Volume 01, Issue 61 • DAILY • MUMBAI • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 • RNI No. MAHENG/2023/84338 • Rs. 5/- YOUR OPINION, OUR EFFORTS

THE PERFECT VO



Polls to test electoral arithmetic, chemistry among allies ... <u>Dg</u>



Cheetahs to be released back into wild ... pg 6



Gill, Jaiswal look to continue good form

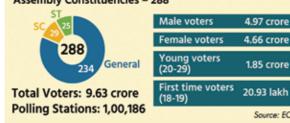
Voting for Assembly on Nov 20, results on 23

By Correspondent

New Delhi: The Assembly polls in Maharashtra will be held in a single phase on November 20, while Jharkhand polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, the Election Commission of India announced on Tuesday. The votes for the two states will be counted on November 23

By-elections to 47 Assembly seats and the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, vacated by Congress leader

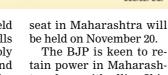
MAHARASHTRA Assembly Constituencies - 288



Rahul Gandhi, will be held on November 13. By-polls to the Kedarnath assembly seat in Uttarakhand and the Nanded Lok Sabha



tra along with allies Shiv



CEC wonders what next charges will be

Rajiv Kumar rejected claims by Congress leaders of alleged tampering of EVMs in some Haryana seats where machines with varying battery strength gave out different results. Referring to the issue over battery strength affecting results, the CEC said earlier allegations of hacking were made "but this has come up for the first time".

"Now we are thinking what next will come, we can't fathom. But certainly something new will come up," Kumar said.

He asserted that around six days prior to the poll day, electronic voting machines are commissioned and election symbols of candidates are loaded and a new battery is installed which has signatures of candidates or their authorised agents.

"Leave alone EVM, even batteries (installed) have signatures of candidates. Even we were not aware (of this rule) as it was framed long back. Now it is helping us," he said responding to a series of questions on the reliability of the machines and concerns flagged on battery. He also said that people ask if pagers can be used to blow up people in some country, why can't EVMs be hacked. "Pagers are connected (to network), EVMs are not," he explained.



Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner

Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

The BJP led Mahavuti alliance is facing a challenge from the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi of the Congress-NCP (SP)-Shiv Sena (UBT), which hopes to repeat its performance in the Lok Sabha elections

Voters to be identified as per rules

Voters at polling booths will be identified as per election rules but with due respect to their cultural values. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday.

He made the comments in response to a question

CEC rebukes allegations

"Kuch to log kahenge, logon ka kam hai kehna" (people will say things, it is their job to say such things) -- was the response of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar when asked about critics alleging irregularities in the poll process in the recentlyconcluded Haryana Assembly election. "Election by election, the participation in the

process is increasing, violence is reducing and there are record seizures. Voters are giving a clear indication that they have belief in the electoral process and they are very participative," Kumar

on controversies surrounding women wearing hijab to polling booths and debate around democratic rights versus cultural rights.

Man falls off train, dies

By Correspondent

Dombivli: A 20-year-old man died after falling off a local train in Maharashtra's Thane district during the morning peak hours on Tuesday, an official from the Government Railway Police said.

The accident occurred between Dombivili and Kopar railway stations around 9 am. Senior Inspector Kiran Undre said Ayushya Jatin Doshi. a resident of Dombivili, fell off a CSMT-bound train and sustained critical injuries. He was declared dead at a hospital. A case of accidental death was registered, he said.

... pg 10

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar being welcomed upon his arrival in Islamabad, Pakistan on Tuesday. Pic: PTI

Culpable homicide charge in car crash case dropped

Mumbai: A court here has said that a man accused of driving a car rashly and causing an accident that killed his teenage friend cannot be tried for 'culpable homicide not amount-

Sourya Jain, the ac-

cused, allegedly crashed a

car into a stationary bus in

Marine Drive area here in

May 2020, injuring himself

as well as his friend Ary-

aman Nagpal, who was on

the front seat. Nagpal, son

of a hotelier, succumbed to

ing to murder'.

his injuries.

his life, but at the same time one cannot lose sight from overall circumstances in which offence took place "

Police first registered a case against Jain under Indian Penal Code sections 304-A (rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide) and 279 (rash driving). But section 304 (II) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) was pressed when it was found that Jain possessed no valid driving licence at the time of the incident.

Defence lawyer Hrishi-Additional sessions kesh Mundargi argued that judge S.D. Tawshikar, in an the incident was unforeorder passed on October 14, seen, and Jain could not noted that "no doubt an inhave had the intention to nocent young boy has lost cause the accident.



Seven flights get bomb threats via X

Over 1,000 tourists stranded in Nepal Kathmandu: More than

1,000 foreign tourists have

been stranded in Nepal af-

ter bad weather led to the

cancellation of flights to

Fourth accused sent to police custody till Oct 21



COPS SAY HE GAVE FINANCIAL HELP

ing, the police told the court that Nisad and Kashyap belonged to the same village as the wanted accused, Shivkumar Gautam.

Moreover, Nisad ran a scrap shop in Pune, where the wanted accused used to reside, and further investigation is necessary to gather information about Gautam's whereabouts, police said.



said.

New Delhi: Seven flights, including one bound for the United States, received bomb-threat messages through a social media handle on Tuesday, prompting security agencies to undertake specific counter-terrorist drills at various airports, official sources said.

The threats via microblogging platform X came a day after three international flights originating from Mumbai received bomb threats, causing trouble to hundreds of passengers and airline crew. The messages posted on Monday were declared a hoax.

Two more flights received similar threats on Tuesday but a confirmation was awaited.

The sources said an X handle issued threats on Tuesday to five flights -- an Air India Express flight from Jaipur to Bengaluru via Ayodhya (IX765), a SpiceJet flight from Darbhanga to Mumbai (SG116), an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru (QP 1373), an Air India flight from Delhi to Chicago (AI 127) and an Indigo flight

from Dammam (Saudi Ara-

An Air India Express

spokesperson told PTI in a

statement that they, along

with a few other operators.

received a "specific" secu-

rity threat from an unveri-

fied social media handle.

Committee.

bia) to Lucknow (6E 98).

Lukla, the gateway to Mt Everest, according to staterun media on Tuesday. Lukla serves as a major transit point for trekkers

heading to the world's highest peak. Around 1,300 tourists, en

route to the Everest base camp, have been stranded in Manthali at Ramechhap district for the past two days after dozens of flights were grounded due to inclement weather, the gov-

ernment-owned daily Gorkhapatra reported. Some tourists have opted

to travel by land via Faplu, while others have taken heliconters to Surkhet

"In response, security An official from the Civil protocols were promptly Aviation Authority at Manactivated as directed by the thali confirmed that the government-appointed stranded tourists had ar-Bomb Threat Assessment rived there through various -PTI private airlines.

Baba Siddiaue

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Police on Tuesday said the fourth accused arrested for the murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique had provided financial help and firearms for the operation.

A court here on Tuesday remanded the fourth accused. Harishkumar Nisad (23), in police custody till October 21.

Nisad was apprehended from Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, earlier in the day. The police had earlier identified the fourth accused as Harishkumar Balakram.



Accused Harish Balkram being produced at Esplanade court in Baba Siddique murder case in Mumbai on Tuesday. Pic: PTI

The additional chief judicial magistrate (Esplanade Court) V R Patil, while sending the accused to police custody, noted that the "offence is serious in nature" and his presence with the probe agency "is essential for custodial

The crime branch informed the court that Nisad had provided money to the others involved in the

crime, and a probe was necessarv to find "the upper link and lower link" with regard to financial assistance.

It further stated that information about bank accounts and other modes of transactions Nisad used for financial assistance to the other accused needs to be

The police said they also

have to ascertain how he

According to the police, the accused conspired and carried out the crime after conducting a recce of the victim's residence and the crime scene.

Nisad's lawyer, Ajay Dubey, opposed the remand plea, saying that the accused was a "victim of the circumstances and a scapegoat".

The court heard both sides and remanded the accused in police custody.

Police had earlier arrest-Siddique (66) was wavlaid ed Harvana resident Gurmail Baljit Singh (23), Uttar by three persons in Mum-Pradesh native Dharmaraj bai's Nirmal Nagar area, iust outside his MLA son Rajesh Kashyap (19), both alleged shooters, and "co-Zeeshan Siddique's office, conspirator" Pravin Lonkar and shot at on Saturday night. He was rushed to the from Pune. They have been remanded in police custody Lilavati Hospital, where he was declared dead, according to police.

During the remand hear-

supplied weapons used in

the crime to the other ar-

rested accused.

till October 21.

Stage set for Priyanka's electoral debut from Wayanad

New Delhi: With the Election Commission (EC) announcing the bypoll to the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, the stage is set for Congress leader Priyanka Vadra's electoral debut from the Kerala constituency that could see her enter Parliament five years after joining active politics.

Days after the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress announced in June that Rahul Gandhi will retain the Rae Bareli parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh and vacate the Wayanad seat in Kerala, from where his sister Priyanka will make her electoral debut. If elected, this will be the

first time that Priyanka Vadra will enter Parliament as an MP. This will also be the first time that the three Gandhi family members -- Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka -- will be in Parliament together.

The EC on Tuesday announced bypolls to the Wavanad and Nanded Lok Sabha seats as well as in 48 Assembly constituencies.

The bypoll to the Wayanad parliamentary seat and 47 Assembly seats will be held on November 13, along with the first phase of polling for the Jharkhand Assembly.

Since her entry into active politics in 2019, Priyan-

ka has been in the past projected as a possible challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi and also, as a successor to Congress veteran Sonia Gandhi in the family pocket borough of Rae Bareli

However, the Congress has decided to field her from Wayanad, the parliamentary seat that her elder brother Rahul won for two consecutive elections. Priyanka was earlier the Congress in-charge of Uttar Pradesh. She emerged as the par-

ty's strategist and star campaigner, helping the Congress make impressive



gains in some states as well as in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier in the year.

After her name was announced for the Wayanad bypoll, Priyanka had said,

hard and try my best to make everybody happy and be a good representative."

"I have a good relationship with Rae Bareli as I worked there for 20 years and that relationship will never break," she had said, adding that both she and her brother will work together in both the constituencies.

After joining active politics, Priyanka was made the Congress general secretary in-charge of the crucial eastern Uttar Pradesh in January 2019 and then as the general secretary incharge of the entire state. Though the performance of her party in the 2019 Lok

Sabha polls was not very good, she continued with her efforts to strengthen the organisation at the

In December 2023, Pri-

yanka was made a Con-

gress general secretary

"without a portfolio". She

emerged as the party's key

strategist and later, its star

campaigner for the 2024

She also helped strength-

en the organisation and led

the party's campaign in

Himachal Pradesh, where

the grand old party wrested

power from the BJP. Her

campaign helped the Con-

gress in the general elec-

tion, in which the party got

grassroots level.

Lok Sabha polls.

businessman Robert Vadra. With the Congress putting up a surprisingly good show in the Lok Sabha polls, Priyanka cemented her position as the party's

99 seats, up from 52 in 2019.

Privanka is married to

talisman. Priyanka Vadra's poll debut comes at a time when

the Congress has been jolted by an electoral defeat in Harvana and it would be interesting to see if she would be able to steer the Wayanad campaign, along with the canvassing for the Jharkhand and Maharashtra polls, to put the grand old party back on track.

-PTI

"I am not nervous at all.... I am very happy to be able to represent Wayanad. All I will say is that I will not let them feel his (Rahul Gandhi's) absence. I will work

interrogation". gathered from him.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 MUMBAI

myperfectvoice@gmail.com X @perfectvoice_in WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN



CHATTER BOX

"On those banners, I was described as an old man of 84 years. But you do not worry, because be it 84 or be it 90 this old man will not stop. This old man will not rest until he brings the state on the right track and I am sure of getting your help. It is the policy of those who are in power to indulge in corruption in every sector and that is why it is your and my responsibility to take out the power from their hands."

Sharad Pawar, chief, NCP (SP)

"From 'Ladki Bahin' to senior citizens, from farmers to common man, we made everyone a stakeholder of power through schemes. We have shown this to Maharashtra. It ranks number one in development, industry, basic infrastructure and welfare schemes. This will reflect in the outcome of the elections. We are facing elections by putting a united front on the basis of development."

Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister

"Be it Jayant Patil (of NCP-SP) or Vijay Wadettiwar (of Congress), they had earlier criticised the Election Commission for holding Lok Sabha polls in five stages. The same EC is now conducting polls in one stage in the state, but the opposition parties criticised that move as well. They are changing colours like a chameleon. They have basically conceded their defeat before the election."

> Chandrashekhar Bawankule, President, Maharashtra BJP

EC turns down NCP-SP demand to freeze trumpet symbol

Election Commission

is final authority

chief Sharad Pawar

on Tuesday said the

Election Commission

is the final authority to

decide the poll symbols

Pune: NCP (SP)

By Correspondent

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Tuesday said it had agreed to a request by NCP (Sharad Pawar) for prominent display of it poll symbol -- man blowing 'turha' -- on ballot units of EVMs, but turned down the demand to freeze the trumpet symbol.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the NCP-SP had conveyed to the poll authority that its election symbol -- 'man blowing turha' -- was not displayed prominently on the ballot units of EVMs. "We had asked them to

The NCP-SP had given us

three options on the poll

14, Maharashtra Congress

president Nana Patole said

the legislator was involved

in "anti-party activities

during the Lok Sabha polls

and even after that as per

the instructions of Maha-

rashtra in-charge, Ramesh

For the Mahayuti coali-

an opportunity to show-

case tangible achieve-

ments and portray the

opposition as agents of

delay. The Atal Setu,

which connects Worli to

Bandra, and the Coastal

Road Project are symbol-

ic of a city being upgrad-

ed to global standards.

With Mumbai positioned

as India's financial capi-

tal, the coalition will

frame its infrastructure

push as essential for at-

tracting investment and

maintaining the city's

competitiveness on the

the narrative of 'develop-

ment versus destruction'

will intensify. As voters

weigh their options, the

future of Mumbai's land-

scape, both physical and

political, will be shaped

by this defining debate.

As the polls inch closer,

global stage.

Chennithala.

and their allotment. "The Election Commission is the final authority. Nothing can specify how would they be done now." want their poll symbol to be displayed on the ballot unit. first suggestion made by

them," Kumar said. However, the CEC made

symbol and we accepted the it clear that the Commis-

sion did not wish to disturb the existing system of allocation of election symbols while turning down the demand for removal of the trumpet symbol from the list of symbols.

The CEC asserted that the trumpet symbol was different from the 'man blowing turha'.

The Sharad Pawar-led party had argued that the trumpet symbol was similar to 'man blowing turha' which caused confusion among voters during the Lok Sabha elections.

The NCP-SP had contended that independent candidate who was allotted the trumpet symbol in the Satara constituency polled more votes than the margin of victory of the BJP candidate Udayanraje Bhonsale.

Gehlot to look after Mumbai, **Pilot Marathwada**

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Congress on Tuesday appointed division-wise AICC senior observers for the Maharashtra Assembly polls with Ashok Gehlot and G Parameshwara to look after the Mumbai and Konkan region and Sachin Pilot and Uttam Kumar Reddy to oversee the Marathwada region.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Mukul Wasnik and

Kharge has appointed AICC Senior Observers (division-wise) and state election senior coordinators for Maharashtra for the ensuing assembly elections in the state, with immediate effect, a party statement said.

While Gehlot and Parameshwara have been appointed senior observers for Mumbai and Konkan, Bhupesh Baghel, Charanjit Singh Channi and Umang Singhar will look after the Vidarbha region.

TURNING POINT

went out of the state's con-

trol with sporadic

bandhs being announced

across many districts. In

some places, the agitation

turned violent with the

police resorting to lathi-

charge on the protesters,

further worsening the sit-

uation. With state assem-

bly elections in sight, the

vexed problem of Maratha

reservation demand is

once again back to domi-

nate the state politics. For

the past two months, po-

litical leaders across par-

ties have been making a

beeline to meet Jarange-

Manoj Jarange-Patil,

the Maratha agitator,

mostly unknown until his

first agitation last year,

has now become a house-

hold name, with the agita-

tion taking an aggressive

turn across the state. Ja-

range-Patil, who has been

active in Maratha politics

for over a decade, says he

is an "apolitical person",

working for the welfare of

his community. One of the

primary demands of this

agitation is the issuance of

Kunbi caste certificates

sess the 'Nizam-era' docu-

ments such as revenue,

educational and other sup-

Patil extending support.

Puzzle of Maratha Quota

By Suyash Padate

round 40 years ago, Mathadi Kamgar Union leader Annasaheb Patil first began the Maratha reservation agitation The demand has time and again come up, mostly around elections making its direct impact across Maharashtra. Since late August last year, 41-year-old Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil hailing from drought-prone Marathwada region, has brought the Eknath Shinde government to its knees by demanding blanket reservation in education and government jobs for all Marathas in the State.

A year ago on September 1, a lathi-charge on protesters demanding Maratha reservation altered the course of Maharashtra's politics against the ruling Mahayuti, leading to a wipeout of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Marathwada in recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, and did significant damage to the candidates of its allies Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Shiv Sena. The immediate trigger for a renascent Maratha quota agitation was a violent fracas last year between protesters and police in the Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district.

The Maratha populafor all members of the tion enjoys political domi-Maratha community. The Maharashtra government nance in the state. A landowning community, issued a resolution saying Marathas are estimated to that Kunbi caste certificates will be issued to all constitute over 33 percent of the state control over Marathas from the Marmost sugar cooperatives athwada region who pos-

porting records, and if "Kunbi" is mentioned in their genealogy.

Throughout his protest. Jarange-Patil has maintained that he will continue the agitation until his demands are fully met. But he is willing to have a dialogue with the government. The government had called for an "all-party" meeting where it was decided that the home department would withdraw all the cases against the protesters in the Jalna district where the police had resorted to lathi charge.

In 2014, just months before the assembly elections, then chief minister Prithviraj Chavan, relying on the then Congress Minister Narayan Rane committee report, brought in an ordinance introducing 16 percent reservation for the community, particularly in government jobs and education. This was taken forward by the Devendra Fadnavis-led gov-

ernment in 2014. The Bombay HC, however, brought the 16 percent reservation down to 13 percent in jobs and 12 percent in education. In 2021, the SC quashed the quota altogether for Marathas. "Reservation cannot cross the 50 percent limit in states," the court had opined. However, the Supreme Court blocked the Maratha reservation citing a 50 percent cap on total reservations it had set in 1992.

The majority of Maharashtra's CMs since 1960 have been from the Maratha community. Between 2014 and 2019, nearly half of the total 288 MLAs were Marathas.

Congress expels MLA Khoskar Mumbai: The Congress (NCP)

has expelled MLA Hiraman Khoskar, who represents Khoskar from the party for the Igatpuri assembly consix years for indulging in stituency in Nashik dis-"anti-party activities" after trict, joined the ruling NCP he joined the Ajit Pawar-led on Monday. In a letter dated October Nationalist Congress Party



Building New Mumbai: Development Dreams vs Destruction Debates

By Kiran D. Tare

s Maharashtra gears up for an especially critical Assembly election, the battle for Mumbai, a city that accounts for a significant share of the state's political power and economic clout, is shaping up around a theme of development versus obstruction.

The ruling Mahayuti coalition, composed of the Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has positioned itself as the champion of growth and infrastructure. They seek to capitalize on a series of highprofile projects initiated during their tenure, from the long-delayed Mumbai Coastal Road to the Atal Setu bridge.

The argument the Mahayuti will present to the voters is clear: the opposition, particularly Uddhav Thackeray's faction of Shiv Sena (UBT), stood in the way of progress when the MVA government helmed by Thackeray was in power.

The Mahayuti will likely point to the Dharavi redevelopment project, which aims to transform one of Asia's largest slums into a modern residential and commercial hub, and the ongoing Mumbai Metro expansion as prime examples of Thackeray's alleged obstructionism. While the Coastal Road promises to cut down travel time between South Mumbai and the northern suburbs, Thackeray's criticism of environmental concerns around these projects has



led to accusations of stallmental protection stands ing key development in contrast to the ruling coalition's aggressive initiatives. push for urban transit ex-

The Mahayuti will be positioning itself as a pansion. For the Mahayuforward-looking governti, the Metro is a critical ment, one willing to make solution to the city's traffic woes, one that Thacktough decisions for the eray hindered during his future of the metropolis. The Dharavi project, for brief reign. instance, is not merely tion, this election will be

about relocating slum dwellers but represents a vision of urban renewal that could unlock immense real estate value in one of the world's most crowded cities.

> The Mumbai Metro stands as another flashpoint in the development vs. destruction narrative. Uddhav Thackeray, as part of the MVA government, took a public stand against the construction of the Metro Car Shed in Mumbai's Aarey forest an urban green lung. While environmentalists praised his decision to halt work on the car shed to protect the forest, the Mahayuti government quickly reversed this after coming to power, shifting construction back to Aarey.

The Shiv Sena (UBT)'s emphasis on environ-

Avinash Pande as Maharashtra state election senior coordinators.

Sachin Pilot and Uttam Kumar Reddy will oversee the Marathwada region.

in the state. This threedecade-old demand, now revived by Jarange-Patil,

Navneet Rana receives threat

Notice is

Amravati: BJP leader and former MP from Maharashtra, Navneet Rana, has received a threat through a letter demanding Rs 10 crore, prompting the police to register a case and launch an investigation, an official said on Tuesday. The letter addressed to the former MP from Amravati was sent via speed post

tary Vinod Guhe lodged a

by a man, who identified himself as Amir. Rana's Personal Secre-

AIMIM leader's meet with Jarange fuels speculation

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel on Tuesday hinted at allying with Maratha activist Manoj Jarange for the cause of Marathas and Muslims, shortly after the Election Commission declared the schedule for the Maharashtra assembly polls

Jaleel met Jarange in Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district in the evening.

"If people's welfare is involved, anything can happen. Important cards will be played at the right time,' Jarange told reporters flanked by Jaleel.

The Maratha activist said he discussed social and political issues with Jaleel during their meeting.

Jaleel, the state president of Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, claimed he was a "fan" of Jarange for his steadfastness

"We have heard that he (Jarange) is keen to field candidates (in the upcoming assembly polls). Let's see. I cannot make decisions on my own for my party. Even Jarange finalises a decision after consulting his community," the former Aurangabad MP added.

Jaleel claimed the people of Maharashtra have lost their faith in the established political parties in Maharashtra.

"People won't trust political parties unless fresh faces are brought in. Jarange wants justice for his community and AIMIM for our community (Muslims). If we have a common goal, we can join Jarange,' the former MP added. Jaleel said Jarange does not blame members of other communities and speaks about harmony and humanity.

Notably, the Marathwada region, the ground zero of Maratha protests steered by Jarange, witnessed a significant division of votes during the recent Lok Sabha elections, a factor believed to have contributed in the narrow defeat of OBC leader of BJP, Pankaja Munde, from Beed

formal complaint with Rajapeth police station in Amravati alleging that the letter was received by a staffer at Rana's residence on October 11.

The sender of the letter stated that he had taken a

PUBLIC NOTICE given on behalf of m

client Mr. Sneh kiran Vasavaliya who is joint owners with his father Shri kiran Dayabhai vasavaliya o a Row house no.15, Ground floor + Upper floor, Bhakti home royals oppmahavir dham, shirsad Virar (East), Taluka Vasai, Distric Palghar-401303, having total 630 sq.ft carpet (equivalent 58.528 sq.mtrs.) constructed on N. A Land survey no. 37, Hissa no.1 and my client's father Shri kirar Dayabhai vasavaliya expired or 12/09/2022 at Mumbai withou making any will and leaving behind him, his wife Kruti Kiran Vasavaliya and one daughter Rachana kira Vasavalia and one son Mr Sneh kiran Vasavaliya, except them no other legal heirs of the deceased and both other legal heirs willing to released their share to in abov mentioned Row house being lega heirs of the deceased to in favou of Mr. Sneh kiran Vasavaliya, Nov Mr. Sneh kiran Vasavaliya is the absolute owner, occupying said Row house as a owner, he can use occupy, dispose as a owner and Mi Sneh kiran Vasavaliva have liberty to transfer all documents of above mentioned Row house his name as a owner / being legal heirs of deceased, if any other legal heirs and any other person/persons of claimants, except mentioned above then take the objection within 14th days of this day of public notice in the office of ARUN KUMAR JAIN ADVOCATE add- AT Shop No. 1A Ram Krishna Apartment, Morya Nagar, Manyelpada road, Virar (E) Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar 401305 Date: 16/10/2024

"supari" for Rana and threatened to sexually assault her, the complainant stated.

CORRIGENDUM

On The public notice (with reference to Mr. Anubhay Sharma) published by Advocate Rajat K. Singh on 14/10/2024 C Wing Mentioned Should Not be read.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shefali Kothari, aged 52 years, wife of Prashant Kothari, residing at Bldg A-2, Flat: 101, The Ideal Bldg, Sector - 6, Shanti Nagar, Mira Road (E), Thane - 401107, do hereby solemnly

am the wife of Prashant Kothari, aged 54 years, and I have been esiding with my family, including my son **Manthan Kothari**, aged 26 ears, and my daughter **Labdhi Kothari**, aged 22 years. Over the past 10 years, my husband, Prashant Kothari, has repeatedly borrowed money from various loan lenders, businesspersons, and family members, causing severe financial stress to our family. His addiction to porrowing money has led to substantial financial burdens on us, putting our family's future and mental peace in jeopardy. Despite multiple requests and appeals to stop this behavior, my

he financial well-being of our family. As a result of his actions, my children and I have suffered significant emotional and mental trauma, which has worsened over time. The financial instability caused by his reckless behavior has made it unbearable for us to continue living in the ame household.

Therefore, after careful consideration, I, along with my son and daughter, have decided to separate ourselves from **Prashant Kothari** for the sake of our mental health and future security. This decisior tor the sake of our mental health and future secting. This decision is made out of necessity, as continuing to live with him has become detrimental to our health, safety, and financial well-being. We believe that this separation is essential for us to regain control of our lives and to protect ourselves from further mental and emotional harm. Through this affidavit, I wish to make it clear that my children and I

are not liable or responsible for any of the actions or decisions taken by **Prashant Kothari**. In particular, we shall not be held accountable or any loans or financial transactions that he has engaged in or may engage in the future. Any debts or obligations incurred by **Prashant** Kothari are solely his responsibility, and we are not in any way responsible for repaying or addressing those liabilities. t is also important to state that **Prashant Kothari** has threatened to

mmit suicide if we proceed with our decision to separate from him. He has further threatened to leave a suicide note blaming us for his death. We wish to clarify that any such actions, including self-harm or suicide, are entirely his own responsibility. Under no circumstances should my children or I be held responsible for any such actions or be implicated in any false accusations arising from such threats. We are making this affidavit to formally declare our decision to

separate from **Prashant Kothari** and to request the legal authorities to acknowledge and protect us from any liabilities or false accusations. We also request that the authorities take appropriate steps to ensure our safety and well-being in light of the threats made by Prashant Kothari We further request that should **Prashart Kothari** take any further loans or engage in any financial transactions in the future, we will not be held responsible or liable for the repayment of such debts. We seek protection from being held accountable for any financial obligations he nay incur after our separation.

In light of the above, we kindly request the police and other lega uthorities to take cognizance of this affidavit and provide us with the necessary protection and support to ensure our safety and well-being. VERIFICATION:

I, Shefali Kothari, do hereby declare that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therein.

Place: Mira Road, Thane Date:-16-10-2024





THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 MUMBAI

ASSEMBLY POLLS



FAMILY TREE **The Saffron Warriors**

Polls to test electoral arithmetic, chemistry among allies

By Aditi Pai

hen Uddhav Thackeray took oath as the 18th chief minister of Maharashtra on November 28, 2019, he proclaimed that he had fulfilled his late father's wish to have a 'Shiv Sainik' seated in the highest executive office in the Government of Maharashtra. It surprised many to see members of the Thackeray family taking up a constitutional post as Uddhav's son, Aditya, followed him into the council of ministers. For over four decades since he founded the Shiv Sena as a political party, Bal Thackeray never aimed to hold any office. He had proudly claimed he that was the "remote control" that controlled the actions of the chief minister when the Shiv Sena and BJP had formed the government between 1995 and 1999. The Thackeray dynasty, until 2019, was seen as the force behind the scenes, one that had full authority but no answerability.

Bal Thackeray, one among the eight children clave. He took over as the



of writer and social reformer Prabhodhankar or Keshav Thackeray, founded the Shiv Sena on June 19, 1966. He had started his career as a cartoonist in the Free Press Journal and later went on to publish Marmik, a weekly in Marathi. A cartoonist par excellence and journalist, Thackeray used his week-

ly to comment on social and political issues and started his career in public life by leading a movement against migrants and fighting for the rights of the sons-of-the-soil. Therein lay the birth of the Shiv Sena, a party that later went on to scale great heights and reach the chambers of power in the Centre and in the state.

Thackeray anointed Uddhav as his heir in January 2003 at the party's con-



handed over the reins of the Yuva Sena or the youth wing of the party to him.

The father-son duo kept their flock together in elections even after the death of the senior Thackeray in 2012, winning the cash-rich Mumbai municipal corporation and state elections with the BJP. In 2019, in a surprise turn of events, Uddhav was named Chief Minister of Maharashtra as part of a post-poll alliance with the **Congress and Nationalist** Congress Party

His party split when senior leader Eknath Shinde walked away with legislators in 2022.

THIS IS THE FIRST ASSEMBLY ELECTION WITH FRAGMENTED POLITICAL PARTIES

Mumbai: With half a dozen key players post splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP. a fragmented polity, Maratha quota stir and a spirited opposition, Maharashtra will see a riveting contest in the assembly polls amid dramatic changes since the last elections.

Elections to the 288-member Assembly will be held on November 20 in a single phase and counting of votes will be on November 23, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

The Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, necessitated due to the death of Congress MP Vasant Chavan, will also be held on November 20.

The Mahayuti government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is banking on its flagship scheme, Ladki Bahin Yojana, under which poor women get a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500, to sway voters after the ruling bloc's poor show in the Lok Sabha polls.

The Rs 46,000-crore a year welfare scheme is being widely seen as a "game changer" for the ruling bloc which comprises the BJP, Shinde's Shiv Sena and the Party (NCP) faction led by NCP led by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who joined the gov-Pawar. ernment just over a year ago after parting ways with his uncle Sharad Pawar.

The government's target is to cover 2.5 crore beneficiaries under the scheme. There are about 4.5 crore women voters in Maharashtra

1,500 – No of decisions Mahayuti government took

in last fortnight 160 - No of state Cabinet meetings in last couple of months

62 - No of urban Assembly segments which witnessed lower turnout in Lok Sabha election compared to 2019

The Mahayuti (grand alliance) is in a direct fight with the opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in a state where splits within major parties and realignments in the last five years have led to tectonic shift in political dynamics.

The MVA consists of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Nationalist Congress

Both the MVA and the Mahayuti are yet to announce their seat-sharing deals. The ensuing assembly polls, the first since the splits in the Shiv Sena in 2022 and the NCP a year

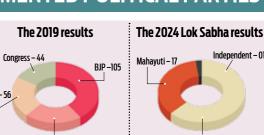
veteran politician Sharad

later, will be a test of strength for the two major alliances and will also indicate the ability of their individual constituents to transfer votes to each other.

Even though the Lok Sabha elections saw the ruling alliance (which won 17 of 48 seats) suffering a jolt and the opposition MVA (30 seats) performing well, the assembly polls are going to be a different political ball game as state and local-level issues will dominate campaigning.

Maharashtra's political climate has never been more fragmented, with six main parties vying for influence: BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP).

quick to target the govern-This fragmentation is a ment, especially Home



Shiv Sena – 56

product of recent political

upheavals, including the

collapse of the MVA gov-

ernment and the emer-

gence of new political fac-

tions. The last five years

have been unprecedented

in Maharashtra politics --

collapse of a pre-poll alli-

ance, three regimes, includ-

ing a three-day government,

splits in two major parties

with the Election Commis-

sion recognizing the break-

The murder of former

state minister and NCP

leader Baba Siddique on

Dussehra (October 12)

raised concerns about law

and order and came as an

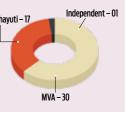
embarrassment for the Ma-

havuti government ahead

The opposition was

of the polls.

away groups as "real".



Minister Devendra Fadnavis, over the killing and highlight issues of public safety and governance.

Despite reports that Ajit Pawar may walk out of the ruling alliance, he has stayed put. Maharashtra saw a change in government mid-way in June 2022 when the MVA government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray collapsed following a rebellion in his party Shiv Sena.

Shinde then succeeded Thackeray as CM with BJP support. The 2019 assembly polls changed several dynamics. First, a pre-poll alliance between the Shiv Sena-BJP snapped over the issue of chief ministership. Later, Shiv Sena joined hands with its traditional rivals Congress and the NCP to form government.

CHATTER BOX

"We are really really concerned about urban apathy. We want to appeal to all voters in urban areas to come and vote. It is not a healthy trend which is reflected. "Look at Gurgaon, look at Faridabad, recently, last election Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Bengaluru South, Gandhinagar, Colaba, Pune, Thane. All are much below state averages of each state.'





Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner

"The moment that we all, as Maharashtra, has been waiting for is here: 20th November is poll day. We waited for justice but now justice will be done by the electorate. Jai Maharashtra!"

Aaditya Thackeray, Leader, Shiv Sena (UBT)

"A desperate Mahavuti knowing it is not coming back to power has spent its last few days bestowing gifts to Modani at the expense of the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra, Modani wins energy contract to supply 6,600 MW power to Maharashtra at inflated consumer prices, 255 acres of ecologically fragile salt pan land handed over to Modani, 140 acres in Madh handed over to Modani, 124 acres from the Deonar landfill in Mumbai handed over to Modani."

Jairam Ramesh. General Secretary. Congress

"The BSP will contest elections alone in both these states. It is to ensure that its people remain united and strive to come to power as part of their mission to protect dignity and self-respect inspired by dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar."

Mayawati, Chief, BSP

"The Maratha community had hoped that its demands (regarding quota) would be fulfilled, but Fadnavis has worked to ruin the life of Maratha youth. He worked to ensure that the community did not remain united, didn't progress and was deprived of reservation. Hence, they have announced the elections without fulfilling our demand. Making decisions was in their (ruling parties) hands. But now, the community will decide whether to bring you back to power. The community cannot be ignored while forming the government. The Marathas have shown their power for 14 months and should now show their power through voting."

Manoj Jarange-Patil, Maratha quota activist

"The biggest festival of democracy was announced today. Diwali is known as a festival of lights, and we shall celebrate another such day on November 23. Maharashtra awaits your blessings and strong mandate for development. Under BJP's leadership, massive victory was recorded in the 2014 and 2019 (assembly elections). Let us all come together and celebrate Mahayuti's mega victory on November 23. Participate in large numbers in this festival of democracy."

Devendra Fadnavis, Leader, BJP

Seven governor-appointed MLCs sworn in

are left vacant.

few weeks back.

Wagh is the state presi-

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Hours before the announcement of the Maharashtra assembly elections, seven members of the state legislative council. appointed by the governor, were administered the oath of secrecy on Tuesdav.

Of the seven new MLCs, the BJP has nominated three, while Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's NCP have two members each.

The governor can appoint 12 candidates as MLCs with a tenure of six years.

On Monday, the state cabinet cleared seven out of 12 names and received approval from Governor C P Radhakrishnan. With his approval, the state government held its swearing-in ceremony at the Vidhan Bhavan.



The remaining five posts secretary.

Wagh, who was associ-Shinde rehabilitated forated with the undivided mer Lok Sabha MP Hemant Nationalist Congress Party Patil and former MLC Man-(NCP) for nearly two decisha Kayande, while the ades, faced corruption al-BJP chose Dharmaguru legations against her hus-Babusingh Maharaj band in 2016. She joined the Rathod, Chitra Wagh, and BJP before the state assem-Vikrant Patil. Rathod heads bly elections in 2019. In May Washim-based Poharadevi 2023, the Bombay High Sansthan, a prominent or-Court acquitted her husganisation of the Gor Banband of the bribery jara community. Prime charges The NCP chose Pankaj Minister Narendra Modi

visited the same temple a Bhujbal, the son of state cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal, and former mayor dent of the saffron party's Sangli, Miraj Kupwad muwomen's wing, and Vikrant nicipal corporation Idris Patil is the state general Naikwadi.

he 2024 Assembly election is going to be all about Devendra Fadnavis. He is the most popular target and everybody in the opposition seems to love to be gunning for him. Just as the election schedule was announced by the election commission, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil roared that the Maratha community should not stay clam without decimating Fadnavis. After the murder of NCP MLA Baba Siddique, the Opposition has accused Fadnavis of failing as home minister and not being able to handle law and order situation. They also demanded his resignation. He was also attacked for delays in investigation of the Badlapur

sexual assault case, the

killing of the Badlapur ac-

encounter, the firing in an

Ulhasnagar police station,

the cases of sexual as-

saults in Pune and other

However, none of these

attacks seem to have de-

places, among others.



a gesture to have accepted the challenge, the state BJP has started with publicity campaign giving credit of development work in the state to Fadnavis and build his image as a mass-leader who is loved because he toiled for the masses.

Fadnavis became the 18th Chief Minister of Maharashtra in October 2014. Born in 1970 he was not new to the field of politics. He started his political career at a young age and quickly worked his way up through the ranks of the BJP, serving in various roles within the party, incused in an alleged police cluding the president of the Maharashtra BJP from 2013 to 2014. Under Fadnavis' leadership, the BJP won 123 of the State Assembly's total 288 seats even though it had then fought the polls alone terred Fadnavis. In fact, as since its alliance with the

Shiv Sena had broken following their differences on the seat-sharing formula. This was the BJP's highest tally in the Assembly.

However, as Chief Minister, he faced numerous challenges, from within the part as well as from outside. However, he focused on addressing key issues such as agriculture, infrastructure, urban development, and social welfare.

After the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, Fadnavis served as the Leader of the Opposition in the state legislature, continuing to play a vital role in Maharashtra's politics. His astute political strategies and effective articulation of the party's positions earned him respect within the BJP. A senior journalist as-

sociated with the RSS had told me after Fadnavis became the CM, that if he could complete three years as CM, he will emerge as an unstoppable force. The words seem to be coming true now.

Less time for campaign, says oppostion

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Opposition on Tuesday said the 35-day period during which the assembly elections process will take place is shorter than usual while the poll body gave enough time to the government to announce a slew of schemes.

ter Uttar Pradesh (403), will be held in a single phase on November 20, even though this year's Lok Sabha elections were held in five phases in the state

Leader of Opposition in the outgoing assembly and Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said, "The ECI It also pointed out that elections to the 288-memgenerally gives a minimum ber Maharashtra assemof 40 days for the political

bly, the second largest afparties to finalise their candidates, for submission of nominations, and the campaign. But this time it is 35 days, which is unusual and which gives us less time to campaign as well.

"It could be a part of some plan to give the Opposition little time," he claimed, adding that the Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP government has rampantly announced schemes in the

run-up to the elections without any application of mind and it will hit the state coffers.

Asked about the fate of these schemes if the Opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance came to power, Wadettiwar said, "We note that some schemes will strain the state's finances, but we will not scrap all of them. We will evaluate and continue

the schemes that genuinely aim to help the people. Additionally, our administration will prioritise improving the safety of wom-

en in public spaces." Jayant Patil, state president of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar), said, "The ECI held Lok Sabha elections in five stages in Maharashtra, but it has now decided to hold elec-

tions for the assembly in one stage. It is good that the NDA government in Maharashtra will lose at one stroke.'

The announcement of the assembly elections should have been made earlier, but the state government was given enough time to announce more and more welfare schemes and sanction development works, he claimed.

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No impact on trade, investment ties with Canada

VARIETY

New Delhi: The escalation in the diplomatic row between India and Canada will not have an impact on the bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, government sources said on Tuesday.

They also said that the bilateral trade value is not significant and Canadian funds get route their investments through Singapore, the UAE and the US.

"India is a preferred investment destination,' they said

Canada is India's one of the primary sources of lentils and now that can come from Australia, they said, adding that Indian students and professionals would also have huge opportunities in different countries

The bilateral merchandise trade between India and Canada actually grew slightly from USD 8.3 billion in 2022-23 to USD 8.4 billion in 2023-24.

India's imports from Canada increased to USD 4.6 billion, while exports saw a marginal dip, falling to USD 3.8 billion.

During April-July this fiscal, India's exports stood at USD 1.3 billion, while imports were USD 1.37 billion

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) too has stated that the diplomatic tensions between India and Canada



standard meet, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Charge d'Affaires Stewart

Wheelers was summoned

to the Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) and was told

bluntly that the baseless

"targeting" of Indian High

nations.

have so far not impacted the bilateral trade in goods between the two countries.

However, it added that as this dispute drags on, both nations will need to carefully manage their actions to avoid a full-blown

economic fallout. India on Monday announced withdrawing its high commissioner and other "targeted diplomats and officials" from Canada

Commissioner Sanjay Verafter strongly dismissing ma and other diplomats Ottawa's allegations linkand officials was "coming the envoy to an investipletely unacceptable".

gation into the killing of The strain started when Sikh extremist Hardeep **Canadian Prime Minister** Singh Nijjar, in a major Justin Trudeau accused downturn in already frosty India of involvement in ties between the two the killing of a Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist India's decision came leader. shortly after the Canadian

THE PERFECT VOICE

MUMBAI

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This allegation led to a back-and-forth expulsion of diplomats and paused Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks.

India has received USD 4 billion foreign direct investments from Canada during April 2000-June 2024.

-PTI

Abu Salem asks for days left in his incarceration

Mumbai: Jailed gangster Abu Salem has moved an application before a special court here, seeking to know the exact date of his release from prison after completion of his jail sentence

Extradited from Portugal in 2005, Salem was convicted and awarded life sentence in 2017 for his role in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts.

In his plea, moved before a special TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act) court last week, Salem states that on July 20, he had written to the Superintendent of the Nashik Central Prison, where he is lodged, for information on the number of days left in prison However, since he did

not get any response, he approached the special court for directions to the prison authorities. Salem, in his plea,

claimed that he has completed more than 23 years and seven months in prison. He requested the court

to direct the prison authorities to furnish the date of his release from Nashik jail on completion of his imprisonment or to let him know the days he has to spend in prison further.

After Salem's plea, the court has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to respond. The matter will be next

heard on October 17.

Salem had claimed that as per India's solemn assurance to the Portugal government during his extradition, he cannot be put behind bars beyond 25 years.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam at Mulund toll plaza in Mumbai on Tuesday a day after Maharashtra Government announced toll exemption for light vehicles. Pic: PTI

ground level, nothing has changed. Therefore, the

IMA Medical Students

Network and IMA Junior

Doctors Network decided

to participate in symbolic

sit-outs to support the

hunger strike in West

ward Memorial Hospital

and Seth Gordhandas

Sunderdas Medical Col-

lege (KEM Hospital),

Cooper Medical College

and JJ Hospital, partici-

pated in the token hunger

Young doctors of Kolk-

ata are on a fast-unto-

death struggle and are on

the 11th day of fasting, he

said, adding that three of

them have been

Bengal.'

he said.

strike.

Junior doctors on hunger strike

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Junior doctors and medical students across government medical colleges in Mumbai participated in a hunger strike on Tuesday to support the fast-unto-death agitation by their counterparts in West Bengal, the Indian Medical Association said.

Doctors in West Bengal began their hunger strike on October 5, following nearly 50 days of 'cease work' in two phases, after the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee at state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

Talking to PTI, IMA national vice president Shivkumar Utture said, "Medical students and junior doctors are the most affected by such incidents, and more than 60 days have gone by, and at the

No leaves for police personnel

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Leaves of police personnel and officers in Maharashtra have been cancelled in the run-up to the assembly elections, scheduled on November 20, except for medical reasons and emergencies.

This strike did not cov-A notification to this efer any private hospitals, fect has been issued by Chhering Dorje, Special Utture said junior doc-Inspector General of Police tors at all medical colleges (Law and Order) who also in Mumbai, including acts as the State Police Co-Sion Hospital, King Ed-

ordination Officer for assembly elections. Polling will be held at all 288 constituencies in Maharashtra on November 20. Votes will be counted on November 23. In view of the preparations for the elections and law and order, no leaves should be sanctioned unless for an emergency, the order mentioned.

Police officers and personnel, already on medical leave, are excluded from the notification.

CRIME WATCH

Man duped of Rs 14 lakh by cyber fraudsters

Thane: Police in Panvel town has arrested a Delhibased man who allegedly duped a local resident of Rs 14.2 lakh by impersonating a bank official and offering a personal loan

Arrested accused Ashik Ali alias Arif Allanur alias Pappu Khan (32) was suspected to be part of a sophisti-

BMC employees to get Rs 29,000 **Diwali bonus**

Mumbai: A few hours before the code of conduct for the Maharashtra assembly elections kicked in, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) here on Tuesday announced a Rs 29,000 Diwali bonus for its employees. The country's richest civic body, with a budget of more than Rs 53,000 crore, is currently being run by a state-appointed administrator as civic elections are pending.



hospitalised. **AI-led** firms see remarkable growth: report

ated racket that targeted private bank customers, and three more persons were wanted in the case, said a police official of the Panvel cyber cell on Tuesday.

The racket was involved in cases of cyber fraud in Chhattisgarh and Telangana too, the official said.

The accused gained the victim's trust by sending him a counterfeit ID card of a bank official through WhatsApp, and offered him personal loan. They then hacked his net banking account, duping him of Rs 14,20,000, the official said.

EX-BJP MP's nephew jumps to death

Mumbai: The 21-year-old nephew of a former BJP MP allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the sixth floor of his residential building in Mumbai on Tuesday, police said.

The deceased, identified as Sagar Ramkumar Gupta, was the nephew of ex-BJP MP Sangam Lal Gupta from Uttar Pradesh, an Andheri police station officer said.

Sagar, an engineering student, was a resident of the seventh floor of the Hari Darshan building situated in Ambujwadi area of Andheri (East).

No suicide note was found on Sagar. He was a nephew of former BJP MP Sangam Lal Gupta from Uttar Pradesh

Man falls to death in stone quarry

Palghar: A 32-year-old man died after falling around 80 feet down into a stone quarry in Boisar area of Palghar district on Tuesday, police said.

The victim, identified as Jayesh Mohan Kakad, is a member of Nagzari gram panchayat, they said.

"The incident occurred around 11 am. when Kakad was removing a heap of soil at the quarry. But he lost balance and fell into the quarry in which he suffered critical injuries," an official said.

Later in the day, the Election Commission of India announced the poll schedule for Maharashtra. The state will go to polls on No-

vember 20. The BMC has about 92,000 employees and officials on its payrolls. The ex-gratia this time is 11.53 per cent higher compared to the Rs 26,000 paid in 2023.

The announcement of Diwali bonus was made following a discussion between commissioner-administrator Bhushan Gagrani and CM Eknath Shinde. Besides civic employees, the teachers, professors and educational attendants at BMC

schools and colleges, both grant recipient and nongrant ones, will also get the same amount of bonus.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray during the funeral of actor Atul Parchure on Tuesday.

10 held for MNS worker's murder

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Mumbai police on Tuesday arrested one more person in connection with the murder of a Maharashtra Navnirman Sena worker who was beaten to death in the western suburb of Malad here, an official said.

With this, the police have arrested ten persons for their involvement in the incident that occurred on October 12, the official said. Akash Maeen (27), an

homes that could otherwise

benefit the state's poor citi-

zens. National security con-

cerns, with illegal docu-

ments such as passports,

Aadhaar cards, and PAN

MNS worker, was assaulted by a group of persons who gathered in support of an autorickshaw driver with whom he had an alter-

motorcycle when an autorickshaw driver nearby dors gathered at the spot. Later, a group of about

10 to 15 people attacked the victim, and he was severely punched and kicked. Maeen was rushed to a nearby trauma care hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries around midnight.

The police have arrested ten people, including the autorickshaw driver and a bank employee, for the attack, he said, adding that the accused have been booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita.

New Delhi: Companies embracing AI-led processes globally are experiencing remarkable growth, surpassing their peers with higher revenue growth and greater productivity, according to a report by Accenture.

In India, the percentage of organisations fully modernised with AI has surged from 8 per cent in 2023 to an impressive 25 per cent in 2024, marking a significant leap in operational efficiency and revenue generation,

the report said. The findings are based on a survey of 2,000 executives across 12 countries and 15 industries, including insights from 200 senior executives based in India. The report, titled "Rein-

venting Enterprise Operations with Gen AI," highlighted that globally. organisations that have adopted intelligent operations are achieving 2.5 times higher revenue growth and 2.4 times greater productiv-

ity than their peers. This trend underscores the transformative power of

Generative AL which has become a catalyst for innovation across various sectors. Notably, 79 per cent of Indian companies reported that their investments in generative AI and automation have met or exceeded expectations, prompting 64 per cent to plan further enhancements by 2026.

The survey indicates that many organizations still face challenges in fully harnessing the potential of AI. Approximately 64 per cent of companies worldwide struggle with operational readiness, primarily due to inadequate data foundations and a lack of talent reinvention strategies. In India, 58 per cent of executives expressed concerns about their workforce's preparedness for the rapid advancements in AI technology.

Accenture Group's Chief **Executive for Operations** Arundhati Chakraborty emphasised the urgency for businesses to adapt, and said Generative AI is more than just technology.

-PTI

Civil society announces Janata NRC movement

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Civil Society of Maharashtra officially announced the launch of the Janata NRC Movement. The movement aims to address the critical issue of illegal infiltrators in Maharashtra, emphasizing a citizen-led approach to identify, document, and facilitate the deportation of illegal immigrants. This campaign will be carried out in multiple phases to ensure a systematic and lawful process. 'Infiltrator-Free Maharashtra'

is the prime aim of this moment.

Speaking at a press conference Lieutenant General Rajendra Ramrao Nimbhorkar, Dr. Suresh Chavhanke and Ranjeet Savarkar made the announcement about this moment. They said. "Maharashtra is facing a grave challenge with the presence of approximately 80 lakh to 1 crore illegal infiltrators including Bangladeshis, Rohingyas, Afghans, and Pakistanis. These infiltrators

pose a serious threat to the



state's cultural, social, economic, and security framework. Their presence has led to a significant rise in crime rates, including cases of love jihad".

"Economic strain due to cards being obtained by the loss of 40 lakh jobs and these infiltrators," while the occupation of 12 lakh stating this they also called upon the citizens to actively support the movement.

The Janata NRC movement will be conducted in a systematic, seven-phase approach to ensure effectiveness of the action. We are also planning to reach every corner of Maharashtra. The Civil Society of Maharashtra appeals to every citizen, especially the youth and concerned communities, to join hands in this movement. The Janata NRC is not just about removing illegal infiltrators; it is about reclaiming jobs, homes, and

the security of the state, they pointed out.

We call upon all Indian Muslims to support this initiative, as illegal infiltrators tarnish their image and seize opportunities meant for them. The movement stands as a non-political, people-driven endeavor committed to restoring Maharashtra's cultural and economic integrity, they made it clear.

For more information on the movement is on official website at www.janatanrc. org, www.janatanrc.org.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Whether you're talking about the auto sector, whether you're talking about industrial engineered systems, whether you're talking about defence, we



have a tremendous opportunity in India."

> Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India

cation at Shivaji Chowk, police said. Maeen was riding his

abruptly turned his vehicle. The argument between the duo quickly escalated, and the rickshaw driver's friends and some local ven-

THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 MUMBAI

NATIONAL

Jharkhand Polls Both NDA, INDIA bloc confident of victory as **battlelines** drawn

gress-RJD alliance won a

comfortable majority with

47 seats. The BJP has an-

nounced that its seat-shar-

ing arrangement within the

NDA is "almost final," with

the first list of candidates

expected within the next 48

posed arrangement, the

Sudesh Mahto-led AJSU

Party will contest 9-11

seats, while the Nitish Ku-

mar-led JD(U) will field

candidates in two constitu-

encies. Talks regarding

seat-sharing with LJP

(Ram Vilas) are scheduled

for Wednesday or Thurs-

day, pending the return of

its chief Chirag Paswan

from abroad. On Monday,

Soren confirmed that the

JMM-led alliance will con-

test all 81 seats, although

seat-sharing with allies is

yet to be finalised. The Con-

gress said it will contest the

polls in alliance with the

JMM, with a decision on

According to the pro-

hours.



Ranchi: With the Election Commission announcing the poll dates for the 81-member Jharkhand assembly, the stage is set for a direct contest between the ruling JMM-led coalition and the NDA. With the current assembly's term concluding in January, the stakes are high for both alliances.

The Assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20 and counting will take place on November 23, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday. The BJP-led NDA has already started campaigning to regain lost ground, deploying Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma who have been raising the issues of "Bangladeshi infiltration" and "rampant corruption".

In response, the JMM-led ruling alliance, under Chief Minister Hemant Soren, is countering with a focus on welfare schemes, such as the Abua Awas Yoina and Maivan Samman Yojna, which increases financial assistance to women aged 18-50 from Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 annually. The opposition INDIA

bloc is also intensifying efforts to challenge the NDA's ambitions. Key factors that are likely to influence the election include the BJP's welfare schemes and the arrest and subsequent bail of Soren by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The ruling alliance claims the arrest was politically motivated, as Soren was detained in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land fraud

In the 2019 assembly elections, the contest was close, with the JMM winning 30 seats and the BJP securing 25, down from 37

seat-sharing expected soon. Currently, the strength of the assembly stands at 74, with the JMM-led ruling alliance comprising 44 members — 26 from the JMM, 17 from Congress, and one from RJD.

Two JMM legislators, Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi, are now members of Parliament, while Jama legislator Sita Soren resigned to contest the Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket. Additionally, Borio MLA Lobin Hembrom was recently disqualified under the anti-defection law.

Similarly, the BJP's strength has decreased to 23. with two of its MLAs-Dhulu Mahto (Baghmara) and Manish Jaiswal (Hazaribag)-having contested Lok Sabha polls and now serving as MPs. Mandu MLA Jaiprakash Bhai Patel, who joined Congress before the Lok Sabha elections, was also disqualified under the anti-defection law.

Former CM Champai Soren, along with Independent MLA Amit Kumar Yaday from Barkatha, has joined the BJP. Additionally, Kamlesh Singh, the lone NCP legislator in Jharkhand, joined the saffron party on October 4. The AJSU Party currently has three MLAs, while the NCP and CPI(ML) have one MLA each, alongside two Independents. -PTI

UP: Tension during

religious procession

Barabanki : Three people.

including a 'DJ operator',

have been arrested and

around four dozen others

booked after a communal

Chandigarh: The meeting of the Haryana BJP MLAs to elect the state legislature party leader of the state will be held on Wednesday.

Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the chief minister of Haryana in March, was the BJP's chief ministerial face in the state assembly polls, and is likely

to be the CM choice. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are the central observers for the election of the state legislature party leader in Haryana.

The meeting, which will be held in Panchkula, will elect the state legislature party leader, Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli said.

The state legislature party leader will be the next chief minister. - PTI 🤅

Haryana BJP MLAs Miffed over allegations against ex-CJI Gogoi. SC removes litigan ex-CJI Gogoi, SC removes litigant

People use a makeshift boat to travel in a waterlogged area amid rain at Pattalam in Chennai on Tuesday. Pic: PTI

New Delhi : Miffed over the allegations levelled by a litigant against former

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea and ordered the security personnel to remove him from the courtroom.

The litigant levelled allegations against the former CJI following which a bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma asked the security personnel to escort him out of the courtroom

Arun Ramchandra Hublikar filed a plea against his "illegal termination" from the service while seeking an in-house inquiry against the former CJI for dismissing a plea previously in the

service dispute. On September 30, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud took

Yogi meets Bahraich victim's kin,

says culprits will not be spared



a strong exception to the submissions seeking an inquiry against the former CJI and asked him to remove the judge's name

from the list of parties. On Tuesday, the bench was irked when the litigant took the name of the former CJI during the hearing. "We are going to impose a cost on you. Don't take the name of any judge. There is nothing in your case," the bench said.

The litigant, however, retorted, "How can you say that there is nothing in my case. How can it be said...It is injustice against me. At least, I should get justice

rected to remove the litigant from the courtroom. The CJI-led bench had previously asked him to remove the name of the former CJI from the list of parties as a condition precedent to list his petition for the hearing. "How can you file a PIL

with a judge as a respondent? There has to be some dignity. You cannot just say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was a former judge of the Supreme Court," the CJI remarked. "He retired as the Chief

before my death."

The bench subsequently

said it will dismiss the peti-

tion following which the

security personnel was di-

Justice of India. You cannot say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge because you did not succeed before the bench. Sorry, we cannot tolerate this." -PTI

BC caste survey to begin by month-end

Hyderabad: The Telangana government's BC caste survey is likely to commence by the end of this month.

State BC Commission Chairman G Niranjan on

Tuesday said the notifica-





People gather near the 'dharna manch' where junior doctors are staging hunger strike in Kolkata on Tuesday. Pic:PT

Agitating doctors take out protest rally

Kolkata: Agitating junior doctors launched their 'Droher Carnival' (carnival of protest) from Rani Rashmoni Road in the city's Esplanade area on Tuesday, shortly after the Calcutta High Court set aside prohibitory orders in areas near the Durga Puja Carnival on Red Road.

The rally saw participation of people from all walks of life, who joined the doctors in demanding justice for the murdered medic of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

"This is a response from the common people who want to protest against the West Bengal government's insensitive approach. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seems unconcerned that young doctors are on a fast-untodeath," said Debasish Halder, one of the protesting doctors. The medics have been on a fastunto-death since October

Participants chanted slogans such as "We want justice, we demand

like "Justice for Abhaya," while others marched alongside, holding posters highlighting the junior

The Joint Platform of Doctors organised the 'Droher Carnival' to express solidarity with the agitating junior doctors. The event took place on Rani Rashmoni Road, adjacent to Red Road, where the West Bengal government has been

justice," and sang songs

doctors' demands.

New Delhi: The Su-

Sreedhara.

hosting the Durga Puja Carnival since 2016, showcasing awardwinning idols.

flare-up during a religious procession, officials said on Tuesday

Tension escalated in the Icholi town on Monday during a Durga idol immersion procession in which derogatory music was allegedly played out loud, according to police.

It is alleged that the participants in the procession played loud DJ music in front of a religious site of another community and threw coloured powder, causing a heated dispute, the police said.

Superintendent of Police Dinesh Kumar Singh said, "We have arrested Alok, who threw the powder, along with DJ operator Ravi and another youth named Abhishek. The situation is under control, and we are reviewing the video footage for further investigation."

A case has been registered against two named individuals and around four dozen unidentified persons. Police are investigating the matter, and PAC has been deployed to main--PTI tain peace.

vocate Srinivasan has also

violence "unfortunate" and said the culprits of this unforgivable incident will not be spared.

Lucknow/Bahraich UP:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minis-

ter Yogi Adityanath on

Tuesday termed the

22-year-old man's death in

the Bahraich communal

Adityanath met with the family members of Ram Gopal Mishra in Lucknow. BJP MLA from Mahsi Sureshwar Singh accompanied the family during

the visit. In a post on X in Hindi, the chief minister said, "Today in Lucknow, I met with the grief-stricken family members of the youth who died in the unfortunate incident in Bahraich district. In this hour of grief, the Uttar Pradesh government stands with the victim's family with full sensitivity and commitment.'

"Rest assured, providing justice to the victim's family is the top priority of @ UPGovt. The culprits of this extremely reprehensible and unforgivable incident will not be spared at any cost," he added.

Mishra was shot dead and about half a dozen people were injured in stone



in silence.

expect.'

of the meeting.

The government also

Earlier in the day, MLA

Singh said, "They (the fam-

ily of Mishra) have already

demanded justice from the

chief minister. Apart from

this, I do not know what

they will ask for. But it is

certain that they will get

more than what they

Speaking to reporters in

Bahraich before starting

for Lucknow, Roli Mishra

said, "They should be pun-

ished the same way they

Additional Chief Secre-

tary (Home) Deepak Ku-

mar told PTI that the situ-

ation in Bahraich was

killed my husband."

shared a few photographs

pelting and firing as communal violence broke out in the Maharajganj area of Bahraich near Rehua Mansoor village in Mahsi tehsil during a Durga idol immersion procession in Bahraich on Sunday. His last rites were performed amid heavy security on Monday

The Uttar Pradesh government shared a video of the chief minister's meeting with Ram Gopal Mishra's wife Roli Mishra, his father Kailash Nath Mishra, mother Munni Devi and cousin Kishan Mishra.

In the video clip, Kailash Nath Mishra could be seen asking his wife to control her emotions while the chief minister was speaking to them.

The couple was also seen wiping their eyes, even as their daughter-in-law sat part of the process would be issued in a day or two. The public hearings would start about 10 days

after the notification is issued, he told PTI here. Chief Minister A Re-

vanth Reddy, during a recent meeting, directed the officials to start the process of social, economic and caste survey of BCs soon.

Responding to Niranjan's request to create a special mechanism to conduct the BC survey since the commission does not have the administrative machinery for the purpose, the CM had entrusted the responsibility to the planning department.

Officials have been directed to complete the socio and economic survey within 60 days and submit the report by December 9.

under control. Internet The local body elections services have been suswould be held soon after the completion of the surpended in the district as a precautionary measure. vey, the CM said. -PTI

-PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Congress and its scion keep talking about castes and OBC, but as a matter of fact, they are the biggest anti-Dalit, anti-OBC and anti-backwards. It's in their political DNA."



Shehzad Poonawalla. National Spokesperson, BJP

SC notice to Centre, EC on fresh plea against freebies

preme Court has sought sought a direction to poll response from the Centre panel to take effective and the the Election Comsteps to restrain political mission on a fresh plea parties from making promagainst the practice of poises of freebies during the litical parties promising pre-election period. freebies during elections. "The unregulated promise A bench of Chief Justice D of freebies imposes a sig-Y Chandrachud and Jusnificant and unaccounted tices J B Pardiwala and financial burden on the Manoj Misra issued notices to the Union of India

public exchequer. Further, there exists no mechanism and the poll panel on a petito ensure the fulfilment of tion filed by Bengaluru pre-poll promises on which resident Shashank J votes were secured," the plea said

The petition filed by ad-The top court tagged the



matter with other pleas on similar issue.

The apex court had earlier agreed to list for hearing pleas against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections after senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, ap-

pearing for lawyer and PIL petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, sought urgent hearing of the matter.

Upadhyay's plea said there should be a total ban on populist measures to gain undue political favour from voters as they violate the Constitution, and the EC should take suitable deterrent measures.

It also urged the court to declare that the promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the

level playing field and vitiates the purity of the poll process

"Petitioner submits that the recent trend of political parties to influence voters by offering freebies with an eye on elections is not only the greatest threat to the survival of democratic values but also injures the spirit of the Constitution," the plea said.

"This unethical practice is just like giving bribes to the electorate at the cost of the exchequer to stay in power and must be avoided

to preserve democratic principles and practices," it said.

The petition sought a direction to the EC to insert an additional condition in the relevant paragraphs of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, which deals with conditions for recognition as a state party, that a "political party shall not promise/distribute irrational freebies from the public fund before the election".

ECOLOGY

THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 **MUMBAI**

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New Delhi: The African cheetahs brought to India as part of the world's first intercontinental translocation of big cats will be released back into the wild in the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in a phased manner starting October-end, officials said on Monday.

According to the officials, the Agni-Vavu coali-

tion will be released first in the Palpur East range, while the Prabhash-Pavak coalition will be released in a different area

They also noted that releasing only male cheetahs could lead to conflicts due to overcrowding near the fenced enclosures as they search for mates. Therefore, it is necessary to release females as well.

Twenty cheetahs have so far been brought to the Kuno National Park -- eight from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 from South Africa in February 2023.

Since their arrival in India, eight adult cheetahs -three females and five males -- have died. Seventeen cubs have

felines

been born in India, with 12 surviving, bringing the total number of cheetahs, including cubs, in Kuno to

The officials said the

Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanc-

tuary, which will be the

second home of cheetahs in

India, is ready to welcome

a new batch of spotted

24. Currently, all are in enclosures that are only 0.5 to 1.5 square kilometre in size. For context, cheetahs need much larger areas in the wild, usually more than 50 square kilometre, depending on prey availability.

The cheetahs were initially released into the wild but were brought back to their enclosures by August last year after the deaths of three animals -- a female named Tbilisi (from Namibia) and two South African males, Tejas and Sooraj -- due to septicemia, an infection that occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream and spread. This condition arose

from wounds under the cheetahs' thick winter coats on their backs and necks, which became infested with maggots and led to blood infections, according to the government's annual report on Project Cheetah. Officials had earlier told PTI that the unexpected growth of winter coats by some cheetahs during the Indian summer and monsoon, in anticipation of the African winter (June to September), was a major challenge in managing the animals in India during the first year.

On Monday, officials from the National Tiger Conservation Authority

Gandhisagar: Cheetahs will soon be introduced to the Gandhisagar Sanctuary, as a part of efforts to

boost tourism in the region, Mandsaur Collector Aditi Garg announced on

This will make it the sec-

ond such site in India after

Kuno to have cheetahs, Garg told PTI following the

inauguration of Gandhisa-

gar Forest Retreat 3.0

She kickstarted the

event, organised to boost

tourism in the region, by

performing the sacred

'Aarti' ritual to the Cham-

bal River earlier in the

She emphasised about

the ongoing collaborative

efforts by the state govern-

ments to establish a strong

connectivity between Gan-

evening on Monday.

Monday.

event.

plex in the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan within the next 25 years. This larger Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape is situated in the districts of Sheopur, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Morena, Guna, Ashoknagar, Mandsaur, Neemuch in Madhya (NTCA) said talks are at an Pradesh and Baran, Sawai advanced stage with South Madhopur, Karauli, Kota, Africa and Kenya to bring a Jhalawar, Bundi and Chitnew batch of cheetahs. The torgarh in Rajasthan. "Action Plan for Reintro-

cheetah conservation com-

The report said while a duction of Cheetah in Innew batch of cheetahs is dia" talks about bringing likely to be brought to the around 12 to 14 cheetahs Gandhi Sagar Wildlife each year from South Afri-Sanctuary by the end of the ca, Namibia and other Afriyear, they would be recan countries for five years leased into free-ranging to establish a founder conditions over the next stock. Authorities are also five years setting up a conservation

According to the "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar", five to eight cheetahs would be released into a 64-square kilometre predator-proof fenced area in the first phase, with a focus on breeding.

Gandhisagar Sanctuary

to introduce cheetahs

tourists

Elephant calf killed; two jumbos injured

Bhubaneswar: An elephant calf was killed and two other jumbos were injured after being hit by a goods train in Odisha's Sundargarh district, forest officials said. The incident took place

around 9.30 pm on Monday on the Howrah-Mumbai line near Bondamunda in Bisra range of the Rourkela Forest Division. A herd of 23 elephants came on the tracks after being chased by local people.

While a calf was crushed under the wheels of the train, two other elephants also sustained injuries, they said. The herd was coming from Kudurbahal forest and was heading towards Pokharabahal.

Forest officials and local police began an investigation into the incident.



Fishermen try to catch fish at Kalindi Kunj on Tuesday in New Delhi.

China to build lunar space station, explore habitable planets

By K J M Varma

Beijing: China on Tuesday



In the first phase, lead-

Under the new plan, sci-

entists will also explore the

habitability of celestial

bodies in the solar system

muddy, wind-swept exca-

can make a DNA analysis

said.

trial life, and exoplanet detection, Ding said. The theme of the ex-



breeding centre in Guja-

rat's Bunni grasslands. It is

likely to get cheetahs from

annual progress report of

Project Cheetah, India

aims to build an inter-state

Pradesh and Kota in Ra-

Garg said that discus-

sions between the collec-

tors of Mandsaur and Kota

will soon take place to un-

lock the tourism potential

Transformative initia-

tives in Gandhisagar, in-

cluding plans to introduce

cheetahs into the sanctu-

ary, making it the second

such site in the country

after Kuno are underway,

She also noted the area's

rich cultural and archaeo-

logical heritage, featuring

the collector said.

of both regions.

jasthan to boost tourism.

According to the 2023-24

Kenya

hya Pradesh, fostering greater tourism.

She also affirmed that steps are underway to curb illegal mining and other unlawful activities in the Chambal region with regular inspections and strict enforcements.

Stringent measures are Hinglaj Temple, Chaturbbeing enforced with the active involvement of the pohuj Nala, and Pashupatinath Temple, which hold lice administration and significant appeal for other relevant departments to preserve the sanc-Garg also highlighted tity and ecological integrithe impact of Delhi-Mumty of the region, she said. bai Expressway, which will Efforts are also being made enhance connectivity beto attract tourists from Ra-

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary reopens for tourists

jasthan, she added. - PTI

Morigaon: The Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam, popular for the onehorned rhinoceros, reo-

pened for tourists on

Monday after the monsoon

Forest Minister Chandra

Mohan Patowary and Water Resource Minister Pi-

iush Hazarika attended a

function on the reopening

of the sanctuary, marking

the beginning of the tourist

Twenty jeeps and 13 ele-

phants will be available for

break.

season

announced plans to launch a manned lunar mission, construct a lunar space station and explore habitable planets and extra-terrestrial life to expand its space programme in the next few decades.

China's top space bodies unveiled a national midand long-term development programme for space science, which will guide the country's planning of space science missions and space research from 2024 to 2050.

An established space power, China in recent years built its own space station which is currently in operation besides launching several space missions, including a lunar probe that collected samples for the first time from the far side of the Moon and brought them back to Earth for scientific studies.

The programme re-

leased by the China Academy of Sciences (CAS), ing up to 2027, China will China National Space Adfocus on the space station ministration and the China operation, implementing Manned Space Agency to the manned lunar explorathe media here outlined tion project, the fourth the goals of China's space phase of its lunar exploration programme and the science, including 17 prioritv areas under five key planetary exploration scientific themes, and a project. three-phase roadmap.

The international lunar research station initiated by China will be constructed during the second phase from 2028 to 2035, Ding Chibiao, vice president of the CAS. told the media here.

The programme also outlines a roadmap for the evolution of the solar sysdevelopment of space science in China through planetary atmospheres, 2050the search for extraterrestreme universe focuses on exploring the origin and evolution of the universe, revealing the physical laws under extreme cosmic conditions, dark matter and the universe's origin and evolution, as well as the detection of cosmic baryonic matter, according to the programme.

Studies will be conducted on detecting medium to low-frequency gravitational waves and primordial gravitational waves, with the goal of uncovering the nature of gravity and space-time, and the exploration of the Sun and the Earth.

and exoplanets and search Priority areas include for extraterrestrial life, he Earth's cycle systems, comprehensive observa-Key areas of space develtions of the Earth-Moon. opment in the coming space weather observayears will be the origin and tion, three-dimensional solar exploration, and hetem, characterisation of liosphere exploration, according to the programme. -PTI

View of the Kartavya Path as the air quality remained in the 'poor' category for the third consecutive day in in New Delhi on Tuesday. Pic :PT

Aerial survey of trees felled for 'kanwar'

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the surveyor general of India to conduct an aerial survey to determine the extent of the alleged loss of green cover in the last one year on a route being constructed for the pilgrims' march during the "kanwar yatra" in Uttar Pradesh.

In an order dated October 4, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted the submissions of the surveyor general, saying, "The Survey of India can conduct an aerial survey using UAV/drone to generate orthorectified images of the area to capture the present ground situation and to identify the extent of trees cut on both sides of the canal within 30 days and a report can be submitted before the tribunal."

Orthorectification is the process of removing image distortions. The bench also com-

prised judicial member

Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel.

The NGT was hearing a case related to the alleged felling of more than 1 lakh trees and shrubs in the protected forest area across three forest divisions of Ghaziabad, Meerut, and Muzaffarnagar for the proposed route between Muradnagar in Ghaziabad district and Purkaji in Muzaffarnagar district near the Uttarakhand bor-

der.

safari in the sanctuary, officials said. The sanctuary was closed for tourists in May at the onset of monsoon, during which floods devastate

the region. The 38.85 sq km sanctuary has the highest density of rhinoceros, providing grassland and wetland habitat.

It is home to 107 rhinos, over 500 wild buffaloes, thousands of deer, and around 385 species of migratory birds.

-PTI

In a rare find, 50 well-preserved Viking Age skeletons unearthed

Aasum (Denmark): In a village in central Denmark, archeologists made a landmark discovery that could hold important clues to the Viking era: a burial ground, containing some 50 "exceptionally well-preserved" skeletons.

"This is such an exciting find because we found these skeletons that are so very, very well preserved," said archeologist Michael Borre Lundø, who led the six-month dig. "Normally, we would be lucky to find a few teeth in the graves, but here we have entire skeletons.'

The skeletons were preserved thanks to favourable soil chemistry, particularly chalk and high water levels, experts from Museum Odense said. The site was discovered last year during a routine survey, ahead of power line renovation work on the outskirts of the village of Aasum, 5 kilometres, northeast of Odense, Denmark's third-largest city.

Experts hope to conduct DNA analyses and possibly reconstruct detailed life histories, as well as looking into social patterns in Viking Age, such as kinship, migration patterns and more.

"This opens a whole on all the skeletons and new toolbox for scientific see if they are related to



each other and even where Lundø as he stood on the they come from."

During the Viking Age, vation site. "Hopefully we considered to run from 793 to 1066 A.D., Norsemen known as Vikings undertook large-scale raids, colThe 2,000-square metre (21,500-square foot) burial ground holds the remains of men. women and children. Besides the skeletons, there are a few cremated bodies.

onizing, conquering and trading throughout Europe, even reaching North America.

The Vikings unearthed at Aasum likely weren't warriors. Borre Lundø believes the site was probably a "standard settlement," perhaps a farming community, located 5 kilometers from a ring fortress

in what's now central Odense.

In one grave, a woman is buried in a wagon -- the higher part of a Viking cart was used as a coffin - suggesting she was from the "upper part of society," Borre Lundø told The Associated Press.

Archeologists also unearthed brooches, necklace beads, knives, and even a small shard of glass that may have served as an amulet.

Borre Lundø said the brooch designs suggest the dead were buried between 850 and 900 A.D.

"There's different levels of burials," he explained.

"Some have nothing with them, others have brooches and pearl necklaces.'

-PTI

Archeologists say many of the artefacts came from far beyond Denmark's borders, shedding light on extensive Viking trade routes during the 10th century.

"There's a lot of trade and commerce going on," said Borre Lundø. "We also found a brooch that comes from the island of Gotland, on the eastern side of Sweden, but also whetstones for honing your knife ... all sorts of things point to Norway and Sweden.'

The burial site was discovered last year, and the dig, which started in April, ended Friday. Boxes of artefacts have shipped to Museum Odense's preservation labs for cleaning and analysis.

Conservator Jannie Amsgaard Ebsen hopes the soil may also hold other preserved organic material on the backs of brooches or knife handles. "We're really hoping to gain the larger picture. Who were the people that were living out there? Who did they interact with?" she said. "It's a little bit like a jigsaw puzzle: all the various puzzle parts will be placed together."

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THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 MUMBAI

GLOBAL

India-Canada diplomatic row escalates

By Lalit K Jha

Washington: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has accused India of choosing to use its diplomats and organised crime to attack its citizens and make them feel unsafe on their soil, calling it a "monumental mistake" by New Delhi.

These remarks were made by Trudeau on Monday on a day India expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced withdrawing its High Commissioner from Canada and other "targeted" officials from Canada after strongly dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Sikh extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Canada has also announced expulsion of six Indian diplomats.

India has been strongly rejecting Canada's charge of involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing last year.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

Trudeau spoke to reporters on Monday, hours after the head of the RCMP laid out stunning allegations accusing agents of the Indian government of playing a role in "widespread violence" in Canada, including homicides, and warned that it poses "a serious threat to our public safety," the Canadian **Broadcasting Corporation** reported.

"I believe that India has made a monumental mistake by choosing to use



India rejects Trudeau's charges

Canada's attempts to link Indian agents with criminal gangs in that country with official sources rejecting Ottawa's claim that it shared evidence with New Delhi in the Nijjar case. The sources also rejected Canadian Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that India was engaging in activities, including carrying out covert operations targeting Canadian nationals in his country. The ties between India and Canada witnessed a major downturn on Monday as India expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced withdrawing its High Commissioner from Canada after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Sikh extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "Canadian PM Trudeau's press conference yesterday was the same old Trudeau saying the same old things for the

India on Tuesday trashed

same old reasons," said a source. The sources said the assertions by Canadian officials that Canada presented credible evidence to India in the Nijjar case is simply not

true. "The central assertion from all Canadian officials is that credible evidence has been presented to India. This was also repeated by their Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheelers to the press. This is simply not true," the source said. "From the very beginning, the Canadian approach has been to make vague accusations and put the burden of denial on India,' it added. The sources also rejected attempts by the **Royal Canadian Mounted** Police (RCMP) to link Indian agents to the Bishnoi gang. At the RCMP press briefing, assertions were made about connections of certain individuals to India. In no case were any specifics provided, the sources said.

unsafe here at (their) home, and even more, to create acts of violence and

'Everything on table,' says Canadian foreign minister

Ottawa: Hinting at the possibility of sanctions against India following the diplomatic row over the killing of a pro-Khalistani leader for which Canada has blamed India, Canadian **Foreign Minister** Melanie Joly has said that "everything is on the table.'

Tensions between India and Canada escalated after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused the Indian government of supporting criminal activities targeting Canadian citizens. Joly on Monday told reporters the evidence collected by the Royal **Canadian Mounted** Police (RCMP) was

even murder. It's unacceptable," Trudeau alleged. Trudeau also sid that,"

From the beginning, as of last summer, we've worked closely with our Five Eyes partners, particularly with the United States, where they have gone through a similar pattern of behaviour from India in regards to an attempted extrajudicial killing," Trudeau told reporters at a news conference in Ottawa We will continue to work

with our allies as we stand up together for the rule of law, he said. The US State Department has so far not made any statements on the diplomatic crisis between its two close allies and partners.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a

the basis for the decision to expel Indian diplomats and urged the Indian government to cooperate in the ongoing investigation for the mutual benefit of both countries. She said India was asked to waive diplomatic and consular immunity and cooperate in the investigation but refused. The foreign minister in response to a question whether the country is looking to impose sanctions on India said expelling diplomats was one of the toughest measures that a country could take under the Vienna Convention.

statement, said that India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India.

"In 2018, his visit to India, which was aimed at currying favour with a vote bank, rebounded to his discomfort. His cabinet has included individuals who have openly associated with an extremist and separatist agenda regarding India. His interference in Indian internal politics in December 2020 showed how far he was willing to go in this regard," the MEA said.

During the press conference on Monday, Trudeau said that the situation is extremely undesirable.

"For the rest, we will continue to push India to make sure they cooperate. We Will continue to engage with our five eyes partners. We will also continue to engage with the G7 partners. Everything is on the table," she said. "We don't want diplomatic confrontation with India. We know that thousands of Canadians go to India every year. We have lots of people from India coming to Canada as well. So we know that there are deep people-to-people ties, and want to make sure that these are still possible," Joly said at the press conference alongside Trudeau.

"Not only do we not want Canadians to be subjected to violence in their communities, in their homes, but we also do not want to have these tensions in relations with In-

dia," he said. "That is why last week, we approached the Government of India through our security agencies, diplomats and police agencies, to look for a way to resolve this deep difference...to protect Canadians...but not to come and destroy the good relations or the relations between India and Canada," Trudeau said

Unfortunately, India has "not chosen to work with us. They have chosen to deny, repel and to make personal attacks against dozen threatening and vio-



this government and question the integrity of our agencies and our institutions, and we have had to respond to protect Canadi-

ans", he said. cials to work with India Trudeau said he met and and their law enforcement spoke with Prime Minister counterparts on this mat-Narendra Modi on this last ter, they have been repeatweek. edly refused, Trudeau

"As the RCMP Commisclaimed. sioner stated earlier, they have clear and compelling end, Canadian officials took an extraordinary evidence that agents of the Government of India have step. They met with Indian engaged in and continue to engage in activities that pose a significant threat to public safety, including clandestine information gathering techniques, coercive behaviour targeting South Asian Canadians, and involvement in over a

officials to share RCMP evidence which concluded six agents of the Government of India are persons of interest in criminal activities," he alleged. "Despite repeated re-

"This is why, this week-

lent acts, including mur-

been made by the RCMP

and national security offi-

While attempts have

der," he said.

quests to India, It has decided not to cooperate," he claimed. -PTI

India's Predator drone deal with US

New Delhi: India on Tuesday inked a mega deal with the US to procure 31 Predator long-endurance drones from American defence major General Atomics under the foreign military sales route at a cost of nearly USD 4 billion to boost Indian military's combat prowess along the contested borders with China. The deal, signed in presence of top defence and strategic brass of India in the national capital, marks a significant upswing in military ties between the two countries, officials told PTI. The procurement of the drones was finalised just weeks ahead of the US presidential elections. Last week, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement of the MQ-9B 'hunter killer' drones. Vivek Lall, the Chief Ex-

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 15 in hours

their diplomats and organ-

ised crime to attack Cana-

dians, to make them feel

Jerusalem: Israeli strikes in the southern Gaza Strin killed at least 15 people overnight, including six



North Korea's symbolic display of anger

Seoul: In a symbolic display of anger, North Korea on Tuesday blew up the

children and two women, Palestinian medical officials said on Tuesday.

In northern Gaza, where Israel has been waging an air and ground campaign in Jabaliya for more than a week, residents said families were still trapped in their homes and shelters

It's been more than a vear since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 people captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42 000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90 per cent of its population of 2.3 million people.

International Airport. In solidarity with Hamas, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah has exchanged cross-border fire with Israel for the past year. Israel escalated its campaign against the

group in recent weeks. Rumors circulated for weeks over head of the ex-

peditionary arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard Gen. Esmail Qaani's status after an Israeli airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut in late September.

But Qaani, the head of the Quds Force, was seen in a black bomber jacket, wiping away tears at an event early Tuesday morning at Tehran's Mehrabad

Iranian leader shown on state TV **Dubai:** The head of the expeditionary arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has ap-

> peared in television footage aired Tuesday by Iranian state television.

While Iranian state television did not acknowledge the rumours, it made a point to film Qaani for over a minute and later share the footage from the airport ceremony online.

Qaani was on hand for the repatriation to Iran of the body of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Abbas Nilforushan, 58, who was killed in the airstrike. -AP

northern section of unused roads that once linked it with the South, with the rivals exchanging threats days after the North claimed that its rival flew drones over its capital Pyongyang.

The roads' choreographed demolition underlines North Korea's growing anger against South Korea's conservative government. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to sever relations with South Korea and abandon the goal of achieving peaceful Korean unification.

Observers say it's unlikely Kim will launch a preemptive, large-scale attack on South Korea because of fear that an almost certain massive retaliation by the more superior forces of the United States and South Korea would threaten Pyongyang's survival.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said its military fired within southern sections of the border as it bolstered its readiness and surveillance posture.

French President Emmanuel Macron sits aboard a Peugeot Inception concept car as he visits the Stellantis stand at the Paris Auto Show in Paris on Monday. Pic: AP/PTI

UN Security Council voices 'strong concern'

United Nations: The UN Security Council expressed condemnation. "strong concern" Monday

as Israel has fired on and wounded UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region. It's the first statement by

the UN's most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began last week, drawing international

UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move 5 kilometers (3 miles) north during its ground invasion in Lebanon.

Israel has been escalating its campaign against

Hezbollah in Lebanon across a UN-drawn boundarv between the two countries. The sides have been clashing since the Iranianbacked militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza.

The Security Council statement, issued after emergency closed consultations on Lebanon, did not name either Israel, Lebanon or Hezbollah.

-AP

Global Corporation who played a key role in the negotiations on the deal, was present at the signing ceremony.

ecutive of General Atomics

The drones are being procured at an estimated cost of around USD 4 billion, officials said.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Bharat believes in bringing all together and not breaking. That is why we are making every possible step to take the friendly neighbouring nations along."



Rajnath Singh **Defence Minister**

Over 400,000 children in Lebanon displaced: UN Beirut: More than 400,000

children in Lebanon have been displaced in the past three weeks, a top official with the U.N. children's agency said Monday, warning of a "lost generation" in the small country grappling with multiple crises and now in the middle of

war. Israel has escalated its campaign against the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militant group, including launching a ground invasion, after a year of ex-

war with Hamas in Gaza.

The fighting in Lebanon has driven 1.2 million people from their homes, most of them fleeing to Beirut and elsewhere in the north over the past three weeks since the escalation.

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF's deputy executive director for humanitarian actions, has visited schools that have been turned into shelters to host displaced families.

"What struck me is that this war is three weeks old and so many children have changes of fire during its been affected," Chaiban told The Associated Press



in Beirut.

"As we sit here today, 1.2 million children are deprived of education. Their public schools have either been rendered inaccessible, have been damaged by the

war or are being used as shelters. The last thing this country needs, in addition to everything else it has gone through, is the risk of a lost generation.'

While some Lebanese

private schools are still operating, the public school system has been badly affected by the war, along with the country's most vulnerable people such as Palestinian and Syrian refugees.

What I'm worried about is that we have hundreds of thousands of Lebanese. Syrian, Palestinian children that are at risk of losing their learning," Chaiban said.

More than 2,300 people in Lebanon have been killed in Israeli strikes, nearly 75% of them over the last

month, according to the Health Ministry. In the last three weeks, more than 100 children were killed and over 800 were wounded. Chaiban said. He said displaced chil-

dren are crammed into overcrowded shelters where three or four families can live in a classroom separated by a plastic sheet, and where 1,000 people can share 12 toilets. Not all of them work.

Many displaced families found have set up tents along roads or on public beaches. -AP



EDITORIAL Rage Unleashed

n a country where the roads are already fraught with overcrowding, potholes, and reckless driving, a _disturbing new menace has begun to grip the streets - road rage. This alarming trend, seen vividly in Maharashtra's bustling cities like Mumbai and Pune, has turned mundane commutes into mortal confrontations.

A tragic event unfolded in Mumbai's Malad area epitomizing this growing epidemic. A 27-year-old man was beaten to death in broad daylight, in front of his horrified parents, over a minor traffic dispute. The incident began when an auto-rickshaw overtook the deceased's vehicle, triggering a heated argument. What followed was a brutal escalation, with the rickshaw driver and his associates pummelling the motorbike driver while bystanders passively recorded the horror. In a desperate attempt to protect her son, the hapless mother of the deceased lay on top of him, trying to shield him from the blows. His father, who pleaded in vain for the mob to stop, suffered a serious eye injury in the process

This chilling story, which went viral across social media platforms, is not an isolated case. In July this year, Pune witnessed a similarly violent episode when a 27-year-old woman, travelling with her two children, was beaten and left bleeding on the side of the road after an overtaking incident. In Bengaluru, just last week, a man was publicly humiliated and beaten, his clothes stripped off, in another shocking case of road rage. And in a particularly devastating event in Latur, a man lost his wife and young daughter when five assailants chased their vehicle for five kilometres before running them over.

Roads, meant for transit, have today become the stage for extreme violence in urban India. Congested roads, inadequate infrastructure, and the high pressure of daily commutes are surely part of the problem. Cities like Mumbai and Pune are notorious for their gridlock, where long hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic lead to frayed nerves. Add to this the common disregard for traffic rules - vehicles routinely flouting lane discipline, honking incessantly, tailgating.

The rise of road rage in India signals a breakdown in social order and personal restraint. The roads, much like social media platforms, have become an outlet for unchecked aggression.

The question that haunts these tragedies is: why are people losing their tempers to such a dangerous degree over something as routine as traffic?

The surge in road rage cases is symptomatic of a broader issue-a loss of empathy in a society stretched to its limits. Something in the social fabric has frayed as drivers no longer see the person in the other vehicle; they see only an adversary.

Reversing this trend will require more than just punitive action against offenders. Stronger traffic enforcement, better infrastructure, and public campaigns that promote responsible driving are essential. But perhaps the most crucial change must come from within-the recognition that the roads belong to all, and that no journey is worth another's life.

NATIONAL INTEREST

A Diplomatic Death Spiral? Khalistan, Trudeau and the Collapse of India-Canada Relations



Kiran D. Tare

n the annals of international diplomacy, crises often emerge slowly, building like a storm on the horizon. But occasionally, relations between two nations deteriorate in a fiery flash, leaving the world gaping at the scorched ruins of what was once a stable, if not particularly close, partnership. The latest diplomatic skirmish between India and Canada is precisely such an episode. It has been a rapid descent to the nadir, with accusations of state-sponsored assassination and the conspicuous role played by the curious political theater of Justin Trudeau.

The recent expulsion of diplomats by both nations marks a culminating moment in a crisis that has steadily worsened with the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani activist and Canadian citizen, on Canadian soil in June last year.

Trudeau's initial allegations in September, that Indian intelligence was involved in Nijjar's murder, had triggered

The expulsion of diplomats marks a dramatic escalation in the India-Canada diplomatic crisis, with the Canadian PM's stridency threatening to have potential ripple effects on multilateral platforms

a firestorm. Trudeau's fiery claims that India is engaged in "coercive behavior" and "violent acts" raises troubling questions about his approach to global diplomacy and the broader issue of Canada's domestic handling of pro-Khalistan activism.

New Delhi has long been troubled by Canada's perceived leniency toward pro-Khalistan elements, with India accusing Trudeau's government of allowing a safe haven for separatist and extremist voices, largely unchallenged by Canadian authorities.

The Trudeau government's insistence that India's actions constitute a fundamental violation of Canadian sovereignty and international law is striking, not only for its sharp rhetoric but also for the sheer magnitude of the claim: that India orchestrated the extrajudicial killing of a Canadian citizen on foreign soil.

Such accusations are marked by sheer absence of compelling, public evidence. India has repeatedly denied any involvement, dismissing Trudeau's allegations as "preposterous" and accusing Canada of pursuing its diplomats in a smear campaign designed for domestic political consumption.

The current crisis is not without precedent. In fact, tensions between India and Canada have simmered for years, with the Khalistan issue acting as the fault line. Trudeau's tenure as Prime Minister has seen multiple flashpoints in this regard, often rooted in Canada's significant Sikh diaspora, which includes both moderate and more extreme voices supportive of Khalistan.

One of the earliest diplomatic contretemps between Trudeau and India occurred in 2018, during Trudeau's muchhyped official visit to India. Ostensibly a goodwill tour, the trip quickly became mired in controversy after it was revealed that a convicted Khalistani terrorist, Jaspal Atwal, had been invited to a formal dinner hosted by the Canadian High Commissioner. Atwal had been convicted of the attempted assassination of an Indian politician in British Columbia in



1986, and his presence on the guest list sent shockwaves through diplomatic channels.

The Atwal affair was far from the only instance where the Trudeau government found itself at odds with India over Khalistan. Pro-Khalistan rallies in Canadian cities have long vexed India. In 2020, we again raised concerns about the increasing visibility of Khalistan activists in Canada, many of whom openly called for the secession of Punjab from India. Trudeau's government, however, cavalierly framed these protests as an expression of 'free speech', disdaining India's urgency to view it as an existential issue of national security.

Trudeau's politics have long been a study in bizarre contrasts. He projects himself as a preening panjandrum of liberal values, a torchbearer for multiculturalism, and a leader with a flair for high-profile grandstanding on the world stage.

Yet, all this show is to pander to his domestic base as Canada's significant Sikh population, particularly in British Columbia, where pro-Khalistan sentiment is notably vocal. By taking such a hard line against India, Trudeau has been shoring up his political position at home, where he faces growing challenges on multiple fronts. Yet, this high-risk strategy threatens to burn bridges that may not be easily rebuilt.

Compounding the diplomatic friction was the farmers' protest in India during 2020-2021, which saw significant support from the Sikh diaspora in Canada. Trudeau, in an opportunistic move aimed at placating his constituency, openly commented on the protests, expressing 'concern' for the farmers' right to peaceful protest. New Delhi lashed out at Trudeau's remarks, calling them "unwarranted" and warning of the potential damage to diplomatic ties.

India under the Modi government has made it clear that the rise of Khalistani activism in Canada as a non-negotiable issue

What happens next in this bitter saga is anyone's guess. The expulsion of diplomats is a potent symbolic move, but it may only be the first in a series of escalations that will deepen the divide. India has already taken steps to reduce cooperation with Canada on issues of trade and security, and further economic and political decoupling may follow. For Canada, the costs could be significant. India is a growing power, both economically and geopolitically, and alienating one of the world's most important emerging markets could be a misstep Trudeau may come to regret.



Encircling Taiwan: China's Largest Military Drill Yet Tests U.S. Patience

STATES WATCH ED Raids Rock Govt as Political Battle Heats Up Ahead of Elections

'n an unprecedented show of force, Taiwan detected a record 153 Chinese military aircraft in the skies around the self-governed island over a 25-hour period marking the largest such incursion to date. The sorties, coupled with the presence of Chinese navy ships and coast guard vessels, formed part of large-scale drills held by Beijing, which declared the exercises a direct response to "separatist" tendencies in Taiwan.

These provocative moves by China reflect its long-standing claim over Taiwan and its increasing pressure on the island to submit to its rule. Taiwan, for its part, has condemned these actions as "irrational and provocative." The U.S. swiftly echoed these concerns, urging Beijing to exercise restraint. Japan, which scrambled jets of its own near its southern island of Yonaguni, also expressed its "concerns" over China's action.

The Joint Sword 2024B drills, featuring a coordinated deployment of fighter jets, drones, and naval assets around Taiwan, escalated tensions across the region, with 111 of the 153 aircraft crossing the sensitive median line of the Taiwan Strait. This breach of longstanding norms reflects China's increasing disregard for the unofficial buffer

While these latest drills stand out

China's record deployment of 153 military aircraft around Taiwan highlights escalating tensions in the region, prompting strong condemnations while raising concerns about potential for conflict.



for their sheer scale, they are part of a broader trend. Over the past two years, China has conducted four such large-scale exercises, with the last, Joint Sword-2024A, held in May. That drill came just three days after Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te assumed office, signaling Beijing's dissatisfaction with his assertive defense of Taiwan's sovereignty.

Lai, who has been more vocal than his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen in challenging Beijing's claims, has earned a reputation as a "separatist" in China's eyes. In his National Day speech last week, Lai reiterated his firm stance, vowing to "resist annexation" and stating unequivocally that Taiwan and China "are not subordinate to each other.'

Tensions have flared before. The most notable prior to this recent wave occurred in 1996, when China conducted a series of missile tests off Taiwan's coast in response to the island's first direct presidential elections. At that time, the U.S. responded by sending two aircraft carrier battle groups to the region, a move that temporarily cooled tensions but left the underlying conflict unresolved.

The roots of this modern-day crisis date back to 1949, when the Chinese Civil War culminated in the nationalist forces of Chiang Kaishek fleeing to Taiwan after their

defeat by Mao Zedong's communist army. Since then, Taiwan has operated as a separate entity, while China has never relinquished its claim to the island. Both sides have since existed in a state of uneasy detente.

China's military capabilities have vastly improved since then, giving Beijing a far greater ability to project power. Its military modernization has been accompanied by an increasingly aggressive stance on Taiwan, from frequent incursions into the island's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) to the construction of artificial islands and militarization of the South China Sea.

The U.S., long the principal defender of Taiwan's autonomy, now finds itself at a crossroads. President Biden has, on multiple occasions, implied that the U.S. would come to Taiwan's defense in the event of a Chinese attack, a departure from past presidents' more measured rhetoric. These comments have raised alarm in Beijing.

While China has ramped up military pressure, it has thus far stopped short of any direct military confrontation, instead relying on a strategy of intimidation. Taiwan, under Lai's leadership, remains defiant but cautious, aware of the delicate balance that has maintained peace for decades

n the shadow of looming elections, the eastern state of Jharkhand finds itself at the centre of a political firestorm. The week

started with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducting a series of high-profile raids in a crackdown on alleged corruption within the state's water and sanitation department. These searches, targeting a senior IAS officer, associates of a cabinet minister and others, have intensified the political battle in the poll-bound state. The raids were conducted as

part of a multi-crore money laundering probe, with sources revealing that officials from the water and sanitation department were involved in an illegal 10 percent commission scheme. These kickbacks, reportedly shared among politicians, bureaucrats, and contractors, have put Jharkhand's political elite under the spotlight. Over 23 locations in Ranchi and Chaibasa were searched by ED officials, bolstered by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for security.

Among those targeted was Manish Ranjan, a secretary-level IAS officer, and Harendra Singh, a staffer to Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Mithilesh Kumar Thakur. Thakur's brother, Vinay Thakur, was also implicated. Ranjan, already under scrutiny in a separate case involving former minister Alamgir

A sweeping corruption probe and high-stakes alliances set the stage for a fierce electoral showdown in pollbound Jharkhand.

UHARKHAND

Alam, has now found himself at the centre of this raging storm.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has predictably dubbed the raids "politically motivated," suggesting they were a shopworn tactic as elections approached. Soren pointed fingers at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose members - including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan - have been actively campaigning in the state. Both Sarma and Chouhan are leading the BJP's election strategy and have repeatedly attacked the Soren government, citing corruption, infiltration, and the state's deteriorating law and order situation.

Minister Mithilesh Kumar Thakur, whose associates were also targeted, also denounced the raids while accusing the BJP of pressuring him to defect to their ranks. The incident comes as the BJP ramps up its efforts to challenge the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition. The BJP has

finalized its poll strategy, reviving its alliance with the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), the regional heavyweight led by Sudesh Mahto.

The alliance, though successful in past elections, stumbled during the recent Lok Sabha polls, losing three crucial seats compared to its 2019 performance. Despite these setbacks, the BJP-AJSU pact remains intact, with Mahto announcing the partnership after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The alliance's seat-sharing

talks are almost final, according to Sarma. AJSU is expected to contest 9 to 11 seats, while Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) will take two, as per sources.

The BJP is determined to reclaim lost ground in Jharkhand given that in the 2019 Assembly elections, the party won only 25 out of 79 seats it contested, a significant drop from its 2014 performance. The BJP hopes to capitalize on the momentum generated by its recent victories in Haryana and an increase of seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

To counter the saffron party's strategy, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren held a strategic meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi last week to discuss the JMM-Congress alliance. The JMM has been running the government in alliance with the Congress and the RJD since 2019.

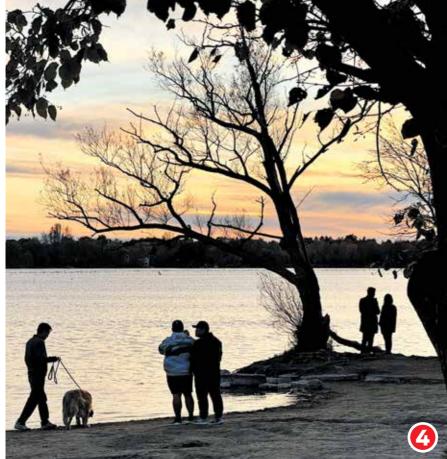
While Soren announced that the JMM-led alliance will contest all 81 seats, a swift resolution of seat-sharing negotiations is seen as crucial to the alliance's electoral strategy, given that the BJP has intensified its campaign with high-profile leaders in the fray.

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THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 MUMBAI

REFLECTIONS









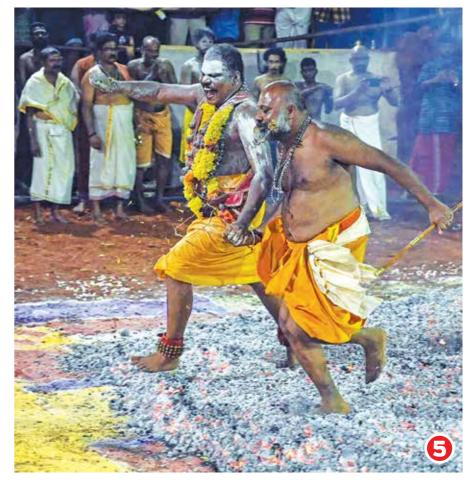
- 1. An artist performs as he takes part in a cultural parade during the week-long International Kullu Dussehra festival in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh on Monday.
- 2. A potter makes an earthen lamp at her workshop ahead of the Diwali festival in Jammu on Tuesday.
- 3. Devotees offer prayers as the head priest displays the holy relic on the annual urs of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani at Khanyar in Srinagar on Tuesday.
- 4. People walk by Lake Wilcox at the Oak Ridges neighborhood in Toronto on Monday.
- 5. Devotees walk through a pit of burning wood during the 'Agni Kavadi' rituals at the Pournamikavu temple in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

All Pictures PTI, AP



Feminism Redefined: The Empowering Voices of Muslim Women







n today's health-conscious world, the term "Ultra Processed Foods" (UPFs) frequently surfaces in discussions about diet and nutrition. These foods are often viewed as unhealthy, though opinions vary on their necessity and role in modern lifestyles. Before diving into these debates, let's first define UPFs. According to the NOVA classification system, developed by Brazilian researchers, UPFs are foods that undergo extensive industrial processing and contain additives like colourants, emulsifiers, and flavour enhancers to improve taste, texture, and shelf life. These processes transform the original ingredients into products that bear little resemblance to their natural form.

Depending on the level of processing, foods are classified into four categories: unprocessed or minimally processed foods, processed ingredients, processed foods, and ultra-processed foods. Each category reflects a different stage in transforming raw ingredients into consumable products.

- 1. Unprocessed or minimally processed foods include fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk, which have no added ingredients or undergo minimal processing. These are the closest to their natural state.
- 2. Processed ingredients refer to items such as salt, sugar, and oils, which are not eaten on their own but are added to foods to enhance flavour or shelf life.
- 3. Processed foods combine unprocessed foods with processed ingredients, such as homemade dishes or pickles. These are typically prepared at home using basic methods.
- 4. Ultra-processed foods, on the other hand, are factory-made and contain ingredients rarely found in a home kitchen, such as preserva-



tives, emulsifiers, sweeteners, artificial colours, and flavours.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2016-2025 as the Decade of Action on Nutrition, recognising the growing need to address dietary challenges worldwide. In this context, ultra-processed foods have been highlighted as a global crisis, contributing significantly to the rise of non-communicable diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, which are reaching epidemic levels in many parts of the world. Despite the growing awareness of the health risks associated with ultra-processed foods (UPFs), their production and consumption continue to rise at an alarming rate. This surge is largely due to the appeal of their taste, convenience, extended shelf life, wide availability, and relatively low cost, making them a popular choice for many.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), UPFs fall into Group C, which includes a wide variety of commercially produced items such as bread, biscuits, mayonnaise, chips, fries, jams, sausages, cakes, breakfast cereals, and refined oils. Other products in this category include artificially flavoured cereals and pulses, massproduced milk and soft drinks, energy and health drinks, fruit juices, and commercially manufactured ice creams. These foods, despite their widespread consumption, are heavily processed and often contain artificial additives that can have adverse

effects on health over time.

To effectively reduce the intake of ultra-processed foods (UPFs), it's essential to adopt mindful habits that promote healthier eating choices.

Each of these steps can make a significant difference in reducing reliance on processed foods and ensuring a more balanced and nutritious diet.

Despite the harmful effects of ultra-processed foods (UPFs), the global food industry faces significant challenges. A key concern is the reduction of post-harvest losses, which occur when food is wasted after harvesting but before reaching consumers. Additionally, extending the shelf life of raw materials and preserving perishable foods is critical, especially in areas with limited refrigeration and storage access.

There is also a strong push to promote the growth of food processing industries, as they play a vital role in ensuring that food remains available and affordable for a growing global population. While addressing these concerns, it is equally important to strike a balance that prioritises health.

This delicate balance between food security, convenience, and accessibility on one side and health on the other poses a pressing challenge for policymakers, researchers, and the food industry. So, do you have an answer? The time to act is now.

> (The author is a food processing expert. Views personal.)



few months ago, I stumbled upon a social media post where radical feminists criticised a Muslim woman for claiming that Islam liberates women more than any Islamic community. Her perspective brought her peace against claims that religion oppresses women. This opened a new perspective for me as a Muslim: no matter how much Western feminism liberates women regardless of gender or religion, it often alienates women with different colours and religions.

This dynamic is evident in Indian media, where Muslim women are marginalised under the politics of 'saving' them. Recently, in discussions with Muslim and non-Muslim women about politics, I asked their views on external forces of liberation and how majoritarian media alters narratives about Muslim communities to spread hate and doubt. One woman said, 'Muslim society needs religious knowledge. Islam does not oppress women, and both men and

While radical feminists argue that Islam oppresses women, many Muslim women assert their faith empowers them. Discover the complexities of feminism and the unique struggles they face. women should understand this. Women should also gain religious knowledge just as men do. Muslim women should show that Islam does not oppress women and they can achieve as much as a non-muslim woman can." Another young woman pointed out how there are Muslim men who are patriarchal and highly misogynist, further adding, "These men are monsters and are not true Muslims who treat his wife, daughter, mother, or any other woman incorrectly."

I understand that feminists can sometimes narrow down their understanding, especially towards Muslim women, but islamophobia, often disguised in 'isms', will always prevail and preach to others as rescuing women from oppression, even though it is a fact that some women practice hijab in devotion to their God. One woman said, 'Muslim society needs religious knowledge. Islam does not oppress women, and both men and women should understand this. When I asked these women about the Waqf Bill, revealed fear and anger. One woman remarked, "The Indian government is trying to steal Muslim waqf lands for their own benefit, as they do not like the fact that in Islam Muslims have the choice of donating their property for public welfare." Another woman added, "To leave us stranded in our own country."

These women, much like those who protested for CAA in 2019, are prepared to resist the Waqf bill. However, they call for inclusivity from others and adherence to Islamic values in their protest. "We, as Muslim women, can protest as much as we can in ways possible, but it is important that we should do it in an Islamic way," one woman explained. I got to know that as much as these women were aware of the news and were firm in their ideologies, there was something else that was leading their existence. The ongoing islamophobia and marginalisation of Muslim women in India, while also confronting patriarchy within their communities, need to be studied. It is just as Irene Oh, in her essay, 'Theoretical Construction of Muslim Motherhood,' pointed out that we need to examine how women continue to suffer in Muslim commu-

nities due to their gender and patriarchy.

Indian Muslim women do not need liberation from any external saviours. They need to be heard and empowered within their contexts. When I asked these women what they think and where else the focus should be apart from islamophobia, all of the responses were pointing towards one thing, and that is "be more knowledgeable." One woman pointed out, "Muslim women should also try to learn about their religion so that they can know what is right and wrong instead of blindly following what some people say."

Indian Muslim women's liberation requires space, identity, faith, and autonomy. "Islam does not restrict women from going out of the house, from gaining education, getting employment, or , other things for that matter. And to stand up for this, one should not be called a feminist," said a woman when I asked her about where the line blurs when it comes to feminism for Indian Muslim women. It is not uncommon to find islamophobia in any place, regardless of how modern or liberal the environment or people are. My last question to these women was whether they have faced discrimination towards their gender, especially because of their Muslim identity; every response was positive. A young woman said, "Well, it happened rarely, which I cannot recall, but I did face it, and if we don't raise our voice(s), maybe I might face it every day in the coming future," which made me think, Is this the feminism that oppresses Muslim women? Then I remembered why Muslim feminists exist like Asma Barlas professes Islamic feminism.

Feminism or the nationalist Hindu government should leave a need to save Muslim women from oppression to the colonialists. I think we should understand how colonial Western feminism is especially for women of different faiths and colours and normalise women with faith to liberate themselves through expression.

> (The author is a student of Maharashtra College, Mumbai. Views personal.)

10 **SPORTS**

THE PERFECT VOICE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 **MUMBAI**

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GILL, JAISWAL look to continue **GOOD FORM**

By G Unnikrishnan

Bengaluru: Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, the torchbearers of India's transition phase, will have to be the team's driving force in its quest to lord over an unsettled New Zealand when the two sides square off in a three-Test series, beginning here on Wednesday.

The baton has not been completely passed, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are certainly running their last lap and these two young superstars will have to show that they can carry forward the legacy of the titans.

Since a productive series against England earlier this year, Gill is now more familiar and comfortable with the rigours of Test cricket

His last 10 innings contain three hundreds and two fifties, while Jaiswal's last eight outings in Test cricket feature a 214 and five fifties

Those numbers are not to be scoffed at. But at the same time, it is important for them to build on the foundation through this series, a precursor to the much tougher journey to Australia next month.

Gill seems to have sorted his issues with the in-coming deliveries from pacers,

SAI, Union

Bank of India,

and RSPB win

New Delhi:, Oct 15 (PTI)

Sports Authority of India,

Union Bank of India, and

Railway Sports Promotion

but a trace of the old failing still remains.

In Chennai, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahamud troubled him with nipbackers before eventually grabbing his wicket. Similarly, Jaiswal has a

penchant to go for expansive shots against pace bowlers to get dismissed, evidenced by his three dismissals recently against Bangladesh quicks.

In all, the left-hander has fallen to pacers 12 times in 20 innings, and he would want a better record before facing a clutch of top-class Australian pacers.

While these concerns are not deeply rooted, they serve as cautionary points against a New Zealand attack that has capable hands in pacers Matt Henry, William O'Rourke and the experienced Tim Southee, if he gets to play here after a sharp decline in his form. There is another angle to

the emergence of Jaiswal and Gill as the pillars of the Indian line-up, as Kohli and Rohit have not precisely set the field ablaze.

Rohit, who has played 15 innings this year, has made two hundreds but managed only one fifty in the remaining 13, totaling 497 runs in eight Tests at just over 35

Kohli, 53 runs shy of 9000 Test runs, has not made



even a fifty in six innings New Zealand could be their this year, and while Rohit golden chance to do so. often perishes in his at-

India has only minor concerns, but New Zealand's troubles across batting and bowling departments are more pronounced.

Their batsmen struggled this year, ending up with 46 copiously against Sri Lan-(vs SA) and 47 (vs Banglakan spinners recently desh), stirring the uncomwhile losing an away series fortable memories of that 0-2, and here they will have great slump between 2019 to negate two modern-day greats in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra also have to keep an eye on Jadeja.

They took 20 wickets together against Bangladesh and with the Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch expected to give some assistance to spinners, the veterans might be itching to have a bowl here.

Lakshya, Malvika make first-round exits Odense: India's Lakshya

Sen battled hard against China's Lu Guang Zu but ultimately lost in three games to make an early exit from the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. Lakshya, a 2021 World

championship bronze medallist, squandered an opening game advantage, losing 21-12 19-21 14-21 to Lu in a men's singles opening round match which lasted 70 minutes.

The 22-year-old from Almora, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, had previously lost in the second round of the Arctic Open in Finland last week. Malvika Bansod, who

had reached the quarterfinals at China Open, also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down to Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh 13-21 12-21 in women's singles. Panda sisters -- Rutapar-

na and Swetaparna -- also made a first-round exit after losing 18-21 22-24 against Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in women's doubles.

Lakshya, competing in his second event since the Olympics, kept pace with his Chinese rival before pulling ahead at 8-8 to take an 11-9 advantage at the break.

The Indian kept his nose ahead after resumption and jumped to 20-11 with a seven-point burst to comfortably pocket the opening game.

After the change of sides, Lakshya surged to 8-2 but Lu rallied to narrow the gap to 11-12. The Indian extended his lead to 16-11 but Lu's persistence paid off as he kept troubling Lakshya and reversed the situation,

-PTI taking 19-18 lead.

All India FIDE Chess Soni scores calculative win, in joint lead



the top.

round matches and with five

points each are still in con-

tention of finishing among

Mumbai-based Mishra

(1885) defeated Thane's An-

irudh Subramanian (1627)

on the fourth board. Shaun-

ish Jaiswal (1641) of Mum-

bai beat the higher-ranked

Saurabh Kulkarni (1839)

and Yash Kapadi (1818) of

Palghar outwitted Manya

Balani (1590) of Gujarat to

Darsh Shetty (Mumbai),

Deepak Soni (Palghar), Yuti

Patel (Mumbai) and Tarun

N (Delhi) also won their

sixth round matches and

are in contention of finish-

ing at the top all having five

Results: Top-10: Round-6:

IM Vikramaditya Kulkarni

(5.5) drew Arnav Kherdekar

(5.5) - 0.5-0.5: Yash Watarkar

(5.5) drew AIM Saikat Nath

(5.5) - 0.5-0.5; Om Gada (4.5)

lost Atharv Soni (5.5) - 0-1;

Sanjeev Mishra (5) beat An-

irudh Subramanian (4.5) -

1-0: Kshaunish Jaiswal (5)

beat Saurabh Kulkarni (4) -

1-0; Yash Kapadi (5) beat Manya Balani (4) - 1-0;

Dhruv Muthe (4) lost Darsh

Shetty (5) - 0-1; Shriyans

Agharkar (4) lost Deepak

Soni (5) - 0-1; Rajeev Rudra

(4) lost Yuti Patel (5) - 0-1,

Shravana Agraval (4) lost

Tarun N (5) - 0-1.

stay in the hunt.

points each.

By correspondent

Mumbai: Atharv Soni of Maharashtra registered a calculative win against compatriot Om Gada to share the lead with IM Vikramaditya Kulkarni, Yash Watarkar, Arnav Kherdekar and AIM Saikath Nath with 5.5 points at the end of the sixth round of the SMCA Chess School organized first All India FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament 2024 played at the Russian House, Peddar Road.

The Thane-based Soni (rating 1968) playing with the black pieces started with the French Tarrasch variation, Gada (1807) made a mistake on the 24th move by playing the pawn to g4 and that allowed Soni the upper hand and the black Bishop pair proved very strong and was instrumental in securing the win.

Meanwhile, on the top two boards, IM Vikramaditya Kulkarni (2125) was forced to share honours with city mate Arnay Kherdekar (1846) while Pune's Yash Watarkar (1963) faced quite a challenge from Delhi's AIM Saikat Nath (1829) before splitting two points.

Following closely behind the lead pack are, Sanjeev Mishra, Kshaunish Jaiswal and Yash Kapadi, all winning their respective sixth-

Udita attracts highest bid

New Delhi: Indian defender Udita Duhan emerged as the costliest buy at the Hockev India League women's auction after she was acquired by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 32 lakh here on Tuesday. Dutch star drag-flicker Yibbi Janssen was the second most expensive player and was bought by Odisha Warriors for Rs 29 lakh followed by young Indian forward Sunelita Toppo, who was picked up by Delhi SG Pipers for Rs 24.00 lakh. Indian players Lalremsiami (for Rs 25 lakh to Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers), Sunelita Toppo (for Rs 24 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers), and Sangita Kumari (for Rs 22 lakh to Delhi SG Pipers) attracted significant attention during the auction. Several overseas players, including Belgium's Charlotte Englebert (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), Germany's Charlotte Stapenhorst (for Rs 16 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club), and Australia's Jocelyn Bartram (for Rs 15 lakh to Odisha Warriors) were the notable buys

Abhishek Jadhav brace in St. Thomas win

By correspondent

Mumbai: Abhishek Jadhav's twin strikes was the highlight of St. Thomas, Goregaon's 4-1 win against St. Paul's 'B', Dadar in a Men's Open match of the 44th Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana Annual Rink Football Tournament 2024, played under floodlights at the WCG courts.

Aditya More and Varun Sawant scored the other two goals for the winning side while St. Paul's pulled one back through Schnei-

der Dennis' efforts. In another match, St. Blaise 'A' Amboli got the better of Holy Cross, Kurla by a narrow 2-1 margin. Strikers Harold Fernandes and Dustin D'Costa were bang on target with a goal each for the Amboli outfit, while Aditya Shinde scored the lone goal for Holy Cross.

Results - Men's Open: St. Blaise 'A', Amboli 2 (Harold Fernandes, Dustin D'Costa) beat Holy Cross, Kurla 1 (Aditya Shinde); St. Joseph's 'A', Umerkhadi 4 (Sahil Tandel, Emaad Rohane, Dixit Bhoj, Dwayne D'Costa) beat St. John the Evangelist, Marol 1 (Danush Nadir); Our Lady of Health 'A', Sahar 3 (Imran Shaikh, Shoaib Khan, Laksh Paske) beat Our Lady of Egypt, Kalina 0; Holy Family 'B', Andheri 2 (Faiz Shaikh, Clen Moares) beat St. Anthony's 'A', Vakola 0; St. Thomas, Goregaon 4 (Abhishek Jadhav 2, Aditya More, Varun Sawant) beat St. Paul's 'B', Dadar 1 (Schneider Dennis).



selection trials, auction LEAGUE NOMEN'S KABADDI 2025

Inaugural Women's Kabaddi League

Season preceded by

bossed their mark across a full series, and a nervy

and 2023

tempt to grab the momen-

tum, his colleague offers a

has not been able to con-

vert the two starts he got

The master batter will

New Zealand left-arm spin-

ners - Ajaz Patel and Ra-

chin Ravindra – the tribe

which has been a thorn in

these two stalwarts em-

It has been a while since

his flesh in the past.

The 35-year-old Kohli

much more curious case.

Board registered comprehensive victories in their respective pool matches of Senior Women Inter-Department National Hockey Championship here on Tuesday.

Sports Authority of India defeated UCO Women's Hockey Academy 11-0 in a Pool C game. A comprehensive performance from Sports Authority of India saw goals from Preeti Dubey (5', 24'), Edula Jyothi (22', 23'). Meenu Rani (13'), Sakshi Shukla (20'), Kanchan Nidhi Kerketta (29'), Sumita (40'). Vartika Rawat (45') Beena Pandey (47'), and Deepali (56').

In a Pool D match. Union Bank of India beat Sashastra Seema Bal 4-2. Jiwani Kishori Toppo (1', 27'), captain Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (12') and Nidhi (17') scored for Union Bank of India. Monu (39') and Manisha (46') were the scorers for Sashastra Seema Bal.

Mumbai: Online ticket sales for the third and final Test between India and New Zealand, scheduled to take place from November 1-5 at the Wankhede Stadium, will begin on Friday. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the date of ticket

Groundsmen cover the pitch at M Chinnaswamy Stadium as it rains ahead of the first test match between India and New Zealand in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Pic: PTI

Online ticket sale for Mumbai Test

sale after its apex council meeting here on Tuesday.

The apex council unanimously agreed on the proposal made by MCA president Ajinkya Naik that free passes for the Test match should be given to children from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation schools as well as the semifinalists of the Harris and Giles Shield tournaments.

The upcoming contest between India and New Zealand will be the first Test in three years at the iconic Wankhede Stadium, with these two teams facing off here in December 2021

last

The season pass for the North Stand, the Sachin Tendulkar Stand as well as the Vijay Merchant Stand for general public will be of Rs 1500. For the Sunil Gavaskar Stand, the price will be Rs 325 (east lower) and Rs 625 (east upper).

New Delhi: The upcoming inaugural season of Women's Kabaddi League (WKL) will be preceded by nationwide selection trials leading to the auction process, the organisers said on Tuesday, without specifying any dates.

The WKL will feature several teams, including the Bengaluru Hawks, Delhi Durgas, Gujarat Angels, Haryana Hustlers, Great Marathas, Rajasthan Raiders, Telugu Warriors, and UP Ganga Strikers, accord-

"The selection trials for WKL are set to be a major highlight of the upcoming season, as they will open doors for thousands of aspiring female players nationwide," it said.

"The league aims to identify the most talented athletes who will then be selected for the auction process and logically segmented for the playing."

The WKL's structure will follow a round-robin and home-away format during selection trials. It also plans participation of international players. -PTI

Waited for many years for women's HIL, says Rani

New Delhi: Rani Rampal waited for the women's Hockey India League as a player for years but now that the league will finally see the light of the day, the former India captain will wear a different hat.

Rani, who captained India to a historic fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, will be the mentor and coach of Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana in the women's HIL which will make its debut later this year.

"Hockey is my passion and I played my entire career with that. It was always in my mind that I will definitely accept any opportunity to serve Indian hockey. Hockey was always on my mind," Rani said on the sidelines of the HIL women's auction here on Tuesday.

"I tried a lot to make a comeback in the national team but could not do so before the Paris Olympics. I had waited for many years for this women's league and when it started, it felt very good to be a part of the coaching staff and not as a player," said the 30-year-old Padma Shri awardee, who has scored 134 goals in 212

matches for India. Asked why she opted out of the league as she had not officially announced her



retirement yet, Rani said: "I am a female player and I have faced a lot of struggles. A player is always a player. The desire to play never ends

"But sometimes you have to make a difficult decision





and I decided to join the coaching staff.

"It is difficult to talk about retirement right now. Now I will face a new challenge in the league and after that I will take a final decision.

Rani admitted that India's failure to qualify for the Paris Olympics was a setback for women's hockey in the country, but said there is no point in thinking about the past now.

"Finishing fourth at the

Tokyo Olympics was a watershed moment for Indian women's hockey. It took many years for this and the players, federation. and

coaches worked very hard. "We did not qualify for Paris which was a big setback but there is a new learning in sports every day. Winning and losing are part of the game," she said.

"No team wants to lose. We cannot change the past but now we have to look for 2028. The first goal should be to win gold in the 2026 Asian Games and qualify directly for the Olympics. The women's league can be very helpful in preparing a pool of players.

Rani also lauded the appointment of Harendra Singh as the women's team coach

ing to a release from the

organisers.

"Harendra Sir always thinks of winning for the country and instills the same feeling in players. Language is a great medium to touch the hearts of the players and we are sure that under Harendra Sir, the team will do well in 2028 Los Angles Olympics."

Talking about the auction, Rani admitted that the purse in the first season of the women's league is small but remains optimistic.

"The purse for the auction is less but the first step is always difficult. Same is

the case with Hockey India but hopefully more teams will come forward and the purse will also increase," she said.

"Our players come from very humble backgrounds so this league will help them a lot financially too."

The four teams in the first season of HIL Women's League are Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers and Odisha Warriors.

The teams have been given a cap of Rs 2 crore in the auction, while the players have been divided into three prices slabs -- Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh. -PTI