Volume 01, Issue 31 • DAILY • MUMBAI • SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 • RNI No. MAHENG/2023/84338 • Rs. 5/-

## **THE PERFECT ICE**



**Decision on Khadse's** reinduction soon: Fadnavis ... pg 2



What is 'Mission Mausam' and why is it needed? ... pg 6



India beat Pakistan in **ACT Hockey** ... pg 10

YOUR OPINION, OUR EFFORTS

# **Terrorism breathing** its last in J-K

Modi says dynastic politics destroyed this 'beautiful region'

Jammu: Asserting that terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government projected new leadership to counter dynastic politics that has destroyed "this beautiful region".

Addressing a massive election rally in support of BJP candidates in Doda district of Jammu region, Modi also reiterated his government's promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned people against bringing the NC, Congress and the PDP back to power.

This was the first election rally by the Prime Minister in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the first phase of the assembly polls on September 18, which will cover 24 seats spread across the three districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban in Jammu and the south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam.

Modi began his nearly 45-minute speech by welcoming the people who attended the rally in the Kashmiri language.

"This time, the (assembly)

They have now said if they come to power, they will end the reservation for Dalits and the downtrodden. This is the truth of this family. The Gandhi family always hated Ambedkar and was strongly opposed to reservation. The family had insulted Dalits, OBC and tribals.

-Narendra Modi, PM in Haryana

election will decide the future of Jammu and Kashmir, which has remained the target of foreign powers since Independence," he told the gathering.

"Not only this, dynastic politics made this beautiful region hollow from within. The political parties you trusted never cared for your children. They only cared for and projected their children and did not let new leadership grow," Modi added.

Continuing his tirade against the Congress, NC and the PDP, he said these parties never wanted the youth to join politics but "we challenged their intentions and the result was that 30.000 to 35,000 youngsters got elected (in the local body elections) and took control of J-K".

and Kashmir.

In the years under the BJP government, the prime minister said, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a new phase of development and the credit for that goes to these elected youth. "I salute them for their contribution," he added.

"The Congress, NC and PDP have done nothing short of a sin as these three families are responsible for destroying J-K. They encouraged corruption and land grabbers and deprived the people of their rights and facilities. They gave government jobs to only those linked to them, besides preparing the ground for separatism and terrorism," the prime minister alleged. He said terrorism is tak-

ing its last breath in Jammu -PTI

Standoff continues; docs keep

Mamata on waiting, again

Kolkata: The standoff be- this? Please don't insult me tween the West Bengal gov- like this," Banerjee pleaded.

ister's residence in the absence of a live telecast of

Speaking with doctors

outside her residence, CM

Mamata Banerjee said, "We

will video-record the meet-

ing to end R.G. Kar impasse

and will provide it to you

after the Supreme Court's

they "cannot keep insulting

her." While leaving CM's

residence junior doctors

claimed when they finally

agreed to discard their de-

mand and agreed to hold

only minutes of the meeting.

They were allegedly told by

the Mamata-led administra-

tion that CM waited for

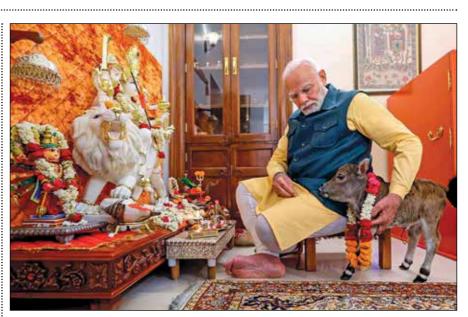
three hours and the meeting

now was not possible.

The CM asserted that

nod.'

their proposed meeting.





An aerial view of the public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections in Doda district on Saturday. Pic: PTI



## Sandip Ghosh, policeman tween the West Bengal government and the protesting junior doctors continued on Saturday as the agitators rearrested for rape, murder



New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday arrested Dr. Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, in connection with the rape and murder of a junior doctor.

The probe agency has

also arrested Tala Police Station SHO Abhijit Mondal in the case

Ghosh, 54, will be produced before the Sealdah court on Sunday. A junior woman doctor

was found raped and murdered at the hospital August 9, sparking widespread protests across the nation.

Ghosh is currently placed in a solitary cell at the Presidency Central Jail, where he was brought earlier this week after a special court remanded him in judicial custody till September. The CBI had told the court that Ghosh siphoned off funds and made 84 illegal appointments in 2022 and 2023

On September 2, Ghosh was arrested by the CBI in connection with the alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar hospital. The Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe into it following the rape

"Today, you said that you and murder of a junior want a meeting, so I have doctor on the campus. been waiting. Why are you people insulting me like

Saturday as the agitators rebut you people didn't come. fused to enter the Chief Min-

The delegation of junior doctors, comprising around 30 medics, arrived at Mamata Banerjee's residence around 45 minutes past the scheduled 6:00 pm meeting time. However, the government had only invited 15 representatives for the talks. The key sticking point has been the doctors' demand for live-streaming the meeting, a request the chief minister once again rejected,

citing legal constraints. As the RG Kar issue is before the court, we cannot allow live streaming. I will video-record the meeting and provide you with a copy only after permission from the Supreme Court," Banerjee explained in an appeal to the doctors. She urged them to come

inside for the meeting and not get drenched in the rain, reiterating her request to end the deadlock

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with 'Deepjyoti', a calf who was born at the Prime Minister's official residence in New Delhi. Pic: PTI

## Was approached for PM post: Gadkari

#### **By Correspondent**

Nagpur: Union Minister for Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari revealed on Saturday that he was approached by one of the senior opposition leaders with the Prime Ministership offer ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, but he "simply rejected" it.

"I told the leader that I am a man who follows one ideology and conviction. I am in a party which has given me everything which I never even dreamt of. No offer can entice me," Gadkari said while speaking at a journalism awards function. Gadkari didn't delve into

the details of the incident.

He hinted that the inci-

dence happened when it was believed that the BJP might not secure an absolute majority and could need support from a few opposition parties to form government

"I flatly told him that I was raised with certain principles and convictions. and I would not compromise on them," Gadkari said.

## India trail 0-2 against Sweden

Stockholm: N Sriram Balaji was easily tamed by Elias Ymer while Ramkumar Ramanathan lacked the killer instinct even against a lower-ranked Leo Borg as India were left trailing 0-2 against Sweden in the Davis Cup World Group I tie, here on Saturday.

Balaji, who is a doubles specialist, found the going tough against Ymer, who raced to a 6-4 6-2 win in the opening singles

Ramkumar, who is a seasoned Davis Cupper now, was expected to bring India back into the tie but he lost to 603-ranked Borg, son of the legendary Bjorn Borg 3-63-6, in the second singles at the Royal Tennis Hall.

India were forced to field Balaji in singles as the country's top singles player Sumit Nagal opted out of the tie due to a back injury. While Balaji did the job against Pakistan, playing someone of the calibre of Ymer was always going to be a tough task.

The onus to win a point for India on the opening day was on Ramkumar. He should have won his singles match against the 21-year-old Borg but he did not seem to have a way to go past the Swede.

Ramkumar's challenge fell apart in just 58



Qualifiers.

It remains to be seen if

captain Rohit Rajpal goes

N Sriram Balaji

#### minutes.

India now need to win all the remaining three matches on Sunday if the team with Balaji and Ramkumar has to make it to next year's in the do-or-die doubles, or

changes the combination. Most likely, Balaji and

Niki Poonacha will take the court

tory, India have managed to win a tie after being down 0-2. In 2010. India beat Brazil, and in 2018, it won against China after trailing 0-2.

proached the net. -PTI

#### for PM's event Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Saturday announced that all schools and colleges in Bhubaneswar would re-

School holiday

main closed on September 17 in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state on that day.

According to an official release, all the government offices, including revenue and magisterial courts in the state capital, will also be closed for the first half of the day on September 17. During his visit, the PM would launch 'Subhadra' vojana, a women-centric scheme of the state

### Don't respond to fake 'arrest notice': Mumbai Police

#### **By Correspondent**

Mumbai: Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar on Saturday urged people to approach police if they received any fake "arrest notice" through email, phone call or messaging apps.

"Received an arrest notice from the Commissioner of Mumbai Police? Bring it to our notice. Don't believe or respond to any fake arrest notice on mail, WhatsApp, SMS or phone call received on behalf of the Commissioner, Mumbai Police," he said on X.

People should not fall prey to the fraudsters who send such communication and instead report it to police. Phansalkar added. The commissioner also

posted the screenshot of one such notice that had gone viral. The so-called notice, written in garbled English and sent through e-mail. asked the recipient to visit the office of the commissioner of police, claiming there was a "court order" against the person's IP (Internet Protocol) address for something to do with pornography. It also mentioned the CBI. Of late, numerous cases of online cheating where fraudsters pose as police or other law enforcement/government agency and extort money have come to light.

# Twice in Davis Cup his-

Ramkumar could not charge to the net in the opening set as was the plan but did comparatively better in the second set. Bjorg served well, made fewer unforced errors and found some good passing winners when Ramkumar ap-

government.

### MAHARASTHRA 2

THE PERFECT VOICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 **MUMBAI** 

myperfectvoice@gmail.com 🔰 @my\_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN



BJP National President JP Nadda, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, MP Shrikant Shinde, Milind Deora at Fadnavis' residence in Mumbai Saturday. CM Eknath Shinde could not meet Nadda as he was Pic: PTI away in Dharashiv.

## **Decision on Khadse's** reinduction soon: DF

#### By Correspondent

Nagpur: Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said a decision on reinducting NCP (SP) leader Eknath Khadse into the BJP will be taken by the party's central leadership after the ongoing Ganesh festival.

He also said that farmers will hugely benefit from the Centre's decision to increase the customs duty on crude and refined sunflower and soybean oils.

Talking to reporters at the Nagpur airport while answering a query on

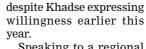
#### Khadse's possible return to the BJP, Fadnavis said, "Whatever decision the BJP's central leadership takes will be accepted. We will hold talks with the party leadership and a decision will be made after the ongoing Ganesh festival.

Speculation about Khadse, a former BJP leader currently with the Sharad Pawar-led NCP, returning to the saffron party intensified after the BJP renominated his daughterin-law Raksha Khadse as Lok Sabha candidate, and made her a Union Minister

of State after she won.



But there has been no announcement from the BJP yet on his reinduction



Speaking to a regional news channel earlier this week, Khadse said, "I was not keen on returning to the BJP fold, but senior leaders of the party insisted on it. When I met BJP president J.P. Nadda, he felicitated me with a scarf, and declared that I had become part of the BJP."

Khadse joined the undivided Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in October 2020 after quitting the BJP. He had then accused Fadnavis of trying to destroy his political career.

### **MVA** to discuss seat sharing on Sept 20

#### By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has decided to meet on September 20 to discuss seat sharing.

The two meetings of the MVA were inconclusive and not a single decision was taken in these meetings. However, the seatsharing arrangement for the MVA alliance would be in place by the September meeting. To avoid further confusion among the alliance partners the possibility of swapping some seats among themselves has increased

Affairs Minister Kiren Rij-The seat-sharing talks iju on Saturday said Mahagained momentum as Shiv rashtra, with a substantial Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Buddhist population, can Thackeray held separate lead the way in promoting meetings with Congress the Buddha's values. president Mallikarjun He was delivering the Kharge and NCP-SP suprekeynote address at the mo Sharad Pawar in New 'Buddha's Middle Path -Delhi. Initially Uddhav Guide for Global leader-Thackeray raised the issue ship', a conference organ-

Mumbai: Union Minority

ised jointly by his ministry

and the International Bud-

"With its substantial

Buddhist population, Ma-

harashtra stands as a piv-

otal region where any

movement for spreading

Buddha's values can reso-

nate nationwide. The state

can lead the way in promot-

ing Buddha's values," the

Prime Minister Naren-

Buddhist values, he said.

underscore the values of

minister said.

dhist Conclave, here.

of leadership. However, he was pacified by Sharad Pawar. Senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat said, "By and large we have completed the talks over the distri-

bution of seats. The discussions on the remaining seats will take place in the upcoming meetings. Two to three meetings have already taken place, the seatsharing will be completed with everyone's consensus

after the Ganesh festival". The first meeting regarding seat-sharing within the MVA took place on August 24 and focused largely on the seats in Mumbai. Both the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress party are keen on contesting more

seats in Mumbai.



Maharashtra can lead in

Buddha, particularly and empathy). `Karuna' (compassion) and Seva' (service), reflecting their global relevance," Ri-

jiju added.

Only the teachings of the Buddha offer a viable solution to the pressing problems faced by the world to-

He also quoted the prime day, he said. minister as saying that Chairman of the Nationonly when the values of the al Commission for Minorities, Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Buddha -- benevolence and compassion -- join hands, a said India is the birthplace of many faiths and relicountry can become a globgions and has alwavs al leader, and the absence of such values will only preached love and compas-

sion while the rest of the world was focused on acpeace. Rijiju paid tributes to Dr. quisition of power. Babasaheb Ambedkar, saying that his meticulous founder-chairman, Dalit drafting of the Constitu-Indian Chamber of Comtion remains a testament to merce and Industry, talked about the Buddha's meshis dedication to the country's framework and sage of `being one's own light'. Ambedkar, despite people.

create global issues but not

The minister also spoke about welfare schemes aimed at supporting the Buddhist community.

dra Modi's recent initia-Secretary General of the tives including extensive celebration of Buddha International Buddhist Purnima by the Govern-Confederation. Shartse ment of India underline a Khensur Jangchup Choede, said the Buddhist princommitment to promoting ciple of `Ahimsa' (non-vio-"The prime minister's lence) has a transformative speeches at the UN and Eupower and can lead to culropean Union consistently tivation of `Daya' (compas-

sion) and `Karuna' (mercy

facing numerous challenges, never endorsed violence throughout his life, Kamble underlined, adding that values of Buddhism contribute to lower levels of conflict in countries influenced by these teachings. The conference also paid tribute to the legacy of Dr.

Dr. Milind Kamble,

Ambedkar, recognizing his contributions to modern Buddhism and efforts to promote Buddhist values..

### **CRIME WATCH**

#### Man held for stabbing wife to death

Palghar: Police have arrested a 38-year-old man from Virar for allegedly stabbing his wife to death following an argument with her. officers said on Saturday. The accused, Gopal Rathod, had a habit of drinking liquor and would trouble his family members after returning home drunk, an officer of Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar olice commissionerate said. "Around 4.30 am on Friday, an argument broke out between him and his 32-year-old wife Bharati. In a fit of rage, he pulled out a knife and stabbed her to death," he said. Their neighbours alerted the police, following which a team was sent to the spot. The victim's body was taken to a government hospital for a post-mortem, he said, adding that the accused was later arrested and booked under sections 103 (1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).



## **Unsold diamond nabbed suspects**

Mumbai: The inability to sell a stolen diamond in Nepal landed two people in the police net for the murder of a petrol pump owner near

Based on a tip-off, the police on Wednesday arrested

Palghar district on August 25. said Datta Shinde. Additional Commissioner of Police, Mira Bhayander Vasai Virar.

The victim was reportwho hailed from a place edly abducted and strannear the Nepal border, the gled by his driver Khubchandani and two others and was robbed of cash, a diamond ring, and a watch, he said. An officer said the accused had gone to Nepal but could not find any takers for the diamond and watch, so they returned to Uttar Pradesh to sell it. As soon as they entered UP on Wednesday, they were

placed under arrest. A probe revealed that

Khubchandani allegedly

killed the victim with the

help of two accomplices,

#### Physical education teacher held

Thane: Police have arrested a teacher of a private school in Ulhasnagar township of Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly molesting a seven-year-old girl student, an official said on Saturday. The accused, a physical education teacher, was arrested on Friday, the official of Hill Line police station in Ulhasnagar said. "The teacher molested the girl on the school premises. She later told her parents about it, following which they approached the police and lodged a complaint on Thursday," he said. Accordingly, a case under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and arrested the accused.

#### Mother-son duo booked for ruckus

Thane: A case has been registered against a woman and her son for allegedly creating a scene at a police station in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Saturday. The mother-son duo and another person arrived at a police station in Dombivili on Thursday afternoon and allegedly yelled at the duty officer, demanding the arrest of a person against whom they had lodged a complaint, an official said.



Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan visits the pandal of 'Lalbaugcha Raja' idol of Lord Ganesh in Mumbai on Saturday. Pic: PTI

## Ajit Ranade removed as VC of Gokhale Institute

Pune: Noted economist Dr. Ajit Ranade was on Saturday removed as vice chancellor of the city-based Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) after the institute found that his appointment violated the UGC norms

The prestigious institute, a deemed university, had set up a fact-finding committee to examine the issue after Ranade's appointment was called into question. A letter by the institute to

Ranade stated that the committee was of the opinion that his candidature "does not conform to the established norms set forth by the University Grants Commis-

sion (UGC) guidelines," and hence he was being removed.

Reacting to the development. Ranade said in a statement that it was a "truly unfortunate and shocking decision."

"For the past two-and-half years, I have been working diligently and to the best of my ability, contributing to positive developments in the institute. These results seem to have been completely ignored," he added.

the accused, Mukesh Khubchandani and Anil Rajkumar, from Gorakhpur in UP, where they had come to sell the valuables they had allegedly stolen from the murder victim R.G. Kakrani

Kakrani, who owned a petrol pump, was found dead in his car on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in

identified the Bangladesh

nationals as Lucky Nazrul

Sheikh (35), Mohammad

Shabeer Hussain (30), Ruk-

Amir Haroon Patel (30).

official said. A special team was dispatched to Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, where the local police informed them that the accused had already escaped to Lumbini of Nepal, he said. As the accused couldn't sell the stolen valuables in the neighbouring country, two of them arrived in Gorakhpur and were nabbed.

#### Thombre chairman of pvt Four Bangladeshis sugar mills body arrested in Thane

Thane: Four Bangladeshi **Mumbai:** Sugar industry committee was elected with nationals were arrested for veteran B.B. Thombre and allegedly staying in the NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar country without proper were elected as the chairdocumentation, while one man and deputy chairman man was held for helping of the West Indian Sugar them, a Thane police officer Mills Association (WISMA) said on Saturday. The Manon Saturday. pada police station official

As many as 113 private sugar mills in the state are members of the WISMA, an apex body of private sugar mills in Maharashtra.

sana Tausif Sheikh (45), and Thombre and Pawar Tausif Firaz Sheikh (50), were appointed during while the resident of Konthe annual general meetgaon who has been held is ing in Pune, where the 11-member executive

a majority. Thombre is the CMD of Natural Sugar in Yavatmal, while Pawar is the CEO of Baramati Agro Ltd in Pune.

MP Bajarang Sonawane, the CMD of Yedeshwari Agro Products Ltd in Beed district, was also elected as a member of the WISMA executive committee.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to genera public that my client SHRI RAJENDRA MANAHARLAL RAJENDRA MANAHARLAL VYAS & RAMILABEN RAJENDRA VYAS & RAMILABEN RAJENDRA VYAS are joint owners of the Flat No. 301, Third Floor, A-wing, NEW SHANTI NIWAS "A" CHS LTD., Cabin Road, Bhayander (East), Tal. & Dist. Thane 401105. The original agreement of dtd. 18/12/1933 between Deriya & Patel builders & SMT. SARITA SHANTARAM SHIRKE is missing. Also in the share certificate no. 38 and share nos. 186 to 190 the name of AMISH NARESH DOSHI as second members is also as second members is also missing. My client has requested me to issue no claim certificate.

me to issue no claim certificate. So, any person having any right, title, and interest, heirship rights, Mortgage, Gift Deed, etc., of the above referred Flat, its agreements, Share Certificate or having any objection to issue No Claim Certificate then please write to the undersigned with necessary documents within 14 days from the publication of this notice, failing which No Claim Certificate will be issued to my client which will be issued to my client which ase be noted.

JOHN M. RODRICKS ADVOCATE Office No. 2, First Floor, New Shanti Ganga Apt., Opp. Bhayander Rly. Stn., Bhayander (E),Thane 401105 Mob.9892401349

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"We started the Ladki Bahin scheme, offering Rs 1,500 to eligible women every month. If you increase our strength, we will raise the monthly amount to Rs 2,000. If you give a bigger mandate, we will increase it to Rs 3,000. We will not hesitate to take up this amount further." -Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister



## Eid holiday to be on Wednesday

Mumbai: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has stated that Eid-e-Milad will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 18, instead of Monday, September 16.

All offices of BMC as well as schools will function as usual on Monday, the civic body said, based on the decision taken by the state government.

The Maharashtra government has cancelled the public holiday of Eid-e-Milad. which was earlier announced on Monday in both Mumbai city and suburbs. Instead, the government has declared a public holiday for Eid-e-Milad on Wednesday. The change has been made to ensure that the processions taken out on both Anant Chaturdashi and Eid-e-Milad maintain social harmony.

All the offices of the civic body in Mumbai and Thane district (excluding essential services such as cleaning, hospitals, clinics, maternity homes, water works, electric washing stations, fire stations, fire stations, security, Deonar slaughterhouse, and emer-



gency management) will be closed on Wednesday.

#### Traffic advisory

Meanwhile, the Mumbai Police have issued a traffic advisory for motorists and shared details of vehicle movement restrictions around Mankhurd on September 18. In a traffic notification, the Mumbai Traffic Police said that in Mankhurd Traffic Division, about 70,000 to 80,000 people cles during the festivities.

The traffic notification was issued by Pradeep Chavan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (eastern suburbs), Traffic, Mumbai.

#### **Road Closed**

Link Road (between Chhe-Entry to all types of heavy da Nagar Junction and vehicles (excluding Eid-E-Mankhurd T. Junction) Milad vehicles and BEST Madhukar Kadam Marg. buses) are prohibited on P.L. Lokhande Marg.

both bounds between Chheda Nagar Junction and Mankhurd T Junction on Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road. Also light vehicles shall use Ghatkopar -Mankhurd Link Road flvover.

Parking on both bounds is prohibited on the following roads Ghatkopar - Mankhurd

will take part in the Eid celebrations this year. The police are anticipating 100 to 200 two-wheelers as well as 50 to 55 big and other vehi-



## MUMBAI



BJP National President JP Nadda, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and others during Ganesh Chaturthi festival at Fadnavis' residence in Mumbai on Saturday. Pic: PTI

## **BJP upbeat after internal surveys** show favourable conditions in Konkan

#### By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: While former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has predicted PM Narendra Modi's ouster after possible NDA debacle in Maharashtra, the state BJP, however, is upbeat, as an internal surveys have shown favourable conditions for it in Konkan region.

Chavan, who was speaking at Gondia during a function to induct old party member Gopaldas Agarwal back into the party fold, stated that the NDA is sure to lose in Haryana and the same results are likely to be repeated in Ma-

harashtra He also went on to predict that if that hap-

pens Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar could withdraw their support to the government paving way for PM Modi's ouster.

However, this prediction has not dampened the spirits of the state BJP. On the contrary the party is upbeat after an internal survey has shown an upper hand for the ruling alliance in Konkan region and the party regaining lost ground in other areas of the state

> According to the sources privy to the information, the party is likely to better its performance in Konkan region while its

condition in other regions too appears to be changing.

On the other hand, the favourable conditions for MVA are rapidly reversing owing to inability of the parties to come to consensus over seat sharing, the survey has shown. According to sources within MVA, 36 seats in Mumbai is the current bone of contention between the MVA alliance partners, even though it has successfully resolve issues around most of the other seats across the state. Within MVA, the Shiv Sena (UBT) wants to contest at least 20 seats in Mumba, while the numbers for Congress and

Of the total 75 seats in Konkan region, the BJP has received favourable signals in as many as 40 seats, said the sources. Now, it needs to get most of these seats from the alliance members during negotiations. While the BJP is preparing to contest around 160 seats in the state the Shiv Sena is expecting to get around 100 and the NCP is hoping for 60 seats to come to it in the seat sharing. Days ahead would test the bargaining skills of our leaders, said the sources within BJP.

the NCP (SP) are 20 and 8 respectively.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) is stubborn on its demand of seats making it difficult to push through the seat sharing talks, said a senior Congress leader involved in the seat sharing talks. There are at least six seats that are being claimed by

both, the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress. Since the parties have respectively contested 19 and 29 seats in Mumbai during 2019 assembly polls in the city, they are trying for a bigger share of the pie leaving little middle ground during the talks. the leader said.

#### out to BJP leaders Mumbai: Bharatiya Janaister Raosaheb Danve and ta Party (BJP) president MLC Pravin Darekar were and Union Health Minister present at Fadnavis's residence. Nadda later visited the

Nadda reaches

J P Nadda on Saturday performed Ganesh puja at Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's official residence in south Mumbai as part of ongoing Ganpati festival.

Later, he also visited the official residence of Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and performed puja. After that, he held a meeting with party leaders there.

Along with Nadda, Union minister and the BJP's Maharashtra in-charge Bhupender Yadav, Union minister Pivush Goval. party's state unit chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule, its Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar, former Union min-

### **Ganesh idols** workshop vandalised

Thane: An unidentified person allegedly destroyed Ganesh idols and stole equipment from a workshop in Thane district, police said on Saturday.

famous Lalbaugcha Raja Ganesh pandal, the Bandra The incident occurred in West Ganesh pandal, which the Padma Nagar locality in is associated with Mumbai Bhiwandi town in the wee hours of Thursday, an offi-BJP chief Ashish Shelar, as well as Chinchpokalicha cial said.An unidentified person allegedly broke into Chintamani Ganesh pandal the workshop, destroyed and offered prayers. Last week, Union Home idols and stole painting equipment. The vandalism

Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah visited Mumbai and held meetings with Shinde, Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Assembly elections in the state are likely to be held in November. BJP, Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Pawar's NCP are part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance in the state

and demanded action against the miscreant. The police deployment in the area was stepped up, and senior police officers pacified the people. The situation was tense but under control, officers

came to light on Friday, he

said.An irate crowd later

gathered near the workshop

of the Bhiwandi police said.

### Notice to factory for closure

Thane: The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) on Friday issued a closure notice to an Ambernath-based chemical factory, Nikakem Products. for negligence and improper acid storage. The action followed a Thursday night occurrence, when residents of Ambernath, a suburb of Thane, complained of eye irritation and breathing difficulties due to a thick haze from a gas leakage from the factory.

The gas began spreading after 11pm, and by 11:30pm, visibility was severely reduced. It spread across a 1 km area and the situation was brought under control in two hours. There have been no reports of injuries or hospitalisations.

## Couple booked for cheating builder

Thane: A case has been registered against a couple for allegedly cheating a builder of Rs 12 crore in a dispute over the redevelopment of a housing society in Maharashtra's Thane district,

police said on Saturday. Based on a complaint by the builder, the Kalyan police on Thursday registered a case under sections 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and other relevant provisions of the

UD took money from the com-

plainant by promising to get approvals and no objection certificates from flat owners for the redevelopment of a housing society and to withdraw cases they had registered against other tenants, the official said. Indian Penal Code against The duo also allegedly Srikant Pai and his lawyer sold flats using forged docu-

wife Divya, an officer said. The complainant has alleged that the couple duped him of Rs 12 crore between January 2018 and May 2024, he said. The accused allegedly



## **New Marathi** gymkhana soon

### Woman loses Rs 3.04 crore to fraudsters

Mumbai: Cyber fraudsters posing as officials of Mumbai police and CBI duped a

## Suffocation after fire, 90 rescued

Mumbai: Thirteen persons suffered from suffocation after a fire broke on the ground floor of a seven-storey building in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area in the wee hours of Saturday, an official said



### 

Mumbai: In a strategic move to woo the Marathi Manoos ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, the Maharashtra government has announced plans to establish a Marathi Gymkhana in South Mumbai. mirroring the existing community clubs like the Islam Gymkhana and Parsi Gymkhana. The initiative is expected to resonate with local residents and cater to the cultural and recreational needs of the Marathispeaking community.

According to sources, the civic body has been tasked with identifying a suitable plot of land for the proposed facility, which is set to become a hub for Marathi culture and community activities in the heart of the city. Its membership will be restricted exclusively to individuals from the Marathi community. The announcement was made by Marathi Language

Minister, Deepak Kesarkar, on Friday. Speaking at a press conference, Kesarkar emphasized the importance of the new gymkhana in maintaining the cultural presence of the Marathi people in Mumbai, a city where several other ethnic communities already have dedicated spaces. The move aims to provide the Marathi-speaking populace with a distinct hub in the

southern part of the metropolis. "We are actively searching for a suitable location in South Mumbai for the gymkhana. As the guardian minister of Mumbai, I have

instructed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to help identify an appropriate spot for this venture," Kesarkar stated.

61-year-old woman here of Rs 3.04 crore, police said on Saturday.

Over the last two months. the woman, a Thane resident, was contacted by individuals who identified themselves as officials of a courier firm, the cybercrime cell of Mumbai police and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

She was told that her bank accounts required inspection for 'suspicious activity', and forced to transfer Rs 3.04 crore through five online transactions, said a police officer.

After realising that she had been cheated, she approached Thane Nagar police station on Friday and a case was registered, he said.





Om Shanti Mitra Mandal in Shanti Nagar, Mira road decorated the Ganesh Idol with 2000 kg of sugarcane.

The blaze erupted at 1.35 am in Shanti Sagar Building located in Ramabai Colony of Pantnagar in Ghatkopar east and around 90 residents were rescued from there, the fire brigade official said.

"The fire broke out in the electric meter room on the ground floor. It remained confined to the wiring and other installations there.

Due to the fire, smoke engulfed the entire building," he said. "Eighty to ninety persons stranded on different floors were rescued and brought down using the staircase before the fire was extinguished at 2.05 am. Thirteen persons suffered

from suffocation due to the

Thane city for allegedly

cheating people of Rs 6.25

crore by promising them

lucrative returns on invest-

ments, police said on

Based on a complaint,

the police on Friday regis-

tered a case against the ac-

cused, Manish Malkan and

Arpit Shah, under sections

420 (cheating), 406 (crimi-

nal breach of trust) and

other relevant provisions

of the Indian Penal Code

Saturday.

smoke, of whom 12 were admitted to a local hospital while one was discharged after treatment at the OPD section there." he added.

Of the injured persons, nine are females, the official said, adding that the cause behind the blaze is being ascertained.

### Cobra rescued from Mulund flat

Mumbai: A three-foot long cobra was found in a flat in Mulund in north east Mumbai on Saturday afternoon, a forest department official said. It was lying on the sofa in the house, said Pawan Sharma, president of RAWW and honorary wildlife warden with the Maharashtra forest department. The spectacled cobra was

rescued by Ravindra Suryavanshi from our team and it was examined by veterinarians Dr. Priti Sathe and Dr. Kirti Sathe

Two booked for duping investors Thane: A case has been between October 2020 and registered against two per-May 2023, an officer said. sons in Maharashtra's

The duo allegedly lured people to invest in their company, Money Maker Malkan, which they claimed was licenced by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), he said.

The accused assured high returns, promising 6 to 8 per cent profit on investments, and convinced people to invest large sums of money. However, the payments ceased in February 2023, and they failed to refund the principal amount.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Earlier, a crisis had emerged on the issue of onions. But the government's decision to slash export duty on

onion will prove to be hugely beneficial to the growers of this crop. All these decisions will benefit soybean, onion and Basmati rice farmers and it will indirectly benefit cotton growers as well.

- Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM



here on Saturday. The suspension came after a series of internal probes till the matter was transferred to the BMC headquarters and entrusted to the Savitribai Phule Stree Resources Centre

The BMC said that further action against the ac-

cused-suspended Associate Professor shall be taken after the full investigations are complete and the report of the probe committee is received, an official said. Six months ago, in March, the student who is also an

athlete, was summoned by the accused Associate Professor and queried on the sports she played.

A few days later, he again called her to his cabin where he touched her inappropriately on the neck and behind her ears, claiming he was checking for lymph nodes swelling, asked her to remove her apron, put his hand on her shoulder and spoke about her lips colour.

Shaken by this, the MBBS student initially discussed the matter with her friends and classmates, and in April lodged a complaint against the Associate Professor. A local probe committee at the hospital level said in its report in August that "there is truth" in the student's complaint and recommended that the con-

cerned Associate Professor should be transferred, and his increments be stopped for a year.

It also recommended that he must not be kept at the Nair Hospital till the victim completed her studies and to bar him from conducting any examinations in which the aggrieved student was appearing. The panel also termed

the hospital management's stance as 'unfortunate and insensitive' to the whole matter and said it should be served with a written warning as they reportedly cre-

ated hurdles in the implementation of the laws and did not assist the case proceedings

Subsequently, the accused Associate Professor was removed from teaching duties and assigned administration work till the pendency of the matter. The BMC said on Saturday that it has taken serious note of the case plus additional complaints of sexual harassment have also been received in the matter, which are now at the civic headquarters, for a fair and transparent probe.

## Professor suspended over allegations of sexual harassment

for fraud that took place

## **BUSINESS**



myperfectvoice@gmail.com 🔰 @my\_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

# Cong says Madhabi Buch invested in Chinese firms



New Delhi: Upping the ante over the conflict of interest row involving SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Saturday claimed that she traded in listed securities while in possession of unpublished price sensitive information and has been investing in the Chinese firms at a time when India is facing geopolitical tensions with China.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh pointed to "fresh conflict of interest allegations" against Buch, claiming that she, as a whole-time member and later as the SEBI chairperson traded in listed securities worth Rs 36.9 crore.

The Congress attack comes a day after Buch said that she had made all necessary disclosures and complied with recusal guidelines in dealing with companies such as Mahindra Group that hired her husband, as she rejected allegations of impropriety as "false, malicious and motivated".

Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in a joint statement -- the second since US-based short seller Hindenburg Research

charged her of not being SEBI chairperson, traded motivated enough to act on in listed securities worth Rs allegations against the 36.9 crore Adani group due to conflict This is in violation of of interest -- also addressed Section 6 of the SEBI's Code on Conflict of Interest issues raised by the opposition Congress over receivfor the Members of Board

ing payments from her pre-(2008), he said. He also gave a year-wise break-up of the vious employer the ICICI Bank while being a whole total trading in securities time member of the SEBI. which in total amounted to over Rs 36.9 crore. The statement said Buch

In addition to that,

Khera said, "We have in-

formation that between

2017-2021. Madhabi Buch

held foreign assets." "We

hereby ask: When was the

first time she declared the

foreign assets and to

which agency of the gov-

ernment? Is it true that

Ms. Madhabi P. Buch was

actively involved in Agora

Partners PTE (Singapore)

as she was a signatory to

the bank account?" he

investment in the US be-

tween 2021 and 2024. Khera

claimed that she had invest-

ed in Vanguard Total Stock

Market ETF (VTI), ARK In-

novation ETF (ARKK),

Global X MSCI China Con-

sumer (CHIQ) and Invesco

China Technology ETF

-PTI

Listing the details of her

said.

(CQQQ).

never dealt with any file involving Agora Advisory and Agora Partners -- the advisories where she held 99 per cent and continued to earn revenue even after she joined the market regulator body Sebi in 2017.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, said it is not surprising that the "government's favourite, the SEBI chairperson, is also not behind in investing in Chinese companies"

The new revelations prove that there are many things that are kept secret, he added.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera alleged that between 2017-2023, Buch, as a whole-time member and later as the

### **NCLT recalls** order on Zee-Sony merger

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed withdrawal of its order approving the merger of Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures Networks India and recalled its earlier order passed in this regard.

The Mumbai bench of the NCLT had last week recalled its order passed on August 10, 2023, in which it had approved the merger of Zee Entertainment with Sony Pictures Networks India. The bench observed the parties have "mutually consented" to withdraw the scheme on account of the settlement agreement and the board of directors has passed the resolutions to withdraw the scheme of amalgamation.

"Accordingly, this Bench allows the withdrawal of the Scheme of Amalgamation and hereby recalls order dated 10.08.2023 in C.P.(CAA) No. 209 of 2022," said NCLT order, a copy of which was shared to bourses by Zee on Thursday.

Zee, which applied for withdrawal, submitted the Composite Scheme of the Merger Cooperation Agreement executed to give effect to this scheme stands terminated and accordingly the closing date has not occurred and the scheme has not attained any effectiveness. Earlier on August 27, ZEE Entertainment and Sony Pictures Networks India announced settling their six months long dispute related to the failed USD 10-billion merger and agreed to withdraw all claims against each other. As part of that, both had mutually agreed to withdraw all respective claims against each other in the ongoing arbitration at the SIAC.

## **MONEY MATTERS** Six Must Have Features In Your Health Insurance



hile you are saving for significant financial goals like a home down payment, your children's education, and retirement, it is equally essential to protect those savings with a comprehensive health insurance plan. In India, it is often said that you're just one hospital bill away from poverty. With rising medical costs, choosing the right plan has become more critical than ever for families. A robust plan can shield you from unexpected out-of-pocket

If you are purchasing health insurance for the first time or your ensure it includes these six critical features. You can also port to a new

If you are solely dependent on employer's health insurance, be warned. Most of the below points are either missing or unfavorably placed in an employer's plan. Besides, the sum insured of the cover is also insufficient. For example, if a hospital bill amounts to Rs 15 lakhs or more, relying solely on your employer's plan may result in substantial out-of-pocket expenses. Having personal coverage ensures that you and your family are fully protected.

#### Here are six key features every health insurance plan should include:

**NO COPAYMENT CLAUSE:** 

A copayment is the percentage of the hospital bill the policyholder is required to pay out of pocket (often 10%-30%). Ideally, choose a policy with no copayment clause (for lifetime), ensuring the

#### insurer covers 100% of the expenses, leaving no financial burden on vou.

#### **NO ROOM RENT CAPPING:** റ

Many policies restrict the A many poincies real room category you can choose. A policy with no room rent limit provides the flexibility to select any room (including suite), based on your medical needs and comfort, without additional charges. This also helps avoid 'proportionate deductions' by the insurer on various other hospital charges when a higher room category is selected.

### **9** NO DISEASE-WISE LIMITS:

Disease-wise limits restrict O the amount that can be claimed for specific illnesses, often resulting in insufficient coverage for certain treatments. Plans without such limits provide broader protection, ensuring that policyholders aren't caught off guard by high treatment costs.

#### SHORTER WAITING PERIODS:

**H** PERIODS: Waiting periods, especially for pre-existing conditions, can delay access to critical medical treatment. Health insurance plans

with shorter or more lenient waiting periods are recommended, allowing quicker access to coverage when needed.

BENEFIT FOR SAME AND UNRELATED **ILLNESSES:** Restoration benefits replenish the sum insured after hospitalization.

Opt for a policy that restores the coverage for both the same and unrelated illnesses, ensuring continuous coverage throughout the year. Look for plans with minimal cooling-off periods between claims. which is especially important for recurring hospitalizations due to critical illnesses or accidents.

#### COVERAGE FOR NON-MEDICAL ITEMS:

Hospital consumables and non-medical items can often make up a significant portion of your hospital bill, and most traditional plans don't cover them. A comprehensive health insurance plan should include these expenses, helping reduce the financial burden on the policyholder.

With medical costs continuing to climb, it's essential to review your health insurance plan carefully to ensure it provides the protection you need. A comprehensive policy safeguards not only your health but also your financial goals.

> (The writer is a Chartered Accountant and CFA (USA). Financial Advisor. Views personal.)



## Pvt hospital bed costs on rise in last five years

By Correspondent



### Is IT sector ready for next big uptrend? tor will outperform the

#### By Mangesh Kulkarni

Mumbai: Over the past three years, the Nifty index has returned 47.5 per cent, while the Nifty IT index has only seen a return of 25 per cent. This means that the



investors to look into it? Looking at the Nifty IT Index and the Nifty50 ratio chart, it's evident that the IT sector has started to outperform the overall market since June 2024. The IT sector has been underperforming the broader market for nearly 30 months, starting from December 2021. The chart clearly shows that this

broader indices in the future. However, it's important to consider whether the fundamentals support this technical outlook.

IT companies have seen some positive developments in the BFSI sector, but bottomed out and all IT there's still a cautious apcompanies are concentratproach from consumers toing on enhancing the productivity and skills of their wards tech spending, indicating a minimal to no existing workforce. The outincrease in discretionary look for the IT sector in the spending. Tier-1 companies medium to long term looks have seen revenue growth promising, driven by higher in North America and Eudeal wins, the possibility of interest rate reductions that rope, as reported by KR pattern of underper-Choksey. Management could stimulate latent deformance and outperstatements indicate that the mand, and an increasing formance lasts for a period current fiscal year is expectmomentum in the field of ed to outperform the previ-Gen-AI, particularly in au-Given the recent perforous one, with stronger tomation, cloud migration, data modernization, and growth anticipated in the second half of the fiscal technology integration, as seems likely that the IT secyear compared to the first. mentioned in the report.

The expectation for better performance in the second half is fueled by growth across various sectors and regions, increased deal activity, and a relatively lower base in the previous fiscal year. Employee attrition has

on vehicle imports

Sri Lanka to lift ban

Colombo: Sri Lanka will lift the restrictions on the import of all vehicles in a phased-out manner by February next year as part of the island nation's efforts

expenses. existing policy is up for renewal, insurance policy.

Nifty IT index has fallen short by almost 22.5% in comparison to the broader Nifty index over the same period

Translated to an annualized basis, this shortfall amounts to a performance of nearly 7 per cent annually. On the other hand, Nifty IT has given a breakout on Monthly chart almost after a consolidation of three years. This suggests that the underperformance in the IT sector may be coming to an end. Could this be a good time for

Nashik: Onion prices rose at

the Lasalgaon Agriculture

Produce Market Committee

(APMC) in the district on

Saturday following the Un-

ion government's decision to

scrap the minimum export

price (MEP) and halve the

one of the biggest onion

wholesale markets in the

The Lasalgaon APMC is

export duty.

of 24 to 36 months. mance of the IT index and its ratio to the Nifty50, it

country

economy", according to an official release.

The ban would be lifted from October 1 in three phases as part of a broader economic recovery strategy tied to the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an official statement by President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said. The Cabinet approval granted to allow motor vehicle imports comes after four years of "stringent import restrictions".

to "restore normalcy in the Mumbai: India's private hospital beds are generating increased revenue per hospital bed between Rs 38,000-77,000 compared to Rs 18,000-46,000 around five years back, said a report by the research arm

> of a global banker. However, average length of stay at these hospitals were reduced to 2.7-4.2 days from 3.2-4.4. days during the same period, due to better operational efficiency, use of advanced medical technologies leading to faster turnaround in beds, said the report by HSBC Global Research.

As a result, India's private hospitals are adding around 14,000 beds over the next 3-5 years in their focus markets, due to rising profitability from new bed additions, while between 2019-2024, the hospitals under coverage had added 4,000 beds.

India requires around 100,000 additional beds in the next 5-7 years just to meet its healthcare demand on the back of increasing non-communica-

ble diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, cardiac disorders, and cancer.

"In view of favourable demand dynamics, we expect new beds to be easily absorbed without excess supply issues," the report said.

However, the impact on operating profit margins depends on the quantum of bed additions relative to current capacity, the location of new units, and execution. A larger and improving operating profit base ensures a minimal margin drag from bed ad-

ditions, though some drag

on profit margins could be

healthcare market is projected to reach USD 638 billion employing 75 lakh people. India, with only 1.7 nurses per 1,000 people and a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:1,500 nationwide, is expected to see the demand for Indian healthcare professionals double nationally and globally by 2030, according to industry sources.

factored, the report said

By 2025, the Indian

In the recent union budget, the government allocated Rs 90,659 crore, up 13 percent over previous year for the healthcare sector.

# No cap on tourists visiting Bhutan, says official

Thimphu: The sustainable development fee (SDF) has not stopped a steady flow of people coming into the land of the thunder dragon that welcomes everyone as chief marketing officer of Bhutan Tourism Carissa Nimah assured there is "no capping on number of tourists".

Bhutan, which charges USD 100 per person per night to all foreign visitors except those from India, who pay Rs 1,200 per person per night, has been successfully promoting 'High value, Low volume' policy, prior-



itising environment conserand tourism strategies... So, vation and sustainability. Bhutan's tourism strategy "Bhutan always had a is 'high value, low volume'.

slightly different approach Bhutan is not the mass when it comes to tourism tourism destination. It has

never been, it doesn't want to be.

"It is about attracting the right amount of people that come here and making sure that when people come the guest experience is very high. It is a high-quality guest experience," Nimah, who has previously worked with luxury hospitality brands in Maldives and Thailand, told PTI.

The money generated through SDF is used in a range of things, including free healthcare and free education for Bhutanese nationals, sustainability and conservation projects, and upgrading of infrastructure. While admitting that the SDF naturally limits the number of people visiting Bhutan, she clarified about the "common misperception" pertaining to Bhutan putting a cap on the number of tourists.

"There is no cap in place, there is a misperception that we limit how many people come here. This is not true. We welcome everyone. In 2019, which was the busiest year for tourism in Bhutan, we welcomed around 3.5 lakh people and this for a population of 7.5 lakh is a considerable number. Still, we did not put a cap on the number of people coming to Bhutan," she explained.

The Kingdom of Bhutan, this year commemorates the 50th anniversary of opening its borders to international tourists.

Bhutan started welcoming international visitors in 1974 to share its unique spiritual, cultural and natural heritage.

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Iran and India have great similarities during their thousands of years of history. We are going to revitalise these connections through tourism



and, somehow, facilitate mutual tourism cooperation."

- Aliasghar Shalbafian, DY. of Tourism in the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran

#### Onion prices in Lasalgaon wholesale market rise moved, but farmers' onion day. The prices ranged from produce is running out," said

The prices of the kitchen staple in the APMC rose by Balasaheb Kshirsagar, Laaverage Rs 433 per quintal, salgaon APMC chairman. sources said. "The removal "There is no clarification vet of MEP is certainly a good about whether export chargdecision. The market has ines have been reduced by 20 creased a bit. We think there per cent or 40 per cent," he should be no export ban. The told PTI.

As many as 425 vehicles or imposition and removal of such things affects the mar-5.182 guintals of onion arket. Now MEP has been rerived at the market on Satur-

Rs 3.700 to Rs 4,951 per quintal and Rs 4,700 per quintal average. On Friday, around 302 vehicles (3,736 quintals) of onion had arrived and the prices were Rs 2,800 per quintal minimum, Rs 4,411 per quintal maximum and Rs 4,267 per quintal average, APMC sources said. The government has

halved the export duty on onion to 20 percent from 40 per cent. The duty cut is effective from September 14. The 40 per cent export duty had been in place since May 4. The decisions, including removal of MEP on both onion and basmati rice and cut in the export duty, came ahead of assembly elections

**THE PERFECT VOICE** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 **MUMBAI** 

## NATIONAL

## Mamata makes surprise visit to protest site

She also announced that

Kolkata: Amid the continuing impasse, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday made a surprise visit to the site where the junior doctors were protesting, and assured them that she would look into their demands and take action if anyone was found guilty.

Addressing the protesting doctors amid chants of 'we want justice' outside the Swasthya Bhawan in Salt Lake, Banerjee said she would not take any steps against them as she did not believe in suppressing a democratic movement.

However, after she left the site, the agitating doctors said they were not ready to compromise on their demands till discus-

New Delhi: In the wake of

an undiagnosed fever

claiming 15 lives in Guja-

rat's Kutch, the Union

health ministry has set up a

surveillance mechanism to

immediately respond to

such outbreaks, official

such as airports, land ports

and seaports are also being

The government has es-

tablished an effective sur-

veillance mechanism

through the National Cen-

tre for Disease Control

(NCDC), Integrated Disease

Surveillance Programme

(IDSP). IHIP network and

also through the One Health

Mission to immediately re-

spond to any such out-

breaks, according to the

monitored for the disease.

They said points of entry

sources said on Saturday.



sions were held, indicating

no immediate break-

Accompanied by DGP

Rajiv Kumar, Banerjee

reached the site in Sector 5

around 1 pm, taking those

present there by surprise.

ing sleepless nights as the

medics were agitating on

Undiagnosed fever claims 15 lives in Kutch

**Centre sets up** 

the road amid rains

She said she was spend-

through in the impasse.

patient welfare committees of all state-run hospitals were dissolved with immediate effect. The medics have been

camping outside Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of the state Health Department, since Tuesday with a host of demands, including better security at state-run hospitals and the removal of top officials over the rape and murder of the doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The junior doctors have been protesting for over a month, affecting the public healthcare infrastructure of the state. The government claimed that 29 people have died due to the protests allegedly after not receiving treatment.

#### CPI(M) leader among two arrested

CPI(M) leader Kalatan released on Friday. Dasgupta was among two The other person arrested persons who were arrested in the case was identified for allegedly hatching a as Sanjiv Das, police said. conspiracy to attack the Das was arrested from Haltu in south Kolkata protesting junior doctors, police said on Saturday. on Friday night, while The arrests were made Dasgupta was held from after an audio clip of a the protest site outside phone call was released Swashtya Bhawan in Sector by TMC leader Kunal 5, they said. Ghosh, who alleged that The medics have been a conspiracy was being camping outside Swasthya hatched to attack the Bhawan, the headquarters of the state Health protesting junior doctors outside the Swashtya Department, since Tuesday Bhawan in Salt Lake to with a host of demands, defame the Mamata including better security Banerjee government in at state-run hospitals and the removal of top officials Police lodged a suo motu over the rape and murder case in connection with of the doctor at the RG Kar the audio clip that was MCH last month.

I came to meet you as your 'didi' (elder sister) not as the Chief Minister. I assure you that I will study your demands and take action if someone is found guilty. This is my last attempt to resolve the crisis. Mamata Banerjee,

assaulted him.

66

Chief Minister, West Bengal

The complainant further

alleged that the accused

stripped his son naked and

forced him to dance. They

also recorded the act, police

(POCSO), they said.

Kshitij Gurjar (24) alias

Bittu, Ashish Upadhyay

alias Vikku (52), his son

Yayati Upadhyay (24) alias

Gungun, Gourav Soni (21),

Sandeep Singh (30) alias Ra-

hul Bannasha, and Sumit

Kumar Sain (25)

Arrest Of Cyber Criminal On FBI Input **CBI seizes 57 gold** bars, Rs 16 lakh



New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an alleged cybercriminal from Mumbai who had duped a US citizen to the tune of USD 4.5 lakh by posing as a technical support, officials said on Saturday

In the action conducted under its ongoing crackdown on cyber criminals in its Operation Chakra-3 in coordination with the USA's FBI, the CBI dismantles a sophisticated virtual asset and bullion supported cyber-crime network that has been targeting victims in foreign countries since 2022, they said.

said.Based on the complaint, an FIR was lodged During searches conducted in last two days at under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhiseven locations, the CBI seized 57 gold bars of 100 ta, Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Pregm each, cash amount of vention of Atrocities) Act Rs 16 lakh, mobile phone, and Protection of Children laptop used to manage from Sexual Offences Act crypto currencies, details of lockers and other in-Six people, including a criminating documents father-son duo, were arrestfrom the premises of the ed in the case, they said. The Mumbai-based cyber-crimaccused were identified as inal named Vishnu Rathi,

the officials said. The agency found material showing that these transnational cyber-enabled financial crimes network was channeling proceeds of crime through they said. The CBI had registered the case on September 9 against Rathi and others on allegations that the accused conspired to target a US citizen by gaining unauthorized remote access to the victim's computer and

bank account between June and August 2022. "It was also alleged that under the pretext of offer-

ing tech support services, they falsely informed the US based victim that her bank account had been compromised. Claiming that the funds were at risk, they, allegedly, manipulated the victim into transferring USD 453,953 to cryptocurrency wallets controlled by them," a CBI spokesperson said in statement.

The CBI is coordinating with the FBI and law enforcement agencies in multiple countries through Interpol for follow up on leads, he said.

"Operation CHAKRA-III has been initiated by the CBI to combat and dismantle organized cyber enabled financial crime networks through a globally coordinated law enforcement response leveraging Interpol channels," the spokesperson said.

-PTI

### **Youth working** with Russian military returns

Hyderabad: Mohammed Sufiyan, a Telangana native who ended up working as a support staff for the Russian army after being



sources The ICMR's network of

laboratories will take care of diagnostics and there is enough capability to step up the supply of diagnostic kits if required, they said.

Under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-AB-HIM), the government has strengthened tertiary care



the state

Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said it is "unfortunate" to refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque and called Gyanvapi an "embodiment of Lord Vishwanath himself".

ing an international seminar on "Contribution of Harmonious Society" at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University.

tional Institute of Virology in Pune to identify the exact cause of the fever and the -PTI

#### Dalit boy stripped, forced 'Unfortunate' to to dance for stealing wire Kota (Rajasthan): A

12-year-old Dalit boy was allegedly stripped naked, forced to dance and filmed after he was caught stealing wire from an event here, police said on Saturday. A purported video show-

ing the boy dancing to a song with four to five men sitting around surfaced online. In the video, the men were compelling the boy to dance with a smile. The matter came to light

after police found the video and located the victim. They encouraged his family to file a complaint, police said.

Based on the complaint by the victim's father, his son had attended a comedy event on Friday night, organized at a fair in GAD Circle. Around four to five men accosted his son between 1 am and 4 am. They accused him of stealing a wire and

### **FIR over crackers** outside Kejriwal house

New Delhi: Delhi Police has filed an FIR over bursting of firecrackers outside the Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal's residence in north Delhi's Civil Lines to welcome him upon his re-

## Sardar Sarovar metres away from full level

virtual assets and bullion,

Rajpipla: Owing to good rainfall in catchment areas in Madhya Pradesh, the water level of Gujarat's Sardar Sarovar Dam went up to 136.43 metres on Saturday, over two metres short of its full reservoir



hectares of land in Gujarat and 0.24 million hectares in neighbouring Rajasthan. and supplies drinking water for three crore people.

As per the data shared by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Sardar Sarovar Dam is 92 per

#### services through critical care blocks. Also, sufficient medical oxygen is available for any such exigency, the sources added. The Gujarat government has deployed specialist doctors and 50 medical teams in and around seven villages of

two talukas in Kutch district after the outbreak of the undiagnosed fever. Samples of the infected patients have been sent to the Guiarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) in Gandhinagar and at the Na-

## refer to Gyanvapi as Gorakhpur (UP): Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister

Adityanath made these remarks while inaugurat-Nath Panth in Building a

"It is unfortunate that some people refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque while it is the embodiment of Lord Vishwanath himself," he said, and also made a detailed reference to legendary sage Adi Shankar, narrating an anecdote about his "encounter" with Lord

#### Vishwanath in Kashi

duped by an employment agent, returned home on September 14.

The return of Sufiyan (22), who belongs to Narayanpet district, ends the agonising wait of his family members who were worried about his safety as he was helping the Russian military in its war with Ukraine.

Sufiyan said he was promised a security-related job and not told about having to help the troops in the war.He was told that he would have to undergo training for three months after which his salary would increase.

Speaking to PTI in July this year, Sufiyan's brother Salman hoped for his brother's early return home following PM Narendra Modi's visit to Russia.

Russia had agreed to India's demand to ensure early release of Indian nationals working with the Russian military as support staff after PM Modi "very strongly" raised the issue with President Vladimir Putin during his visit.



subsequent deaths.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar pays his last respects to deceased CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, at CPI(M) headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday. Pic: PT

lease from jail, officials said on Saturday.

The Delhi government on Monday announced a ban on the production, sale and use of firecrackers in the national capital to control air pollution in the coming winter season. A case has been regis-

tered against unknown persons at the Civil Lines Police station over fireworks outside the chief minister's official residence, an offi-

cial said.

level, officials said.

With an outflow of around 3.5 lakh cusec from the dam authorities in Bharuch district downstream the Narmada river have asked villages located in the low-lying areas to stay alert. The water level of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, located at Kevadia in Narmada district, has risen to 136.43 metres, the highest for the current season, officials of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Lim-

reservoir level of the dam is 138.68 metres.

hya Pradesh, Gujarat and

Rajasthan. It is responsible

for irrigation of 1.85 million

cent full of its total storage capacity, with 206 reser-As per SSNNL, the dam voirs in the state being 86 has received an average of over 4.37 lakh cusec water per cent full of their total in the latest inflow, causing storage capacities. As many as 146 reserthe authorities to release nearly 3.45 lakh cusec wavoirs remain on high alert, and 11 others on alert, the ter. The Sardar Sarovar SAEOC said. Guiarat has so project is one of the largest water resources projects in India covering four major states - Maharashtra, Mad-

far received 124.66 percent of average annual rainfall for the current season, with Kutch alone receiving

183.342 percent of rains. -PTI

## SP MLA booked for 'torturing, assaulting' minor maid

Bhadohi (UP): A case has registered against Samajwadi Party MLA from the Bhadohi Assembly constituency and his wife for allegedly torturing and assaulting a minor maid, who was recovered from their house recently, police said on Saturday.

According to police, the Labour Department registered the case against MLA Zahid Beg and his wife Seema Beg late on Friday night on the recommendation of Child Welfare Committee chairman PC Upadhyay.

The action comes following the suicide of another teenager at the MLA's residence on Monday and the subsequent rescue of the 17-year-old girl during a raid conducted by Bhadohi

Police and the Labour Enforcement Department personnel on Tuesday.

Bhadohi SP Meenakshi Katyayan said that after the questioning of the teenager, who was freed from Beg's residence in Malikana Mohalla of the city by the joint team of the Labour Department and police and subsequently on the complaint lodged by Labour Enforcement Officer Jai Prakash Singh, a case was registered against the SP MLA Zahid Beg and his wife Seema



The case was registered at the city police station on Fridav under relevant sections of the BNS, Juvenile Justice Act and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the SP added.

Citing the registered case, she said the 17-yearold minor had been working as a domestic help at the MLA's house for the past eight-nine years, while the teenager rescued on Tuesday had been working there

for the past two years. According to the Labour Enforcement Officer, the SP MLA and his wife were

making the teenagers, who According to the officials, were less than 14 years of the Uttar Pradesh Labour age, work which is a clear Department served the noviolation of laws. tice to the couple, requiring He said the rescued teen-

two-and-a-half years.

a response within a week. ager was sent to the govern-"The Labour Department ment children's home (for has served a notice on Beg girls) in Prayagraj. and his wife, accusing them Earlier, a notice was isof holding the 17-year-old sued to SP MLA Beg and his captive and forcing her to

wife for allegedly subjectwork without pay," Labour ing a minor girl to child la-Enforcement Officer J.P. bour at their residence for Singh had earlier said.

-PTI

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Official language Hindi has an unbreakable relationship with every Indian language. I am confident that



by taking all Indian languages together, official language Hindi will continue to contribute towards realising the resolution of a developed India."

- Amit Shah, Union Minister, Home Affairs



Jammu: Security forces intensified their anti-terror operations in parts of Kishtwar, Udhampur, Poonch and Rajouri districts on Saturday, following recent encounters in which two soldiers led down their lives and two terrorists were killed, officials said.

A joint operation in the forests of Pingnal Dugadda in the Chhatroo belt of Kishtwar district entered the second day, with reinforcements joining the search parties to hunt



down the terrorists respon-The officials said a vast sible for killing two Army area was kept under corpersonnel, including a don with security forces utilising drones and other JCO, and injuring two others in a gunfight the previmodern equipment to loous day, they said. cate the terrorists, who fled

the scene after the encounter taking advantage of darkness and the dense foliage.

There has been no fresh contact with the terrorists so far, they said.

A massive search operation is also underway in the upper reaches of Khandara Top, Kudwah and Raichak in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district where two terrorists of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) were eliminated on September 11, the officials said. -PTI

#### Three terrorist killed in Baramulla

Three terrorists were killed 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles on Saturday following an overnight gunbattle with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said, terming it as a "significant success" ahead of the assembly elections.

Briefing the media after the operation in Chak Tapper Kreeri in the Pattan area of the north Kashmir district, Commander of the Army's

**Brigadier Sanjay Kannoth** said that security forces had been receiving inputs about the movement of terrorists in Kreeri. "Last night, we received specific intelligence from intelligence agencies about the presence of some unidentified terrorists in Chak Tapar/Watargam," he said, adding that a cordon was established at the suspected location.

## **ECOLOGY**

THE PERFECT VOICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 **MUMBAI** 

**EXPLAINER** 

What is 'Mission Mausam'

and why is it needed?

#### myperfectvoice@gmail.com 🔰 @my\_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

### Water leakage in main dome of Taj Mahal

Agra: The main dome of the Taj Mahal here witnessed water leakage due to incessant rain for the past three days which inundated a garden on the premises. The purported video of

the submerged garden on the Taj Mahal premises went viral on Thursday and caught the tourists' attention. A senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India, Agra circle, said there is leakage in the main dome due to seepage and there is no damage to it.

Talking about the leakage in the main dome of the Taj Mahal, Rajkumar Patel, Superintending Chief of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Agra circle, told PTI, "Yes, we have witnessed the leakage in the main dome of the Taj Mahal. After that when we checked it was due to seepage and there was no damage to the main dome. We have checked the main dome through a drone camera.

On Thursday evening, a purported video of 20 seconds went viral on the internet in which one of the gardens of the monument submerged with rain water. It caught the attention of the tourists, who visited the Taj Mahal and many shot video of it. A local resident, who is working as a government approved tour guide, said Taj Mahal is the pride of Agra and the entire nation, adding it provides employment to hundreds of locals and those who are working in the tourism industry. "Proper care should be taken of the monument because for the tourism industry people it is the only hope," said Monika Sharma, a government approved tour guide

s weather patterns grow more unpredictable due to climate crisis, India is taking a giant leap with "Mission Mausam" to improve weather understanding and forecasting through expanded observation networks, better modeling and advanced tools like AI and machine learning.

The mission will include creating a laboratory to artificially develop clouds, increasing the number of radars by over 150 per cent and adding new satellites, supercomputers and much more.

#### Why is it needed?

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, tropical weather forecasting remains challenging due to the complexity of atmospheric processes and limitations in current observation and model resolution

Observational data is relatively sparse, both spatially and temporally, and the horizontal resolution of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models, currently at 12 kilometres, makes it difficult to accurately forecast small-scale weather events in India, it said.

At the same time, climate change is making the atmosphere more chaotic, resulting in isolated heavy rainfall and localised droughts, which pose simul-

The mission will include creating a laboratory to artificially develop clouds, increasing the number of radars by over 150 per cent and adding new satellites, supercomputers and much more.



taneous challenges of flooding and drought. Cloudbursts, thunderstorms, lightning and squalls are among the least understood weather events in India

Understanding these complex patterns requires in-depth knowledge of physical processes occurring within and outside clouds, on the surface, in the upper atmosphere, over oceans and in polar regions, the ministry said.

This calls for high-frequency observations at the ground level and across the earth system with improved spatial and vertical resolutions to monitor the earth's dynamic systems effectively and increasing the horizontal resolution of NWP models from 12 kilometres to six kilometres to generate panchayat-level forecasts, it said.

#### What will happen over the next five years?

Union Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran said the five-year mission would be implemented in two phases The first phase, which runs

until March 2026, will focus on

expanding the observation network. This includes adding around 70 Doppler radars, highperformance computers and setting up 10 wind profilers and 10 radiometers.

To put the scale of the task into context, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has installed 39 Doppler radars to date and has never set up a wind profiler. "We will also conduct an Observing System Simulation Experiment (OSSE) in the first phase, which will help determine the number of observations needed moving forward," Ravichandran said.

The second phase will focus on adding satellites and aircraft to further enhance observational capabilities. Over the five-year period, the ministry and its institutions -- the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting -- will work to improve their understanding of weather and climate processes and prediction capabilities and develop weather management technologies.



#### What is a cloud chamber and what does Mission Mausam say about weather management?

The ministry has said that a "cloud chamber" will be established at the Indian Institute of Meteorology in Pune within the next one and a half years under the mission to study the processes occurring within clouds in the context of rising temperatures.

Rising temperatures lead to clouds becoming taller and more electrically active, while their horizontal spread may shrink. This can result in stronger thunderstorms and more frequent lightning events and impact rainfall dynamics, Ravichandran said.

'We will artificially create clouds inside a laboratory at the IITM and conduct experiments. This will help the scientists better understand these processes and figure out which types of clouds can be seeded (a process where substances are added to clouds to make them produce rain), what materials should be used for seeding and how much

seeding is needed to either increase rain or even prevent

rain," he said. The insights gained from the cloud chamber will also help improve the parameterization of weather models, supporting the indigenization of these models, he said.

"We aim to artificially enhance or suppress rain and hail within the next five years. After that, we can focus on the other weather phenomena like lightning," Ravichandran said.

Asked why weather management is needed, he explained, "If it's raining continuously in Delhi, which could lead to flooding, can I suppress the rain? By seeding the clouds a little more, it may stop raining. Similarly, in a drought-prone area, this could help prevent droughts by enhancing rainfall."

Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances into the air to encourage condensation, resulting in precipitation. The most common substances used for cloud seeding include silver iodide, potassium iodide and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). These agents provide the nuclei around which water vapour can condense, ultimately leading to the formation of rain or snow.

This weather modification technique has been utilised in several parts of the world, primarily in the regions experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions.Some of the countries and states that have employed the cloud seeding technology include the US, China, Australia and the UAE.

However, the effectiveness and environmental impact of cloud seeding remain subjects of ongoing research.

An IMD official told PTI that there have been a few attempts in India in this regard -- in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The research is ongoing, but it has not made significant progress so far.

The Delhi government also considered using cloud seeding to improve air quality during winter in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur. The goal was to induce rain to wash away pollutants. However, the project got delayed because it required permissions from several Central government agencies, including aviation and environmental authorities.

#### What are the other main objectives?

Mission Mausam aims to improve short to medium range weather forecast accuracy by five to 10 per cent and enhance air quality prediction in all major metro cities by up to 10 per cent. It will enable weather prediction up to the panchayat level with a lead time of 10 to 15 days and improve the nowcast frequency from three hours to one hour.

A nowcast provides a very short-term prediction, usually for the next few hours. It is useful for tracking fast-changing weather events such as thunderstorms, heavy rain or snow. -PTI

## Two lakh places for cleanliness drive

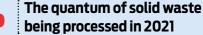
New Delhi: Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar said on Friday two lakh places have been marked across the country to carry out a cleanliness drive dur-

New Delhi: Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Friday said out of 2,300 identified garbage dumping



**I.5** 

lakh tons



4,500 acres of land freed from garbage



A wildfire consumes a rural area during the dry season in Varzea Paulista, Sao Paulo state, Brazil on Friday. Pic: AP/PT

## Two dead after driving SUV into flood

Faridabad (Haryana): Two private bank employees have died after getting trapped in their sports utility vehicle in the flooded Old Faridabad Railway underpass here, police said on Saturday.

It happened late Friday night when the victims, Punyashray Sharma (48) and Viraj (26), were returning home in Greater Faridabad from Gurugram, they said. According to police, due

to the rainfall throughout Friday, the underpass was inundated and as a precaution, cars were being warned against entering it.

They said that around 11:50 pm, an XUV 700 entered the underpass, ignor-

ing all warnings and got stuck in the deep floodwater, following which water

gushed into the vehicle. Passers-by attempted to help the duo stuck in the car and after a lot of efforts, managed to get them out but Viraj died on the

spot, police said. Sharma was taken to the Badshah Khan Civil Hospi-

tal, where he was pronounced dead, they added.

"Their families have been informed. We will hand over the bodies to the next of kin after post-mortem examinations," Inspector Samer Singh, SHO of the NIT Faridabad police station, said.

-PTI participation.

ing the 15-day national social mobilisation campaign for a clean nation.

Under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva'campaign, this year's theme is 'Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata (4S)' jointly spearheaded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti. Addressing media on the

campaign, Khattar said two lakh places have been marked across the country to carry out a cleanliness drive during the 15-day na-

tional social mobilisation campaign from September 17 till October 2. "These two lakh locations which we will call cleanli-

ness target units which will be cleaned in collaboration with stakeholders," he said. Jal Shakti Minister C.R.

Paatil said the campaign has been built around three key pillars -- Swachhata Ki Bhaagidari-Public

sites across India, 427 have been fully cleaned, freeing up 4,500 acres of land and asserted that the remaining locations would be cleaned in the next two years.

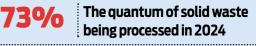
Highlighting the country's progress towards creating garbage-free cities, Khattar noted that a significant portion of the cleaned land has been repurposed for development projects, including initiatives to generate electricity from waste.

"Some of the projects on these lands are focused on waste-to-energy solutions,' he explained.

He also emphasised the importance of door-to-door waste collection in reducing the need for dump sites, pointing out that 97 per cent of urban wards now have such systems in place. "We are moving forward

so that no new dump sites are created," Khattar said, underscoring the need for sustainable waste management practices.

He said that while 427



The quantum of solid waste being processed per day

22 crore The quantum of solid waste in India at 2,300 dumping sites metric tons



sites have been completely cleaned, several other locations are partially cleared. He expressed optimism that all dump sites would be

fully cleaned in the next two years. "In two years, we aim to completely finish this work.'

-PTI

## 100 life-sized elephant sculptures NYC's new attraction

#### By Yoshita Singh

New York: A herd of 100 lifesized elephant sculptures created by Indian artisans and highlighting a story of harmonious coexistence to the global audience, is the talk of the town in New York Citv.

The Great Elephant Migration, a public art installation, will enthrall locals and tourists alike from September 6 to October 20 in the city's popular and among the most visited place in the Meatpacking district.

In partnership with Elephant Family USA, an international non-governmental

organisation (NGO) dedicated to helping the human race share space with the world's magnificent wildlife, 100 lifesized Indian elephant sculptures will migrate to the Meatpacking district, a statement by the Meatpacking District Management Association, a business improvement district (BID), said.

"The head-turning herds spread across the district, will captivate visitors of all ages while amplifying indigenous knowledge and sharing a message about human-wildlife coexistence and conservation," it said.

"Using Lantana as materi-



personality, in intricately deal, the collective has recreated every elephant they live alongtailed sculptural form. "The side, known well by name and creation of these elephants

provides financial stability, status and pride to 200 members of the Soligas, Bettakurumbas, Kattunayakan and Paniyas tribes, who coexist with the real wild elephants the herd is based on," it said.

The statement noted that over USD 500.000 has been generated already through the installation, "making it the biggest sustainable indigenous enterprise in India. This effort celebrates their knowledge of the natural world and rewards a remarkable ability to coexist.

The Great Elephant Migration marks the first time a "migration" of this scale and

purpose will take place, the statement said, adding that "this global fundraising adventure benefits indigenous and community-led conservation efforts - specifically, conservation NGOs supporting remarkable people around the world who have found ways to live alongside lions, leopards, elephants, and some of the planet's most challenging animals — and inspire peaceful, symbiotic human and animal coexistence.' India's Consul General in

New York Binaya Pradhan addressed the opening of the installation. -PTI The installation is being dubbed as one of the largest public art installations in New York City since Christo and Jeanne-Claude's The Gates in 2005, an installation of 7,503 fabric panels in Central Park. Each stunning elephant sculpture is one-of-a-kind in the 100-strong herd on display, which has been created by the Coexistence Collective, a community of 200 indigenous artisans living within India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. These indigenous artisans have reclaimed an invasive plant species called Lantana camara that has entangled 300,000 square kilometres of India's forests and diminished food sources for all herbivores.

## **GLOBAL**

## Drugged and raped, woman symbol of fight against sexual violence

**Paris:** Gisele Pelicot, the woman who was allegedly drugged by her now ex-husband over the course of a decade so that she could be raped by dozens of men while unconscious, is becoming a symbol of France's fight against sexual violence.

There have been calls for public gatherings on Saturday all over the country, including at Place de la Republique in Paris, in support for the 71-year-old and all rape victims in France.

On September 5, she spoke about her ordeal in public for the first time since police officers, four years ago, called her in to tell her the unthinkable. With a calm and clear voice she detailed the horror of discovering that her former spouse had been sedating her and invited at least 72 strangers into their house in Provence to have sex with her.

"For me, everything collapses." she testified. "These are scenes of barbarity, of rape.

National broadcaster TF1 that day described a "dignified, strong," woman, who was "holding her head high."

In an open letter translated into English and published in French newspaper Le Monde, journalist and author Helene Devynck thanked Pelicot for her bravery, echoing the feelings of many other French people.

"You entered our lives like you entered the Avignon court, through the



 Since the beginning of the extraordinary trial on September 2, during which Pelicot will face 51 of her alleged rapists, she has been praised for her courage and composure.

 First, there was her decision to keep the trial public — after the court had initially suggested that it be held behind closed doors. She allowed journalists to publish her full name, and the court to exhibit explicit videos recorded by her husband showing men engaging in sexual intercourses with her naked, inert body.

#### She has said her decisions were in solidarity with other women who go unrecognised as victims of sexual crimes.

will have to brave another

mountain: facing the man

whom she shared her life

for over 50 years, and father

of their three children. Her

lawyer has said she is plan-

ning on attending his

Dominique Pelicot has

previously confessed to the

crimes to investigators. But

testimony.

front door," wrote Devynck, a figure of the French #Me-Too movement. "It's not just you. Gisele, that they've treated like a thing. They were telling us, all of us women, how insignificant we are. Your strength restores ours. Thank you for

this immense gift.' Next week, Gisele Pelicot

his court hearing will be crucial for the panel of judges to decide on the fate of the 50 other men accused of rape

A majority of the defendants are contesting the accusation of "rape". Some have claimed they believed a husband's consent for sexual intercourse was sufficient, others said they were tricked by Dominique Pelicot to believe his wife was consenting. One lawyer representing six defendants has shocked the nation arguing that "there is rape and rape, and without intention, there is no rape."

Magali Lafourcade, a magistrate and secretary general of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, also applauded Gisele Pelicot. She stressed that in France. studies suggest that nine out of 10 women who are victims of rape do not press charges. And when they do, about 80 per cent of the cases are dropped.

For health reasons, Dominique Pelicot has been exempted from attending the trial since Wednesday. He is expected to testify on Monday or Tuesday, his lawyer, Beatrice Zavarro, has said. Asked whether her client was trying to get out of testifying, Zavarro said Friday that he "had been waiting for his trial, he wanted to talk and be confronted to his wife and children." Dominique Pelicot, now 71, and the 50 other defendants face up to 20 years in prison if convicted. -AP

### Comoros President "slightly injured" in knife attack

Moroni (Comoros): The president of the Indian Ocean Island nation of Comoros was "slightly injured" in a knife attack while attending the funeral of a religious leader on Friday, his office said. One other person was also hurt trying to protect him, authorities said.

ni's injuries were not serious and he had returned to his home, his office said in a statement. It said the attacker was arrested by security forces and is in their custody, but gave no details on the attacker's identity. The attack happened in

the town of Salimani on the outskirts of the capital Moroni. Government minister Aboubacar Said Anli said Saturday that a civilian was injured during the attack while attempting to protect the president. There was no immediate information on the extent of the injuries sustained by the civilian.

Assoumani was reelected as president of Comoros in January in a vote denounced by opposition parties as fraudulent. At least one person died in unrest following the election. Assoumani, 65, is a former

military officer who first came to power in Comoros in a coup in 1999. He has been the leader

since and extended his presidency into a fourth term this year after changing the constitution to remove term limits and abolishing a system that saw the presidency rotated between Comoros' three main islands. The country, which is made up of an archipelago of islands off the east coast of Africa, has experienced more than a dozen coups or attempted coups since its independence from France in 1975.

## Iran says it successfully launched satellite

President Azali Assouma-

Tehran: Iran launched a satellite into space Saturday with a rocket built by

the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, state-run media reported, the latest for a programme the West fears helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile programme.

Iran described the launch as a success, which would be the second such launch to put a satellite into orbit with the rocket. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the launch's success nor did Iranian authorities immediately provide footage or other details.

The US State Department and the American military did not immediately respond to requests for comment over the Iranian launch.

The United States had previously said Iran's satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. UN sanctions related to Iran's

 The launch comes amid heightened tensions gripping the wider West Asia over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, during which Tehran launched an unprecedented direct missile-anddrone attack on Israel.

• Iran continues to enrich uranium to nearly weaponsgrade levels, raising concerns among nonproliferation experts about Tehran's program.

• Iran identified the satellite-carrying rocket as the Qaem-100, which the Guard used in January for another successful launch. Qaem means "upright" in Iran's Farsi language. The solid-fuel rocket put the Chamran-1 satellite, weighing 60 kilograms, into a 550-kilometre orbit, state media reported.

ballistic missile programme expired last October.

Under Iran's relatively moderate former President Hassan Rouhani, the Islamic Republic slowed its space programme for fear of raising tensions with the West. Hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi. a protege of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who came to power in 2021, has pushed the program forward. Raisi died in a helicopter crash in May.

It's unclear what Iran's new president, the reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, wants for the programme as he was silent on the issue while campaigning.

The US intelligence community's worldwide threat assessment this year said Iran's development of satellite launch vehicles "would shorten the timeline" for Iran to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile because it uses similar technology.

-AP

## **Biden brushes off** Putin's threats about weapons for Ukraine

Washington: President for Biden and British

Joe Biden brushed off a Prime Minister Keir





pated in a press conference on Friday from the International Space Station (ISS), which has been their home Williams and Butch Wilsince June. Their Boeing



threat from Russian leader Vladimir Putin about war against the West if Ukraine's allies allow it to use weapons deeper inside Russia. It's a shift that Kyiv has pleaded for but does not appear likely to be announced following a meeting Friday between Biden and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Ukraine and many of its supporters in the US and Europe want Biden to lift restrictions on Westernprovided long-range weapons, and there are signs Biden might shift the administration's policy.

But the US, concerned about any step that could lead Russia to escalate the conflict, has moved cautiously before granting a series of earlier requests from Ukraine for specific arms, including advanced tanks, missiles and rocket systems, and F-16 fighter jets. Russian officials have issued similar threats before many of those past decisions.

Ukraine was a key topic

Starmer following this week's visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats, who came under fresh pressure to loosen weapons restrictions. So far, the US has allowed Ukraine to use American-provided weapons only in a limited area inside Russia's

border with Ukraine. Two US officials familiar with discussions said they believe Starmer will seek Biden's approval to allow Ukraine to use British Storm Shadow missiles for expanded strikes in Russia. Biden's approval may be needed because Storm Shadow components are made in the US. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share the status of private Saturday.

conversations, said they believed Biden would be amenable. No announcement was ties as Special Representa-

expected Friday, several US officials said.

The Russian authorities kept a close watch on the discussion between Biden and Starmer. -AP

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (right) during a meeting with US President Joe Biden (centre left) in the Blue Room at the White House in Washington on Friday. Pic: AP/PTI

## Tensions Between Islamabad and Kabul

Islamabad: The Pakistan Other sources said that government has removed its Durrani had few tools at his special representative to Afdisposal, given the overall ghanistan Asif Durrani. strategy being followed by amid heightened tensions Pakistan. The Dawn newsbetween Islamabad and Kapaper reported the counbul, media reports said on try's powerful military was unhappy with his perfor-According to an official mance, and Durrani, too, notification. Durrani was had grown frustrated as his "relieved of his responsibilipolicy advice was regularly

> ignored by his principals. Durrani confirmed his departure in a text message, expressing gratitude to the leadership for allowing him to serve Pakistan. The post of the special envoy for Af-

ghanistan was created in June 2020 after the US-Taliban Doha Accord. It engaged with the Taliban and other countries involved in Afghanistan.Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have lately become strained, largely because of frequent attacks by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan but also due to frequent border skirmishes.

There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021.

a promise to halt the har-

assment of women by mo-

more plan to vote in the November 5 US presidential election from space.

"It's a very important duty that we have as citizens and (I am) looking forward to being able to vote from space, which is pretty cool," Williams, who is of Indian origin, said on a call with reporters on Friday afternoon. Williams, 58, and Wilmore, 61, partici-

Ukraine renews calls

to approve strikes

Ukrainian presidential ad-

viser Andriy Yermak said

range weapons.

Saturday.

Starliner spacecraft ran into several problems midflight and could not bring them home from a planned 8-day voyage.

"I sent down my request for a ballot today," Wilmore said. "It's a very important role that we play as citizens including those elections, and NASA makes it very easy for us to do that," he said. They, however, did not

indicate which presidential candidate — either former President Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris — would get their vote. American astronauts have been voting from space since 1997 when the Texas legislature passed a bill allowing NASA employees to vote from space, New York Post reported. -AP

### **Pak Parliament lodges** declared as sub-jail

Kyiv: Ukraine made a new Islamabad: The Speaker call Saturday on the West to of Pakistan's National Asallow it to strike deeper into sembly has declared the Russia after a meeting be-Parliament Lodges here tween US and British leadas sub-jail for jailed forers a day earlier produced mer prime minister Imno visible shift in their ran Khan's party's lawmakers who were policy on the use of longarrested under the Anti-"Russian terror begins at Terrorism Act and newly weapons depots, airfields, imposed Peaceful Assemand military bases inside bly and Public Order Act the Russian Federation," 2024.

On the other hand, Dawn News reported that the Islamabad High Court set aside the physical remand of the 10 arrested PTI lawmakers and sent them to jail on judicial remand

Police officials said the MNAs were detained at the suites allocated to them at the Parliament Lodges. These MNAs were arrested in connection with cases registered at Sangjani and Noon police stations under several charges, the officials said.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

#### "Amnesty

International and others have had to dramatically limit or shutter operations in India because they do rely on fundraising. India has chosen

through this act to significantly restrict the ability of organisations to operate and receive foreign funding.

- Time Kaine, US Senator



out over their shoulders, But across social media, particularly after sunset. videos of people filming neighbourhood streets or The country's new rejust talking about a normal formist President Masoud day in their life, women and Pezeshkian campaigned on

girls can be seen walking

past with their long hair

Online videos — specifically a sub-genre showing walking tours of city streets for those in rural areas or abroad who want to see life in the bustling neighborhoods of Tehran include women without the hijab.

rality police. But the country's ultimate authority remains the 85-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who in the past said "unveiling is both religiously forbidden and politically forbidden."

There have been scattered videos of women and young girls being roughed up by officers in the time since. In 2023, a teenage Iranian girl was injured in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro while not wearing a headscarf and later died in hospital. In July, activists say police opened fire on a woman fleeing a checkpoint in an attempt to avoid her car being impounded for her not wearing the hijab.

For some observant Muslim women, the head covering is a sign of piety before God and modesty in front of men outside their families. In Iran, the hijab and the all-encompassing black chador worn by some

 has long been a political symbol as well. Amini, 22, died on Sept 16, 2022, in a hospital after her arrest by the country's morality police over allegedly not wearing her hijab to the liking of the authorities.

## Respect to Mahsa Amini, Iran women give up hijabs

Dubai: On the streets of Iranian cities, it is becoming more common to see a woman passing by without a mandatory headscarf, or hijab, as the second anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini and the mass protests it sparked approaches. There is no government

tive on Afghanistan in Man-

agement Position" on

September 10, The Express

Tribune newspaper report-

ed. No official reason was

given for the move.

official or study acknowledging the phenomenon, which began as Iran entered its hot summer months and power cuts in its overburdened electrical system became common.



THE PERFECT VOICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 MUMBAI

### **MY CORNER**

### Marathwada's Soybean Squeeze



**F**or the Shinde-led Mahayuti government, the soybean crisis in Marathwada should serve as a wake-up call as campaigning intensifies ahead of the crucial Assembly election.

In the drought-prone Marathwada region, soybean, a crucial kharif (monsoon) staple, has faced a serious blow this year as a deadly combination of erratic (and unusually heavy) rainfall and soil degradation has led to dwindling yields for farmers already steeped in debt. The crisis has not only deepened rural distress but also dented the political credibility of the Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti government in the recently concluded 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Farmers' frustration, particularly over the low prices and inadequate support, was reflected in the electoral results. Discontent was not limited to soybean farmers but extended to those growing onions and other crops similarly affected by the erratic weather. The opposition parties capitalized on this anger, contributing to the ruling coalition's losses in crucial constituencies.

Soybean cultivation is central to Marathwada's agricultural economy with approximately 60% of the region's cultivable land dedicated to it. However, this year, the area under cultivation fell sharply by 15%, while the yield per hectare has plummeted by nearly 20% compared to previous years.

Discontent among the rural electorate translated into a significant loss of votes for the Mahayuti coalition in the Lok Sabha election, which had counted on Marathwada as a stronghold. Many farmers switched their allegiance to opposition parties, particularly the Congress and the NCP, viewing the ruling government as ineffective in mitigating the crisis.

While promises of crop insurance and subsidies are being made, the delayed

rollout of relief measures is aggravating the situation. Farmers are reporting delayed compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), India's crop insurance scheme, which failed to provide timely payouts. To compound the issue, local cooperatives responsible for distributing government aid are being accused of corruption and inefficiency, thereby eroding trust among farmers.

To stem the erosion of its rural voter base, the Shinde government must take decisive action. Strengthening the PMF-BY is a critical first step. Insurance payouts need to be streamlined and simplified, ensuring that claims are processed within a few weeks rather than months. The scheme also needs to account for pest attacks and erratic rainfall more accurately, as these are increasingly frequent due to climate change. Enhancing the precision of satellite-based yield assessments would ensure that more farmers receive timely compensation.

Additionally, the government should consider targeted subsidies for soybean growers, particularly for pest-resistant seeds and organic pesticides. A concerted push towards water conservation, particularly through promoting drip irrigation, could help mitigate the impact of future droughts. The state's 'Jalyukt Shivar' campaign, launched in 2015 to boost irrigation in drought-hit regions, could be revitalized, but with greater accountability to ensure funds are utilized effectively.

The state's past experiments with price stabilization funds, such as the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board's attempt to guarantee minimum prices for soybeans, also offer a lesson. While wellintentioned, these initiatives were hampered by poor implementation and market manipulation by intermediaries.

For the Mahayuti government, immediate corrective measures like providing pest-resistant seeds, and reinvigorating irrigation schemes are essential not only to revive the fortunes of the state's farmers but also to secure the government's rural support base. Without these, the agrarian distress that continues to plague Maharashtra risks becoming a persistent political liability, as history has repeatedly shown.

> (The writer is a farmer and resident of Latur district; views personal)

### AROUND THE WORLD

## Nepal - The Opportunism At Its Peak



epali coalition politics is a classic example of "Prisoner's Dilemma". In the past 18 years, the country has encountered regime change over 16 times! None of the coalition so far could overcome favouritism, budget fights or petty politics. The leaders' long political careers failed to gather steady political relations and skills. The political backstabbing has always rocked the Nepali government. This year, within 4 months, the opportunistic Nepali politicians changed the coalition combination, twice! The intrinsic honesty that the Nepalese are known for, has gone extinct in Nepal's politics.

In March 2024, PK Dahal's Maoist Centre broke a year-long alliance with SB Deuba's Nepali Congress and joined hands with KPS Oli's communist party! Soon within 2 months Oli ditched Dahal's party and entered a coalition with Deuba's Congress. The budget stand-off and a rift over the appointment of the Securities Board's chairman are said to be the reasons for the said split. Yet another power-sharing deal collapsed due to personal agenda and petty politics! Now the poles-apart ideologies have agreed to lead the country on a rotational basis! An unprincipled political opportunism is at its peak!

Nepal's communist regime has a long history with China. In the pretext of the 2015 Indian blockade, Nepal's then Prime Minister KPS Oli approached China. Grabbing this golden opportunity, China dangled 'the access to 7 Chinese ports' carrot in front of Nepali communists! 8 years have elapsed, and the

two states are yet to implement the protocol agreement for the said access! The Chinese dry ports and 6 dedicated transit points could not facilitate China - Nepal bilateral deals nor could it end Nepal's dependency on Indian-trade! The Nepali importers of Chinese goods bring their shipments via India due to fickle Chinese policies. In the last decade, China has entered into many agreements with Nepal including Nepal's energy and transport sector, the cross-border railways and transmission services. However, all these projects have suffered delays, cost overruns and quality concerns. They are plagued by mismanagement and corruption. The Nepalis criticise these Chinese projects for the environmental hazards and financial burden!

On the contrary, abiding by 'the Neighborhood First policy', India's Modi government seems to be committed to supporting Nepal's progress. PM Modi's government funded a \$45 million pipeline to ensure cheaper oil imports to Nepal. The 69-km pipeline was completed 15 months ahead of schedule. The Modi government also launched a broad-gauge passenger train service to Nepal and bore the construction cost of the tracks and stations. India is likely to start the construction of a \$ 3.5 billion cross-border railway line connecting the Indian border town to the Nepali capital. The country has agreed to import up to 10,000 MW of power from Nepal in the next 10 years. This is the first year of the agreement and India has already imported 1,000 MW!

'If you must win, you must make vour partner country a winner too' is the key element of India's neighbourhood policy. Accordingly, India's cross-border project initiatives target relevant needs and are implemented effectively and efficiently. On the other hand. Chinese loans are pushing countries to the verge of collapse. And yet the coalition politics of Nepal has often taken a pro-China stance; to prove her loyalties to China, Nepal turned a blind eve to Chinese infiltration and unilaterally claimed parts of Indian land! Could this policy-tilt be called Nepal's 'Balancing Act'? It is evident that this landlocked country is trying to gain economic benefits from the rivalry between India and China, but some experts contend otherwise! India's open border policy ensures Nepali youth access to quality education, employment, and a better standard of living. Considering New India's persistent commitment to Nepal's development and stability, Nepal's baseless territorial claims cannot be justified as Nepal's diplomatic constraint or

blamed on China's hegemony! The news stories claim that the current Oli - Deuba coalition is Pro-India! These stories suggest that after finalising the new alliance, Oli reached out to India; and he is keen on shedding his anti-India image in his 4th stint as a Prime Minister. PM Oli has in fact repeated his old tactic. In previous tenure as a Prime Minister, Oli wrote to PM Modi "I am eager to work together with Excellency and your government for the betterment of our two countries"! The news reports assert that Nepal's new cabinet is pro-India as the top portfolios including Home, Foreign, Law, and Energy have been allocated to the Nepali Congress! Though the Nepali Congress is perceived to be a pro-India party, the fact remains that under Oli's leadership all the political parties had 'unanimously' endorsed and revised Nepal's new map claiming Indian territory!

We cannot ignore the fact that under PK Dahal's leadership, Nepal continued 'Surya Kiran', the joint military exercise with India but the country's bilateral military engagement with the Chinese army did not see daylight! PK Dahal also postponed signing the implementation plan of China's massive infrastructural project. On the 25th of June this year, he justified this delay by subtly pointing to China's debt-trap diplomacy. A week later KPS Oli pulled his support from Dahal's government! In Nepal's game of political musical chairs, China is jingling! Though Nepal is perceived to be China's stepping stone to India, China is not hostile to the country. The expansionist China who invaded Tibet under her Five Fingers Policy, is friendly with Nepal as her covert strategy succeeded in spreading communism and gaining influence over Nepal's government.

In a corrupt coalition government where, political ambitions are fuelling the unrest, the resurgence of promonarchy sentiment is not surprising! Nepalis, who once drove the King off the throne, are now campaigning to reinstate Him for development and stability! This domestic conflict is further ignited by external factors that eventually undermine peace and safety. The proportional representation system has completely failed in Nepal. Electoral reform is the only way for Nepal to forestall the risky external involvement and repetition of the collapse of regimes.

> (The writer is a foreign affairs expert. Views personal.)

Arvind Kejriwal: Political Firestarter

## Maharashtra Elections and the Political Foot Soldiers

**BY INVITATION** 



Rew Indian politicians embody the contradictions of modern politics like Arvind Kejriwal. The former bureaucrat-turned-anticorruption crusader, who once inspired legions with his slogan of clean governance, now finds himself locked in a complex battle over his own integrity.

On Friday, Kejriwal emerged from Tihar Jail to a hero's welcome from supporters of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Released on bail by India's Supreme Court, the Delhi Chief Minister wasted no time in portraying his incarceration as a moral victory and. in a thinly-veiled rebuke at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claimed he had been targeted not for corruption but for daring to fight "anti-national forces" allegedly weakening India. His release has ignited a wave of celebration within AAP ranks, as though a political victory has been secured ahead of the upcoming Delhi assembly election. But such celebrations may be premature.

Kejriwal's legal troubles stem from

With Delhi's elections on the horizon, Kejriwal's ability to weather the storm of the excise policy scam will hinge on his brand of populism that has often held him in good stead

the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, an ambitious attempt to reform the city's alcohol sales framework. The policy's alleged flaws gave rise to corruption charges involving the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), resulting in his earlier this year. The agencies accuse him of graft and money laundering, charges he denies vehemently. Yet, despite being granted interim bail in the ED's money laundering case in July, Kejriwal's release was delayed due to his subsequent arrest by the CBI. The spectacle of his staggered detentions has led many to view his predicament through a political lens, with Kejriwal depicting himself as a victim of a conspiracy orchestrated by the central government by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an unusually pointed observation, Justice Bhuyan of the Supreme Court questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest - 22 months after the first information report (FIR) was registered - while criticizing the CBI's handling of the case, reminding the agency of its duty to act with integrity and fairness and not to function as a "caged parrot" speaking in its master's voice.

And yet, Kejriwal's release on bail is far from an exoneration. The legal proceedings against him are expected to drag on. As the BJP was quick to point out, Kejriwal's bail is a civil right, not an acquittal. The trial will soon commence, and the AAP leader still faces a long legal battle ahead.



Keiriwal's arrest has come at a politically sensitive time. Delhi is set to hold its Assembly elections in early 2025, and the BJP is already recalibrating its strategy. For months, the BJP has portrayed AAP as a "den of corrupt leaders," highlighting the arrests of Kejriwal's close associates, including former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Health Minister Satyendra Jain, on similar corruption charges. With Kejriwal and his associates now out on bail, the BJP will likely shift its narrative to focus on the alleged "constitutional crisis" in the capital.

From his early days as an anti-corruption activist, Kejriwal has cultivated an image of himself as a man willing to challenge entrenched interests. His tenure as Delhi's CM has often been marked by conflict with the central government over the citystate's limited powers, a struggle that resonates with voters who view him as a voice for local governance.

His political rise has always been unconventional, marked by his ability to turn crises into opportunities. Whether it was his brief resignation (for 49 days) in 2014 or his frequent clashes with the central government, Kejriwal has consistently positioned himself as an outsider, fighting the political establishment on behalf of ordinary citizens. This narrative of victimhood has resonated with his supporters, allowing him to weather scandals that might sink other politicians.

His administration has been lauded for populist policies like free electricity, water, and healthcare, which have won him strong support among Delhi's lower-middle class.

But Kejriwal's political journey has not been without contradictions: he has adopted pragmatic strategies to stay politically relevant, sometimes allying with figures he once opposed.

His immediate challenge is to navigate the legal labyrinth ahead, even as he prepares for the forthcoming elections.



Mamata Sen

While Maharashtra approaching the elections, Rakesh, a loyalist of a minister from the Konkan region, struggles to find party workers for his boss. Previously, attracting workers with cash and perks was easy, but now they demand high prices. While some remain at the lower end, others have become more sophisticated.

A political party's survival hinges on its ideology and its foot soldiers. These workers are crucial in shaping the party's image and influencing voters. Despite their significant role, their contributions are often overlooked, with their efforts only highlighted when beneficial to their leaders. Political parties survive or get decimated electorally when the apparent link between the party and its foot soldier becomes disenchanted or dysfunctional.

Today, the ideology of a political party remains a distant second. The life of an average political worker today bears no similarities with those who laid down their lives for an independent and democratic India. Political workers cutting across all party lines have one thing in common—they do not want a pat on their back by their leader; they not only want political recognition but also a piece of the cake, the cake being power.

A political worker's success hinges on their connections with mentors and their ability to spot growth opportunities. Equally important is their agility to navigate a competitive, unpredictable environment. Mastering manoeuvering through diverse, selfinterested individuals is a complex art



that takes years to perfect.

#### Presenting a few kinds of party workers that continue to be in demand.

The Rural Party Worker: This political worker aligns with leaders from their village or surrounding areas, focussing on rural issues like farming, crop prices, farming land acquisitions, etc. They feel more inclined to the party that shares their concerns, often having limited choice and supporting the parties as their local leaders.

The Urban Party Worker: This worker, spoilt for choice, is more about networking and using the connections to make monetary gains. The \*urban party worker may generally be someone from sectors like real estate, education, non-profits, entrepreneurs, and those hailing from creative fields like art, cinema, and theatre. The Loyal Party Worker: A loyal party worker falls into two types: loyalty to a leader or the party. Leaderloyal workers follow their leader regardless of party affiliation, while party-loyal workers stay committed to the party, no matter the circumstances. The full-time party worker is fully dedicated to the party's ideology and cause, believing they must give their all. Many male workers, for example, even choose to remain unmarried to devote themselves entirely to their party.

**The Part-Time Party Worker:** This worker spends evenings at local parties or public relations offices commonly called jan sampark karyalayas, often after a full-time job, and collects funds for events hosted by his leaders. He takes pride in showing off his busy schedule and connections, contributing when possible. Power brokers in this category may switch party loyalty based on the moolah they make or their financial gain.

The 'Staying on the Sidelines' Party Worker: This party worker neither has a membership in any party nor is loyal to any one leader or party. Instead, they remain at the side, watching and staying close to leaders and parties that come to power. Their dedication is shortlived and fleeting.

The Election Party Worker: This category is known to become active only during elections, using that time to their full benefit. This is when party workers make the most money possible—through election campaigns and election rallies. Leaders contesting elections are known to spend astronomical amounts during campaigning, and an election party worker is a godsend to them.

**The Social Media Party Worker:** For this party worker, their mobile phone is their weapon of choice. They are very active on social media, and for their political boss, the party often becomes their project. They are silent observers, and hawks, creating a persona of their political masters and their ambitions screening on the world wide web.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Mumbai. Views personal.)

Printed & Published by Shri. Deepak B. Mhatre at Siddhakala Print Media Publications Pvt Ltd., Plot No. W 230, TTC Industrial Area Khairne, Navi Mumbai, Dist. Thane, Pin Code - 400710, Maharashtra. Published from A2/328, 3rd floor, Shah & Nahar Industrial Estate, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai-400013. Editor: Kiran D. Tare. Email: myperfectvoice@gmail.com. RNI No. MAHENG/2023/84338

#### THE PERFECT VOICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 MUMBAI

## REFLECTIONS





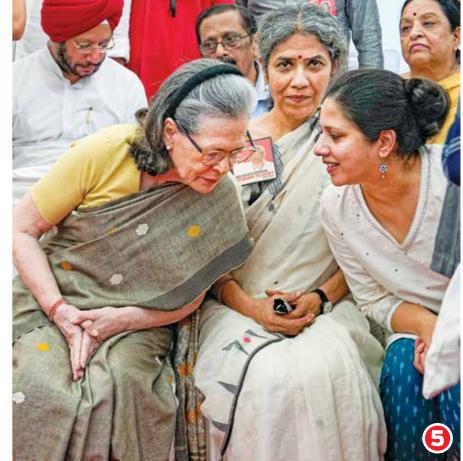




- 1 Devotees take part in a procession to immerse a Lord Ganesha idol in Hyderabad on Saturday.
- 2 Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat campaigns for Haryana Assembly elections at Kamach Khera village in Jind district, Haryana.
- 3 Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal offers prayers at the Hanuman Temple at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Saturday, a day after he came out of jail.
- 4 Noth Koren President Kim Jong Un shakes hands with Russia's Security Council secretary, Sergei Shoigu, at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Friday.
- 5 Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi with deceased CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury's wife Seema Chishti and daughter Akhila Yechury at CPI(M) headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday.

All Pictures PTI, AP





Pakistan's missile programme:

### **EXPLAINER**

Why Google's ad auctions are in focus for

## Strain ties with US, China



The recent imposition of US sanctions targeting Pakistan's ballistic missile program has left authorities in Islamabad both shocked and deeply concerned. On Thursday, the US State Department imposed restrictions on several Chinese companies and a research institute accused of supplying critical technology to Pakistan's missile capabilities.

The sanctions focus on China's alleged role in supporting Pakistan's missile programme, with the US accusing the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machine-Building Industry of assisting Islamabad in procuring equipment used to test rocket motors for the Shaheen-3 and Ababeel missile systems. These systems form the backbone of Pakistan's missile arsenal, which is seen as crucial for maintaining a strategic balance in the region, particularly with India.

In addition to the Beijing Research Institute, the US also sanctioned Chinese companies Hubei Huachangda Intelligent Equipment Co., Universal Enterprise, and Xi'an Longde Technology Development Co. A Pakistan-based firm, Innovative Equipment, and a Chinese national were similarly targeted for knowingly transferring equipment restricted under missile technology regulations. According to US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller, these actions reflect Washington's commitment to countering missile proliferation and associated procurement activities wherever they occur.

This latest move follows an ear-



lier round of sanctions in October 2023, when three China-based companies were similarly targeted for supplying missile-related items to Pakistan. The cumulative effect of these sanctions has triggered widespread concern within Islamabad. Although Pakistani authorities have not made any formal public statement, sources suggest these sanctions are viewed as a significant blow, especially when Pakistan grapples with severe economic challenges.

China, Pakistan's long-time ally, has reacted strongly to the sanctions. Liu Pengyu, the spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington, condemned the sanctions as a breach of international law, criticising the US for its "unilateral actions and long-arm jurisdiction." Liu further stated that China would "firmly protect" the rights and interests of its companies and citizens, signalling that Beijing does not intend to take these measures lightly.

The imposition of these sanctions has reignited debate about US-Pakistan relations. For many in Pakistan, this latest move reaffirms long-standing suspicions about the United States' reliability as an ally. Despite Pakistan's significant sacrifices in the US-led war on terrorboth in terms of human lives and economic losses-Washington's actions continue to strain bilateral ties. The view that the US has never been a true friend of Pakistan is gaining traction, particularly among those who feel that Islamabad's contributions to global coun-

er terterrorism efforts have been n- overlooked.

This growing sentiment has increased scrutiny of Pakistan's foreign policy approach towards the United States. Analysts and foreign policy experts are asking whether Islamabad's historical reliance on Washington remains a viable strategy in today's geopolitical climate. Some suggest the time has come for Pakistan to reconsider its approach and explore a broader range of alliances.

Among the most prominent suggestions is to adopt a foreign policy model similar to India's. Despite the complex global landscape, India has managed to maintain strong relationships with the United States, Russia, and China simultaneously, allowing it to navigate competing global interests while protecting its national priorities. In contrast, Pakistan's foreign policy has often been viewed as too dependent on its ties with Washington, leaving it vulnerable to actions such as these latest sanctions.

Conversations with senior government officials reveal mounting pressure within Islamabad's foreign policy establishment to reassess the country's strategy. Many argue that if India can successfully balance its relationships with multiple global powers, Pakistan should be capable of pursuing a similar approach. A shift in this direction could help Islamabad mitigate the risks associated with over-reliance on a single ally and open up new diplomatic and economic opportunities. The current trajectory of US-Pakistan relations appears increasingly uncertain, and the imposition of these sanctions has underscored the need for a strategic recalibration. While Washington continues to wield significant influence on the global stage, Pakistan may find it prudent to cultivate stronger ties with other major powers, such as China and Russia, to create a more balanced and diversified foreign policy.

Such a shift, however, would not be without its challenges. The United States remains a key global player, and its influence over international institutions and financial systems cannot be ignored. Nevertheless, for Pakistan, the risk of continuing to rely on a single, often unpredictable partner may outweigh the potential benefits.

As the debate over Pakistan's foreign policy direction intensifies, it is clear that the US sanctions have not only impacted the country's missile programme but have also triggered a broader reassessment of its strategic alliances. For Islamabad, the future likely lies in forging a path that reduces dependency on any one power while simultaneously enhancing its relationships with multiple global actors. This approach could offer greater resilience in an increasingly multipolar world, where flexibility and balance are key to safeguarding national interests.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Islamabad. Views personal.)

### monopoly claim

In fact, the Justice Department and a coalition of states say Google's dominance over the technology that controls the sale of billions of Internet display ads every day is so thorough that it constitutes an illegal monopoly that should be broken up.

A trial under way in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, will determine if Google's ad tech stack constitutes an illegal monopoly. The first week has included a deep dive into exactly how Google's products work together to conduct behind-the-scenes electronic auctions that place ads in front of consumers in the blink of an eye.

Online advertising has rapidly evolved. Fifteen or so years ago, if you saw an internet display ad, there was a pretty good chance it featured people dancing over their enthusiasm for low mortgage rates, and those ads were foisted on you whether you were looking at real estate or searching for baseball scores.

Now, the algorithms that match ads to your interests are carefully calibrated, sometimes to an almost creepy extent. The Justice Department contends that what Google has also done over the years is rig the automated auctions of ad sales to favor itself over other would-be players in the industry, and also deprived the publishing industry of hundreds of millions of dollars it would have received if the auctions were truly competitive.

Government witnesses have explained the auction process and how it has evolved over the years in detail at the Virginia trial.



In the government's depiction, there are three distinct tools that interact to sell an ad and place it in front of a consumer. There is the ad servers used by publishers to sell space on their websites, particularly the rectangular ads that appear on the top and right-hand side of a web page. Ad networks are used by advertisers to buy ad space across an array of relevant websites.

Professor Ramamoorthi Ravi, an expert at Carnegie Mellon University, said rules imposed by Google failed to maximize value for publishers and "seem to have been designed to advantage Google's own products."

And in between is the ad exchange, which matches the website publisher to the would-be advertiser by hosting an instant auction.

Publishers naturally want to receive as high a price as possible for their ad space, but testimony at trial has shown that didn't always happen due to the rules Google imposed.

For years, Google gave its ad exchange, called AdX, the first chance to match a publisher's proposed floor price. For instance, if a publisher wanted to sell a specific ad impression for a minimum of 50 cents, Google's software would give its own ad exchange the first chance to purchase. If Google's ad exchange bid 50 cents, it would win the auction, even if competing ad exchanges down the line were willing to pay more. Google said the system was necessary to ensure ads loaded quickly. If the computers entertained bids from every ad exchange, it would take too long.

Publishers, dissatisfied with this system, found a workaround to conduct the auctions outside of Google's purview, a process that became known as "header bidding." Internal Google documents introduced at trial described header bidding as an "existential threat" to Google's market share. -AP

### **SPORTS** 10

THE PERFECT VOICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 MUMBAI



Julien Alfred, of Saint Lucia, crosses the finish line to win the women's 100 meters during the Diamond League final 2024 athletics meet in Brussels on Friday. At right is second placed Dina Asher-Smith of Great Britain Pic: PT

## Naomi Osaka announces second split from coach

London: Former world No 1 Naomi Osaka has announced that she's no longer working with coach Wim Fissette.

Osaka had expressed frustration with her recent results after a secondround exit at the U.S. Open iust over two weeks ago.

The 26-year-old Osaka won two of her four Grand Slam titles while working with the Belgian coach. Those were the 2020 U.S. Open and the 2021 Australian Open.

It's the second time Osaka and Fissette have parted ways.



On her Instagram story late Friday, the Japanese player wrote: "4 years, 2 Slams and a whole lot of memories. Thanks Wim for being a great coach and an even greater person, wishing you all the best." She's

currently ranked No. 75. Fissette began working with Osaka shortly before the start of the 2020 season. They had split in the summer of 2022 before teaming up again last year when Osaka returned to training following maternity leave.

"In 15 years on tour, this was one of my best years working together with amazing people," Fissette wrote in an Instagram post on Saturday. "From every defeat, we worked harder and better and grew a lot. We were very close to a breakthrough."

After the U.S. Open, Osaka "decided to move forward with a new path." he added. "I accepted it know-

ing we close this second run with more good memories and gratitude for building her way back."

At Flushing Meadows, Osaka lost 6-3, 7-6 (5) to Karolina Muchova in the second round. Afterward, she said: "It's a little rough, because I do take these losses really personally. It's like a dramatic word, but I feel like my heart dies every time I lose.

Fissette had previously worked with players such as Victoria Azarenka, Kim Clijsters, Simona Halep and Angelique Kerber.

-AP

## US beat Germany, secures top spot Zhuhai (China): The

United States topped its group and ensured it will be seeded in the last eight of the Davis Cup Finals by beating Germany 2-1 on Saturday.

Both teams were unbeaten and already into the Finals but knew that victory would secure a seeding in Malaga and a quarterfinal against one of the runner's up from the three other groups taking place in Manchester, Bologna and Valencia this week. The U.S. swiftly en-

sured it would be them, winning both singles matches in Zhuhai, China. Reilly Opelka rallied to beat Henri Squire 6-7 (4), 7-6 (9), 6-3 and Brandon Nakashima eased past Maximilian Marterer 6-4, 6-2.

However, the U.S. suffered its first defeat when Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram lost 6-1, 7-6 (4) to Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz.

Later Saturday, Finland will hope to keep its slim hopes of progressing alive when it plays Argentina in Manchester in Group D. Group A is also delicately poised and Belgium plays Brazil in Bologna.

France plays the Czech Republic in Valencia, with both teams already eliminated.

Four groups are playing in four cities this week to qualify for the eightteam Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group advance. -AP

# India beat **Pakistan in ACT**

Hulunbuir (China): Skipper Harmanpreet Singh made the difference as he converted two penalty corners to hand unbeaten India a close 2-1 win over arch-rivals Pakistan in their final league match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday.

It was India's fifth consecutive win in the six-team round-robin competition. Pakistan took the lead through Ahmad Nadeem (8th minute) before Harmanpreet (13th, 19th) converted two penalty corners to lead India to win. It was Pakistan's first loss in this tournament.

Both India and Pakistan have already qualified for the semifinals. The victory also enabled India to maintain their supremacy over Pakistan since 2016.

In their previous meeting at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, India thrashed Pakistan 10-2. A few months before that, the Indians beat Pakistan 4-0 during the Chennai edition of the ACT

At the Asia Cup in Jakarta (2022), a relatively young Indian side held Pakistan to a 1-1 draw while at the 2021 ACT in Dhaka. India defeated Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal.

As like any Indo-Pak hockey match, the first quarter saw end-to-end action with both the teams giving their all to gain the bragging rights.

The Indians started brightly dominating the early share of exchanges but Pakistan grew in confidence as the match



opportunity to draw level

through a penalty corner

but they wasted the chance

as Sufyan Khan's flick,

which hit the top of the bar,

was rejected for a raised

The Indians sustained

possession after the change

of ends and secured their

third penalty corner in the

37th minute, but Pakistan

Thereafter, a sustained

spell of attacks helped Pa-

kistanis to bag four penalty

corners in quick succession

but lacked the firepower to

breach the Indian defence

In the last quarter, both

the sides stitched relentless

attacks and India secured

three more penalty corners

The match also wit-

nessed a heated encounter

between Harmanpreet and

Pakistan's Ashraf Waheed

Rana after the latter shoul-

dered Jugraj Singh inside

impact and was seen gri-

macing in pain. Harman-

preet and Jarmanpreet

Singh were quick to coun-

-PTI

Jugraj was felled by the

the Indian circle.

ter the offender.

but failed to convert.

defended bravely

ball.

myperfectvoice@gmail.com

WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

🔰 @my\_perfectvoice

progressed India were at the receiving end for the first time in the tournament when Pakistan drew the first blood. It was a selfless Hannan

Shahid whose brilliant work from the midfield split the Indian defence and Nadeem found himself at the right place to direct the ball into the Indian goal.

A stunned India kept up their composure and patiently built their attacks and secured their first penalty corner in the 13th minute and skipper Harmanpreet scored with a powerful drag-flick to the left of a hapless Pakistan

goalkeeper Munneb. The Indians continued to press in the second quarter and gained their second penalty corner in the 19th minute and once again Pakistan defence had no answer as Harmanpreet was bang on target as India went up 2-1.

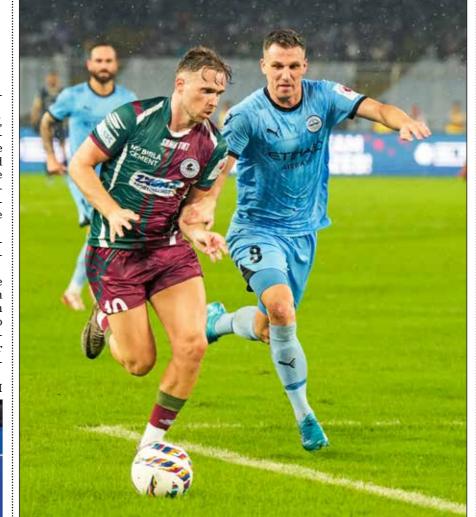
While India were the better side in terms of possession in the second quarter, Pakistan also had their chances, penetrating the rival circle on quite a few

occasions. Just 45 seconds from

## **Chess Olympiad** Indian men outwit Hungary B

## Vietnam Open Kapila's illness ends Indians' semi bid Ho Chi Minh City: The since day one of the tourna-

Indian badminton duo of ment," Kapila told PTI.



Man United beat Southampton London: Marcus Rashford

snapped a 12-game barren run in front of goal as Manchester United beat Southampton 3-0 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto's promising run at the Vietnam Open Super 100 tournament came to an unexpected halt after the former's battle with illness forced the pair to withdraw from their semifinal match on Saturday.

Seeded sixth, Kapila and Crasto were scheduled to face the Indonesian pair of Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil in the crucial semifinal clash.

However, Kapila's health issues, including persistent fever and back cramps, made it impossible for him to turn up for the match.

"I have not been well



"Despite pushing myself, the situation worsened after yesterday's match. The fever wasn't subsiding, and I was experiencing severe back cramps. After consulting with the doctor, we decided it was best to concede the match.

With the withdrawal, India's campaign at the tournament ends.

Kapila and Crasto are now setting their sights on upcoming challenges, with plans to compete in two Challenger events -- Bendigo International (October 9-13) and Sydney International (October 16-20). -PTI

Mohun Bagan Super Giants and Mumbai City FC players vie for the ball during an ISL match, at YBVK Stadium in Kolkata on Friday.

"They have now seen cor-

ruptors being disrupted,

named, banned when they

get involved in cricket. And

the education we now do

with players shows them

who the corruptors are,

Rashford doubled United's lead at Saint Mary's after Matthijs de Ligt's scored his first for the club. Substitute Alejandro Garnacho scored a third in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

The win came after backto-back defeats for United in a disappointing start to the season. Rashford hadn't scored since United's 4-3 win over Liverpool in the FA Cup in March. He curled in a shot from the edge of the area to put Erik ten Hag's team 2-0 up at Southampton in the 41st minute.

De Ligt, who joined United from Bayern Munich in the off-season, headed in from Bruno Fernandes' cross in the 35th. It was a much-needed with for United after losses to Brighton and Liverpool in the first three games of the season. But it could have been a different story if Cameron Archer had converted a penalty for Southampton in the 33rd.

Budapest (Hungary): India men dropped their first point, but carried enough steam to beat Hungary 'B' 3.5-0.5 to maintain a clean slate in the ongoing 45th Chess Olympiad here.

In the open section, the hero for the Indian men was Ariun Erigaise who played a brilliant attacking game against Peter Prohazska and ended with a checkmate after a queen sacrifice.

However, Vidit Guirathi had to settle for a quick draw against Papp Gabor and it was the first time an Indian men's player failed to notch a win in this event. But D. Gukesh outclassed Adam Kozak, while R. Praggnanandhaa made most of his chances in the endgame as Tamas Banusz was gradually outplayed. Earlier, a shock defeat

for D. Harika on the top board did not deter the other Indian girls as R Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agarwal scored crushing victories to ensure a 3-1 victory for the team that kept them in joint lead on six match points. Harika lost to recentmigrant Alexandra Kosteniuk who gave up her

Russian citizenship and joined the Swiss team. A former world women's champion Kosteniuk was in her elements and scored the full point after Harika misplayed the middle game

the bird's eve-view. Vaishali gave no chances

to other migrant Ghazal Hakimifard who left her Iranian citizenship. It was a bit of a technical

game from the white pieces as Ghazal made some unforced errors and did not auite recover.

Divya continued with her winning ways and clearly the Indian seemed to be having the time of her life on the chessboard.

After recently winning the World junior girls' championship, Divya scored a regulation win against Sofiia Hryzlova while on the fourth board Vantika proved much stronger than Mariia Manko.

The day also provided the first major upset in the Olympiad as fifth seed Holland were outdone by Italy 1-3 in the open section.

Top Dutch star Anish Giri was on the receiving end in this encounter and that triggered their collapse.

With eight rounds still to come, as many as 16 teams maintained a clean slate and shared the lead with six points apiece.

The Indian men will take on Serbia in the next round. With Alexandr Predke and Alexey Sarana on the top two boards, the Indians will likely have a tough fight on hands even though they still are favourites to win the match.

### Corruptors looking at entry through home boards **Outgoing ICC official Alex Marshall did not name anyone**

Dubai: Elite cricket is mostly "safe and clean" but outgoing ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) chief Alex Marshall feels that potential corruptors are eyeing entry through local T20 leagues which are outside global body's ambit managed by respective boards of member nations.

The former British cop didn't specify which particular local leagues or which member nation he was referring to. "I am confident that the cricket you watch is safe and clean," Marshall told ESPN Cricinfo.

"But I am also absolutely sure that corruptors are constantly looking for a route into the game, particularly in badly-run lowerlevel franchise leagues. The threat to the game is corruptors won't go away while there is always money to be made and they will look for weakness in the system to get in." Marshall said that he is happy to find that more and more players are reporting corrupt approaches with the ICC ACU, ensuring them

to keep the game clean. "I am proud of the significant increase in trust from



players who now report approaches to us frequently whereas there was a time when they lacked confidence in confidentiality and the action that will be taken," Marshall said.

everyone is much better equipped and protected to keep corruption away from the game.' During his seven years in ICC, some of the significant

what their methods are, so

milestones of ICC ACU under Marshall would be to ensure punishment for former Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who didn't report a corrupt approach by Indian bookie Deepak Aggarwal and former Zimbabwe skipper late Heath Streak.

One thing that gave Marshall satisfaction was weed-

ing out corruption from Sri Lankan cricket with the help of local authorities with multiple cases of former international and domestic players being involved in alleged shady dealings.

"Sri Lanka turned out to be a good news story because there were serious issues which were addressed locally and with ICC," he said. "Now with the legislation and stronger measures Sri Lanka is in a much better place to keep the corruptors away."

-PTI that appeared even from