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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in www.magzter.com 9 OCTOBER 2024 | WEDNESDAY | BENGALURU | 5 RABI UL SANI, 1446 AH Vol 4 | Issue No 255 | Pages: 8

Lotus blooms in H'yana; J&K picks NC-Cong

BJP makes history in Haryana with hat-trick win; AAP fails to open account in Haryana, wins 1 seat in J&K



BJP leaders and workers celebrate party's win in Haryana Assembly elections *PHOTO: PTI*

CHANDIGARH / SRINAGAR, 8 OCT

The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

BJP's decisive victory in Haryana, for which Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, came as a big boost for the saffron party ahead of the crucial polls in Maharashtra where along with its two allies it is bracing for a tough battle, and also in Jharkhand and Delhi.

As the poll results bucked exit poll projections for both Haryana and J&K, the first major direct contest between BJP and Congress after the Lok Sabha verdict in June saw the ruling party emerge triumphant with its largest tally of 48 seats, up from 41 in 2019. The BJP also overcame the setback in Lok Sabha polls when its tally dropped from 10 in 2019 to five seats.

Despite the good showing of BJP in Haryana, eight out of 10 ministers were defeated.

In Haryana, the faction-ridden Congress was hoping to consolidate its gains from Lok Sabha verdict by targeting the incumbent government on farmers' plight and Agnipath for non-commissioned posts. It notched 36 seats, five more than it got last time. Congress' vote share increased by a 11 per cent and BJP's vote share rose by 3 per cent. Congress loss in Haryana triggered a blame game with senior party leader Kumari Selja saying the party high command should identify the people responsible for the loss.

The knives were out in the party even before the declaration of final results, as Selja, who had been sulking during the election which was effectively led by former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, said "it will not be business as usual" and called for introspection.

Jannayak Janta Party, which had emerged as the kingmaker last assembly polls, was decimated this time. Indian National Lok Dal also failed to create much impact.

After early trends showed Congress taking leads in Haryana triggering celebrations at party offices in Delhi and Chandigarh, it was finally over confidence, factionalism and over-dependence on one community – Jats – that appeared to have finally cost the party dearly. BJP powered its campaign on good governance, transparent administration, equitable development, jobs on merit, welfare initiatives for all. Haryana Assembly poll outcome came as a blow to Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP. It drew a blank with its state unit senior vice president Anurag Dhanda losing in Dhanda by 42,660 votes. Congress' Vikas Saharan won instead. However, it sprang a surprise by winning its first-ever seat in Jammu and Kashmir. Mehraj Malik won the Muslim majority Doda seat in Jammu by 4,538 votes.

—PTI

>>>More on Pages 2 & 3



Haryana result is unexpected and the party is assessing it. At the same time, people of J&K have given the mandate against anti-people policies of BJP, and against the oppression of people's rights and misuse of institutions -Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Chief



There were attempts to destroy the NC over the last five years... But those who tried to destroy us, have been decimated. Meanwhile, we expect the honourable PM will do the honourable thing and return statehood to JK at the earliest -Omar Abdullah, NC Leader and J&K CM candidate



Vinesh Phogat's win in Haryana elections is a result of the power of his name. If she wins by using my name, it means I am a great man. At least my name has enough power to help her sail through -Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, former BJP MP and ex WFI chief

Cong cries foul, EC dubs it 'ill-founded allegations'

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday told Congress leader Jairam Ramesh that there was nothing on record to substantiate his "ill-founded allegation" of a slowdown in updating of Haryana poll results.

It also dubbed his allegations as an attempt to "surreptitiously give credence to irresponsible, unfounded and uncorroborated mala fide narratives".

Congress had raised with the EC the issue of an "unexplained slowdown" in updating of results of Haryana elections on the poll watchdog's website and urged it to direct officials to update accurate figures so that "false news and malicious narratives" can be countered immediately.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "In Adampur Vidhan Sabha (Haryana), @INCIndia candidate Chander Prakash has reportedly won by 1,426 votes - but the ECI has not issued an election certificate yet and the website is not showing the results of the last three rounds." What explains this delay Election Commission, he asked. *—PTI*

BJP'S BITTERSWEET JALEBI REVENGE

The sweet taste of jalebi turned bitter for Congress as BJP seized the opportunity to mock the party following its defeat in Haryana as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had praised the jalebi from a local shop in Haryana, saying it should be exported globally. Social media erupted with memes featuring the delicacy, with the "jalebi" trending as users took aim at Rahul. BJP arranged for a box of jalebi to be delivered to his home. A BJP worker delivered jalebi at Cong office in Lakhimpur, Assam, while party supporters distributed the sweet in Australia. Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma even tried his hands at making the sweet dish to celebrate the BJP's Haryana victory.



PM thanks Haryana for 'stamping' out falsehood

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

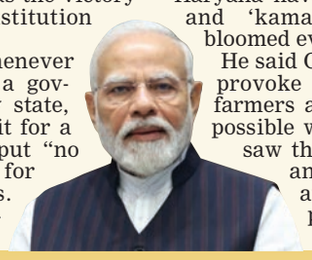
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the people of Haryana have stamped out falsehood and ensured the victory of truth, development and good governance as the BJP registered its third consecutive victory in the state.

Addressing party workers at BJP headquarters here, Modi said the conduct of peaceful elections in Jammu and Kashmir was the victory of India's Constitution and democracy.

Modi said whenever the BJP forms a government in any state, people support it for a long time and put "no entry" boards for the Congress. "Congress rarely comes back to power. It was 13 years ago that Congress came back to power in Assam and there are some states where Congress has not returned to power for 60 years," he said.

"Once the people throw out Congress, they do not let it come back. They put 'no entry' boards for Congress... it is a party that always thought power was its birthright," the prime minister said. Modi said the people of Haryana have done wonders and 'kamal' (lotus) has bloomed everywhere.

He said Congress tried to provoke Dalits, tribals, farmers and youth in all possible ways, but people saw through its tricks and propaganda and rejected the party. *—PTI*



LAST ELECTION VS NOW

HARYANA Total seats: 90 Majority mark: 46		J&K Total seats: 90 Majority mark: 46	
2019	2024	2014	2024
40 BJP	48 BJP	28 PDP	48 NC-INC
31 CONG+	37 CONG+	25 BJP	29 BJP
10 JJP+	0 JJP+	15 NC	3 PDP
1 INLD	2 INLD	12 INC	1 AAP
9 OTH	3 OTH	7 OTH	9 OTH



INDIA will form govt only after partners elect leader: Omar

Srinagar, 8 Oct

National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the INDIA bloc will stake claim to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir only after the alliance partners meet to elect the leader of the coalition in the Assembly. NC Chief Farooq Abdullah announced that Omar would be the next chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir. A scion of the Abdullah clan, Omar Abdullah faced a battle of prestige in the Assembly polls in the Union Territory. Securing an victory in Budgam and leading in Ganderbal, the third-generation politician, is set to become the next CM.



Nayab to continue as Haryana CM

Chandigarh, 8 Oct

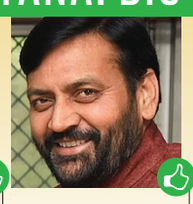
Nayab Singh Saini, the sitting Chief Minister of Haryana, will get another term at the top post, leaders of the BJP said, ending days of speculation. Months before the polls, BJP replaced its strongman Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister with low-profile OBC leader Nayab, a decision that surprised many. On Tuesday, BJP's gamble paid off with Saini leading the party to victory in Haryana after a dismal showing in Lok Sabha elections and defying exit poll predictions of a clean sweep for the Congress.

FATE OF HEAVYWEIGHTS

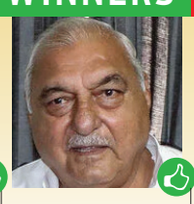
HARYANA: BIG WINNERS



Vinesh Phogat INC, Julana **Votes:** 65,080 (+6,015)



Nayab Singh Saini BJP, Ladwa **Votes:** 70,177 (+16,054)



Bhupinder Hooda INC, Garhi Sampla-Kiloi **Votes:** 1,08,539 (+71,465)

BIG LOSERS



Dushyant Chautala JJP, Uchana Kalan **Votes:** 7,950 (-41018)



Abhay Singh Chautala INLD, Ellenabad **Votes:** 62,865 (-15,000)



Captain Abhimanyu BJP, Narnaund **Votes:** 72,223 (-12,578)

J&K: BIG WINNERS



Omar Abdullah NC, Budgam **Votes:** 36,010 (+18,485) Ganderbal Votes: 32,727 (+10,574)



Sajad Gani Lone JPC, Handwara **Votes:** 29,812 (+662)



Devendra Singh Rana BJP, Nagrota **Votes:** 48,113 (+30,472)

BIG LOSERS



Iltija Mehbooba Mufti PDP, Srigufwara – Bijbehara **Votes:** 23, 529 (-9,770)



Ravinder Raina BJP, Nowshera **Votes:** 27,250 (-7,819)



Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari Apni Party, Channapora **Votes:** 8,029 (-5,688)

Ola Electric Mobility stock declines 6% after notice

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility plunged 6 per cent on Tuesday after the company received a show cause notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority for alleged violation of misleading advertisement and unfair trade practices. The stock of the company fell 6.17 per cent to trade at 85.21 apiece, extending the losses in the fourth straight session on the BSE. On the NSE, it slumped 5.30 per cent to Rs 86 per piece. In a regulatory filing on Monday, the Ola Electric Mobility said it has received a show cause notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for alleged violation of consumer rights, misleading advertisement and unfair trade practices. *—PTI*

50 RG Kar senior docs quit in solidarity, call for strike



Senior doctors join juniors' protest against the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape incident in Kolkata on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

KOLKATA, 8 OCT

Around 50 senior doctors of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital here on Tuesday tendered their resignations in a mark of solidarity with medics who have been on fast-unto-death demanding justice for the deceased woman doctor, sources in the health facility said.

Meanwhile, to support the protest against the alleged rape and murder of the junior doctor, the Federation of All India Medical Association on Monday a nationwide hunger strike on Tuesday. The decision to resign en masse was taken at a meeting of the heads of the departments of the state-run hospital on Tuesday. Senior doctors at NRS Medical College and Hospital were also mulling to follow the footsteps of their RG Kar colleagues. *—PTI*

Violence in WB as rape victim's body reaches home

Thousands of people staged a road blockade and vandalised a police vehicle after the body of a 10-year-old girl, who was raped and murdered, was brought to her home in Kultali in West Bengal for cremation, police said on Tuesday. The class 4 student was raped and murdered while returning home from tuition on 5 October. Her body was taken for post-mortem to JNM Hospital in Nadia district's Kalyani.

FOR REVOLUTIONISING AI

AI scientists Hopfield, Hinton win Physics Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, 8 OCT

Two pioneers of artificial intelligence – John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton – won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton

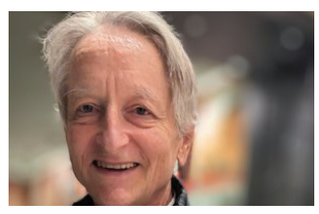
"The laureates' work has already been of the greatest benefit. In physics we use artificial neural networks in a vast range of areas, such as developing new materials with specific properties," said Ellen Moons, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

While the committee honoured the science behind machine learning and AI, Moons also mentioned its flipside, saying that "while machine learning has enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised concerns about our future. Collectively, humans carry the responsibility for using this new technology in a safe and ethical way for the greatest benefit of humankind."

Hinton shares those concerns. He quit a role at Google so he could more freely speak about the dangers of the technology he helped create.

He reiterated his doubts on Tuesday as he told the committee by phone that he was "flabbergasted" by the award.

The physics prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish Kronor (USD 1 million). *—PTI*





Geoffrey Hinton, John Hopfield *PHOTOS: X/@G_Hinton_AI & HopfieldJohn*

Omar wins 2 seats; set to be new CM

BJP's best-ever show in Jammu &Kashmir; retains its dominance in Jammu region

JAMMU, 8 OCT

BJP has emerged the second largest party by winning 29 constituencies in the maiden Assembly polls post abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, improving its all-time high tally of 25 seats recorded in 2014 elections.

However, the saffron party's biggest setback was the loss suffered by its Union Territory President Ravinder Raina from Nowshera constituency at the hands of National Conference. Besides, the party also failed to secure a win from any seat in Kashmir where most of its nearly two dozen candidates lost their security deposit.

The pre-poll alliance between the National Conference and Congress managed to cross the half-way mark by securing 48 seats with the regional party getting the lion's share of 42 seats.

BJP had fielded 62 candidates this time with major focus on its strong bastion of Jammu region. NC leader Omar Abdullah, who is set to become the Jammu and Kashmir's chief mister, for the better part of the last five years ruled out his participation in the Assembly polls in a Union territory set up. He made a U-turn after the Election Commission announced the poll schedule for Jammu and Kashmir. He decided to contest not one but two seats -- Ganderbal, a seat steeped in his family's political legacy, and Budgam. Abdullah, who has been a Lok Sabha member three times -- 1998, 1999 and 2004 -- is known to come back stronger after every electoral defeat. He won the 2004 Lok Sabha elections after being humbled in his family bastion of Ganderbal in the 2002 Assembly elections by a little-known candidate -- Qazi Mohammad Afzal.

Only two Hindu faces among 48 winners of NC-Cong alliance

There are only two Hindu faces who have won the elections on the ticket of the regional party even as the two coalition partners had together fielded 30 candidates, including several members of the Sikh community. National Conference's Surinder Choudhary emerged as the giant killer when he thumped Jammu and Kashmir.

Arjun Singh Raju is the second Hindu face to win the election on the National Conference ticket from the Ramban assembly segment. —*PTI*



NC Vice President Omar Abdullah being greeted by supporters after winning the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections from Budgam *PHOTO: PTI*

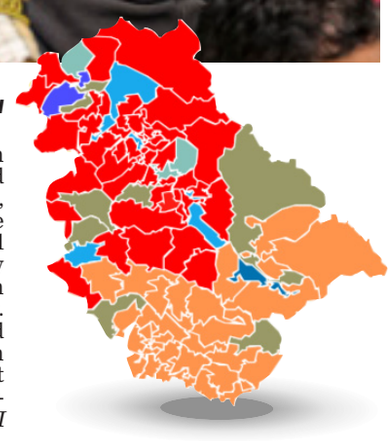


PHOTO: PTI





VOTE SHARE

NC-INC	35.4%
BJP	25.64%
PDP	8.87%
OTHERS:	30.09%

7 Independents emerge victorious

JAMMU, 8 OCT

Seven independent candidates have emerged victorious in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, marking an increase from the 2014 elections when three such candidates had won.

Satesh Sharma, who left Congress and contested as an independent from the Chhamb seat, won the election by defeating BJP candidate Rajeev Sharma with a margin of 6,929 votes.

In Inderwal, independent candidate Payare Lal Sharma defeated veteran leader Gulam Mohammad Saroori by a narrow margin of 643 votes. Sharma received 14,195 votes, while Saroori, also an independent candidate, secured 13,552 votes. Saroori had previously won this seat twice.

In Bani, independent candidate Dr Rameshwar Singh defeated BJP nominee and former MLA Jewan Lal by 2,048 votes.

In the Surankote Assembly segment, independent candidate and National Conference rebel Choudhary Mohammad Akram defeated Congress' Mohammad Shahnawaz by a margin of 8,851 votes. Muzaffar Iqbal Khan won the Thanamandi seat with a margin of 6,179 votes against BJP candidate Mohmmad Iqbal Malik. Khan garnered 32,645 votes.

Khursheed Ahmed Sheikh secured 25,984 votes and defeated Peoples Conference's Irfan Sultan Panditpuri by a margin of 1,602 votes in the Langate assembly seat. Shabir Ahmed Kullay defeated NC candidate Sheikh Mohmmad Rafi by a margin of 1,207 votes in the Shopian seat. —*PTI*

- Satesh Sharma, who left Congress and contested as an independent from the Chhamb seat, won the election by defeating BJP candidate Rajeev Sharma with a margin of 6,929 votes



WINNING GLOW



NC candidate Ahsan Pardesi celebrates in Srinagar, on Tuesday; (top)Supporters of Congress and NC celebrate during the counting of votes *PHOTOS: PTI*

Engineer Rashid's party, Jamaat fail to make impact

SRINAGAR, 8 OCT

The results of Assembly elections in the Kashmir Valley have culminated in a significant rejection of separatist candidates, including those from Engineer Rashid-led Awami Ittehad Party(AIP) and Jamaat-e-Islami, who failed to make a meaningful impact in the polls.

The standout performance came from Sayar Ahmed Reshi, a proxy candidate for Jamaat-e-Islami from Kulgam, and Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, brother of the Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, who contested from Langate and won.

Despite their efforts, the majority of candidates associated with these groups lost their deposits, indicating a clear disapproval from the electorate.

Notably, Aizaj Ahmed Guru, brother of Afzal Guru, suffered a crushing defeat in the Sopore assembly seat, receiving only 129 votes — significantly fewer than the 341 votes cast for the NOTA option.

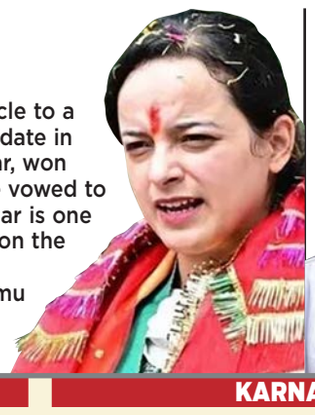
AIP of Engineer Rashid had fielded 44 candidates. —*PTI*

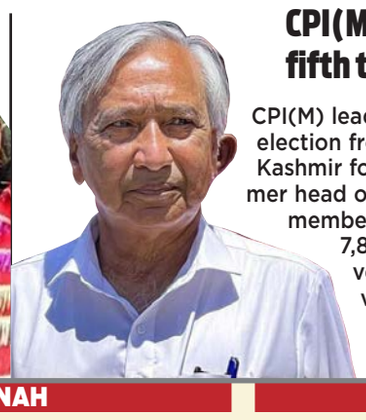


Engineer Rashid *PHOTO: PTI*

Lone BJP woman candidate Parihar wins from Kishtwar

Five years after losing her father and uncle to a terror attack, the lone BJP woman candidate in Jammu and Kashmir polls Shagun Parihar, won Kishtwar Assembly seat on Tuesday. She vowed to fight for the security of the region. Parihar is one of the 27 candidates of BJP who have won the elections on Tuesday. She is also among three women who won elections in Jammu and Kashmir.





CPI(M)'s MY Tarigami wins for fifth time straight from Kulgam

CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami won the Assembly election from the Kulgam seat in Jammu and Kashmir for the fifth time by defeating former head of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) member Sayar Ahmad Reshi by more than 7,800 votes. Tarigami secured 33,634 votes and won by a margin of 7838 votes, defeating his nearest rival Reshi, who received 25,796 votes.

5 REASONS WHY BJP LOST IN J&K

1 **ARTICLE 370:** BJP revoked Article 370 in August 2019, removing J&K's special status and the subsequent bifurcation into Union Territories. This was followed by restrictions for months on end.

2 **BJP'S 'NAYA KASHMIR' FAILURE:** BJP's call for 'Naya Kashmir' did not translate into votes. Although BJP cracked on separatists and stone- pelters, people were reportedly unhappy about their free speech being restricted.

3 **LACK OF PRESENCE:** BJP has not built a strong foothold in J&K for years. In the Lok Sabha elections, it did not field a single candidate from the valley, and in the current Assembly elections, it contested only 19 out of 47 seats.

4 **NO CM FACE:** BJP did not announce a chief ministerial candidate, relying instead on the central leadership of Modi and Amit Shah. This led to losses in key Hindu-majority Assembly seats such as Bani and Ramban in the Jammu.

5 **UNFULFILLED PROMISES:** After J&K became a Union Territory, BJP promised major investments and development projects. However, the Congress-NC alliance capitalised on BJP's inability to deliver.



I want to congratulate the people of J&K for voting for a stable government and not a hung assembly. Centre should take a lesson from the verdict and "not meddle" in the government's affairs

Mehbooba Mufti, PDP president



J&K remember the 1987 assembly elections very well, when Congress made a mockery of democracy by openly rigging the elections. Democracy has now been revived in the same Kashmir valley

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister



Under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, the caravan of AAP is growing, now AAP has MLAs in five states of the country. The people of Doda expressed their trust in Arvind Kejriwal ji and gave a lot of love and support to the Aam Aadmi Party candidate Mehraj Malik

Imran Hussain, Delhi AAP Minister

NOTA RESULT

1.48%

J&K voters opt for it

KUPWARA



Votes: 27,773 (+ 9,797)



MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ, PDP

NASIR ASLAM WANI, NC

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI



Votes: 18,199 (+ 1,995)



BALDEV RAJ SHARMA, BJP

JUGAL KISHORE, INDEPENDENT

BARAMULLA



Votes: 22,523 (+ 11,773)



JAVID HASSAN BAIG, NC

SHOAIB NABI LONE, INDEPENDENT

SHOPIAN



Votes: 14,113 (+ 1207)



SHABIR AHMAD KULLAY, Independent

SHEIKH MOHAMMAD RAFI, NC

KATHUA



Votes: 45,944 (+ 12117)



DR. BHARAT BHUSHAN, BJP

SANDEEP MAJOTRA, BSP

PULWAMA



Votes: 24,716 (+ 8148)



WAHEED UR REHMAN PARA, PDP

MOHAMMAD KHALIL BAND, NC

ANANTNAG



Votes: 6,679 (+ 1,686)



PEERZADA MOHAMMAD SYED, INC

MEHBOOB BEG, PDP

REASI



Votes: 39,647 (+ 18,815)



KULDEEP RAJ DUBEY, BJP

MUMTAZ AHMED, INC

PAHALGAM



Votes: 26,210 (+ 13,756)



ALTAF AHMAD WANI, NC

RAFI AHMED MIR, APNI PARTY

RAJOURI(ST)



Votes: 28,923 (+ 1,404)



IFTKAR AHMED, INC

VIBOD KUMAR, BJP

SOPORE



Votes: 26,975 (+ 20,356)



IRSHAD RASOOL KAR, NC

MURSALEEN AAJIR, Independent

DODA



Votes: 23,228 (+ 4,538)



MEHRAJ MALIK, AAP

GAJAY SINGH RANA, BJP

KARNAH



Votes: 14,294 (+ 6,262)



JAVAID AHMAD MIRCHAL, NC

NASEER AHMAD AWAN, J&K People Conference

RAMBAN



Votes: 28,425 (+ 9,013)



ARJUN SINGH RAJU, NC

SURAJ SINGH PARIHAR, Independent

Saini as BJP's CM choice packs a punch

Saini's elevation as CM came when BJP was facing anti-incumbency in March

CHANDIGARH, 8 OCT

Months before the Haryana Assembly polls, the BJP replaced its strongman Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister with low-profile OBC leader Nayab Singh Saini, a decision that surprised many.

On Tuesday, BJP's gamble paid off with Saini leading the party to victory in the Haryana Assembly polls after a dismal showing in the Lok Sabha elections in the state and defying exit poll of a clean sweep for Congress.

Saini's elevation from Haryana BJP president to chief minister in March came at a time when the party was facing anti-incumbency following Khattar's tenure of nine-and-a-half years and attacks from a buoyant opposition on farmers' issues, unemployment, Agnipath scheme, inflation, and law and order.

Barely days after Saini, 54, was brought in by the BJP, the Model Code of Conduct came into effect with the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections and later ahead of the assembly elections, effectively giving him only two months to shift public perception.

Saini quickly got to work, with his cabinet taking some important decisions.

Prominent among these were approving the Haryana Agniveer Policy, 2024, to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to Agniveers after the completion of their service in the armed forces and giving the go-ahead to a proposal to buy 10 more crops at minimum support price, making Haryana the only state to purchase 24 crops at MSP.

Saini won Ladwa assembly seat by a margin of 16,054 votes against his nearest Congress rival Mewa Singh.

BJP had said ahead of the polls that Saini would continue to be the chief minister if the party returned to power, even though senior leader Anil Vij also threw his hat in the ring.

After Khattar resigned as chief minister in March, his Karnal assembly seat was vacated. Saini won the seat in a bypoll held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections in May, defeating Congress' Tarlochan Singh.

Saini was appointed as Haryana BJP chief in October 2023 in an effort by the party to strengthen its hold over OBC community and non-Jats. —*PTI*



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini greets supporters after winning Assembly elections from Ladwa constituency, at Ladwa, on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

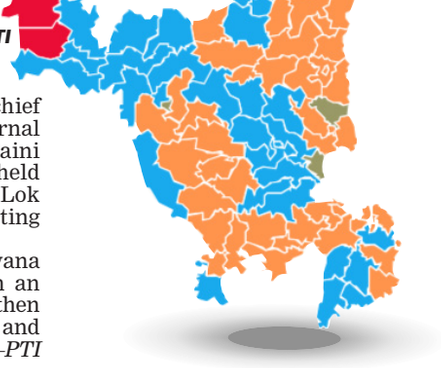
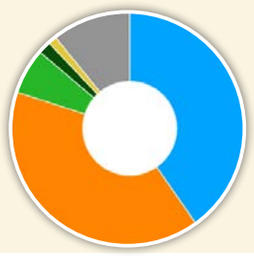



PHOTO: PTI



VOTE SHARE

INC	40.3%
BJP	39.6%
INLD	6.3%
AAP	1.7%
JJP	1.2%
OTHERS	10.9%

(Win)esh Phogat: From the mat to Haryana assembly

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

If resolve had a face, Vinesh Phogat would certainly bear close resemblance to it, if not be it.

A veteran on the wrestling mat, an icon whose Olympic dream was shattered more than once by cruel twists of fate, a fierce voice that stood up to the establishment and now Congress' newly elected legislator in the Haryana assembly.

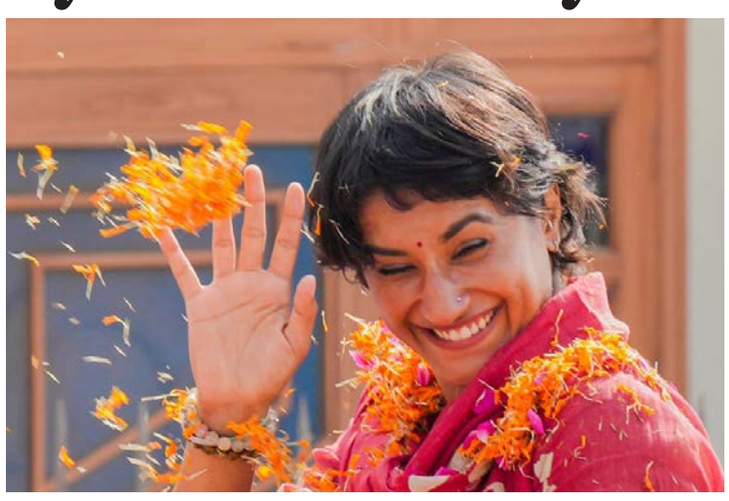
Phogat, the cynosure of many an eye in the run-up to the Haryana elections, won her debut election from Julana with a margin of 6,015 votes.

She endured the pain of losing her father as a nine-year-old, and found solace in wrestling, a sport that almost broke her physically and mentally before she finally gave up, conceding that she couldn't fight it anymore.

From disqualification for being 100gm over ahead of her 50kg Olympic final, she is now a winning heavyweight in the political arena.

This despite the fact that she had survived depression, intimidation, police detention, backlash over a protest against alleged sexual harassment by former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and a smear campaign that sought to portray her as a political pawn.

What gave her strength was perhaps a cabinet full of national and international medals. "One day, all of your hard work will pay off," reads the opening line of her social media bio. —*PTI*


Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat celebrates her victory from Julana constituency in Haryana Assembly elections, in Jind district, Haryana, on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

SO CLOSE YET, SO FAR: STALWART HOODA'S LUCK FADES

CHANDIGARH, 8 OCT

A four-time MP, six-time MLA and the man who could have been three-time chief minister of a state that has been the arbiter of his political destiny. The calculations went awry though and Haryana didn't vote the way Congress veteran Bhupinder Singh Hooda had anticipated.

The doughty politician, who fought the Opposition and some say even forces within the party to stake claim to primacy in the Congress, turned 77 last month. But there seems to be enough fight still left.

The man who was handpicked by Congress in 2005 to be chief minister, edging out party veteran Bhajan Lal, is quite the never say die man.

On his part, Hooda maintained all along that there is a laid down procedure in the party, according to which "the opinion of the MLAs will be sought and the high command will decide (who will be the CM if party wins)".

The two-time former chief minister and is now a six-time MLA now has also been four-time MP from Rohtak. He defeated former deputy prime minister Devi Lal from the parliamentary seat in the 1990s. —*PTI*


Bhupinder Singh Hooda **PHOTO: PTI**

CELEBRATIONS WITH JALEBI


BJP leaders and workers celebrate historic hat-trick win in Haryana **PHOTO: PTI**

India's richest woman Savitri Jindal wins from Hisar seat

Independent candidate Savitri Jindal won from Hisar. The mother of BJP's Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal, defeated Congress candidate Ram Niwas Rana by a margin of 18,941 votes. Forbes India listed Jindal as the richest woman in the country this year with a net worth of Rs 270.7 crore. She quit Congress in March when her son left the party and joined BJP.





Youngest MLA Aditya Surjewala wins from Kaithal seat

From Kaithal, Congress Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala's son Aditya Surjewala defeated BJP's sitting MLA Leela Ram by a margin of 8,124 votes. The 25-year-old is set to be youngest MLA in the state in the last 25 years. His financial portfolio consists of assets worth Rs 29.1 crore. He did his schooling at International School in Bengaluru.

5 REASONS WHY CONG LOST TO BJP IN HARYANA

1 **INFIGHTING:** Tussle between Jat leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Dalit leader Kumari Selja was out in the open, which shows that the main Opposition was a divided house. Congress gave a free hand to Hooda, which alienated other factions.

2 **COUNTER ATTACK FROM BJP:** Congress built its poll narrative around unemployment and Agnipath recruitment scheme. Modi and Amit Shah countered Congress with the transparent system of providing government jobs and pensionable jobs for Agniveers.

3 **CLEAR AGENDAS:** BJP hits back at Congress with 'kharchi-parchi' (bribery and favouritism) in government jobs. BJP promised two lakh government jobs for the youth and also promised MSP on 24 crops.

4 **BANKING ON SPECIFIC VOTE BANK:** Congress heavily banked on Jat, and wrestling community votes, which backfired. This seemingly isolated Dalits and non-Jats. Bringing Nayab Singh Saini, an OBC face, as CM, worked for BJP.

5 **INEFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN:** Congress' campaign focused on criticising BJP's performance at the national level rather than presenting a vision for Haryana. Issues such as unemployment, farmers' grievances, were sidestepped. Rahul's pet 'save the Constitution' plank also did not take off.


Let us see what the results are in Haryana. The biggest lesson of this is that one should never be overconfident in the elections.
Arvind Kejriwal, AAP Convener


The results have left us 'achambhit' (stunned) and the BJP must also be 'achambhit'. These results are opposite to what the atmosphere was in the state.
Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Senior Congress leader


It will not be business as usual in Haryana and I am sure the Congress high command would identify those who negated the efforts to bring the party to power after 10 years.
Kumari Selja, Senior Congress leader

NOTA RESULT

0.3%

Haryana voters opt for it

AMBALA


Votes: 59,858 (+ 7,277)
ANIL VIJ, BJP


CHITRA SARWARA, IND

PANCHKULA


Votes: 67,397 (+ 1,997)
CHANDER MOHAN, INC


GIAN CHAND GUPTA, BJP

NUH


Votes: 91,833 (+ 46,963)
AFTAB AHMED INC


TAHIR HUSSAIN, INLD

NARNAUL


Votes: 57,635 (+ 17,171)
OM PRAKASH YADAV, BJP


RAO NARENDER SINGH, INC

BADLI


Votes: 68,160 (+ 16,820)
KULDEEP VATS, INC


OMPRAKASH DHANKAR, BJP

ADAMPUR


Votes: 65,371 (+ 1,268)
CHANDER PARKASH S/O ARJUN LAL, INC


BHAVYA BISHNOI, BJP

GURGAON


Votes: 1,22,615 (+ 68,045)
MUKESH SHARMA, BJP


NAVEEN GOYAL, Independent

SIRSA


Votes: 79,020 (+ 7,234)
GOKUL SETIA, INC


GOPAL KANDA, HLP

BHIWANI


Votes: 67,087 (+ 32,714)
GHANSHYAM SARAF, BJP


OM PRAKASH, CPI (M)

ATELI


Votes: 57,737 (+ 3,085)
ARTI SINGH RAO, BJP


ATTAR LAL, BSP

TOSHAM


Votes: 76,414 (+ 14,257)
SHRUTI CHOUDHRY, BJP


ANIRUDH CHAUDHARY, INC

RANIA


Votes: 43,914 (+ 4,191)
ARJUN CHAUTALA, INLD


SARV MITTER, INC

TOHANA


Votes: 88,522 (+ 10,836)
PARAMVIR SINGH, INC

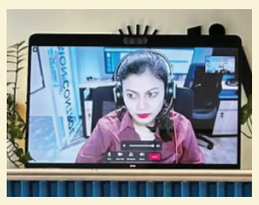

DEVENDER SINGH BABLI, BJP

FARIDABAD


Votes: 93,651 (+48,388)
VIPUL GOEL, BJP


LAKHAN KUMAR SINGLA, INC

PEAK B'LURU MOMENT



Bengaluru showcased its tech-forward approach with a hotel's virtual receptionist. Ananya Narang, CEO of Entourage, expressed her surprise on social media after expecting a traditional check-in and finding a laptop instead where the staff coordinated and arranged everything for guests via video conference

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Amid rumours, Jarkiholi says CM will retain post

He says top brass did not discuss about replacement of CM

MYSURU, 8 OCT

Senior Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Tuesday said Siddaramaiah will remain as Chief Minister, and the Congress high command has not discussed with him and other party leaders about the possibility of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar replacing him at some point in time.

Speaking to reporters, Jarkiholi, who is at the forefront of behind-the-scenes political activities within Congress amid demands for Siddaramaiah's resignation by the Opposition following charges against him in the MUDA case, however, said the party's central leadership can respond to questions whether he will hold the post for a full term of five years.

There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, a powerful leader from the Vokkaliga community, for the Chief Minister's post after the Assembly election results in May last year, and Congress had managed to convince the latter and made him the Deputy Chief Minister.





Siddaramaiah, Satish Jarkiholi

PHOTO: ANI

There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rotational chief minister formula," according to which Shivakumar will become CM after two-and-half years but they have not been officially confirmed by the party.

Amid demand by Opposition parties for Siddaramaiah to quit, Jarkiholi on Sunday met Home Minister G Parameshwara, a senior leader from the SC community, in Tumakuru, after last week's meeting with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi, leading to intense speculations in political circles over leadership change.

There was also a closed-door meeting earlier between Jarkiholi, Parameshwara and Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, who is also from SC community.

Amid calls for a Dalit/ST CM within a section of the party that has surfaced time and again, Parameshwara, Jarkiholi and Mahadevappa are seen as front-runners for the chief minister post if the situation arises.

On meetings between him and Jarkiholi, and Mahadevappa becoming a point of discussion in political circles, Parameshwara said: "It is good if there are discussions. Like 'Chai pe Charcha', we had a discussion over coffee."

"Just because two of us meet over a coffee and because of that if one is made a CM, many such discussions would take place and a lot of coffee will get consumed," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, taking a dig at "developments" within Congress, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ahoka said there is a "running race" in the ruling party for the chief minister post.

He said "breakfast and dinner meetings" are on among ministers to replace him.

"There are rumours within Congress that Siddaramaiah may resign in 10-15 days," the BJP leader said.PTI High command has not discussed with us about DK Shivakumar (being made CM)...you ask him. I can only say Siddaramaiah will continue as CM. *—PTI*

AFTER SC VERDICT

BJP renews demand for internal quota, to meet CM soon

BENGALURU, 8 OCT



PHOTO: PTI

State BJP President BY Vijayendra on Tuesday said a delegation of party leaders will soon meet the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging Congress government to implement the internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, as recommended by the previous BJP government.

"...after discussion with everyone the previous Basavaraj Bommai government had made a recommendation to the central government regarding internal reservation, the now Congress government in the State should implement it as it is," Vijayendra told reporters after a meeting of party leaders discussed the issue under his leadership.

Just ahead of the Assembly polls last year, the previous BJP government's Cabinet had taken a decision on internal reservation, by recommending to central government a six per cent internal quota for SC (Left), 5.5 per cent for SC (Right), 4.5 per cent for "touchables" (Banjara, Bhovi, Korcha, Kuruba etc) and one per cent for others.

In a landmark verdict, Supreme Court on August one held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, set aside the apex court's five-judge bench verdict of 2004 in the EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case which had held that no sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) can be allowed as they are a homogeneous in themselves. *—PTI*

'STOP THE ASSAULT'



Members of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday against the ongoing war in Gaza and Lebanon

PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Caste census to be referred to panel or placed in Assembly: HM

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that the Socio-Economic and Education Survey report, also known as the "caste census", will either be referred to a Cabinet subcommittee or introduced in the legislature, based on what the Cabinet decides next week.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the caste census will "most likely" be placed before the Cabinet for discussion on 18 October.

"We were accused of keeping the caste census in the cold storage after spending so much money. Now when we are saying that we will make it public, they are not able to take it," Parameshwara said, hitting back at the Opposition's criticism.

Speaking to reporters here, he said everyone in the State knows that backward classes, minorities and Dalits are more in number, and in the days ahead for the government to plan and prepare programmes, the caste census will be helpful.

Depending on the views expressed during the discussion, the Minister said, it will decided whether to form a sub-committee or to table it in the Assembly.

Asked about Vokkaliga and Lingayat leaders in Congress not supporting the implementation of the caste census report, he said, "No, the question of support won't come here. Facts will be placed before the people, how can it be objected to? By spending about Rs 160 crore, a caste census was done, to know the population of various communities."

Vokkaligas and Lingayats—Karnataka's two dominant communities — have expressed reservations about the survey, calling it "unscientific", and have demanded that it be rejected and a fresh survey be conducted. *—PTI*

Janardhana's cars seized over CM's security breach

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

The Gangavathi police have seized three luxury cars of mining baron and MLA Janardhana Reddy for allegedly breaching the security of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by coming on the way of his convoy and creating an accident scare, police sources said on Tuesday. He was in Gangavathi on 4 October. The police had cleared the road for the chief minister's convoy to pass, but Reddy's car allegedly passed on the stretch by crossing the road divider. It was just a matter of two minutes. Had the car got struck, it would have resulted in a major accident, according to sources. Reacting to the police action, Reddy said he waited for half-an-hour for the chief minister's convoy to pass. "Whoever is the chief minister or, for that matter, whoever they are, they should not put people in trouble. There was homam happening in my family in Ballari and there was urgency to attend the 'Poornahuti' (final offering)," the MLA explained. *—PTI*

Akka Café will empower rural women: Minister

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

The State government's Akka Cafe initiative aims to transform the lives of women entrepreneurs across Karnataka, Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil said. At the inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, he emphasised the initiative's role in fostering women empowerment and driving socio-economic growth. "The Akka Cafe initiative will create a lasting impact on Karnataka's socio-economic landscape by empowering women, especially in rural areas, and promoting entrepreneurship," he stated. The Akka Cafe program targets women entrepreneurs, particularly those associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Women from SHGs will be empowered to manage these cafes, receiving grants of up to Rs. 15 lakh for setup costs, including essential infrastructure support. Moreover, an additional 2,500 coffee kiosks will be opened statewide, with training provided to rural women by the Central Coffee Board. *—Salar News*

Meeting to address Tungabhadra issues soon: DKS

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced plans to convene a meeting soon to tackle various pressing issues related to the Tungabhadra reservoir. Speaking at the Raitha Dasara event in Sindhanur, he emphasised the importance of addressing concerns raised by MLAs, former minister Nadagouda, and farmer leaders from multiple political parties. "I will soon call for a meeting to discuss these issues," Shivakumar stated, reflecting the growing urgency surrounding the aging dam, which is now 70 years old. He detailed recent repair work on a damaged crest gate, highlighting the quick response efforts. "I personally monitored the repair work. We managed to fix it on a war footing, saving precious water for our farmers and protecting crops across 12 lakh acres," he added. Shivakumar also noted the appeal for the construction of the Navali balancing reservoir to alleviate storage. *—Salar News*

Bengaluru gets new automated waste sorting unit

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Tuesday announced the operation of the "Secondary Solid Waste Transfer and Automated Waste Sorting Unit" in Koramangala. This innovative facility marks a big step forward in the City's solid waste management strategy.

The first unit, located in Ejeepura ward, has been operational since April 2024 and processes approximately 150 to 160 metric tonnes of solid waste daily. It serves three wards of the BTM Layout Division, three wards of the Shantinagar Division, and K-100 Valley.

The unit employs seven hook loader vehicles, each equipped with two capsule-type containers. Auto tippers collect waste from the wards and directly transfer it to these containers, where the waste is compressed and sludge (liquid waste) is separated.

This efficient process allows each container to handle 16 to 18 tonnes of waste, reducing the need for more compactor vehicles.



The total construction cost of the secondary solid waste transfer unit located in Koramangala is Rs 12 crore

PHOTO: SALAR

The units will operate from 6am to 4pm, increasing the time-frame for waste disposal and improving collection from the wards. Raw and mixed waste are disposed of separately, with raw waste sent to the Chikkanagamangala Waste Treatment Plant.

The total construction cost of the secondary solid waste transfer unit is Rs 12 crore (excluding GST), with Rs 5.7 crore allocated for the automatic waste sorting unit. Key features of the automatic waste sorting unit include the capacity to sort 40 tonnes of waste daily, comprehensive tracking of waste collection through CCTV cameras, and advanced technology to prevent sludge leakage.

The first unit has already received 20,757.52 tonnes of waste since its launch. There are plans to establish similar units in every assembly constituency across the city, with a unit in Binnipet and Chamarajpet Assembly Constituency ready for inauguration and additional units awaiting government approval. *—Salar News*

City man held for harbouring 22 Pak citizens in State

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Police have arrested a man named Parvez who had allegedly helped and harboured 22 Pakistani citizens settle in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka with Hindu names, police sources said on Tuesday.

Recently, four members of a family, who were Pakistani citizens, were arrested at Jigani on Bengaluru outskirts.

Following their arrest and interrogation, three more Pakistani citizens were arrested at Peenya here.

The sources said their interrogation revealed that a few Pakistanis were living in Davangere district as well and they too had been detained.

While investigating the case, the police came to know that Parvez was helping these Pakistanis get all the documents withtheir changed names here.

"We have secured him and an investigation is going on," the sources told PTI Pravez Ahmed was a native of Uttar Pradesh and he had been residing in Mumbai. "We have secured him and an investigation is going on," police told PTI. *—PTI*

PROTEST AGAINST LICENCE



Members of the Karnataka State Retail Beedi-Cigarette Merchants Association protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday after the State govt mandated all stores selling cigarettes to obtain a separate tobacco licence

PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Minister questions BJP's stance on BSY's rape case

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday hit out at BJP for not taking action against former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa against whom a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case has been registered.

He said the Centre did a commendable job by suspending the National Film Award to be presented to choreographer Jani Master citing allegations of crime under POCSO Act

Anyone who is under investigation or inquiry for sexual harassment or molestation should not be honoured, he said, adding that it was a good decision by the central government. However, the party did not adopt the same yardstick when it came to Yediyurappa, he said.

Stating that a chargesheet has been filed against Yediyurappa, he said the "minimum action" BJP should have taken is to remove him from "his post." *—PTI*

IN ANOTHER CRACKDOWN

Police nabs 67 for drug peddling in September

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

- He stressed that raids will be conducted in every part of the City to identify culprits and seize drugs.

Bengaluru police launched a war on drugs and arrested 67 people, including three foreigners, in drug peddling here last month, City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said on Tuesday.

He stressed that raids will be conducted in every part of the City to identify culprits and seize drugs.

"Crime Branch detected 40 cases under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act in September," Dayananda said.

According to him, 170 kg ganja, 2kg opium, 13g of cocaine, 372g of 'MDMA', and 998 'Ecstasy' tablets, among others, were seized last month.

So far in 2024, about 80 foreigners were deported to their countries for drug peddling in Bengaluru.

"Where ever the case is registered, we try to go to the root of that case to identify from where the drug is being supplied such as HSR layout, where 28 kg of ganja has been seized (recently)...the supply was coming from Tamil Nadu so we are trying to identify the main supplier." *—PTI*



City Police Commissioner B Dayanand takes a look at the products and currencies recovered by Kumaraswamy Layout and Halasuru Gate police in Bengaluru on Tuesday

PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

City cops recover stolen goods worth Rs 75L

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Bengaluru police made several key arrests and recovered stolen goods worth Rs 75 lakh. The coordinated operations led to the closure of numerous cases, including theft, drug smuggling, and fraud.

One of the major breakthroughs came after a complaint was lodged at Kumaraswamy Layout Police Station on 16 September. The victim reported the theft of four laptops and a Titan watch, valued at Rs. 2.7 lakh. Police apprehended two suspects near Kadirenahalli Bridge with a stolen two-wheeler. Their interrogation led to the recovery of 12 laptops and a mobile phone.

The investigation expanded further, resulting in the arrest of a third accomplice near Goraguntepalya Lorry Stand. This led to the recovery of more stolen items, including 34 laptops, 28 mobile phones, and four two-wheelers, with a combined value of Rs 23 lakh.

In another operation, HSR Layout Police nabbed a suspect involved in inter-state two-wheeler and laptop thefts. The accused was caught with stolen items on Mangamma Palya Road. Police seized five two-wheelers and four laptops, worth Rs 12 lakh.

Jayanagar Police also apprehended a man involved in breaking car windows and stealing laptops. *—Salar News*



PHOTO: PTI

Water consumers' panel poll: 14 injured in clash

KHARGONE, 8 OCT

Fourteen persons were injured in a clash between two groups after elections of a local water consumers' committee in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Khajua village on Monday night during the victory procession of Jal Upbhokta Samiti under Bhikangaon police station area, an official said. The committee is responsible for maintaining and monitoring of canals and irrigation. A dispute broke out when the victory procession passed in front of the houses of supporters of the people who lost the election, Bhikangaon's Sub Divisional Officer of Police Rakesh Arya said. The dispute led to a clash between the two groups, comprising members of the same community, Bhikangaon police station in-charge Rameshwar Thakur said. Nine persons from one group and five from the other side were injured, he said. —*PTI*



PHOTO: ANI

Ahmedabad police arrest journalist in GST 'scam'

AHMEDABAD, 8 OCT

The Ahmedabad Crime Branch on Tuesday arrested a senior journalist with a leading newspaper in Gujarat in an alleged Goods and Service Tax (GST) scam, officials said. Following detailed questioning, journalist Mahesh Langa was arrested by the Crime Branch on Tuesday morning, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ajit Rajian said. "The central GST had found some suspicious transactions in bogus firms floated in the name of Mahesh Langa's wife and father using forged documents. Langa has been arrested for further investigation," he said. On Monday, the city Crime Branch registered an FIR against several persons and entities after getting a complaint from central GST over an alleged scam of floating bogus firms with an intent to defraud the government by availing bogus input tax credit through fraudulent transactions, a release by the Crime Branch said. —*PTI*

Protests erupt in UP against Narsinghanand's remarks

Several arrests made in Saharanpur, Ghaziabad for violence

UTTAR PRADESH, 8 OCT

Protests were held on Monday in several parts of Uttar Pradesh, including the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), demanding arrest and strict punishment for controversial priest Yati Narshinganand over his remarks against Prophet Muhammad.

Also, Uttar Pradesh police arrested 13 people in Saharanpur for stone pelting at the Sheikhpura Qadeem police post during a protest on Sunday, and another four for violence on Friday outside the Dasna Devi temple in Ghaziabad which is headed by Narsinghanand.

In Moradabad, Lok Sabha MP Ruchi Veera reached the collectorate on Monday with her supporters and handed over a memorandum addressed to the President in which she demanded strict action against Narsinghanand, city magistrate Kinshuk Srivastava said.

"Why Yogi Adityanath's bulldozer justice was not implemented under the zero-tolerance policy against the Mahant who made the hateful statement," Samajwadi Party MP said. Describing the incidents of stone pelting at different places over the priest's statement as unfortunate, she appealed to the people not to take the law into their hands and said that everyone should exercise restraint.

"Because India is a country of 'Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb', we have to live in brotherhood," she said.

In Bahraich, a delegation of Jamiat Ulema led by its district unit president Quari Juber submitted a memorandum to District Magistrate Monica Rani, demanding that stringent provisions of the law should be invoked against Narsinghanand.

Hundreds of students of AMU took out a protest march on the campus against Narshinganand's remarks amid heavy deployment of police and PAC personnel. The protestors marched from Duckpoint crossing inside the campus and up to Bab-e-Sir Syed Gate and handed over a memorandum to district officials addressed to the President.

The memorandum alleged that Narshinganand had "repeatedly stoked communal passions in the country by his hate speeches, but the law enforcement services have failed to take exemplary action against him" which has "emboldened him to continue his diatribe against Muslims". Amid the ongoing controversy, Ittehad-e-Millat Council President Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan has said that a big demonstration will be held at Delhi's Ramlila Ground. —*PTI*



Police and administrative officials during a meeting with villagers to restore peace in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

RG KAR HORROR

Senior doctors join juniors in fast unto death

KOLKATA, 8 OCT

Despite the West Bengal government urging them to return to work, junior doctors continued their 'fast-unto-death' for the fourth consecutive day on Tuesday amid Durga Puja festivities demanding justice for the RG Kar rape-murder victim, even as around 15 senior doctors joined them in solidarity by staging a symbolic hunger strike.

The senior doctors started their hunger strike at 9 am in Esplanade, Kolkata, where the medics have been on 'fast-unto-death' since Saturday evening. Durga Puja festivities have begun and Tuesday is 'Panchami'. The agitating junior doctors also planned to bring out a rally from College Square to Esplanade around 4.30 pm to press for their demands, including safety at the workplace.

Doctors Snigdha Hazra, Tanaya Panja and Anustup Mukhopadhyay of Kolkata Medical College and Hospital,



PHOTO: PTI

Arnab Mukhopadhyay of SSKM, Pulastha Acharya of NRS Medical College and Hospital and Sayantani Ghosh Hazra of KPC Medical College are staging the 'fast-unto-death' since Saturday evening and was joined by Aniket Mahato of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Sunday.

"I am requesting everyone to come back to work and give services to the people. Some of them already have. We are all working towards improving the environment. They (junior medics) will appreciate that very good progress has been made on the promises made by the government," he said at the state secretariat. —*PTI*

Have told states to comply with emission standards: CAQM to SC

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has informed the Supreme Court that it has asked the Delhi government and the neighbouring states for strict compliance with the emission standards and pollution norms, given vehicular pollution contributes heavily towards poor air quality.

In a compliance report filed before the top court, the air quality panel said that regular certification of vehicles for compliance with emission standards was a must. According to the panel's data, a total of 1.81 lakh challans were issued in Delhi till June 2024 for either driving without valid pollution under control certificate (PUC) or driving over the prescribed load limit, in comparison with 1.64 lakh challans for similar offences in 2023.

"Regular certification of vehicles towards compliance of emission standards is a must and in this context the commission has directed the national capital region state governments and the government of national capital territory of Delhi for effective implementation of the new PUC certificate regime, including periodic audits of the PUC certificate issuing agencies, in compliance of Central Motor Vehicles Rules (Amendment) Rules, 2021 dated June 14,2021," the CAQM said. —*PTI*

LET'S STRIVE TOWARDS FULLY SELF-RELIANT AIR FORCE: AIR CHIEF

CHENNAI, 8 OCT

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh on Tuesday highlighted the need for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to realign itself to meet the present and future requirements as the global security environment is in a state of constant flux.

The ongoing conflicts have demonstrated the requirement to have a strong and capable Air Force.

Therefore, there is a need for the IAF to be prepared to meet any contingency that challenges our national interest, he noted.

After reviewing the Parade at the Air Force Station in Tambaram near here on the occasion of 92nd Annual IAF Day celebrations, he said, "Adopting the latest technology along with innovative and out-of-the-box thinking will play a decisive role in today's multi-domain environment."

Singh recalled that last year IAF strengthened operational capabilities, enhancing professionalism. —*PTI*

Delhi HC holds DU in contempt over seat allocation

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday has summoned the Registrar and Dean of Admissions at Delhi University for their alleged wilful disobedience in implementing the court's directions.

St Stephen's College has accused Delhi University (DU) of defying a court order, prompting a contempt plea. The college claims the university is deliberately delaying implementation of the court's directives, causing uncertainty for students. The bench of Justice Dharmesh Sharma in an order passed on 7 October, 2024 directed the Registrar and Dean of Admissions at Delhi University to appear before the court via video conference on 15 October.

They are to explain why they should not face legal penalties for their alleged failure to comply with the court's directives regarding seat allocation at St. Stephen's College. In a strong observation, Delhi High Court judge said, "The Court is of the opinion that the concerned officials of the respondent DU while settling their personal grouses with the management of the petitioner-college, are in virtually playing with the life of the students, which action or deliberate omission is neither acceptable nor sustainable in law. —*ANI*

B'desh smugglers attack BSF on Indian territory

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

- One round of fire was opened at a distance of about 40 metres

A Bangladesh smuggler was killed in retaliatory action on Monday after he and his group infiltrated into border areas of Salpokar in Tripura, official sources said.

The Bangladesh smugglers, armed with sharp weapons, tried to smuggle in contraband into India, they said. The group comprised 12 to 15 smugglers and the incident took place around 6 pm at Salpokar, Gokul Nagar, Tripura. The BSF personnel on duty spotted the infiltrators and called in other jawans when one of them was overpowered and attacked by the group, they said. One round of fire was opened in air at a distance of about 40 metres upon which some of these miscreants fled back to Bangladesh. Others, however, encircled a BSF jawan and attacked him with a sharp-edged weapon (dah), and overpowered him, making him fall down, they said. Sensing danger and to save his life, the jawan fired two rounds from his service weapon after which the other miscreants fled to Bangladesh, the sources said. —*PTI*

FALLS ON NORTH ATLANTIC

Upper Stage of PSLV-37 rocket enters earth's atmosphere: ISRO

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

The upper stage of PSLV-37 rocket, which launched a record number of 104 satellites more than seven years ago, has re-entered the earth's atmosphere as predicted, the Indian Space Research Organisation announced on Tuesday.

PSLV-C37 was launched on February 15, 2017 with Cartosat-2D as the main payload along with another 103 satellites as co-passengers. It created history as the first mission to launch 104 satellites with a single vehicle, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency noted in a statement.



PHOTO: PTI

The upper stage was left at an orbit of approximately 470 x 494 km size. It was regularly tracked and its orbital altitude slowly decayed, primarily due to atmospheric drag effects, it said. Since September 2024, IS4OM (ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management) regularly monitored the orbital decay as part of its regular activities and predicted the re-entry into the atmosphere in October first week. —*PTI*

Modi to attend ASEAN, East Asia summits in Laos

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Laos on 10 and 11 October during which he will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. Laos is the current chair of ASEAN. On the invitation of his Laos counterpart Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Modi will visit Vientiane on 10-11 October, the MEA said. —*PTI*

BJP MP's march: Prohibitory orders issued in Port Blair

PORT BLAIR, 8 OCT

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS were issued in parts of Port Blair ahead of the protest march planned by BJP MP Bishnu Pada Ray to Raj Niwas on Tuesday, according to a notification. Demanding the removal of Lieutenant Governor DK Joshi, Ray will lead the march to the Raj Niwas. In the notification, the South Andaman district administration said "immediate preventive measures" have been implemented to avoid any activities or gatherings that may lead to public disorder or disrupt the daily lives of residents and citizens. —*PTI*

Muizzu dazzled by Taj Mahal's beauty

AGRA, 8 OCT

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu accompanied by wife First Lady Sajidha Mohamed paid a visit to Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Tuesday.

"It is tough to describe this mausoleum's beauty as words simply cannot do it justice. This mesmerising intricacy and attention to detail is a testament to love and architectural excellence," Muizzu, who is in India on a four-day bilateral visit, wrote in the visitors' book. President Muizzu, who is on a five day State visit to India arrived in Agra earlier this morning. "President His Excellency Dr@MMuizzu and First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed arrived in Agra, where they will tour the historic Taj Mahal as part of the President's State Visit to India," the President's office of Maldives wrote on X.

Taj Mahal stands majestically on the banks of River Yamuna, and is an architectural marvel. In 1983, the Taj Mahal became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"On behalf of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, I welcomed and received the President of Republic of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed at the technical airport of Agra. After the airport, they headed to Taj Mahal where they were mesmerized by the beauty of the seven wonders of the world," said Upadhyay. Muizzu is on an inuagural bilateral visit to India from October 6-10. He is in the country on an official invitation by President Droupadi Murmu. Upon his arrival in the country on Sunday, Muizzu was welcomed by Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Kiriti Vardhan Singh.

This will notably be the second time that Muizzu is visiting India this year after attending the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this June.

Notably, according to earlier convention, almost every Maldivian President used to make his first foreign visit to India, but Muizzu changed the trend by first visiting Turkiye and then China, after assuming office. Muizzu expressed gratitude to India for its timely emergency financial assistance, including by way of rolling over T-bills subscribed by SBI amounting to USD 100 million in May and September 2024 for a further period of one year that provided the much-needed financial cushion for Maldives in addressing its urgent financing needs.

India and Maldives have decided to collaborate in the development of a state-of-the-art commercial port at Thilafushi island to de-congest the Male port and provide enhanced cargo handling capacity at Thilafushi. —*ANI/ PTI*



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu with First Lady of Maldives Sajidha Mohamed pose for a photograph in Agra, on Tuesday PHOTO: ANI

ED QUESTIONS AZHARUDDIN IN HCA IN PMLA CASE

HYDERABAD, 8 OCT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned former Indian cricket team captain and Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association, official sources said.

The federal agency recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, they said. The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament was first asked to depose before the agency on 3 October but he sought deferment of the notice and asked for a fresh date. The agency subsequently issued him fresh summons to appear on 8 October. Dressed in a white kurta-pyjama, Azharuddin reached the ED office on Fateh Maidan Road around 11 am. He was accompanied by his legal team.

The probe is related to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).

The ED had conducted searches in connection with the irregularities in November last year. Azharuddin's role during his tenure as the HCA president is under the scanner of the agency, the sources had said. There was no immediate response from the former Indian skipper, who unsuccessfully contested the Telangana Assembly polls held last year. —*PTI*

'DISORDERLY CONDUCT'

Kerala censures 4 UDF MLAs over protest inside House

T'PURAM, 8 OCT

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday censured four MLAs of Opposition UDF for breaching the legislative privileges and rules of procedure, violating the decorum of the House and infringing on special privileges of the Speaker.

The MLAs Mathew Kuzhalnadan, IC Balakrishnan, Anvar Sadath and Sajeev Joseph were reprimanded over the intense protest by them in the House on Monday following a verbal spat between Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan.

Moving the resolution to warn the MLAs, Parliamentary Affairs Minister MB Rajesh said Opposition members raised derogatory slogans against Speaker AN Shamseer and held a banner covering his face during the protest violating the House disciplines. He termed the actions as gross indiscipline and violations of parliamentary rules and procedures.

Ignoring the directions of security persons, the MLAs forced themselves onto the dias of the Speaker and moved towards the Chair, the minister alleged. Intervening into the matter, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said protests in the House should not cross the limits of the Assembly rules and the UDF MLAs were seen forcing into the Speaker's dias when the House businesses were progressing peacefully.



Pinarayi Vijayan PHOTO: PTI

- AN Shamseer termed the actions as gross indiscipline and violations of parliamentary rules and procedures

Dissident MLA PV Anvar, with whom the ruling CPI(M) has severed all ties following his allegations against the LDF government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, on Tuesday said he was not attending the Assembly session as the Speaker allocated him a seat amongst the Opposition. —*PTI*



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

Dragon Ball Z narrator Doc Harris dies at 76

VANCOUVER, 8 OCT

Doc Harris, the narrator of over 200 episodes of Dragon Ball Z anime's English dub, has died at age 76. He was remembered for his signature episode-closing phrase, "We'll see you next time on Dragon Ball Z,". He passed away on Saturday, according to Broadcast Dialogue. He passed away in Vancouver General Hospital a month after a minor surgery. Born as Gilbert Auchinleck in Canada, he opted for Doc Harris as his disc jockey alias in the 60s and 70s. His career as a voice actor also took him to other stations and worlds of cartoons and video games. He also lent his voice to Barbie and the Rockers: Out of This World, Little Pony: Friendship is Magic, , Monster Rancher, and other video games, including Hulk and Aegis Defenders.*—Agencies*

5 Russian climbers die in a fall on Mt Dhaulagiri in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 OCT

Five Russian climbers, who went missing on Mt Dhaulagiri, were found dead at an altitude of over 7,000 metres on Tuesday. According to Mingma Sherpa, vice chairman of Heli Everest, who was involved in the search and rescue operation, the five Russian climbers were aiming to the Summit the world's seventh highest peak on Sunday during Nepal's autumn climbing season. The climbers, identified as Alexander Dusheyko, Oleg Kruglov, Vladimir Chistikov, Mikhail Nosenko, and Dmitrii Shpilevoi, lost contact with the base-camp after departing from the camp at 6.00 am while attempting to summit. All were heading towards the summit of the 8,167m peak with the help of a single rope when they went missing. *—PTI*

Florida braces for Hurricane Milton

FORT MYERS BEACH, 8 OCT

Florida's Gulf Coast braced Tuesday for the impact of Hurricane Milton's winds and expected massive storm surge, which could bring destruction to areas already reeling from Helene's devastation 12 days ago and still recovering from Ian's wrath two years ago. Almost the entirety of Florida's west coast was under a hurricane warning early Tuesday as the storm and its 250 kph winds crept toward the state at 14 kph, sucking energy from the Gulf of Mexico's warm water. The strongest Atlantic hurricane on record is 1980's Allen, which reached wind speeds of 306 kph as it moved through the Caribbean and Gulf before striking Texas and Mexico.*—PTI*

Czech government undergoes reshuffle

PRAGUE, 8 OCT

Czech President Petr Pavel swore in two new ministers on Tuesday as part of a reshuffle of the government following the decision of junior coalition partner, the Pirates, to leave the Cabinet. Prime Minister Petr Fiala's government retains a majority in Parliament's lower house even without the Pirates, with four other parties remaining in the coalition. The president appoints and dismisses the government ministers at the request of the prime minister. The crisis began on September 24 when Fiala announced the dismissal of Regional Development Minister Ivan Bartos, head of the Pirates. He said he had lost trust in Bartos's ability to deal with problems linked to a new digital system for issuing building permits. The Pirates said the move was in breech of their coalition agreement. *—PTI*

Israeli military says it killed Hezbollah commander

Israel says Husseini transferred advanced weapons from Iran

JERUSALEM, 8 OCT

The Israeli military said Tuesday it had killed a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike on Beirut, a day after the one-year anniversary of the 7 October attack was marked by mourning and demonstrations around the globe.

The military said the strike killed Suhail Husseini, who it said was responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the militant group. The military said Husseini was involved in the transfer of advanced weapons from Iran and their distribution to different Hezbollah units, and that he was a member of the group's military council.

Israeli strikes have killed Hezbollah's overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders in recent weeks. Last week, Israel launched what it says is a limited ground incursion into southern Lebanon.



Flames and smoke rise from an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon *PHOTO: AP/PTI*

Hezbollah says it has already replaced its slain commanders. It has vowed to keep firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel until there is a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, where its ally Hamas has been at war with Israel for a year

Meanwhile, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a barrage of rockets into Israel on Monday, underscoring militants' resilience in the face of a devastating Israeli offensive in Gaza that has killed about 42,000 Palestinians, according to local medical officials, destroyed large areas and displaced around 90 per cent of its population. A year ago, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, which began firing rockets at Israel on 8 October, 2023. On Monday, Lebanon's Health Ministry said an Israeli strike in the country's south, part of a wider bombardment, killed at least 10 firefighters. Hezbollah fired new barrages despite its recent losses. *—PTI*

Kamala not to meet Putin for truce

WASHINGTON DC, 8 OCT

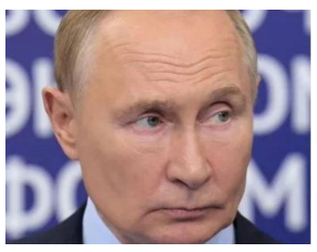
Democratic candidate Kamala Harris said in an interview broadcast that if elected president she would not meet with Vladimir Putin for peace talks if Ukraine was not also represented.

"Not bilaterally without Ukraine, no. Ukraine must have a say in the future of Ukraine," the US vice president told CBS's "60 Minutes" program when asked if she would meet one-on-one with the Russian leader to negotiate an end to the war.

Harris also reiterated her criticisms of Republican rival Donald Trump's policies on Ukraine, describing them as a "surrender" to the invasion Moscow launched in February 2022.

Trump has previously been critical of Washington's massive military and financial aid for Ukraine and insisted that he could quickly reach a peace deal with Putin.

"Donald Trump, if he were president, Putin would be sitting in Kyiv right now. He talks about, 'Oh, he can end it on day one.' You know what that is? It's about surrender," she said.





Vladimir Putin, Kamala Harris *PHOTO: PTI*

Meanwhile, she called Trump "incredibly irresponsible" for spreading falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene 's destruction, offering especially sharp words as a new storm bears down on Florida with just weeks until Election Day. *—Agencies*

Epstein twist in US Presidential election plot

Elon Musk said in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson that some of the billionaires, like Reid Hoffman and Bill Gates supporting VP Kamala Harris, are afraid that if Donald Trump wins, he will release the Jeffrey Epstein list. Expressing his concerns about Trump potentially losing the election, Musk said, "If [Trump] loses, I'm f**ked." *—Agencies*

SC junks appeal on Texas emergency abortion

WASHINGTON, 8 OCT

A court order that says hospitals cannot federally be required to provide pregnancy terminations when they violate a Texas abortion ban will stay for now, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The decision is another setback for opponents of Texas' abortion ban, which for two years has withstood multiple legal challenges, including from women who had serious pregnancy complications and have been turned away by doctors. It left Texas as only state where the Biden administration is unable to enforce its interpretation of a federal law in an effort to ensure women still have access to emergency abortions. It comes weeks before a presidential election in which Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has put abortion as her focus. *—PTI*

'Attempt to murder' case against Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD, 8 OCT

Former prime minister Imran Khan and his party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur were on Tuesday booked in a new case of 'attempt to murder' linked to the death of a policeman during their party's protest here over the weekend.

"The case has been registered on the state's behalf at federal capital's Noon police station under the sections of attempted murder, arson, attack on the state and violence against police personnel as well as anti-terrorism act (ATA) on Tuesday," The News International newspaper said.

Pakistan government charged incarcerated Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and Gandapur with attempt to murder of Islamabad Capital Territory Police's constable Abdul Hameed, who was allegedly attacked by miscreants during PTI's D-Chowk protest on Friday night and



Imran Khan *PHOTO: PTI*

died during treatment two days later.

Khan has been incarcerated at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year. Upon his call for the rally, the PTI planned the rally at D-Chowk here demanding Khan's release, independence of the judiciary, and protesting rising inflation.

On Friday, there were clashes between security personnel and the party supporters, resulting in Hameed's death and left several others injured.

On Sunday Lahore police booked over 200 PTI leaders and workers. *—PTI*

Bangladesh announces constitution reform panel

DHAKA, 8 OCT

- Meanwhile, US said it wants to see the rights of the minority communities protected in Bangladesh as Hindus celebrate their largest festival of Durga Puja

Bangladesh's interim government has announced the formation of a nine-member commission to review and evaluate the country's constitution, and recommend necessary reforms.

Under the leadership of prominent Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz, the Constitution Reform Commission will submit its report to the government within 90 days, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

The commission was formed to review and evaluate the existing constitution to establish a representative and effective democracy while empowering the people, it was announced on Monday.

It will prepare a report on recommendations for constitutional reform considering everyone's opinions, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The commission includes student representative Mahfuj Alam, who is also the special assistant to the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, the report said.

Other members include Dhaka University (DU) Law Department's Professors Sumaiya Khair and Muhammad Ikramul Haq, Barrister Imran Siddique, and Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Dr Sharif Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, US said it wants to see the rights of the minority communities protected in Bangladesh as Hindus celebrate their largest festival of Durga Puja. It comes in the wake of increasing attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh. *—PTI*

BEING ALLY

N Korean troops fighting for Russia in Ukraine: Seoul



North Korea has rebuffed accusations that it is supplying arms to Russia's forces for use in its invasion of Ukraine *PHOTO: ALJAZEERA*

SEOUL, 8 OCT

North Korean soldiers appear to be fighting alongside Russian troops in Ukraine, according to Seoul's defence minister.

Kim Yong-hyun told South Korean politicians on Tuesday that it was "highly likely" that six North Korean officers were killed in a Ukrainian missile strike near Donetsk on 3 October, as reported by Ukrainian media last week.

The suggestion comes amid strengthening ties between Pyongyang and Moscow. North Korea has rebuffed accusations that it is supplying arms to Russia's forces for use in its invasion of Ukraine.

"We assess that the occurrence of casualties among North Korean officers and soldiers in Ukraine is highly likely, considering various circumstances," Kim said, adding that Seoul expects Pyongyang to send more troops to support Russia's war effort. "The issue of deploying regular troops is highly likely due to the mutual agreements that resemble a military alliance between Russia and North Korea," he noted.

Deepening ties

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin in June adopted a comprehensive strategic partnership that includes a mutual defence pact. South Korea, backed up by the United States, claims that Pyongyang has become a major supplier to Russia of weapons being used in Ukraine. North Korea is barred by United Nations sanctions from any tests using ballistic technology. However, in March, Moscow used its UN Security Council veto to effectively end UN monitoring of violations, a move for which Pyongyang specifically thanked Russia.

—Courtesy, Al-Jazeera

'Will use nuclear arms on S Korea, US'

Seoul, 8 Oct

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned again that he could use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States. Kim has issued similar threats to use nuclear weapons preemptively numerous times, but his latest warning came as outside experts say North Korea could ramp up hostilities ahead of next month's US presidential election. *—PTI*

Tunisia's Saied wins landslide re-election

TUNIS, 8 OCT



PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

President **Kais Saied** won a landslide victory in Tunisia's election on Monday, keeping his grip on power after a first term in which opponents were imprisoned and the country's institutions overhauled to give him more authority.

The North African Country's Independent High Authority for Elections said Saied received 90.7 per cent of the vote, a day after exit polls showed him with an insurmountable lead in the country known as the birthplace of the Arab Spring more than a decade ago.

"We're going to cleanse the country of all the corrupt and schemers," the 66-year-old populist said in a speech at campaign headquarters. He pledged to defend Tunisia against threats foreign and domestic.

That raised alarm among the president's critics including University of Tunis law professor Sghayer Zakraoui, who said Tunisian politics were once again about "the absolute power of a single man who places himself above everyone else and believes himself to be invested with a messianic message".

Zakraoui said the election results were reminiscent of Tunisia under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who ruled for more than 20 years before becoming the first dictator toppled in the Arab Spring uprisings. Saied received a larger vote share than Ben Ali did in 2009, two years before fleeing the country amid protests. *—PTI*

AFTER DUTIES ON CHINESE EVS

China puts provisional tariffs on European brandy

BEIJING, 8 OCT

Chinese drinkers may pay more for Remy Martin and other European brandies after the government announced provisional tariffs of 30.6 per cent to 39 per cent on those liquors Tuesday, four days after a majority of European Union countries approved duties on electric vehicles made in China.

The tit-for-tat move potentially gives Chinese negotiators leverage in talks with the EU on reducing or eliminating the tariffs of up to 35.3 per cent on Chinese EVs, which would take effect at the end of this month. The brandy tariffs are provisional and require importers to make a deposit with the Chinese customs agency for the amount of the tariff, starting Friday.

The announcement followed a preliminary finding by China's Commerce Ministry in late August that European brandy was being dumped in China, threatening "substantial damage" to domestic producers. China has opened a series of anti-dumping investigations into European brandy, pork and dairy products as a now year-old EU investigation into Chinese EV exports has progressed through various stages.

The brandy probe was the first and targeted mainly French makers of cognac and similar spirits such as Armagnac.

France has supported the investigation into Chinese-made EVs, while Germany, whose automakers fear retaliation in the Chinese market, has opposed it.



France has supported the investigation into Chinese-made EVs, while Germany, has opposed it *PHOTO: X/@XHNEWS*

China announces support for economy but holds back

China's economic planning agency outlined details of measures aimed at boosting the economy on Tuesday but refrained from major spending initiatives.

The piecemeal nature of the plans announced Tuesday appeared to disappoint investors who were hoping for bolder moves, and Shanghai's benchmark gave up a 10 per cent initial gain as markets reopened after a weeklong holiday to trade just 3 per cent higher. National Development and Reform Commission Head said the government will frontload USD 14.1 billion in spending from the government's budget for 2025 in addition to another 100 billion Yuan for construction projects. The scale of spending overall was well below the multi-trillion Yuan levels that analysts said might be expected. The leaders have been struggling to rev up growth since the Covid-19 pandemic ended. A downturn in the property market has deepened that challenge, as consumer spending has lagged and global demand also has slowed. In a note, UBS chief China economist Tao Wang said that the market was "likely expecting a significant fiscal stimulus." *—PTI*

FRANCE TIGHTENS STEPS ON LADEN'S SON'S RETURN

PARIS, 8 OCT

France's interior minister said Tuesday he has taken additional steps against any effort by one of the sons of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden to return to France. Omar bin Laden had been living in France's Normandy region but left the country in October 2023 after French authorities withdrew his residency papers and ordered him out, the Interior Ministry said. At the time, authorities also barred him from returning to France for two years, the ministry added.

French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau on X said he imposed an additional ban to ensure that Omar bin Laden "will not be able to return to France for any reason whatsoever." *—PTI*

Gold retreats from record level amid weak global trend

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Gold prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Tuesday, plunging Rs 400 to Rs 78,300 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists triggered by a bearish trend in the global markets. The precious metal had closed at an all-time level of Rs 78,700 per 10 grams on Monday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Silver, however, remained flat at Rs 94,000 per kg due to profit booking after the white metal traded lower in the overseas markets. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also pulled back from its record level and slumped Rs 400 to Rs 77,900 per 10 grams. It ended at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams in the previous close on Monday. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery slipped Rs 145, or 0.19 per cent, to trade at Rs 75,900 per 10 grams. *—PTI*

Rupee rises 4 paise to 83.96 against US dollar

NEW DELHI , 8 OCT

The rupee rose 4 paise to close at 83.96 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking a recovery in the domestic equity markets after six consecutive sessions of free fall. A weakening dollar against international currencies further boosted the domestic unit, forex traders said, but added that a rise in crude oil prices and increased foreign fund outflows capped sharper gains. Some experts said the markets rebounded following the BJP's victory in the Haryana assembly elections, which in turn helped the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.97 against the greenback and traded in the range of 83.92-83.97 during the day. It settled at 83.96 (provisional) against the US dollar, 4 paise higher than its Monday's close of 84.00. *—PTI*

Tea exports up over 23pc in Jan-July period

KOLKATA, 8 OCT

Tea exports between January and July this year have touched 144.50 million kilograms, up by 23.79 per cent from the year-ago period, Tea Board said. The country had shipped out 116.73 million kilograms in the corresponding period of the 2023 calendar year. Unit price realisation, however, has declined to Rs 256.37 per kilogram during the first seven months of 2024 as against Rs 264.96 per kilogram in the previous corresponding period. Meanwhile, the commerce ministry has approved a scheme for development and promotion of the tea industry, involving an outlay of Rs 664.09 crore, a Tea Board official said. The amount would be spent during the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission cycle from the 2023-24 financial year to 2025-26 under the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme. The approval covers major components such as plantation development and quality upgradation. *—PTI*

Ola Electric gets notice for 'misleading ads', stock dips

Stock falls 6.17%, extending its loss in 4th straight session

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility plunged 6 per cent on Tuesday after the company received a show cause notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority for alleged violation of misleading advertisement and unfair trade practices.

The stock of the company fell 6.17 per cent to trade at 85.21 apiece, extending the losses in the fourth straight session on the BSE.

On the NSE, it slumped 5.30 per cent to Rs 86 per piece.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 407.31 points or 0.50 per cent to 81,457.31 while NSE Nifty rose 145.35 points or 0.59 per cent to 24,941.10.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, the Ola Electric Mobility said it has received a show cause notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for alleged violation of consumer rights, misleading advertisement and unfair trade practices.

Further, the CCPA has provided a timeline of 15 days to the company to respond to the show cause notice.



The stock of Ola fell 6.17 per cent to trade at 85.21 a piece, extending the losses in the fourth straight session on the BSE *PHOTO: PTI*

However, in a clarification, the company said, the show cause notice has no impact on financial, operational or other activities of the company.

Furthermore, the show cause notice which is issued by the authority does not impose any penalties or financial fines.

On Monday, Ola Electric Mobility's shares declined up to 10 per cent before settling lower by 8 per cent amid reports of service quality issues of its electric scooters and its CEO's spat on social media.

The slide in the shares came after a war of words broke out between Ola founder Bhavish Agarwal and stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Sunday on social media platform X over the after-sales and service quality.

The controversy started when Kunal Kamra responded to a post on X by Agarwal, who posted a photo of Ola's gigafactory, by putting a picture of several Ola Electric scooters parked together seemingly waiting for servicing.

- The slide in the shares came after a war of words broke out between Ola founder Bhavish Agarwal and stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Sunday on social media platform X over the after-sales and service quality

In response to Kamra's tweet, Bhavish Aggarwal called him a failed stand-up comic and his tweet a "paid one" asserting that Ola Electric is rapidly expanding its service network and will clear all the backlogs "soon."

Further, many Ola Electric consumers jumped into the spat and complained about the service quality of the company, asking Agarwal to address their issues. *—PTI*

Market ends 6-day slide amid state poll results

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Stock markets snapped the six-day losing run on Tuesday with benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 585 points on the back of value buying in blue-chips like HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. During the day, it surged 713.28 points or 0.88 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,763.28.

The NSE Nifty rose 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to 25,013.15. It jumped 248.25 points or 1 per cent to hit an high of 25,044.

From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Tata Motors and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

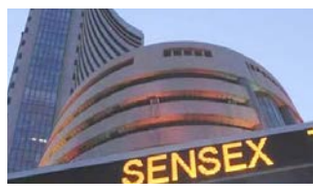


PHOTO: PTI

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have since reduced the interest rates

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.86 per cent and smallcap index soared 2.44 per cent.

European markets were trading lower in mid-session deals. The US markets ended in negative territory on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.84 per cent to USD 79.44 a barrel.

On Monday, the BSE Sensex tumbled 638.45 points to settle at 81,050. *—PTI*



Tamil Nadu continues to be a preferred destination for global original equipment manufacturers *PHOTO: PTI*

In TN, IndoSpace plans to raise investment to ₹4.5K cr

MUMBAI, 8 OCT

Logistics parks operator IndoSpace on Tuesday said it is looking to bolster its presence in the manufacturing sector with an increased investment plan of up to Rs 4,500 crore in new logistics and warehouse parks in Tamil Nadu.

A leading developer of Grade A industrial and logistics real estate, IndoSpace had last year signed an initial pact with the Tamil Nadu government for investing Rs 2,000 crore in the state's logistics industry.

Tamil Nadu continues to be a preferred destination for global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) with companies like Hyundai, Nissan, Foxconn, and Pegatron announcing significant expansions in the state, IndoSpace said, adding that the company has helped develop an ancillary ecosystem that supports these OEMs.

This investment is expected to create over 8,000 new jobs, besides accelerating economic growth and enhancing the state's already credible industrial infrastructure, IndoSpace said.

IndoSpace has presence across 52 logistics parks and 58 million sq ft of space under development or already delivered pan-India. *—PTI*

TO EXPAND EMPIRE

Federal judge orders Google to open its Android app store

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 OCT

A federal judge on Monday ordered Google to tear down the digital walls shielding its Android app store from competition as punishment for maintaining an illegal monopoly that helped expand the company's internet empire.

The injunction issued by US District Judge James Donato will require Google to make several changes that the Mountain View, California, company had been resisting.

The judge's order will also make the millions of Android apps in the Play Store library accessible to rivals, allowing them to offer up a competitive selection.

Donato is giving Google until November to make the revisions dictated in his order. The company had insisted it would take 12 to 16 months to design the safeguards needed to reduce the chances of potentially malicious software making its way into rival Android app stores and infecting millions of Samsung phones and other mobile devices running on its free Android software.



The judge's order will also make the millions of Android apps in the Play Store library accessible to rivals *PHOTO: PTI*

Google said in a blog post that it will ask the court to pause the pending changes, and will appeal the court's decision.

The Play Store has been earning billions of dollars annually for years, primarily through 15 per cent to 30 per cent commissions that Google has been imposing on digital transactions completed within Android apps. A federal judge mostly sided with Apple in a September 2021 decision that was upheld by an appeals court. Still, a jury favoured Epic Games after the completion of a four-week trial completed last year and delivered a verdict that tarred the Play Store as an illegal monopoly. *—PTI*

By Nov, SpiceJet to add 10 aircraft to its fleet

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it will enhance its fleet by another 10 aircraft by next month with the first plane set to be inducted on 10 October.

Seven of these aircraft will be acquired on lease, while three previously grounded ones are being reintroduced, SpiceJet said in a release.

The announcement comes on the back of SpiceJet securing Rs 3,000 crore fresh capital infusion through QIP.

The airline will receive an additional Rs 736 crore from a previous funding round, further bolstering its financial stability, growth trajectory.

SpiceJet said it has already signed agreements for the leased aircraft, with the full induction of all seven planes expected by 15 November.

Two of these leased aircraft have already arrived in India and are scheduled for immediate induction, the airline said. *—PTI*

Rising demand for premium credit cards reflects India's economic growth

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

India's robust economic growth is driving a surge in demand for premium credit cards, especially among High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs).

As the country's GDP climbs to USD 3.5 trillion and personal fortunes expand, affluent Indians are seeking exclusive services, including credit cards that cater to their sophisticated needs.

The Reserve Bank of India has reported a 16.4 per cent year-on-year increase in credit card issuance, reaching 105.4 million cards as of August 2024.

Along with this, transaction volumes and average ticket sizes have grown due to increased spending on travel and leisure.

In response to these trends, American Express India has launched an enhanced suite of benefits for its Consumer Platinum Card®, focusing on travel, lifestyle, and everyday conveniences.

The revamped benefits offer a cumulative annual value of over Rs450,000, including a Rs60,000 welcome gift and three new elite-tier memberships that grant access to exclusive privileges.

Moreover, Platinum Card members will enjoy complimentary digital subscriptions to premium publications and streaming services, as well as discounts on retail shopping, health services, Uber rides, and even pet care. *—PTI*



RBI has reported a 16.4% increase in credit card issuance *PHOTO: PTI*

₹45K CR MONTHLY INVESTMENT

Report: India's MFs industry is much smaller than global average

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Despite over Rs 45,000 crore of monthly investments in India's mutual funds, the Industry's assets under management (AuM) to GDP ratio is much less as compared to the world average says a report by financial services firm Prabhudas Lilladher (PL).

"Indian AMC space is materially underpenetrated compared to global peers since, AuM to GDP ratio is much lower at 16 per cent for India than world average (63 per cent) and US (140 per cent) Canada (100 per cent), France (99 per cent), UK (79 per cent), Germany (76 per cent), Japan (49per cent) and China (21 per cent)." said the report.

The report highlighted that despite significant growth of investments in mutual funds by Indian retail investors in recent years, there is still a long way to go if compared with global peers.

The Indian mutual fund industry's AuM as a share of GDP has risen from 4.3 per cent in FY02 to 16 per cent in CY20.



The Indian mutual fund industry's AuM as a share of GDP has risen from 4.3 per cent in FY02 to 16 per cent in CY20 *PHOTO: PTI*

However, the Industry has much higher growth potential, as of march 2022 only 34 million people in India invests in mutual fund as compared to country's 140 billion population.

The report highlights that this relatively low penetration provides a large scope for strong growth. *—ANI*

Culver Max profit dips 19.43% to ₹839.6 crore

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Culver Max Entertainment, earlier known as Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) reported a 19.43 per cent decline to Rs 839.6 crore in consolidated net profit in FY24, data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler said. Its revenue from operations, too, fell 2.6 per cent to Rs 6,510.66 crore, the data showed. The company, which owns 26 channels in entertainment, sports, and infotainment along with an OTT platform SonyLiv - had reported a net profit of Rs 1,042.18 crore in FY23 and its revenue from operation for that year was at Rs 6,684.90 crore. The decline is due to account of advertisements income. *—PTI*

BY 1.4L METRIC TONNES

Airtel-Nokia's 'Green 5G' to cut CO2

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Telco major Bharti Airtel and Finnish telecom and IT company Nokia on Tuesday said their collaboration to launch the 'Green 5G' initiative is aimed at improving energy efficiency on Airtel's mobile network and reduce its carbon emissions by 143,413 metric tons of CO2 annually.

The project will focus on enhancing energy efficiency across Airtel's extensive 4G/5G Radio Access Network (RAN) by leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning, as well as a suite of advanced software features and innovative solutions, a joint statement said.

The partnership will focus on 'zero-traffic, zero-watt operation', reducing the radio network's power consumption during periods of no traffic, thereby conserving power and optimising energy management.

Airtel and Nokia have also trialled advanced digital design tools to optimise cell configurations for lower transmitted power. This positively impacts the CO2 footprint and energy bills without compromising the network performance or user experience, the statement said.



The project will focus on enhancing energy efficiency across Airtel's extensive 4G/5G Radio Access *PHOTO: PTI*

- The partnership will focus on 'zero-traffic, zero-watt operation', reducing the radio network's power consumption during periods of no traffic, thereby conserving power and energy management

As part of its sustainability effort, Airtel has so far deployed solar-powered systems in around 25,000 sites up to now and substantially increased the renewable energy usage at its data centres, sourced 220,541 MWh through green power wheeling agreements and captive solar rooftop plants in FY24. *—PTI*

Airtel detects 51M spam calls in R'than using AI

JAIPUR, 8 OCT

Bharti Airtel through its AI-powered spam detection solution identified 51 million potential spam calls and 1.6 million spam SMSes in Rajasthan in the last 10 days since its launch, a company official said on Tuesday.

The solution alerts customers to malicious links received via SMS.

"For this, Airtel has built a centralised database of blacklisted URLs, and every SMS is scanned in real-time by a state-of-the-art AI algorithm to caution users from accidentally clicking on suspicious links," Marut Dilawari, Chief Executive Officer, Rajasthan, Bharti Airtel, said.

Further, he added that the system is a first-of-its-kind solution by a telecom service provider. The solution has been auto-activated at no cost for all Airtel customers.

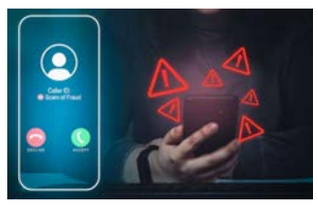


PHOTO: FREEPIK

"The threat of scams, fraud and malicious communications has become a concern for customers. In view of this, Airtel has introduced an AI-powered solution which equips all Airtel customers in Rajasthan with a powerful shield against the schemes of cybercriminals." *—PTI*

World Pickleball C'ship to be held in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 8 OCT

The World Pickleball Championship (WPC) Series will be held here from November 12-17, the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) said on Tuesday. The competition was previously held in Vietnam and Bali where the Indian teams had secured several medals. The Mumbai leg of the WPC, which is powered by World Pickleball League (WPBL), will feature nearly 650 players from countries such as Australia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Poland, Singapore among others.

"This is not only a great opportunity for the Pickleball community to witness global talent on an Indian stage, but also a chance for us to promote the growth of the sport at all levels," AIPA president Arvind Prabhoo said in a release. "India has incredible potential for the sport at all levels, and we're eager to collaborate with AIPA to further elevate the profile of Pickleball both in India," added Jan Papi, Founder of Pickleball Global and WPC Series. *—PTI*

B'deshi cricketer Mahmudullah retires from T20Is

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Veteran Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah on Tuesday announced his retirement from T20 Internationals and the third and final match of the ongoing series against India will be his last game in the format. The final match between India and Bangladesh will be played in Hyderabad on Saturday.

"Yes, I'm retiring from T20Is after the last game of this series. It was pre-decided," he said at the pre-match press conference ahead of the second T20I against India here. "It's the right time to move on from this format and concentrate on ODI," he added. The 38-year-old, who made his debut in 2007, has played 50 Tests, 232 ODIs and 139 T20Is. The former Bangladesh T20 captain had called time on his Test career in 2021. *—PTI*



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Netherlands star Johan Neeskens dies at age 73

THE HAGUE, 8 OCT

Johan Neeskens, one of the midfield stars of the Netherlands' "Clockwork Orange" teams of the 1970s alongside Johan Cruyff, has died. He was 73. The Dutch soccer association KNVB said Monday that Neeskens died the previous day in Algeria, where he was taking part in a coaching project it organized. No cause of death was immediately announced. "Words fail to capture the enormity and suddenness of this loss," the KNVB said in a statement on its website. "Our thoughts are with his wife Marlis, his children, family and friends. "The world not only says goodbye to a gifted sportsman but, above all, to a compassionate, driven and wonderful person."*—PTI*

HIL can transform Indian hockey's landscape: Tete

BENGALURU, 8 OCT

Indian women's team captain Salima Tete can't wait for the upcoming Hockey India League as she feels that the event will help shape the careers of young players and build a strong bench strength for the national team. The HIL is all set to return after seven years in December this year. The revamped league will feature the first standalone women's hockey league in the country that will run concurrently with the men's competition to be held from December 28 to February 1 at two venues Ranchi and Rourkela. The men's event will feature eight teams, while women's competition will comprise six sides. "I am very excited for HIL, it is restarting after seven years and with a women's league this time," Salima said. *—PTI*

Women's T20 WC: India look to fix batting woes

India with only 2 points has already moved to 4th place

DUBAI, 8 OCT



It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far *PHOTO: X/@BCCIWomen*

On a sticky wicket after a mixed start to the campaign, India will look to fix their batting woes to bolster their net run rate when they take on bottom-placed Sri Lanka in their third and penultimate Group A match of the T20 Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.

It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far, having lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their tournament-opener and then scampering home in 18.5 overs against arch-rivals Pakistan.

India's main problem in the tournament so far is the performance of their batters, especially the explosive opening combination of Shafali Verma and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. While Shafali scored just 2 and 32 in the first two games, Mandhana also faired poorly managing 12 and 7 runs. And it's time the duo fires in unison to ease the pressure on the middle-order. To make matters worse for India, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored 15 and 29 retired hurt, is doubtful for the match against Sri Lanka after suffering a neck injury while batting against Pakistan.

The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh too need to step up with the bat and share the burden of responsibility. While medium pacer Arundhati Reddy sparkled against Pakistan with the ball, returning with figures of 3/19, she would look for more support from the likes of fellow pace colleagues Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, who didn't play the previous game because of an injury.

The Indian team relies heavily on Deepti Sharma in the spin department but she hasn't quite managed to hit her strides in the tournament so far. Young off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and leg-spinner Asha Shobhana have done a decent job, picking up a few wickets. The Indians will need to lift themselves in all departments of the game as in Australia a strong opponent awaits them in their last group match. India will not only need to win but record a victory big enough against Sri Lanka to boost their Net Run Rate before the do-or-die league game against defending champions Australia on 13 October.

India opener Shafali admitted that Sri Lanka are no longer only dependent on their skipper Chamarai Athapaththu. *—PTI*

TODAY'S MATCH

- SAfrica vs Scotland
  Time: 3.30 pm
- India vs SL
  Time: 7.30 pm

GROUP STAGE FIGHT BEGINS

WCL: Barcelona aims for 3rd consecutive title

MADRID, 8 OCT

Barcelona will go for its third straight Women's Champions League title with a squad boosted by Poland star striker Ewa Pajor and with Aitana Bonmatí and Alexia Putellas on new contracts.

The group stage begins on Tuesday and the Catalan side is trying to become only the second team after Lyon to win three straight titles or reach five straight finals. Barcelona beat Lyon in last season's final, when Ballon d'Or winners Bonmatí and Putellas each scored. Both had their club contracts extended.

Pajor, who joined from Wolfsburg, was the competition's top scorer in 2022-23 as the German club reached a final that it lost to Barcelona despite a goal by her. In her nine seasons with Wolfsburg, Pajor won 14 titles and scored 136 times despite a series of injuries.

She was not able to win a Champions League even though she played in three finals and was part of a run to another.

Barcelona has also added Kika Nazareth from Portuguese club Benfica. Their first game is on Wednesday against Group D rival Manchester City in a rematch of the 2020-21 quarterfinals, where Barcelona triumphed after a 4-2 first-leg win and a 2-1 second-leg defeat in what was its only loss that campaign.

Barcelona's squad also includes former City players Keira Walsh and Ellie Roebuck.

"It's the first time I've been back to Manchester since I left," Walsh said on Monday.

Lyon's firepower takes on Galatasaray

It could prove a busy night on Tuesday for Galatasaray's defense and goalkeeper Gamze Yaman. Group A opponent Lyon boasts the all-time top scorer in the Women's Champions League, Ada Hegerberg, who has two seasons of 50-plus goals during her 10-year spell at the club. The Norway striker, who won the first women's Ballon d'Or, has 64 competition goals, while teammate Eugénie Le Sommer, third on the all-time list, needs two to reach 50. *—PTI*

India's T20 marauders eye another big win

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT



PHOTO: PTI

An India so dominant that Bangladesh is admittedly clueless about how to match the "skills and mentality" of Suryakumar Yadav's men.

The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here on Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors.

Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be but India have looked every bit the marauding force that loves to intimidate on home turf. So, even with key players such as Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, and Jasprit Bumrah rested, India's remarkable depth in white-ball cricket shone through in a comfortable seven-wicket victory in the opening game in Gwalior.

One man who made a strong statement of intent in that game on Sunday was Sanju Samson. Confirmed by Suryakumar as an opener for the series, Samson has been in and out of the national set up since his debut in 2015 and his lack of consistency has been a major contributing factor.

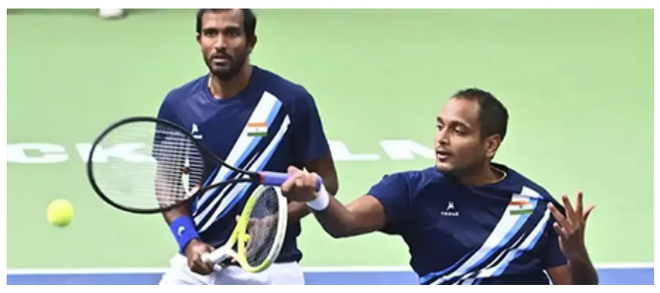
However, he couldn't convert his promising start, much like his opening partner Abhishek Sharma, who showcased sheer power before running himself out. With first choice openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill rested for this series, both Samson and Sharma would be keen to prove they can go beyond mere cameos.

The duo would look to seize this opportunity here and get a big score on Wednesday night in front of, what is likely to be a sellout crowd. The stakes are higher for the 29-year-old Samson, who is aiming to solidify his position as wicketkeeper in the absence of Pant. *—PTI*

INT'L MASTERS LEAGUE LAUNCH



England's Eoin Morgan, West Indies' Brian Lara, India's Sachin Tendulkar, South Africa's Jonty Rhodes, Sri Lanka's Romesh Kaluwitharana and Australia's Shane Watson during the launch of International Masters League, in Mumbai, on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*



World Group I Play-offs will feature 26 countries *PHOTO: PTI*

India to play against Togo in Davis Cup Grp I Play-offs

LONDON, 8 OCT

India will play against Togo in the Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs to be held between 31 January and 2 February next year, according to the draw conducted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) here on Monday.

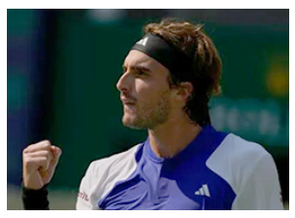
The draw, which includes both World Group I and II Play-offs, will see 52 nations compete in 26 home-and-away ties around the globe from either 31 January-1 February or 1-2 February.

World Group I Play-offs will feature 26 countries while another 26 will compete in World Group II Play-offs. India will feature in the World Group I Play-offs with the dates to be determined by the host nation.

However, the Indian team lost to Sweden in Stockholm in September to drop down to Group I Play-offs again for the 2025 edition. According to the official Davis Cup website, the choice of ground for the tie between India and Togo will be decided by lot at a later stage. *—PTI*

Tsitsipas sets up Medvedev clash in Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI, 8 OCT



Stefanos Tsitsipas *PHOTO: @STEFANOSTSITSIPAS98*

Stefanos Tsitsipas' rivalry with Daniil Medvedev will add another chapter after the Greek player beat Alexandre Muller 6-3 7-5 at the Shanghai Masters here on Tuesday.

The 12th-ranked Tsitsipas and the Russian former US Open champion will meet for a 14th time, and first in nearly a year. The fifth-ranked Medvedev has a commanding 9-4 lead in the head-to-head series, which has spilled over into a war of words off the court in the past.

""We've had some heated things on the court in the past, but I think those things have resolved themselves over time, and we also had the time to speak about those things and have a common understanding of why these things happen.

Tsitsipas had to wait out a two-day rain delay to play his third-round match against Muller, but looked in complete control until losing his serve at 5-3 in the second set. Unperturbed, the Greek broke back to love to clinch the match and renew his six-year rivalry with Medvedev. No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton put away Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3 6-4, firing eight aces and 24 winners to line up top seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round.

The 38-year-old Monfils, ranked 46th, is the second oldest player to reach the Shanghai fourth round in Shanghai, behind only Roger Federer (also 38) in 2019. *—PTI*



Indian players pose for a group photograph *PHOTO: X*

Indian sailors bag 7 medals at Mussanah

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT

Young Indian sailors dished out an impressive show, returning with a rich haul of seven medals, including one gold, four silver and two bronze at the Mussanah Race Week in Oman, an international regatta for youth sailors.

India ruled the Optimist Girls U-15 category, with Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayanan and Kommaravelly Lahari securing the top-two spots. Shreya clinched the gold medal with a net score of 28 points.

She put up strong performances, finishing second and third in her first and fifth races respectively. Her other finishes were ninth, sixth, eighth, and 24th in her final race, which was discarded as her worst result following the scoring system where the worst finish is dropped. Kommaravelly followed with a silver, finishing with 50 net points. India's Shashank Batham and Akshat Kumar Dohare claimed silver and bronze respectively. Shashank finished just two points behind Oman's Abdulatif Ziyad Al Qasim, who topped three of the seven races (second, third, and fourth) and won with 12 net points. *—PTI*

'NO FAULTY RIL DEAL'

IOA President PT Usha junks Yadav's claims

NEW DELHI, 8 OCT



Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha *PHOTO: PTI*

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha on Tuesday refuted treasurer Sahdev Yadav's claims in a CAG report that a faulty sponsorship agreement with Reliance India Limited (RIL) led to a loss of Rs 24 crore to the IOA.

Usha said it was a ploy to tarnish her reputation and threatened legal action against anyone who will indulge in giving "misleading information". "Usha strongly refuted the claims made by Sahdev Yadav in the CAG report, alleging that she acted without the knowledge of the IOA Executive Council. These claims, according to her, are part of a deliberate attempt to tarnish her reputation and discredit the IOA," the IOA stated.

"In reality the negotiation proposal was circulated to all Executive Council members on 9 September, 2023 and later forwarded by the Acting CEO in a letter dater 5 October, 2023. Rohit Rajpal, representing the Sponsorship Committee, was present at the meetings where the negotiation was discussed."

According to the terms of the sponsorship agreement dated 1 August, 2022, RIL was permitted to associate with IOA as Official Principal Partner of the Asian Games (2022, 2026), Commonwealth Games (2022, 2026), 2024 Paris Olympics and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

But the CAG report said on 5 December, 2023, additional rights of Winter Olympic Games (2026, 2030) and Youth Olympic Games (2026, 2030) were also granted to RIL through an amended agreement. This was due to International Olympic Committee's refusal to allow naming rights of the NOC House to any sponsor. Usha said due process was followed while redrafting the deal with RIL. *—PTI*

My son should get ₹5 cr: Olympian Kusale's father

MUMBAI, 8 OCT



Swapnil Kusale *PHOTO: PTI*

The father of Paris Olympics shooting bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale has expressed disappointment over the Maharashtra government paying Rs 2 crore prize money to his son, saying Haryana doles out much higher amount for its athletes.

Swapnil Kusale, 29, who hails from Kolhapur, won a bronze medal in 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Paris Olympics in August. His father Suresh Kusale on Monday said his son should get Rs 5 crore prize money and a flat near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune.

Speaking to reporters in Kolhapur, Suresh Kusale claimed, "The Haryana government gives Rs 5 crore to its each (Olympics medal winning) player (Haryana gives Rs 6 crore to a gold medallist, Rs 4 crore to silver medallist, Rs 2.5 crore to bronze winner)."

Five individuals won medals in the Paris Olympics for India, of whom four were from Haryana and one, Swapnil Kusale. *—PTI*