twice in quick succession. Ze Pedro almost deflected a Rashford cross into his own net, and a subsequent corner saw a clearance bounce off a defender and miss the target. United doubled their lead shortly after, with Eriksen



erful run and shot.

However, Porto turned the

tide when Noussair Maz-

raoui's header towards his

own goal required a save

from Onana, and Pepe

pounced on the rebound to

halve the deficit. Seven min-

utes later, Omorodion lev-

elled the score with a header

from Joao Mario's cross.