

**OPINION 6**

THE BANGLADESH CAULDRON IS BOILING

**WORLD 8**

THAI PM DISMISSED FOR BREACH OF ETHICS

**MONEY 10**

SENSEX SNAPS 2-DAY LOSING STREAK

BHOPAL, THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ` 2



# Doda terror snuffs out Indian Army's Capt Deepak Singh



Army personnel keep vigil near the site of an encounter between security forces and terrorists, in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday

PTI

**MOHIT KANDHARI** in JAMMU

Fighting valiantly, a young captain of the Indian Army sacrificed his life, on the eve of the 78th Independence Day, while leading an ongoing anti-terrorist operation aimed at flushing out Pakistani terrorists hiding in the forested belt of Assar in Doda district of Jammu on Wednesday.

The security forces also neutralised a Pakistani terrorist while the hunt was going on to eliminate two to three other terrorists hiding in the area. It is suspected the terrorists may have fled the area leaving behind one M4 rifle, three bags, and a blood trail.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday morning convened a meeting in New Delhi on the rising terror-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the 78th Independence Day, it was learnt.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Director General of military operations-

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma and heads of the security-related agencies attended the meeting, sources said.

Tension prevailed in the area as residents woke up to the deafening sounds of heavy gunfire. In view of the the Independence Day events on Thursday, the security arrangements were further stepped up to prevent any other incident of terrorist violence across the region. The security forces have already been kept in a State of high alert for the past few days to maintain tight vigil along the International border and the areas closer to the line of control.

Army's White Knight Corps Wednesday posted on X stating, "One terrorist has been neutralised in the ongoing operation. One AK 47 has been recovered in addition to the M4 rifle." "Intermittent exchange of firing continues as the operations are ongoing," said the Army.

Meanwhile, the army officer who laid down his life has been identified as Captain Deepak Singh.

# Doctors seek Justice for Kolkata colleague, Now

ARCHANA JYOTI in NEW DELHI

On the third day of their strike on Wednesday in protest against rape and murder of their colleague in Kolkata, junior residents from over 60 Government medical colleges in cities, including Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Rishikesh, Delhi, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Guwahati, and Bangalore among others across the country demonstrated a united front, expressing their frustration at the tragic incident through various forms of protest — from wearing black bands and holding candlelight marches to shouting slogans, and staging demonstrations.

Their anguish was palpable as they refused to relent until enactment of the Central Protection Act for healthcare workers. In Telangana, Seethakka garu, Minister of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of the State came forward to show solidarity with doctors across the country.

# CBI collects evidence from rape and murder scene

SAUGAR SENGUPTA in KOLKATA

Within hours of Calcutta High Court ordering a court-monitored probe by the CBI into the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case, the Central agency sluths on Wednesday reached Kolkata and took charge of the case. The CBI team from Delhi comprising medical and forensic experts visited the place of the occurrence after lodging four FIRs and taking custody of the prime accused Sanjoy Das earlier arrested and grilled by the Kolkata Police. Two CBI officers had taken the case diary and other documents pertaining to the case from the Kolkata Police on Tuesday.



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# Chief Minister pays tribute on Partition Remembrance Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed that we all share in the sorrow felt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the horrors of the country's partition. He described the partition as one of the most tragic and unfortunate events of the 20th century, a reality so painful that many survivors prefer not to speak of it. However, Yadav emphasized that for a nation to progress and secure its future, it must learn from the wounds and mistakes of its past; otherwise, its future remains at risk. Yadav was addressing the programme organized at Sarojini Naidu Government Girls College, Bhopal on the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. He visited the exhibition focus-

ing on Partition and paid tributes by observing a 2-minute silence. A short film focusing on the horrors of Partition and a film depicting Prime Minister Modi's thinking on this horror were also screened. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Vishwas Sarang, Minister of State for Culture Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Mayor Smt. Malti Rai and MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani were present in the program. Yadav noted that there are many relevant examples in this context. He pointed to the struggles of Israel, Iraq, and Iran for their identity and nationality as sources of inspiration. Dr. Yadav highlighted that while Indians are known for their noble sentiments and inclusive nature, they often suffer due to the deceitful actions of others. He referenced historical figures

and events, such as Prithviraj Chauhan, the Ghulam dynasty, Mohammad Ghazni, and Mohammad Bin Qasim, to illustrate how deceit led to numerous victories and prolonged periods of subjugation for the country. Additionally, he mentioned how religious conversions were accelerated through various deceptions. The British, who initially came for trade, employed the 'Divide and Rule' strategy to secure their position in India after the 1857 Revolution, leading to the 1906 Muslim League formula. This policy granted voting and electoral rights exclusively to Muslims in Muslim-majority constituencies. The Chief Minister remarked that despite the British divisive policies, the strength of Indian society was evident when, in 1906, the Muslim League's can-

didates failed to win elections. The Indian electorate recognized the British conspiracy and rejected the League's candidates in 1906, 1911, 1916, and 1923, with continued losses until 1936. However, the Indian political parties of that time failed to grasp the full extent of the British strategy and instead supported the Khalifa movement in Turkey based on religious grounds. This misstep allowed separatist sentiments to take root, ultimately leading to the Muslim League's sweeping victory in the 1940 elections and the rise of divisive forces. Yadav noted that leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose opposed the divisive conspiracy but were not given the opportunity to lead. Patriots such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak,

who initiated Ganesh Utsav, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Bhagat Singh, who helped establish Banaras Hindu University, were sidelined. The political party committed to preventing the country's division failed to uphold its pledge, leading to the swift creation of the principle of partition, which was approved by Lord Mountbatten. This resulted in the nation enduring the horrors of partition, including widespread violence and genocide. Nationalist Muslims were disrespected, and the country's disregard for its cultural unity led to tragic outcomes, including brutal train massacres, widespread abuse of women, and the division of Punjab and Sindh, with the latter's name still reflected in the national anthem.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav goes through an exhibition on Partition Horror Remembrance Day celebration programme at Government Sarojini Naidu College for Women in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital receives award by 94.3 FM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister, Rajendra Shukla distributed awards to the representatives and office bearers working in the field of education, health services, real estate and industrial units on Tuesday at Radisson Hotel. This programme was organised by the F.M. 94.3 radio channel, affiliated to Dainik Bhaskar group. Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital was honored with a citation for its excellent work in the field of prevention of controllable blindness and eye care services. This citation was given to Managing Trustee AC Sadhwani, Medical Director Dr. Purna Upadhyay, Trustee Suresh Awatramani and Senior Manager Kushal Dharmani. Sant Siddh Bhaou expressed happiness on receiving this prestigious award for the excellent eye care services of Sewa Sadan



Eye Hospital. On this occasion, Shri Sadhwani told that Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital will shortly be shifted in a new spacious and well-equipped building at Asaram Babu Chauraha, Airport Road, Gandhi Nagar. Once the facility becomes available, there will be an opportunity to serve more number of eye patients. Sadhwani told that in Central India Region, since its inception,

more than 3 lakh 40 thousand operations for cataract and other eye diseases have been performed and over 34 lakh out eye patients have been examined and treated in the hospital. These include free surgeries of 2.25 lakh poor eye patients. In the last 28 years, the hospital has succeeded in restoring vision to 2,136 visually impaired people by performing their eye transplantation.

## Harassed by money lenders, businessman commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Harassed by money lenders a 32-year-old steel fabrication businessman committed suicide by hanging at his shop on Tuesday evening. Police said family members took him to Hamidia Hospital where after checking him, the doctors declared him dead. The deceased's brother has said that he committed suicide because he was harassed by the debtors. He alleged that the harassment from the loan collection agents had made his brother's life miserable. He said that the agents used to come to his house in the morning before his brother woke up. They used to threaten him to pay the money, and if he did not pay, they threatened to send

**They used to threaten him and harass in front of his wife and children. Abusive language was used. They used to harass him even by going to his shop**

him to jail and even beat him up. My brother was so fed up that he thought it better to commit suicide. The accused should be given strict punishment. The case should be investigated thoroughly. Ankit Yadav lives in Awadhपुरi near Khajuri Kaland Government School. He said that his elder brother Anand Yadav (32), used to operate a fabrication workshop near his house. He got married eight years ago and took a loan to expand his business. When he faced difficulty in repaying it, he took loans

from some people and had a debt of about Rs 5 lakhs. In repayment of five lakhs, he had gradually paid more than this amount. Even after this, the money-lenders living in the area were continuously collecting money in the name of interest. Due to this, it had become difficult for Bhaiya to run his household. The situation was such that people used to come to the house and create a ruckus for collection. Even before the buffalo would wake up from sleep, the collectors would come to the house.

They used to threaten him and harass in front of his wife and children. Abusive language was used. They used to harass him even by going to his shop. He was defamed in the neighborhood. He was called a thug and depressed over this he committed suicide. He was forced to commit suicide by Rahul, Khushi Lal, Shahrukh, Arjun Bhagat, Anil Bairagi, Dinesh Yadav. Strict action should be taken against all of them. Police station in-charge Awadhपुरi Roshanlal Bharti said that detailed statements of family members could not be recorded. No suicide note has been found near the deceased. The matter is being investigated. Further action will be decided on the basis of facts found in the investigation.

## Jain receives 'Changemakers of MP' award

**Indore:** On the eve of India's 78th Independence Day, Dr. Davish Jain, a visionary educator and Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation, has been honored with the prestigious 'Changemakers of Madhya Pradesh' award, recognizing his transformative contributions to education in the state. The award was presented to Dr. Jain and his wife, Monica Jain, by Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla at a glittering ceremony in Bhopal. Dr. Jain is among 16 distinguished individuals from Madhya Pradesh who have been bestowed with this prestigious award. While receiving this award, Dr. Jain dedicated the award to the students, faculty, and colleagues of the Prestige Group and Prestige Education Foundation, acknowledging their relentless commitment and collective efforts in advancing educational standards and driving meaningful societal change. "This award is a testimony to the unwavering dedication of our entire Prestige family, who have worked tirelessly to bring about a positive transformation in education. Our mission has always been to equip our students with the skills, knowledge, and values essential for success and leadership in the 21st century. This is the change we are committed to—elevating the standard of education, not just in Madhya Pradesh but across the nation," Dr. Jain stated. Reflecting on the legacy of the Prestige Group, Dr. Jain said, "For over four decades, his focus has been on excellence, not only in business but in the most impactful area of all—education. We started with a vision: to provide world-class education to the students of Madhya Pradesh, ensuring that quality education is accessible to all, rather than a privilege for a select few. Today, I am proud to witness this vision come to life, enriching the lives of thousands of students across the state," Dr. Jain added.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with BJP Rameshwar Sharma in a Tiranga Yatra, at Kolar locality in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Gold, silver ornaments looted from jewellery shop

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Two miscreants robbed gold and silver jewellery and cash from a jewellery shop at Krishna Arcade late in the evening on Tuesday, Bagh sewania police have started investigation. The miscreants wearing helmets threatened the shopkeeper by showing him a gun. After this, they fled with the silver rakhis, jewellery and cash kept in the shop. The incident took place in Bagh Sewania police station area at around 10 pm on Tuesday night. This robbery incident was captured in the CCTV camera installed in the shop. In which two accused wearing helmets are seen entering the shop. They threatened the shopkeeper at gunpoint, took the cash and jewellery kept in

the shop. After this, they fled while threatening. The accused stayed in the shop for about 7 minutes. Police said, 'Manoj Chauhan, a resident of Rachna Nagar, has a shop named SS Jewellers in Krishna Arcade. At around 10 pm, he was preparing to close the shop. During this time, the miscreants entered the shop. Pointing a gun at Manoj, they said take whatever cash you have. The police are searching for the robbers on the basis of CCTV footage and the statements of the shopkeeper. Half a dozen suspects present around the time of the incident have been questioned. It has not been disclosed how much jewellery and how much cash the accused took. Police said that no list has been submitted to them by

the complainant yet. The shopkeeper has said that he will give the list of looted gold and silver jewellery after counting. However, if sources are to be believed, the accused have fled with more than 500 gm of gold and about one and a half kg of silver. While fleeing, a miscreant attacked Manoj's hand with a knife. Police have formed 6 teams to search for the accused. This also includes the team of the Crime Branch. Police have made maps of all the possible escape routes of the accused. It has become clear in the investigation so far that the accused have fled towards Mandideep. The police suspect old criminals active in the border areas of the city. The footage of the accused has also been sent to the police of Raisen, Sehore and Vidisha districts.

## More than 600 resident doctors in AIIMS Bhopal continue their strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

More than 600 resident doctors of Bhopal AIIMS continued to protest for the second day, they are demanding strict punishment for the accused of raping and murdering a lady doctor in Kolkata. The nursing staff has taken charge so that their strike does not disrupt the system. The nursing staff is managing OPD, dressing and minor operations. Doctors and other staff at Hamidia Hospital are working wearing black bands. On Wednesday, the resident doctors protested by taking out a rally in the AIIMS campus. A lady doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. The resident doctors are protesting against such a heinous crime and to get justice for the victim's family. Their strike has been supported by the AIIMS Bhopal Nurses Association, but they are also treating patients. Senior doctors and nursing staff are in charge of the entire system. About 600 resident or junior doctors of

**On Wednesday, the resident doctors protested by taking out a rally in the AIIMS campus.**

AIIMS are on strike. In such a situation, senior doctors have taken care of the system so that the treatment of patients does not get affected. AIIMS PRO KD Shukla said, junior doctors of AIIMS are on strike, but the senior doctors and nursing staff are in charge of the entire system. The number of doctors is around 200 and the nursing staff is around 500. At present, there is no problem of any kind. Resident doctors in AIIMS Bhopal went on strike on Tuesday. Due to this, the nursing staff took charge and treated the patients alone in OPD, dressing room and minor operation theatres. So that, the patients do not face any problem. At some places, the nursing staff kept seeing patients till 7 pm even after the duty ended at 5 pm.

## 15 Gallantry Medals to cops in a year

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav spearheading the effort to eradicate Naxal activities in Madhya Pradesh, has directed the state police to implement effective measures. On the eve of Independence Day, the Government of India announced the award of gallantry medals to 12 officers and personnel from the Madhya Pradesh Police. This recognition comes in response to the neutralization of 6 hardcore Naxalites in 4 encounters during anti-Naxal operations, with 11 officers and personnel set to receive the "Gallantry Medal" for their bravery and intelligence. Additionally, another officer will receive a medal for a separate case. On January 25, 2024, three gallantry medals were also announced in honor of Republic Day. Consequently, a total of 14 gallantry medals have been awarded for anti-Naxal operations this year, with a 15th medal granted for another case, marking a historic achievement for the Madhya Pradesh Police. On the eve of Independence Day, it has been announced to award President's Distinguished Service Medal to 4 police officers of the state and Commendable Service Medal to 14.

## CISF officers and Jawans take out bike rally under Har Ghar Tiranga

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga program organised in BHEL, Bhopal, Officers and Jawans of CISF, Bhopal Unit took out a motorcycle rally on Wednesday. On this occasion, S M Ramanathan, Executive Director flagged off the convoy. Shri Harish Kumar Sahu, Commandant, CISF, B K Singh, General Manager (HR), Avinash Chandra, General Manager, R K Agarwal, General Manager; CISF, Bhopal Unit officers and a large number of employees were present on this occasion. The enthusiasm of the Jawans dancing to the tune of national anthem with the Tricolour in their hands was worth seeing. Shri Ramanathan and Sahu addressed all the participants and wished them success for the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. This rally will pass through various routes of the entire industrial city and will make people familiar with the objective of this campaign. Meanwhile, On the eve of Independence Day Celebration 2024, Kasturba Hospital BHEL, Bhopal organized a fruit distribution program today for the

**The enthusiasm of the Jawans dancing to the tune of national anthem with the Tricolour in their hands was worth seeing**

patients admitted in the hospital. On this occasion, Sangeeta Ramanathan, President (BHEL Ladies Club), Dr. Alpna Tiwari, Chief Medical Services of Kasturba Hospital, all the doctors of Kasturba Hospital and all the members of BHEL Ladies Club were also present. The program was conducted by Dr. Shalini. On this occasion, a colorful cultural program was presented by the women employees of Kasturba Hospital, which was highly appreciated by all. Shrimati Ramanathan in her address appreciated the work being done by the hospital management for the convenience of the patients. She also congratulated the gathering on the eve of Independence Day. Dr. Alpna Tiwari welcomed all the officials from BHEL Ladies Club.



Canara Bank, Zonal Office Bhopal organized "Mega Property Expo-2024" today on 14/08/2024 under the guidance of General Manager Mr. Sudhanshu Suman and Deputy General Manager Mr. Subodh Kumar. In the said expo, information about the properties to be auctioned in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was given by Canara Bank. More than 100 interested persons and property dealers also participated actively. The said properties include residential plots, industrial plots, houses, shops, and factories etc. located at excellent locations. Interested persons to buy the said properties can get more information about these properties by contacting the concerned branch of Canara Bank. Pioneer photo

## CM greets police officers for Presidents Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has greeted the police officers and police personnel awarded with the President's Award. While talking to media representatives in the Tiranga Yatra on Kolar Road, he said that in the history of Madhya Pradesh, our policemen had not yet received so many

medals as they have received this year. It is a matter of pleasure that all our departments are doing their work with efficiency and responsibility. It is also a matter of pride for the police and the government to get so many medals for valour, bravery and courage. It is noteworthy that in the announcement of medals made by the Government of

India on the eve of Independence Day 2024, it has been announced to award the President's Distinguished Service Medal and Commendable Service Medal and Gallantry Medal to the police officers of Madhya Pradesh. The medals will be given during Independence Day celebrations next year i.e. 15 August 2025.

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# Tiranga Yatra carried out with a 100 feet long tricolor in Katni

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

BJP State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma, while addressing the historic Tiranga Yatra held amidst heavy rains in Katni on Wednesday, said that Tiranga Yatra is being held across the country under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Thousands of mothers and sisters, school and college students, youths and youngsters participated in the Tiranga Yatra held amidst heavy rains in Katni today with great enthusiasm. This love for the country and passion should be there in every citizen of the country. Before joining the Tiranga Yatra, BJP State President Shri Sharma inaugurated the Tiranga distribution center of the Minority

Front of the party at Katni Bus Stand. BJP State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma said that I congratulate and thank all the people here for the yatra held in Katni with a 100 feet long tricolor in the Tiranga Yatra being held on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. You people have made this Tiranga Yatra historic by participating in such a large number amidst heavy rains. India will become a developed nation when the youth work with patriots. Sharma said that the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan creates a feeling of patriotism in the people. India will become a developed nation by 2047 only when all the youth of the country work with patriotism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working with the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047. All of you youth will be in the main

role in the country in 2047, so all of you should work with enthusiasm and passion filled with patriotism. Sapling planted under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan. Sharma planted a sapling under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan in Chandrashekhar Azad Park, Panna on Wednesday morning. State President Sharma also took blessings by tying Raksha Sutra from BJP officials and public representative sisters. After this, the tricolor was hoisted at the house of Municipal Council President Shri Bansat Dahayat in Pawai and along with the children of Government Model Higher Secondary School, he raised slogans of Bharat Mata ki Jai with the tricolor in his hand. During the plantation programme in Panna, former minister and MLA Brijendra Pratap Singh, District President

Brijendra Mishra, Municipal Council President Smt. Meena Pandey, Shri Satanand Gautam along with party officials and workers were present. National flag hoisted at the residence of senior leaders in Katni BJP State President and MP Shri Sharma hoisted the national flag at the residence of senior party leaders Shri Nandu Basrani, late Shri Vibhaschandra Banerjee, Smt. Asha Kohli and Shri Vishwajit Chelani under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan in Katni. Before this, Shri Sharma reached the Shaheed Smarak in the Police Line at Jhinhari and paid homage to the martyrs. Tiranga Yatra taken out from Kachhari Chowk to Main Railway Station. The Tiranga Yatra taken out in Katni today was taken out from Rani Laxmibai Chowk (Kachhari Chowk) to the main railway station. The Tiranga Yatra reached

the main railway station via State Bank Tiraha, Subhash Chowk, Dakshinmukhi Hanuman Mandir. Thousands of local people, youth, school students, mothers and sisters, dignitaries, party workers and thousands of common people participated in the Tiranga Yatra. All the people involved in the Tiranga Yatra including BJP State President Shri Sharma kept walking in the Yatra while getting drenched in the rain and singing patriotic songs. Sharma welcomed the people involved in the Tiranga Yatra by showering flowers and also encouraged the girl students with patriotic songs. On this occasion, MLA Sanjay Pathak, Sandeep Jaiswal, Pranay Pandey, District President Deepak Soni Pandon along with officials, public representatives, students and dignitaries were present.



Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishwas Kailash Sarang during a Tiranga Yatra in Karond locality in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav releases a magazine at the Netlink campus in Mandideep, Raisen district on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## 9-year-old boy dies in rainwater pool

New Delhi: A nine year old boy died by drowning in a rainwater pool in Chhat Ghat near Najafgarh drain where he went to take a bath with his friend. According to the police on Wednesday, on August 11, a boy, studying in 5th class in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) school in Baprola was reported missing since 12 pm in the afternoon from his house in Nangli Vihar area, under Ranhola police station. "His father is a private driver and mother is a housewife. Accordingly a case under section 137(2)(kidnapping) of BNS is registered in this regard at Ranhola police station. A search was made with the relatives but not found," DCP Outer Jimmy Chiram stated. He added that on August 12 in

the morning at 8.17 am, a PCR call was received at Ranhola police station that the dead body of that boy was found in Chhat Ghat near Najafgarh drain and family persons had taken the body home. "Dead body has been sent to Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital for post mortem. No eternal injury was on the body. Crime team with forensic experts examined the spot," Chiram said. During the course of inquiry, several CCTV cameras installed near the house of child and Chhat Ghat were checked. Upon investigation, it was found that the two children of nine years old and 10 years old were seen together near the house and later seen entering the chat ghat.

## Tricolor is a symbol of our pride and glory: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav emphasized that the tricolor is a symbol of our pride and glory. Through the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inspired the entire nation to embrace the spirit of patriotism and independence. The chakra within the tricolor represents the relentless progress of our nation. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we have risen to become the world's fifth-largest economy, and with the strength of our country, particularly our youth, we are on the path to becoming the third-largest. Independence Day holds a significance greater than even our most cherished festivals like Holi and Diwali, and therefore, the tricolor should proudly be hoisted at every home. Chief Minister Yadav was

addressing the participants of the Tiranga Yatra on the occasion of the inauguration of the Tiranga Yatra being taken out by Karm Shri Sanstha from Mother Teresa School on Kolar Road under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan. He inaugurated the Yatra with the national anthem Jana-Gana-Mana. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav leads the Yatra by waving the tricolor while riding in a jeep. A large number of citizens including MLA and former Protom Speaker Shri Rameshwar Sharma were present on this occasion. Chief Minister Yadav highlighted that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are advancing on a development trajectory fueled by our intellect, dedication, and efficiency. The state has made significant strides in agriculture and farming, and is now actively promoting industrial

activities and information technology. This strategic focus is aimed at generating abundant employment opportunities for the youth. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yadav, the Tiranga Yatra saw youth on motorcycles proudly waving the tricolor as they participated. Children from School lined both sides of the road, enthusiastically waving their flags and greeting the procession with chants of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai." The Yatra received a warm reception, with social and business organizations, community workers, and women's groups setting up platforms along Kolar Road. Police constables on duty joined in the celebration, waving the tricolor from their motorcycles. Vehicles, shops, and homes along the route were adorned with the flag, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with patriotic fervor.

## Complex surgery at BMHRC relieves 30-year-old woman from advanced pancreatic cancer

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old woman suffering from pancreatic cancer underwent a complex surgery at BMHRC. The doctors from the hospital's surgical oncology department, along with other physicians and their team, successfully performed this surgery. In this case, the cancer had adhered to the blood vessel near the pancreas, making even a small mistake during surgery potentially fatal for the patient. Typically, such operations take around 10-12 hours, but this surgery was completed in just 3-4 hours. The patient's condition has significantly improved, and she has been discharged from the hospital. The patient received free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Dr Sonveer Gautam, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology said that the woman had been battling pancreatic cancer for the past four months. She was admitted to another hospital for surgery, but the doctors there refused to operate, stating that the cancer had spread from the pancreas to the nearby blood vessel, the portal vein. The portal vein is a very important vein that carries blood from the gastrointestinal tract, gallbladder, pancreas,



and spleen to the liver. Surgery could have caused the vein to rupture, which would have been fatal for the patient. Subsequently, the patient came to BMHRC. Considering her condition, we decided to undertake this risky surgery. After discussing the case with Interventional Radiologist Dr Radheshyam Meena, it was determined that the cancer could be removed from the blood vessel. The operation was then performed and was completely successful. He mentioned that such operations usually take about 10-12 hours, but we completed it in just 4 hours. This helped in the patient's speedy recovery. Typically, these operations require blood transfusions due to blood loss, but in this case, there was no need for an external blood transfusion. The patient's condition has now significantly improved, and she has been discharged from the hospital. Dr Manisha Srivastava, Acting Director, BMHRC,

Bhopal said, "The patient came to BMHRC in a very critical condition. The cancer had spread extensively, and the surgery was very risky. It is very satisfying for us that the patient has now recovered and returned home." What is Pancreatic Cancer? Pancreatic cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the pancreas, which is located in the lower part of the abdomen. The pancreas produces enzymes that help in digestion and hormones that aid in blood sugar control.

## PBPartners, PoSP model providing a platform for growth and success

New Delhi: PBPartners, a brand under Policybazaar Insurance Brokers has achieved significant milestones over the last 3 years by adopting cutting-edge technology. This approach has attracted numerous agent partners, leading to exceptional success stories like that of the father-son duo from Indore, Vivek and Prasanna Moghe. With 31 years of industry experience, Vivek Moghe recognized the immense potential of insurance sector and introduced his son, Prasanna, to the field six years ago, representing the impactful growth that PBPartners encourages. A remarkable journey of father-son duo Prasanna Moghe joined PBPartners two years ago and is impressed by the opportuni-

ties, services, and resources the company provides to its agent partners. Under his father's guidance and experience, he is excelling with PBPartners. Both Vivek and Prasanna feel that PBPartners, through its PoSP model, has truly revolutionized the insurance industry, providing a platform for growth and success. Seamless claims experience PBPartners ensures that claims process should be fully transparent and efficient for its agent partners and customers alike. Prasanna Moghe highlighted, "I have never encountered a claims process as streamlined as the one offered here at PBPartners. They have a dedicated claim assistance team to help customers navigate the process smoothly."



Madhya Pradesh State Assembly illuminated with lighting on the eve of Independence Day in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

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### STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		30-Jun-24 Unaudited	30-Jun-23 Audited	31-Mar-24 Audited	31-Mar-24 Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	873.20	710.14	1034.64	3596.49
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	160.93	97.58	61.21	275.36
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	160.93	97.58	61.21	275.36
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	111.93	70.44	13.86	144.29
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	111.93	68.83	17.46	143.00
6.	Equity Share Capital	1059.01	1,059.01	1059.01	1059.01
7.	Other Equity	2060.03	2060.03	2042.63	1969.98
8.	Earnings per equity share (for Continuing and Discontinuing Operations)				
	- Basic (₹)	1.06	0.67	0.13	1.36
	- Diluted (₹)	1.06	0.67	0.13	1.36

### STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		30-Jun-24 Unaudited	30-Jun-23 Unaudited	31-Mar-24 Audited	31-Mar-24 Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	869.38	717.81	1025.29	3589.12
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	151.11	101.12	50.50	258.16
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	151.11	101.12	49.92	258.16
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	104.24	72.96	(38.19)	131.53
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	104.24	71.35	(34.61)	130.24
6.	Equity Share Capital	1059.01	1,059.01	1059.01	1059.01
7.	Other Equity	1998.48	1,920.45	1894.47	1894.47
8.	Earnings per equity share (for Continuing and Discontinuing Operations)				
	- Basic (₹)	0.98	0.69	-0.38	1.24
	- Diluted (₹)	0.98	0.69	-0.36	1.24

- The above unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 were reviewed by the audit committee and thereafter approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024. The auditors have issued unqualified audit opinion on these results. The Ind AS compliant financial results subjected to limited review or audit. However, the management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that the financial results provide a true and fair view of its affair
- The above Standalone and Consolidated financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (~Ind AS\*) as prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015, as amended.
- In accordance with Ind AS 108, the Board of directors, being the Chief operating decision maker of the Company, has determined that the Company's primary business segment is manufacturer of Electrical Items; Control & Relay Panel, Bus Transfer System, Ultracapacitors, Waste to Compost Machine etc and there are no separate reportable segments as per Ind AS 108. Thus, the segment revenue, segment results, total carrying amount of segment assets, total carrying amount of segment liabilities, total cost incurred to acquire segment assets, total amount of charge for depreciation during the year is as reflected in the financial statements. The Company's operations are such that all activities are confined only to India.
- The Company is currently involved in an ongoing dispute concerning its ownership of shares in Enerqual Technology Private Limited entity (Associate Entity). The nature of the litigation precludes us from disclosing specific details at this time. While the outcome remains uncertain, the dispute is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. Due to the ongoing nature of the litigation, it is not currently possible to determine the extent of this impact.
- The Group has a 20% equity interest in Epsilon Ten Ltd, a company incorporated outside India. The Associate entity has not prepared the financial statement due to which we could not get the audited results of the Associate. Further the management is actively following up with the Associate to get the financial results so that the impact of the same can be included in the consolidated financial results of the Group.
- As mentioned in Note (d) and (e) above regarding the ongoing dispute with the Associate company, the Company is not able to obtain sufficient and appropriate information due to which the impact of share of profit/(loss) in Associate is not included in the consolidated financial results of the Company
- The previous period figures have been regrouped/ reclassified, wherever necessary to conform to the current period presentation.

**Bank of Baroda** बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा  
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Phone - +91-761-2409255, Email - sarjab@bankofbaroda.com

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagee (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "Without legal recourse basis" for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagee (s) / Guarantor (s) / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

S. No.	Name of Branch	Name & address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Total Dues	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any name of Property Owner / Nature of Possession	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price	Status of Possession Constructive/ Physical	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	ROSARB JABALPUR	1. M/s Reshma Saket Prop. Reshma Saket w/o Mr. Satish Saket Address:- R/o 128/45, Kuthuliya Bichiya, Tehsil - Huzur, Rewa, Distt. (M.P.) 486001 2. Reshma Saket w/o Mr. Satish Saket (Prop.) Address:- R/o 128/45, Kuthuliya Bichiya, Tehsil - Huzur, Rewa, Distt. Rcw, (M.P.) 486001 3. Mr. Satish Kumar Saket s/o Late. Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Saket (Gurantor) Address :- R/o Ward No. 45, Kuthuliya Bichiya, Tehsil - Huzur, Rcw, Distt. - Rewa, (M.P.) 486001 4. Mr. Rajneesh Kumar Saket s/o Late Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Saket (Gurantor) Address:- R/o Ward No. 45, Kuthuliya Bichiya, Tehsil Huzur, Rewa, Distt. Rewa, (M.P.) 486001	Rs. 22,89,338.40/- + interest and charges	EM of immovable property at Land Khasra No. 340/3, Rakwa 0.006 Hect. Remaining area 0.005 Hect, Land Khasra No. - 341/1/1/7, Rakwa 0.099 Hect remaining area 0.052 Hect. Total Kita 2, Total Rakwa 0.057 Hect. Situated at Village Kuthuliya, Ward No. 45, Patwari Halka Chirahula 34, R.I.C. Rewa, Teh. Huzur, Distt Rewa (M.P.) in the name of Mr. Satish Kumar Saket and Rajnish Kumar Saket Both S/o Late Sudarshan Prasad Saket. <b>Boundaries:-</b> North - Land of Abhishek Parihar, South - Land of Rajendra Tiwari, East - Land of Ramesh Sondhiya & others, West - Rewa Balsa Road	20/09/2024 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Rs. 25,65,000/- EMD Bid Increase amt. Rs. 2,56,500/- Rs. 10,000/-	Symbolic	14/09/2024

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofbaroda.in/eauction.html> and <https://ebkray.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer Ph.No.: 0761-2409255, 9109440636.  
Place: Jabalpur, Date: 15.08.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank Of Baroda



# SC allows mineral-rich States to claim royalties from 2005 Modi, Shah recall Partition horrors

PTI | NEW DELHI

In a major victory for mineral-rich States, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed them to seek dues from April 1, 2005 on royalty and tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land from the Centre in a staggered period of 12 years.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the argument for prospective effect of July 25 is rejected. Pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, CJI Chandrachud said by a 8:1 majority, this Court had on July 25 answered the questions referred to it and held that legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with States.

He said after the pronouncement of the July 25 verdict, the assessees sought prospective effect of the decision and the matter was listed on July 31 to decide the effect of verdict.

The Centre has opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty levied on mines and minerals since 1989, saying it will impact the citizens and the PSUs will have to empty their coffers by Rs 70,000



crore according to initial estimates.

"The submission that the Mineral Area Development Authority Act (MADA July 25 verdict) be given prospective effect is rejected," the bench said and laid down conditionalities for payment of dues by the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector Undertakings, to the States, "While the states may levy or renew demands of tax, if any pertaining to Entries 49 and 50 of List II of seventh schedule of the Constitution, in terms of law laid down in the decision of MADA (July 25 verdict). The demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005," the

bench said. Entry 49 of List II deals with taxes on lands and buildings while Entry 50 deals with taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development. The bench also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih, said "the time for payment of demand of tax (by States) shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026".

The top Court directed that the levy of interest and penalty on demands of taxes by States from the Centre and

mining companies made before the period of July 25, 2024 shall stand waived for all the assessees.

CJI Chandrachud said this verdict will be signed by eight-judges of the bench who by majority decided the July 25 judgement giving the State's power to levy taxes on mineral rights.

He said Justice Nagarathna will not sign Wednesday's verdict as she had given a dissenting view in the July 25 verdict.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for Jharkhand, said there still remains one issue that the State's Act to collect royalty on minerals and mineral-bearing land, which was set aside needs to be upheld. "Unless the Act is declared valid, we cannot collect taxes on minerals and mineral-bearing land.

Please list it expeditiously before the appropriate bench," Dwivedi, who appeared along with senior advocate Tapesh Kumar Singh for Jharkhand, said.

Dwivedi was referring to the decision of Ranchi bench of the Patna High Court that had struck down Section 89 of the Mineral Area

Development Authority Act of 1992 vide its judgment dated March 22, 1993. Section 89 of the Mineral Area Development Authority Act empowered the State Government of then undivided Bihar to levy tax on not only mineral-bearing land but also land used for commercial or industrial purposes.

CJI Chandrachud assured Dwivedi that he will issue directions on the administrative side for urgent listing of the matter. During the hearing on July 31, the Centre and mining companies have opposed the demand of States for refund of royalty collected since 1989. The July 25 verdict had overruled a 1989 judgement and subsequent decisions of the apex Court, which held that only the Centre has power to impose royalty on minerals and mineral bearing land.

Some Opposition-ruled mineral rich States then sought refund of royalty levied by the Centre and taxes from the mining companies since the 1989 verdict.

The matter of refund was heard on July 31 and order was reserved.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition. Modi recalled the sufferings of people impacted by it and reiterated the commitment to always protecting the bonds of unity and brotherhood in the nation.

The Modi Government has been observing August 14 as the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' since 2021 in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the country's partition.

On the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, Prime Minister Modi said on Wednesday, "We recall the countless people who were

impacted and greatly suffered due to the horrors of Partition. It is also a day to pay tributes to their courage, which illustrates the power of human resilience.

A lot of those impacted by Partition went on to rebuild their lives and attain immense success." He added, "Today, we also reiterate our commitment to always protect the bonds of unity and brotherhood in our nation."

Home Minister Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition in 1947, saying a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful country. Pakistan was carved out as a Muslim country after the division of India by the British colonial rule on this day in 1947.

Millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives as large scale rioting took place following the partition.

"On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day my homage to the millions who suffered inhumane pains, lost lives, turned homeless during this most hideous episode of our history," Shah said in a social media message.

The Home Minister said a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge powerful.

He said observing this day is a foundational exercise in the process of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While making the announcement about the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in 2021, Modi had said the day would be observed in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people as the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

Modi had also noted that millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition. India will be celebrating its Independence Day on Thursday.

# Uproar over Kolkata doctor rape-murder case

## Rahul criticises handling of case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Amid the uproar over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration.

The entire country is shocked by the gruesome incident of rape and murder of the junior doctor in Kolkata, said the former Congress President, adding there is an atmosphere of insecurity among the doctors' community and women with the revelations about the manner of the cruel and inhuman act against her.

"The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration," Rahul said in a social media post.

"This incident has forced us to think that if doctors are not safe in a place like a medical college, then how can the parents send their daughters outside for studies? Why are even the strict laws made after the Nirbhaya case unsuccessful in preventing such crimes?" he said.

Every party, every section of



the society will have to hold serious discussions and take concrete steps on the continuously increasing incidents against women from Hathras to Unnao, and from Kathua to Kolkata, he said.

"I stand with the victim's family in their unbearable pain. They should get justice at all costs and the culprits should be given such a punishment that it serves as an example in society," Rahul said.

The body of the woman post-graduate trainee was found inside a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on the morning of August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested on Saturday in connection with the crime. Junior doctors across West Bengal continued to cease work on Wednesday, the sixth day on

the trot, protesting against the alleged rape and murder of the woman doctor at the State-run medical college and hospital and demanding justice for her.

The ongoing protest affected the healthcare services and long queues of patients were seen at the outpatient departments (OPDs) of all Government hospitals. The agitating junior doctors have been pressing for a magisterial probe into the killing of the woman doctor and the removal of senior officials from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

# BJP seeks Mamata's resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of siding with the accused instead of the victim in the case of rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, and demanded her resignation.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that no woman in the State will feel safe if she continues as Chief Minister. "You (Banerjee) did not perform your moral duty. You should immediately resign," he told reporters, alleging that she tried to save the accused of the crime, which has shocked the nation.

Bhatia cited the critical comments of the Calcutta High Court about the handling of the case before it transferred the investigation to the CBI, as he addressed the CM as "nirmamta" (pitiless) Banerjee.

He expressed confidence that the CBI will ensure a thorough probe and that the guilty are hanged. He said the local police first informed the victim's parents that their daughter was sick and then claimed that she had committed suicide.

The parents were made to wait for three hours before they could see her body, he said, alleging that attempts



were made to destroy evidence and shield the accused. Before doing a thorough probe, the police rejected the possibility of a gangrape, he said.

The State Government instead of acting against the principal of the medical college, where the victim worked and the incident happened, transferred him in the same position to another college, he said.

The police did not initially lodge an FIR and termed the case as that of an unnatural death, Bhatia said, hitting out at Banerjee for allegedly shielding the accused and trying to brush the crime under the carpet.

Amid outrage, Banerjee said she will transfer the case to the CBI if it was not solved in a few days, he noted, suggesting that it was a deliberate attempt on her part to destroy evidence as first 48 hours are very important in such cases.

Law and order has collapsed in the State, he said, while also referring to the Sandeshkhali case in which a

local Trinamool Congress strongman was the main accused.

The Chief Minister tried to protect the accused in this case as well, and he was acted against only after the Court handed over the probe to the CBI, he said.

In the doctor's rape and murder case, the victim's family has expressed its lack of confidence in the local police, he said. Bhatia also slammed INDIA bloc, of which the TMC is a part, saying they are "political cultures" who have chosen to maintain silence over the case for political reasons.

He accused the Opposition parties of pandering to minorities votes, especially Muslims, by keeping selective silence over the targeting of Hindus in Bangladesh.

He said only after the BJP raised the issue, the Congress at a "belated stage" made comments on the matter as well but tried to create an "artificial equivalence" that Hindus also indulge in such acts.



# India's conservation push sees three wetlands get Ramsar designation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

In a boost to India's environmental conservation efforts, three new wetlands---the Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, along with the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh have been designated as Ramsar sites, elevating the country's total to 85 such globally significant ecosystems.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav proudly announced this development on social media platform X, stating, "As the nation gears up to celebrate its Independence Day, we are thrilled to share that we have added three Ramsar sites to our network. This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 1,358,068 hectares in India.

The achievement reflects the emphasis Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid on establishing harmony with nature, calling our wetlands Amrit Dharohars, and working relentlessly for their conservation."

This achievement highlights India's growing commitment to preserving its rich and diverse wetland habitats, which are crucial for maintaining global biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods, added an official from the Ministry.

Tamil Nadu now boasts the highest number of Ramsar sites, with a total of 18,

followed by Uttar Pradesh with 10.

This impressive increase in Ramsar sites, from 26 a decade ago to 85 till date, reflects a significant policy push from the Government. Over the past three years alone, 41 sites have been added, underscoring the country's proactive stance on environmental conservation, he said.

The Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, is an international agreement focused on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

India ratified this vital treaty on February 1, 1982, committing to the protection and wise use of its wetland ecosystems.

The latest additions to the Ramsar list span over 1.35 million hectares, showcasing a diverse array of ecological significance.

The Ramsar list aims to create and maintain an international network of wetlands that are crucial for conserving biological diversity and sustaining human life through the preservation of their ecosystem functions and benefits.

This recent expansion of Ramsar sites not only enhances India's role in global environmental stewardship but also reinforces the country's dedication to preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

# Modi to unfurl Tricolour for 11th time in a row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag for the 11th time in a row on Thursday on Independence Day, the annual event where he lays out his Government's agenda, presents its report card, makes important policy and programme announcements and speaks about burning issues.

His first Independence Day address of his third term will take him past Manmohan Singh, who unfurled the Tricolour 10 times from the

ramparts of Red Fort during 2004-2014, and place him behind Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, who did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.

While the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' is expected to animate his address, there is a view that the crisis in Bangladesh, especially the targeting of minority Hindus, may find a mention in his speech, more so as Hindutva groups have strongly taken up the issue and hit the streets.

Modi may also speak about the mandate for his



Government for a third straight term, though with a reduced majority, and dwell at length on how reforms, development programmes and welfare measures rolled out in the last 10 years have impacted the lives of the people.

It will be eagerly seen if the Prime Minister announces any new initiative or expand the ambit of some ongoing welfare programmes at a time when a combined Opposition, at its strongest in the last 10 years, has pivoted to populist welfare promises to draw support. Jammu and

Kashmir has often figured in his August 15 speeches as the Government has worked overtime to reconfigure the security and development paradigms in the erstwhile State, now a Union territory, since scrapping Article 370 in 2019.

The Supreme Court has set September 30 as the deadline for the holding of assembly elections there. There is also anticipation that some of the key decisions taken by the Government since he assumed the office in June for a third term may be highlighted by him.

# India's first dengue vaccine enters phase 3 trials

ARCHANA JYOTI | NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec marked a significant milestone with the launch of the Phase 3 clinical trial for DengiAll, India's first indigenous dengue vaccine from Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak where the first participant in the trial was vaccinated on Wednesday.

The Phase 3 trial will involve over 10,335 healthy adult participants across 19 sites in

18 States and Union Territories.

This extensive study aims to evaluate the vaccine's efficacy and will follow participants for two years.

In light of the escalating dengue cases, which have become a public health crisis in India, Union Health Minister JP Nadda praised the move saying that "The initiation of this Phase 3 clinical trial for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue." Emphasising the importance

of the collaboration between ICMR and Panacea Biotec for the development of the dengue vaccine, Nadda noted that "Through this partnership, we are not only taking a step towards ensuring the health and well-being of our people but also reinforcing our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the healthcare sector."

India faces a significant challenge with dengue, having no antiviral treatments or licensed vaccines available. The complexity of developing an



effective vaccine lies in the need to address all four serotypes of the dengue virus, which circulate extensively

across various regions. Dengue has over the years become a major public health concern in India, ranking among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease. The rising incidence of dengue in India has raised significant concern. Earlier this month, the Health Ministry informed Parliament that India had seen 32,091 dengue cases in the first six months of 2024, representing a 75 per cent increase compared to the 18,391 cases reported during the same period in 2023.

The tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV-003/TV005), initially developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, has shown promising results in preclinical and clinical trials globally.

Panacea Biotec, one of three Indian companies to receive this strain, has made the most progress in developing a complete vaccine formulation.

The trial is primarily funded by ICMR with partial support from Panacea Biotec. The company holds a process

patent for this work. Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of the Indian vaccine formulation were completed in 2018-19, yielding promising results.

According to a WHO report approximately 75-80 per cent of infections in India are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.

Among the 20-25 per cent of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality.



# BJP sweeps Panchayat polls in Tripura, wins 97% of seats



**PTI n AGARTALA**  
The ruling BJP swept the three-tier Panchayat polls in Tripura, winning 97 per cent of seats, an official said on Wednesday. The BJP secured victory uncontested in 71 per cent of the seats in Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads. The voting for the remaining 29 per cent seats was held on August 8 and the counting ended on Tuesday. The party won 584 Gram Panchayats out of 606, 34 of 35 Panchayat Samitis and eight out of eight Zilla Parishads, the official said. The saffron party had won the both Lok Sabha seats in the northeastern state in June. Out of 96 seats contested in eight Zilla Parishads, the BJP won 93 seats, while the Congress and CPI(M) emerged victorious in two and one seat respectively, State Election Commissioner Asit Kumar Das said.

In the case of Panchayat Samitis, the state's party won 173 of the total 188 seats where voting was held. The CPI(M) and the Congress bagged six and eight seats respectively. Das said that the BJP won 1,476 of the 1,819 Gram Panchayats seats contested. The CPI(M), Congress and the Tipra Motha got 148, 151, and 24 seats respectively. The BJP thanked people for showing faith in the BJP in the Panchayat elections. The opposition parties, however, said that they could not field candidates in 71 per cent of the seats because of the alleged terror tactics of the ruling party. Chief Minister Manik Saha said, "The mandate shows the people continue to keep faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his development programmes. The BJP won 97 per cent of the seats with huge margins. There must be an effort to win 100 per cent of seats in the Panchayat polls in

future." BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee said the party's average winning margin stands at 97 per cent. The opposition CPI(M), however, termed the poll verdict as "an alarm call" for the ruling dispensation as the saffron party faced tough fight in those areas where the opposition parties managed to field candidates. "One CPI(M) candidate of Zilla Parishad was killed at Rajnagar in South Tripura district by the ruling party's goons. Despite winning 71 per cent seats, the ruling party terrorized workers of the opposition parties during the election and counting process," Leader of the Opposition in the Tripura Assembly Jitendra Chaudhury said. The BJP faced strong resistance and defeat in the areas where the opposition could field candidates, the CPI(M) leader claimed.

# Kerala landslides: CM announces ` 6 L compensation to kin of deceased

**PTI n THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs six lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the massive landslides that hit Wayanad district recently and claimed over 200 lives. Vijayan said that of the Rs six lakh, Rs four lakh would come from the State Disaster Relief Fund and the remaining from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund (CMDRF). He also announced that Rs 75,000 would be allocated from the CMDRF to those who lost eyes and limbs or suffered disability up to 60 per cent in the landslides. The CM also said that Rs 50,000 financial assistance would be given to those who suffered disability between 40 to 60 per cent or suffered very

serious injuries in the disaster. Besides that, the survivors opting for rented accommodation or living with their relatives will get Rs 6,000 per month towards rent as part of the rehabilitation of the victims, he said. This amount, however, will not be available to those who get rent-free or fully sponsored accommodation, he added. In cases of partial sponsorship, the remaining amount will be allowed as monthly rent up to a maximum of Rs 6,000, the CM said at a press conference here. Vijayan also said that so far 231 bodies and 206 body parts have been found, following the massive landslides that hit parts of Wayanad on July 30. A total of 401 samples of bodies and body parts underwent DNA testing and of them 349 were found to be



of 248 persons — 121 males and 127 females, he further said. The CM also said that the five-member expert team led by senior scientist John Matthai of the National Centre for Geosciences,

which has been tasked by the State Disaster Management Authority to inspect the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad's Meppadi panchayat, was carrying out its work. The team will assess the

possible dangers in different parts of the disaster-stricken area and nearby sites as well as how the disaster happened and what phenomena occurred in the landslides, he said. Vijayan further said that additionally a drone-based LIDAR survey will also be carried out to determine what is underneath the disaster-stricken areas and how the land there can be used in future. Major landslides hit the Mundakkai and Chooralamala regions of Wayanad on July 30 almost decimating both the areas. On the same day, several landslides had also hit Vilangad in Kozhikode district, the CM said, adding that a separate rehabilitation package will be worked out for that area also once the authorities complete their inspection and evaluation of the devastation there.

# Assembly adopts resolution for grant of statehood to Puducherry

**PTI n PUDUCHERRY**  
The Puducherry Assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to concede the plea of the union territory for full statehood. The resolution was first tabled jointly by the DMK legislators R Siva, A M H Nazeem and R Senthilkumar and by independent member G Nehru alias Kuppusamy. The resolution was subsequently adopted as an official resolution on a request by Chief Minister N Rangasamy. Earlier moving the resolution, Siva said Puducherry had been a Union Territory since its freedom from French rule

some seventy years ago. While other Union Territories like Goa have become full-fledged states and have made stupendous progress, Puducherry had been under the rule by the Union Home Ministry since its merger with the Indian Union. "If Puducherry becomes a state the expectations of the people for fast development in all sectors would be realised in practice," Siva said. The demand for statehood for Puducherry had been made since 1972 and the Centre's attention had also been drawn to the plea, the resolution said. Despite repeated pleas, Centre had not formed any committee and had taken the stand that the present status

(of Puducherry being a Union Territory) would continue. Hence, the Centre should be urged without a break for grant of full-fledged statehood so that the rights of the people would be respected. "The Centre should concede the demand," the resolution stated. The other DMK members Nazeem and Senthilkumar and the independent member Nehru made a convincing case for grant of statehood for Puducherry. There was also a suggestion that a joint delegation of leaders of all political parties, legislators and Ministers should go to Delhi and persuade the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Finance Minister to ensure

that Puducherry became a full-fledged state. After listening to the views of the members and also their 'emotional and spirited' demand for statehood, the Chief Minister pointed out that the private member resolution be treated as an official resolution. He welcomed the suggestion of the members who had tabled the resolution that a delegation be taken to the Centre to meet the Prime Minister, Home and Finance Ministers to push the demand for statehood. He also said that the cooperation of MPs from different states could also be sought to back the demand of Puducherry for statehood.

# Potholes on Goa roads: Show-cause notices to over 100 contractors

**PTI n PANAJI**  
The Goa government on Wednesday issued show-cause notices to more than 100 contractors and said government engineers would be held responsible for any accident due to pothole on roads in the coastal state. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who holds the Public Works Department (PWD) portfolio, told reporters that roads in the state would be pothole-free by the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the most prominent festivals of Goa, would be celebrated next month. Sawant held a meeting with senior PWD officials to take stock of the road conditions in the state. The CM said he has instructed senior PWD officials that if there is any accident due to pothole on a road, then the engineer concerned would be held responsible and action would be initiated against him/her. Show-cause notices have been issued to engineers and more than 100 road contractors, he said. The road contractors will have to fill the potholes on a priority basis and they are supposed to do so as per the "defect liability" clause, he said. There would be no additional financial burden on the state government to fill these potholes, he said. All the contractors will be asked to re-do the roads after October, without being paid extra money, the CM said. "The system will have to be accountable" and that is why the state government is taking several stringent steps for the safety of people, he said.

# 20 years after I-Day blast, victims' families hold on to SC as last straw for justice

**PTI n DHEMAJI (ASSAM)**  
Shanti Gogoi has been waiting for 20 long years, seeking justice for the killing of her daughter-in-law and her unborn child in an ULFA-orchestrated bomb blast during the Independence Day celebration in Assam's Dhemaji town. Gogoi's daughter-in-law and 12 other people, including three children, were killed in the explosion that occurred minutes before the flag hoisting ceremony at the parade ground in the northern Assam town in 2004. The explosion was a defining moment in ULFA's history, as the outfit began losing support and sympathy for targeting innocent people since then. An apprehension that justice has eluded the victims has seeped in since the Gauhati

High Court acquitted all the accused in the case, exactly a year ago. Gogoi, a retired school teacher, and others are now pinning their last hopes on the Supreme Court for justice. "The blast happened in front of hundreds of people after they gathered at the Dhemaji College field for the Independence Day celebration. But there is no witness to say who planted the explosives or who was behind it," questions Gogoi, whose daughter-in-law Namita died in the blast with the two-month foetus in her womb. She wondered whether the police expected the witnesses to testify without any apprehension in such cases. In August 2023, Gauhati High Court acquitted all six accused due to "lack of sufficient evi-



dence", overturning a conviction by a lower court. The Dhemaji district and sessions court had in 2019 sentenced four of the accused to life imprisonment and two others to four years in jail in the

case. For Gogoi, her neighbour Nityananda Saikia and families of other victims, the last hope is the Supreme Court, which is hearing a case filed by the Assam government challenging the High Court order. "The High Court order needs to be reviewed. We remain hopeful that the Supreme Court will give us justice," Saikia, who lost both his teenage sisters in the blast, told PTI. A class 12 student himself in 2004 who was present at the blast site, Saikia is now a lawyer, having taken up the profession to better understand how the culprits can be brought to book through the legal system. "We received a letter informing us that the state government will be taking up the case in the apex court," Saikia said. He showed the letter, kept by his mother in a plastic folder along with other papers related to her two daughters' death. Saikia's younger brother is a businessman and the family may appear to have moved on

over the years, but the scar runs deep. "Bomb detectors did not work. The police submitted a charge sheet with plenty of loopholes. And there was no political will to bring those responsible to justice," Saikia claimed. He also questioned the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which had initially denied involvement but later tendered a public apology, for the reasons behind such killings. "For whom were they fighting? What were their objectives?" the distraught brother of two young sisters who perished in front of him asked. The hexagenarian Gogoi echoed similar sentiments. "Whatever be their objective, the ULFA could have surely tried to attain it without shedding so much blood of the

innocent," she said. A day after the blast, ULFA's then chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, who signed a peace pact with the government last year, had said in a statement that security forces had used school children as shields to defy the outfit's boycott call. In 2009, the outfit's commander-in-chief Paresw Barua had sought a public apology and claimed that they were misled by some cadres for which they were forced to deny the outfit's involvement. Barua is still waging an armed struggle for a 'sovereign' Assam, leading ULFA (Independent) faction. With Independence Day being celebrated with pomp over the years, the sorrow of these victims' families looms in the shadows, holding on to the last flicker of hope for justice.

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# Assam hospital cancels advisory to women doctors

**PTI n GUWAHATI**  
The Silchar Medical College and Hospital in Assam on Wednesday cancelled its advisory to women doctors and other staffers asking them to avoid going alone to isolated places at night. SMCH's Principal cum Chief Superintendent Dr Bhaskar Gupta had issued the advisory, following the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. "The advisory issued earlier stands cancelled and a new advisory will be issued soon in this regard," Gupta said. It was cancelled following protests from students who demanded enhanced security measures in the hospital. Gupta said that the advisory was issued to enhance the safety and security of women doctors, students and all healthcare workers on the campus. According to it, women doctors, students and staffers should generally avoid 'isolated, poorly lit and sparsely populated areas'. They should avoid situations, as much as possible, where



they are "alone", the advisory said. The authorities also urged them to "refrain from leaving hostels or lodging rooms during night hours, unless absolutely necessary without prior information to the concerned authority". They were also asked to "avoid going off-campus during late or odd hours, to avoid associating with unknown individuals and to ensure that they can make emergency contact in case of urgent situations". The advisory also stated that while on duty "you should be well composed emotionally, remain alert about the surroundings and should graciously interact with the

public so that you don't attract unnecessary attention from unscrupulous people". Any issue or grievance should be immediately communicated to the chairman/ members of the gender harassment committee and anti-ragging and disciplinary panels, the advisory stated. The students, however, protested against the advisory and demanded that the security on the campus be improved. Junior Doctors' Association (JDA) president Salman Choudhury said they were 'deeply saddened and ashamed'. "The advisory fails to address the key issues, pertaining to SMCH and is outrageous," he said. Choudhury urged the authorities to ensure proper functioning of lighting in the hospital area, enhanced security measures, dedicated washroom facilities, security in doctors' rooms and installation of CCTV cameras.

# Vet team treks 22 km to save over 600 goats, sheep in remote Himachal



**PTI n SHIMLA**  
A four-member team led by a veterinarian trekked 22 km to reach Gaddi shepherds to save hundreds of goats and sheep from a respiratory disease in Himachal Pradesh's tribal Lahaul and Spiti district, officials said on Wednesday. A three-day camp was set up at Batal from August 3-6 for treating the ailing livestock in the remote Bindi Padhar grazing area near Chandratol, a statement issued here said. The sheep and goats had developed lung congestion and respiratory issues, to respond to which the shepherds crossed several streams without proper safety equipment for seeking help. Upon information about the outbreak, a specialised team led by Veterinary Officer Dr Anurag, who was accompanied by pharmacist Amar Singh and two attendants — Roshan Lal and

Kujang Thilley — was dispatched from Keylong to Batal, the release said. Dr Amitabh, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, who supervised the entire planning and execution, said after reaching the Bindi Padhar grazing area, the team inspected over 2,000 goats and treated over 600 sick goats, it added. They also monitored the health of 13 herds over the three days and physically examined them. Anurag said the team focused on treating goats that were severely ill by arranging immediate medical facilities and vaccines, which led to a noticeable improvement in the condition of the animals. The Gaddi shepherds appreciated the efforts of the veterinary team, saying their livestock could have suffered significant losses without the timely medical assistance, the release added.

# BANGLADESH TURMOIL Cong MLA urges PM not to hesitate to take action like Indira did in 1971

**PTI n BENGALURU**  
Expressing concern over the political turmoil and reported atrocities against Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, a Karnataka Congress legislator on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to hesitate to take decisive military action like former PM late Indira Gandhi did in 1971. Rizwan Arshad, who represents Shivajinagar Assembly constituency in Bengaluru, in a letter to Modi, also appealed to him to take "decisive action" to not only address concerns of minorities in Bangladesh but also in India, who have been under "constant attack both economically and socially by the right wing." "I write to you today as a concerned citizen of India deeply distressed by the recent reports and videos circulating on social media, highlighting the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh and the atrocities being reported against Hindu minorities in the region," Arshad said. If these reports are true, given the historical and cultural ties between India and Bangladesh,



it is imperative that India takes a "proactive stance" in addressing these issues, he said. Noting that the safety and well-being of the Hindu minorities in Bangladesh should be of paramount concern, the MLA urged the Prime Minister to engage with the new Bangladeshi government to ensure that immediate and effective measures are taken to protect their rights and dignity. "The right-wing social media influencers and handles in India have been circulating news which if true (many have been found fake too), I urge the Government of India to ascer-

tain the authenticity of these reports/videos. If they are proven true, the Government of India should take firm action," he said. The people of India have always stood for justice, peace, and the protection of human rights, Arshad said. "As our Prime Minister, you should not hesitate to take decisive military action like Smt. Indira Gandhi did in 1971. I request you to use your esteemed office to extend a hand of support to our Hindu brothers and sisters in Bangladesh during this critical time." "I trust that under your leadership, India will take decisive action to not only address concerns of minorities in Bangladesh but also in India, who have been under constant attack both economically and socially by the right wing," he said, and requested him to work towards ensuring the safety and security of our Hindu brethren in Bangladesh and fellow citizens, in particular minorities of India.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Happy Independence Day

As the proud nation celebrates the 78th Independence day it is time to ponder over the journey so far

As we celebrate 78th Independence Day, the air is filled with pride, nostalgia, and hope. This day is not just a commemoration of freedom from colonial rule but a reflection on the journey that has shaped the country. The path to where we stand today, has been nothing short of a roller coaster-marked by triumphs and challenges. As the nation looks back on its accomplishments, it must also cast its eyes forward, contemplating the road that lies ahead. India's post-independence journey has been a remarkable tale of resilience and growth. From the ashes of partition and the burden of colonial exploitation, the nation emerged with a spirit of unity and determination. The early years were fraught with challenges – economic instability, social unrest, and the monumental task of nation-building. Yet, India persisted. The Green Revolution transformed India from a food-deficient country to a self-sufficient one, while the White Revolution made the country the largest producer of milk. It made great strides in space exploration and reached the moon. The nation also saw the rise of a strong industrial base. However, the road was never smooth. India saw wars, political turmoil, and economic crises. The Emergency period in the mid-1970s was a dark chapter, testing the resilience of its democracy. The 1991 economic liberalisation marked a turning point, propelling India onto the global stage, but it also brought new challenges in the form of inequality and social disparities.



The turn of the millennium saw India making strides in various fields. The IT revolution positioned the country as a global technology hub, while advancements in space exploration and nuclear technology showcased

India's scientific prowess. Social progress was evident in the growing emphasis on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Landmark legislation such as the Right to Education Act and the decriminalisation of Section 377 reflected the country's commitment to social justice. Yet, there was no dearth of challenges. The rise of communal tensions, growing environmental concerns, and the struggle for inclusivity have reminded the nation that the journey is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent challenge, exposed vulnerabilities but also highlighted India's resilience, as the country emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. The nation today stands at a crossroads. The country must tackle environmental degradation, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. India's youth, now the largest demographic group, will play a crucial role. We must continue to uphold the democratic values and secular fabric. As the tricolor flutters in the wind this Independence Day, it is a reminder that this was achieved with many sacrifices and efforts on the part of millions of people who make it what it is. The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibilities. No country is perfect; it's always a work in progress. But if the people of India commit to making it a shining example for the world, it will become one. Jai Hind!

### PICTALK



Young students participate in a programme on the eve of Independence Day at a school, in Moradabad, PI

## Nano technology revolutionises car care

This cutting-edge technology is changing the car detailing process by enhancing protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal of cars

The automotive industry is progressing rapidly, with nanotechnology emerging as a transformative force in redefining car care. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionising the car detailing process and offering unmatched protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal, ushering in an exciting new era for car owners and enthusiasts.



and chemical protection. Nanotechnology offers a revolutionary approach to car detailing, providing superior protection and easier maintenance than traditional methods. There are several benefits of nanotechnology in car detailing, such as:

**Enhanced protection:** Nanoparticles form a microscopic barrier that shields the car's paint and glass and protects it from UV rays and environmental problems, such as bird droppings, during weather conditions. This results in a long-lasting shine and reduced risk of fading or wear and tear.

**Deeper cleaning and glossier finishing:** Nano-formulated polishes and cleaners can penetrate deeper into the car's surface due to the particles' tiny size. It removes dirt and grime more effectively,

revealing a glossier finish to the car after detailing. **Durability & longevity:** Nanotechnology car care products typically offer extended protection compared to traditional waxes and sealants. It translates to fewer detailing sessions and keeps the car looking its best for longer.

**Easier maintenance:** The hydrophobic coatings created by nanoparticles make future washes a breeze. Dirt and grime slide off, requiring less scrubbing and reducing the risk of introducing swirl marks.

While the benefits of nanotechnology in car care are undeniable, it is important to approach its implementation with a clear eye. Not all nano-coated products are created equal, and selecting reputable brands that adhere to stringent quality standards is crucial. Moreover, proper application and maintenance are always vital to maximising the performance and longevity of these treatments.

As nanotechnology evolves in the rapidly increasing technology world, there are expected to be even more groundbreaking advances

ments in the car care industry. The future holds immense potential, from self-healing paintwork to intelligent coatings that adapt to environmental conditions. By embracing this technology, the automotive industry can be poised to deliver cars that look stunning and offer unparalleled protection and convenience. From the car owner's perspective, there will be several benefits, such as enhanced car ownership experiences characterised by less time spent on maintenance and greater pride in the cars' appearance, instilling a sense of hope for the future of car care. In conclusion, nanotechnology is ushering in a new era in the car maintenance industry by improving aesthetics, protection, and durability & longevity.

By understanding the principles and applications of this technology, car owners can make informed decisions to optimise the care of their cars and enjoy the full benefits of this exciting development, empowering them as informed consumers in the automotive industry. (The writer is an expert on car care; views are personal)



KUNAL SETHI

# The Bangladesh cauldron is boiling

With New Delhi intensifying border controls, the evolving political landscape of Bangladesh is set to influence regional security and diplomacy



KALYANI SHANKAR

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, abruptly left her country a week ago, causing immediate concern in her country and the region. According to the BBC, Hasina's family, not security officials, convinced her to leave due to safety concerns. Her son stated, "We begged her to leave as soon as the violent mob arrived." Crowds entered her residence shortly after her escape. Political, social, and economic issues, external involvement, and unhappy political opposition caused the downfall.

India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, has informed Parliament about her visit to India and the potential impact on India's relationship with Bangladesh. The unrest that led to her departure resulted in around 560 deaths and could strain the relationship between the two countries, potentially impacting regional security and foreign relations. Initially, in her long reign of 15 years, Hasina was perceived as a democratic and secular leader of Bangladesh, overseeing an economic turnaround. However, she later became intolerant and authoritarian, cracking down on media critics and imprisoning opponents. She maintained cordial relationships with Indian leaders, which sparked anti-India protests.

Prime Minister Modi mentioned that he had met her ten times last year. The friendship has been mutual, as Begum Hasina also reciprocated by driving out the terrorists who targeted India and allowed concessions for transit facilities. She was the first state guest during the Modi government's third term. India has had a special relationship with Bangladesh since it was born in 1971. After her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh, was assassinated in 1975, Hasina spent six years in India. After that, she shifted to Dhaka to lead the Awami League. The current student protests, which started on July 5 against the 30% reservation for descendants of freedom fighters



and the 56% quota for government positions, have impacted the political situation in Bangladesh. The Hasina government's proposal to expand this quota led to widespread protests and 200 deaths. Bangladesh opposition parties organized a 'long march' to express growing discontent with the government's policies. At the international level, tensions rose between Hasina and the U.S. when her American visa was revoked after she fled the country. The U.S. State Department emphasized the importance of the interim government in establishing long-term peace and political stability in Bangladesh. The U.K. and other countries also took the same stand. The international community is working to support the interim government led by Yunus, who is responsible for restoring normalcy. New Delhi has set up a monitoring committee and increased border control to address the situation. Madam Khaleda Zia and other opposition leaders were released after Hasina's departure. During Khaleda's two terms, Bangladesh-India relations weakened. Her visit to Delhi was also a disaster. Khalida's release may enable her to lead her party, and she stressed the



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WORKING TO SUPPORT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT LED BY YUNUS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING NORMALCY. NEW DELHI HAS SET UP A MONITORING COMMITTEE AND INCREASED BORDER CONTROL TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION

need for a democratic Bangladesh and emphasized peace and unity. Hasina and Khalida's sons are ready to take over their respective parties. The potential returns of these two and the other Opposition leaders could bring significant changes to the political landscape of Bangladesh.

According to Hasina's son, she is ready to face any inquiry but has yet to decide on the party's leadership. Meanwhile, Hasina blames the U.S. for her ouster. Her son claims she had no time to resign and is still the Prime Minister. Bangladeshis have protested in front of the White House and the U.K. New Delhi closely monitors the situation, especially concerning border and regional security, as well as the security of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The Modi government is apprehensive about the safety of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi has called for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh after violent incidents targeted them. The Hindu minority also protested on the streets. Bangladesh's economy, which was looking up, is declining due to Hasina's intolerance, violence, unemployment, and inflation. The country relies on India for essential commodities and

infrastructure. India needs to reconsider its Bangladesh policy after the leader's departure. The third issue concerns the porous border between India and Bangladesh, with allegations of Bangladeshi infiltrators and refugees entering India. A friendly Hasina government helped check this problem while Khalida was in denial mode. New Delhi's decision to adopt a wait-and-watch policy is a positive step. The situation depends on the elections' timing and the two Begums' potential return. If new leadership emerges, New Delhi will need to take a stand. To maintain regional peace, India's role in assisting Bangladesh in returning to normalcy is crucial and urgent. A peaceful, stable, and prosperous Bangladesh is in India's best interests. India should do everything to ensure it. The situation is still evolving, and the uncertainty of the future political landscape of Bangladesh is palpable. We will know more once the elections are announced and the plans of the two begums are revealed. The potential return of the dynastic rule adds an element of intrigue to the situation.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LHAMO'S NEVER SAY DIE SPIRIT

Madam — Kinzang Lhamo of Bhutan may have crossed the finish line last in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, but she captured the admiration of many with her remarkable tenacity and unwavering determination. Despite battling adverse conditions, Lhamo completed the grueling 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 52 minutes, and 59 seconds, choosing to persevere rather than quit. Lhamo, embodying the spirit of the "last woman running," sends a powerful message: regardless of the final outcome, we must maximize our capabilities and approach our tasks with a positive, persistent mindset. There is no shame in finishing last if the effort was sincere and wholehearted. Bhutan has already gifted the world with its unique concept of Gross National Happiness, which measures progress through health, education, and environmental parameters rather than traditional economic metrics. The country has also demonstrated the essence of democracy by having its Royals voluntarily relinquish power to allow for a citizen-led government through free and fair elections. Now, Kinzang Lhamo emerges as Bhutan's latest treasure. At just 26 years old, she has a promising future ahead. With more experience and exposure, Lhamo is poised to elevate Bhutan's presence on the international stage.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

### PARIS OLYMPICS COME TO A CLOSE

Madam — The 2024 Paris Olympics have concluded, with India securing a total of six medals: five bronze and one silver. Despite its status as the world's most populous nation, with a staggering 1,450,935,791 people, India's medal haul, though commendable, highlights a larger issue. The United States led the medal tally with 126 medals, including 40 gold, while China followed with 91 medals and Japan with 45. These countries, despite their smaller populations compared to India, have achieved greater success by investing uniformly in a wide range of sports. In

### Har ghar tiranga!



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative has sparked a nationwide movement, awakening the spirit of patriotism across the country. This campaign has united people from every corner of India, creating an atmosphere

of pride and respect for the national flag. It fosters a deep sense of unity and encourages active participation, bringing neighbors and fellow citizens together. By embracing this movement, people are enhancing their understanding of the significance and values embodied by the Indian flag.

The campaign has revolutionized the nation's ideology, symbolizing our independence, pride, and commitment to a developed India (Viksit Bharat). It underscores India's rise as a global power, moving swiftly from a nation once seen as economically challenged to one poised to become the third-largest superpower in the world. As citizens, we are reminded of our duty to uphold the guiding principles enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Preamble, and the Constitution of India.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

India, cricket is often considered a religion, overshadowing other sports. This narrow focus, compounded by political shortsightedness, has hindered the growth and encouragement of athletic talent across other disciplines.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

### WAYANAD TRAGEDY COULD BE AVERTED

Madam — The picturesque Wayanad, a hilly district located in the Western Ghats Mountain range in Kerala, is prone to landslides during heavy rains. In Kerala's history, the landslide that occurred recently there and claimed over 400 lives was the deadliest. According to the Geological Survey of India half of Kerala's land area is vulnerable to landslides. Wayanad region has had many tea and coffee plantations. The first landslide occurred in an uninhabited forest area with no access road. The torrent of water carrying mud and boulders swept away or buried the villages of Panchirimattam, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, and wreaked havoc in Meppadi, Attamala and Kunhome.

Mundakkai is a village located more than a kilometre down from the hill that slid first. Chooralmala caved in under the pressure of gushing water from the first landslide and heavy downpour. Irunjipuzha river split into two raging streams and wreaked havoc along its path. When it comes to discussing the early warning of rainfall, the less said, the better.

On July 24, the Agricultural Meteorological Division of the Indian Meteorological Department issued a forecast for Wayanad that predicted only 15 mm rainfall, the day when landslides occurred. Mundakkai, where the landslide hit Wayanad first, got 572 mm of rainfall within 48 hours. However, it shouldn't be overlooked that the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, an NGO specializing in weather patterns of Wayanad with a network of more than 200 weather monitoring units, had warned of possible landslides two days before the landslide happened.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### THE DIVINE PARENTAL ROLE

Unlike parents, whose guidance can be flawed, God encompasses all wisdom, power and impartiality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The following verse will shed light on this, which is, "You alone are my mother; You alone are my father; You alone are my relative and You alone are my friend; You alone are my knowledge and You alone are my wealth; O Lord of all Lords, You alone are my everything." In verse #7.19 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, Lord Krishna states, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus as everything is very rare." The answer, therefore, is: that God is very much more than a mother or father can ever be. These entities, i.e., a mother or a father have severe limitations. Their knowledge is very limited. They don't know the Big Picture.

Far from it, they may guide their children wrongly. On the other hand, God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Lord Krishna informs us what He can do. "By being specially kind, I, situated within, destroy the darkness, born of ignorance, by the shining lamp of knowledge." (10.11) Then, a parent has limited resources that he or she can give to his or her children, whereas God has all the opulence in full. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame informs, "Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna, and where there is a soul linked to Him, there will be opulences ('soubhagya'), victory (success), wealth, and morality." (18.78) A parent can help only in a limited way. Suppose his or her child is unwell. What can he or she do besides arranging medical facilities and taking care of the best way possible?



A good parent prays additionally for the rapid cure of the child. Because Only God has the power to help us get out of the trouble we get into quickly (18.53); only God has the power to forgive. Parents can be whimsical in their decision-making. They can be partial in dealing with their children: it is natural, but God is always impartial. Lord Krishna states, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me, and no one is dear; that is God has no preconceived and prejudiced notion towards anyone." (9.29) Many parents are poor role models. They lie but expect their children to be truthful.

What has God instructed us to do? "Whatever a superior person does, other people follow that only. Whatever standard he establishes a common man tries to emulate that." (3.21) What does God do? He always goes by dharma. God is so strict about dharma that He incarnates to reestablish it if it becomes weak. (4.7) Additionally, God is always engaged in doing duties, Lord Krishna says, "I am always carefully engaged in action, because men follow My lead in all respects." (3.34) For parents, only their children are their own, but for God, all souls are His parts. (15.7) He has to consider all of them in all His actions. God is very compassionate towards all of them. Lord Krishna confirms, "I am a well-wisher of all living entities."

Our children are forever competing against children of other parents, but for God, all children are His parts and must be dealt with fairly. That is the reason our selfish prayers are not answered. Many parents do not consult their children about their future and try to impose their desires on them. God has forbidden this, when He stated, "Svadharm (duty) of all souls are according to what their natures are." "The four divisions of the human society, based on qualities and activities, have been created by Me." (4.21)

One can excel in whatever suits one's nature because it comes naturally. What is the message? God is a parent alright but not in a conventional way. He only takes charge of those souls, who take His shelter. Parents should also try to be self-supporting to the end by taking active shelter from God; He will take care. Is God not responsible for keeping the Creation going? Is it not our responsibility as parents to do ours? I take mine towards my descendants very seriously.

*(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)*

# Water crisis and the battle for resources

As the world grapples with the escalating effects of climate change, the urgent need to rethink our approach to water management becomes ever more pressing



B K SINGH

Whenever we face drought and heat waves we are reminded to take a relook at efficiency of water management. More than one-fourth of the global population, nearly 2.2 billion people do not have proper access to clean drinking water. United Nations (UN's) goal in this regard is to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030. UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation (UN-Water) sets the theme every year. This year's theme was "Leveraging Water for Peace". Air and water are important to sustain life on Earth. The conflicts between the countries, between the states and within society arise when we have to share water for crop irrigation, household purposes, industrial uses and power generation.

The conflict gets often aggravated especially when the availability of water becomes scarce during the pinch period. Treaties between the countries have resolved the disputes. Different forums are also available for the resolution of conflicts at international and national levels. India has 25 major river basins with most rivers flowing across the states. There is the Interstate Water Dispute Act, of 1956 for resolving disputes in the use, control and distribution of river and river valleys. The disputes are continuing challenges to federal water governance in the country. To resolve the disputes, there are water dispute tribunals in India namely the Ravi and Beas Water Tribunal, Vansadhara water dispute tribunal, Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal, Mahanadi water dispute tribunal, Krishna water dispute tribunal and Cauvery dispute tribunal etc.

The sharing of water of the Cauvery River has been the source of serious conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In 2018, the tribunal awarded Karnataka to annually release 192 tmc of water in ten equal monthly instalments to Tamil Nadu. 2023-24 was El Nino (Spanish word meaning little boy) year and there has been a deficit in rainfall in the catchment of the river from July 2023 onwards. As a result, the reservoirs were half empty and it became difficult for Karnataka to follow the orders of the tribunal.

Two states started a blame game till early July 2024 when there were good rains in the Cauvery catchment in the latter part of July. As nature was kind, the dispute was resolved and the blame game stopped. The prolonged dispute between the states for sharing water is always traced back to destruction as well as poor maintenance of the catchment of the river and unfavourable weather conditions like El Nino. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that El Nino, a climate pattern associated with the warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean has impacted the monsoon causing below-normal rainfall last year, has gradually weakened.

This has been one of the five strongest El Nino on record but remained weaker than 1997-98 and 2015-16. "El Nino typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development - in this instance 2024," WMO said. This impact has led to above normal temperature in India till June 2024. WMO further added that there is a chance of La Nina (Spanish word meaning little girl) developing later in the year. La Nina is a climate pattern associated with periodic cooling off the ocean sur-



face temperature and brings normal rains in the region. Western World, Canada and the US are experiencing heat wave conditions even in August this year. The underground water table receded during summer. There has been a public hue and cry in many places in central and peninsular India to access potable water for household needs. The Government and Civic agencies are facing the challenge. Karnataka is one such state where there was an acute drinking water problem in the summer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the district administration to establish a helpline and control room to enable the public to register grievances and supply water in tankers to all affected areas. He also directed to tender the work of digging more bore wells to tap underground water for public emergencies. Bengaluru too faced a water shortage. Water supply to the city comes through the pipeline from the Cauvery River located 100 km away. The water has also to be pumped up at many intermediate locations to achieve an altitude of 1 km, where the city is. The arrangements have been made to supply water in tankers from adjoining towns.

Water supply to high-rise apartments was also reduced. Residents used disposable cutlery and wet wipes to ration their water consumption. It will generate more waste and agencies may have to step up the disposal. They have also banned vehicle washing and swimming pool activities. Deepening of the bore wells is another environmental challenge. Every time the groundwater level recedes, we go for the deepening. Is it environmentally sustainable? Recharging the ground through rain harvesting structures has to be adhered to by each Government continuously.

Rivers originating from the Himalayas are snow-fed and satisfy the water needs of the people, especially in the northern belt of the

country from west to east. Rivers in the central Indian landscape and peninsular India originate from forests.

Often big rivers originate from the same place and flow in different directions. Johila, Narvada and Son originate from Amarkantak and flow in different directions. Five rivers namely Koyana, Krishna, Venna, Savitri and Gayatri originate from Mahabaleshwar near Pune. Several important rivers like Tungbhadra and Cauvery also originate from the Western Ghats. Apart from providing drinking water to several villages and towns, there are numerous irrigation and power projects located on these rivers.

Life is fully dependent on these rivers and except the Himalayan Rivers all others originate from forests. Let us be clear that water is not produced by forests, yet the rivers originate there. Forests are the mothers of rivers and are systems to conserve rainwater in the subsoil and the roots of the trees.

The river source provides a small volume of water trickling from the roots of each of the millions of trees on undulating hills around. As it forms the stream and the flow of water proceeds under gravity, many more such streams join to increase the volume of water. Sometimes bigger streams or even rivers also join to increase the volume of flowing water in the river. The water in the streams is nothing but rainwater. During the monsoon substantial quantity of water is absorbed by the earth charging the underground aquifers and some portion of it is retained in the subsoil and roots of the trees.

The roots hold the water like a sponge and continuously release it during warm weather, making the streams perennial. While traversing in the forests we come across several perennial streams even in summer months when there is no rainfall. Every stream has a catchment and if it is a forested catchment, the

stream would be perennial in the non-rainy season, or else it would be a seasonal stream flowing on rainy days. Forests play a significant role in conserving water and making the streams perennial. Further, the streams flowing out of forested catchment would always carry cleaner water without even soil particles in it.

On the contrary, streams flowing through areas dominated by human activities would be muddy and mixed with chemicals and sewage. Further, the rainwater carries a lot of soil and the reservoirs get silted up losing their water holding capacity.

Reservoirs located closer to forested areas have a longer life. Maintenance engineers have a difficult time in de-silting reservoirs receiving water from human areas. The rainfall pattern and distribution not only depends upon weather conditions and the direction of wind but also depends upon the density and distribution of forests on land. The pledge we must take is to preserve and conserve natural forests. Forests also play a vital role in the maintenance of the water cycle. More than two years ago, on the sidelines of COP 26 at Glasgow, leaders holding 90% of forests on the planet had pledged to end deforestation by 2030.

Of course, India did not sign this pledge. Two more COP meetings have taken place since then, but the issue has not been reviewed by those who pledged. On the contrary, there are reports suggesting that natural forests are being lost at an alarming rate unprecedented warming has also taken its toll and forest fires have remained uncontrolled for months in the US, Canada, European countries, Russia, China, Brazil, and Australia. If we don't save our forests, the perennial water streams will become seasonal.

*(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Karnataka; views are personal)*



FORESTS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CONSERVING WATER AND MAKING THE STREAMS PERENNIAL. FURTHER, THE STREAMS FLOWING OUT OF FORESTED CATCHMENT WOULD ALWAYS CARRY CLEANER WATER

# The perils of blind faith and the rise of India's fraudulent godmen

While India has a rich tradition of genuine spiritual leaders, the influence of these charlatans has surged, fueled by politics and societal insecurities

The Mundaka Upanishad warns of the dangers posed by those who, though ignorant, present themselves as wise. The verse (1.2.8) loosely translates to, "Living in the midst of ignorance and considering themselves wise, fools think of themselves as learned. They wander around, bewildered, like blind men led by the blind." This verse serves as a caution against self-proclaimed spiritual gurus who mislead others. India has long been a land of genuine spiritual gurus who have guided millions, providing a path for the masses to follow. However, times have changed. Today, genuine spiritual leaders are often overshadowed by flashy godmen, or "babas," who frequently



PRABHA GUPTA

deceive people for personal gain. This trend has become particularly dangerous when combined with the politics of numbers, creating a powerful politico-religious phenomenon. These so-called babas often become demigods with political leaders as their disciples, wielding immense power and wealth, even though they claim to have renounced it. A recent incident in Hathras

highlights the tragic consequences of such influence. Over 150 people, mostly women from poor Dalit families, were killed in a stampede during a satsang by Bhole Baba, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari. Baba, a former policeman who retired 28 years ago amid rape allegations, had attracted around 150,000 people to the event, despite only 80,000 being allowed. The stampede occurred when the crowd rushed to collect soil believed to have healing powers after Baba's departure. His popularity and wealth have only grown, despite such tragedies. While some of his followers were arrested, Bhole Baba himself was not named in the FIR, and his ashrams remain untouched by authorities.

And he is not alone. Many others are doing just that. A couple of years back a proclaimed baba gave unique recipe for peoples woes: keep 500 rupees in your wallet for prosperity, keep your spouse photo for better relationship and so on. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan ran schools for girls in which they had to eat rose petals as prasadam to which he walked. Figures like Asaram Babu and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan are serving prison sentences for serious crimes. The number and influence of such godmen have grown, partly due to the rise of religious politics. This trend is mirrored globally, though it is particularly pronounced in India. The following of these god-



men often stems from the insecurity and faith of their followers, who may feel abandoned by both God and the system. This combination distances them from rational thinking. In countries with less economic and social insecurity, the influence of religion tends to wane, but not entirely. In the United States, faith

healers or Televangelists wield significant influence over their followers, claiming to cure people in the name of Jesus Christ. While the number of those cured remains questionable, these healers amass enormous wealth, the owning Caribbean islands and flying in private jets. Addressing the influence of these Babas is a significant challenge. The Indian Constitution's Article 51A emphasises the duty of citizens to develop a scientific temper and humanism, which these fake godmen often ignore. While organizations like the Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti in Maharashtra work to expose fraudulent practices, activists like Dr. Narendra Dabholkar have paid the ultimate price,

allegedly at the hands of conservative groups like Sanatan Sanstha. Similar forces were responsible for the deaths of Govind Pansare, Gauri Lankesh, and Professor Kalburgi. Following Dr Dabholkar's murder, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a law against superstition and miracle cures. To curb the influence of fake godmen, a combination of education, awareness, and strong legal frameworks is essential. Promoting critical thinking and spiritual education can empower individuals to discern genuine spiritual guidance from deception. Educational institutions, community programs, and media can play a crucial role in spreading awareness about

the characteristics of false gurus and the dangers of blind faith. Encouraging open discussions about spirituality and ethics can help people recognise the difference between authentic spiritual leaders and charlatans. Additionally, it is crucial to strengthen laws and regulations to hold fraudulent godmen accountable. Publicising such cases can also serve as a warning to potential victims. Ultimately, by encouraging critical inquiry, supporting victims, and ensuring justice, society can reduce the influence of fake godmen and safeguard the integrity of spiritual practices.

*(The writer is a freelance writer, social activist and business coach; views expressed are personal)*



# Thai PM dismissed for breach of ethics

## Another case filed against Sheikh Hasina

**AP n BANGKOK**

A court in Thailand on Wednesday removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin from office over an ethical violation, further shaking up Thai politics after the court-ordered dissolution of the main opposition party a week ago.

The Constitutional Court ruled on a case involving Srettha's appointment of a Cabinet member who had been imprisoned in connection with an alleged attempt to bribe a court official.

The court voted 5:4 against Srettha and the ruling removed him from office immediately. The Cabinet will remain in place on a caretaker basis until Parliament approves a new prime minister. There is no time limit for Parliament to fill the position. The caretaker Cabinet could also dissolve Parliament and call a new election.

The acting PM is expected to be Phumtham Wechayachai of the Pheu Thai party.

Phumtham was first deputy prime minister and commerce minister under Srettha. If Parliament is given the task of choosing a new prime minister, it can select from a roster of candidates nominated for the post last year by the major political parties. The Pheu Thai Party, to which Srettha belongs, has two eligible candidates, including Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Another frontrunner would be Anutin Charnvirakul, head of the Bhumjaithai Party, which ran third in last year's election. He is currently a deputy prime minister and interior minister.

Anuthin, a powerbroker in the vote-rich northeast whose family owns a major construction group, has served in both a military-backed government and the civilian one that it replaced. Also in the running would be two former senior military officers: Prayuth Chan-ocha, who served as prime minister for nine years after staging a coup in 2014, and Prawit



Wongsuwan, who was one of Srettha's deputy prime ministers.

Srettha, speaking at Government House shortly after the verdict, thanked the judges for giving him the opportunity to defend himself. He said he respected the ruling and that he always sought to act ethically during his time in office.

baht (USD 55,000) in cash in a grocery bag over a case involving Thaksin, the former prime minister.

Pichit resigned from the post weeks after being appointed when controversy over the incident was revived. The court said that although Pichit has already served his jail term, his behavior — as ruled by the Supreme Court — was dishonest.

Srettha as prime minister has sole responsibility for vetting the qualifications of his Cabinet nominations, the court ruled. It said he knew about Pichit's past but still nominated him, and therefore it ruled that he violated the ethics codes.

The petition against Srettha was initiated by former members of the military-installed Senate who had refused to approve Move Forward's prime ministerial candidate when the party was attempting to form a government after its election victory.

The petition against Srettha was seen as a move favouring a pro-military political party in

his coalition government. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are considered a bulwark of the country's royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to issue rulings to cripple or sink political opponents.

Srettha became prime minister in August last year, despite his Pheu Thai party finishing second in the general election. After Move Forward was denied power by the Senate whose term ended in May, Pheu Thai — then the biggest partner of Move Forward — excluded it from the coalition and joined hands with parties affiliated with the previous military-controlled government to gather enough support from other parties and the Senate to approve a new prime minister.

Srettha, 62, was a real estate executive before entering politics. He prioritized opening up Thailand after almost a decade of military-backed rule, frequently travelling abroad for trade negotiations. His party pushed a populist plan for a 10,000-baht (USD 286) hand-out policy to stimulate the economy, a key promise in its campaign last year, though it has been delayed by technicalities largely involving funding. His government also promoted Thai cultural products through a "soft power" agency and the critical tourism sector by loosening entry requirements and other measures.

Srettha, who tried to project an image of a strong CEO, was seen by critics as an agent for Thaksin, who returned last August to submit to a plea deal his detractors say was essential to Srettha gaining the premiership.

The Constitutional Court last week ordered the dissolution of the progressive Move Forward Party over an accusation that the party violated the constitution by proposing an amendment to a law against defaming the country's royal family. The party has already regrouped as the People's Party.

**PTI n DHAKA**

A case of enforced disappearance was filed on Wednesday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, including former ministers of her cabinet, on the charge of kidnapping a lawyer in 2015. The case is the second to be filed against 76-year-old Hasina since she resigned and fled to India on August 5 following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system.

The victim of the forced disappearance, Supreme Court lawyer Sohail Rana filed the case application. The Daily Star newspaper reported.

The court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Farzana Shakila Sumu Chowdhury ordered the allegations to be accepted as a case. Other accused in the case include senior ministers of Hasina's cabinet, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former Law Minister Anisul Haq, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahidul Haque, former Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Benazir Ahmed, and 25 unidentified members of the RAB.

"On 10 February 2015, I was detained from Sector 5 in Uttara and forced into a vehicle. As soon as I was inside the car, I was nearly made unconscious by electric shocks to my ears and genitals," the report quoted Rana as saying.

"After enduring various forms of brutal torture over time, I was eventually released in August in Godagari, Rajshahi," he said.

On Tuesday, a murder case was lodged against Hasina and six others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her government.

Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July.

# Belgorod declares emergency as Ukrainian forces press incursion

**AP n KYIV**

Russia's Belgorod border region declared an emergency Wednesday under heavy shelling by Ukrainian forces that are pressing a major cross-border incursion into the adjacent Kursk region for a second week.

Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov described the situation there as "extremely difficult and tense" as the attacks destroyed homes and caused civilian casualties, unnerving local people.

Children in particular are being moved to safety, he said on his Telegram channel, adding that about 5,000 children are in camps in safe areas. He said the previous day that around 11,000 people had fled their homes, with about 1,000 staying in temporary accommodation

centres.

The surprise Ukrainian charge onto Russian soil that began August 6 has rattled the Kremlin. The daring Kursk operation is the largest attack on Russia since World War II and could involve as many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops backed by armour and artillery, military analysts say. An emergency was declared in Kursk last Saturday. A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday that Kyiv has no intention of occupying the Russian territory it says it is holding. The goal is to stop Russia from firing missiles into Ukraine from Kursk, he said.

It was not clear how or when — or whether — Ukraine would attempt to extricate itself from the ground it has taken. The Ukrainian military claims it controls 74 settlements, believed

to be villages or hamlets, in the Kursk region. Russian officials say more than 100,000 people have been evacuated, mostly from Kursk.

Ukraine's 1+1 TV channel published a video report Wednesday it said was from Sudzha, a Russian town about 10 kilometres from the border. The report showed burnt-out Russian military columns on roads in the area as well as Ukrainian soldiers handing humanitarian aid to local residents and taking down Russian flags from an administrative building.

Russia's predicament is whether to pull troops from the front line in Ukraine's Donetsk region, where achieving a breakthrough is currently a primary war goal for the Kremlin, to defend Kursk and stop the incursion from ballooning.

# Complaint filed against Hasina, others at International Tribunal

**PTI n DHAKA**

A complaint was filed on Wednesday with the investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, accusing them of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the mass movement of the students against her government.

"The complaint was filed by the father of one of the students who died in police gunshots during the massive street protests," an official of the agency said.

A Supreme Court lawyer filed the case on behalf of Bulbul Kabir, father of slain Arif Ahmed Siyam, a class 9 student who was shot dead by police during the protest on August 5.



Students shout slogans during a protest demanding the trial of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Tuesday.

"We have registered the complaint and thus the investigation of the case has started," Ataur Rahman, deputy director of the agency, was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. "Upon completion of the

probe, we will submit the report to the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the tribunal for the next procedures," he added. Hasina and several others were accused of "genocide and crimes against humanity in

the complaint," state-run BSS news agency reported.

The complaint comes on a day when the interim government said that the murders conducted within the period from July 1 to August 5 will be tried by the International Crimes Tribunal. The complaint accused 76-year-old Hasina and the others of perpetrating the mass killings between July 15 and August 5, the day when Hasina resigned and fled the country, while the students and others who died during the period would come under the purview of the complaint as well, the official said.

Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk made a phone call to Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday.

# Kishida not to seek re-election, paves way for new Japanese PM

**AP n TOKYO**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in a surprise move Wednesday, announced he will not run in the upcoming party leadership vote in September, paving the way for Japan to have a new prime minister. Kishida was elected president of his governing Liberal Democratic Party in 2021 and his three-year term expires in September. His drop out of the race means a new leader who wins the party vote will succeed him as prime minister because the LDP controls both houses of parliament. Kishida, stung by his party's corruption scandals, has suffered dwindling support ratings that have dipped below 20%. He announced he will not run



in the September vote, allowing for a fresh leader in an effort to show that his party is changing for the better. Kishida will support a new leader, he said. Local election losses earlier in the year eroded his clout, and LDP lawmakers have voiced the need for a fresh face

ahead of the next general election.

Since the corruption scandal broke, Kishida has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, dissolved party factions that were criticized as the source of money-for-favor politics, and passed a law tightening political funds control law. But support for his government has dwindled.

The scandal centers on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events. It involved more than 80 LDP lawmakers, mostly belonging to a major party faction previously led by assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ten people — lawmakers and their aides — were indicted in January.

# House of Hindu family targeted in fresh arson

**PTI n DHAKA**

Arsonists torched a house belonging to a Hindu family with no political affiliation in northwest Bangladesh, a media report said on Wednesday, in the latest incident of targeted attacks on the minority community after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The incident in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha Union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila took place on Tuesday evening, hours after Chief Advisor to the interim government Yunus Muhammad assured the distressed minority community that his government would punish the perpetrators.

The targeted arson incident also came on the same day when the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance claimed that the minority community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on

the Hindu religion." Unidentified individuals set fire to Kaleshwar Barman's house around 7:30 pm on Tuesday in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha Union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, Subrata Kumar Barman, chairman of Akcha Union Parishad (UP), told newspaper The Daily Star.

Local people quickly responded and managed to control the fire, and the house's occupants were able to escape unharmed, he said.

The UP chairman said Kaleshwar Barman had no political affiliation. ABM Firoz Waheed, Officer-in-Charge of Thakurgaon Police Station, said: "Police visited the spot the same night, and an investigation is ongoing to identify the perpetrators."

The Daily Star report said that a similar incident had happened a few days earlier in Nimbari Kamarpara village of the same Union when Ananta Barman's house was burned down, leaving all valuables destroyed.

# Students still managing roads in Bangladesh

**PTI n DHAKA**

Several Bangladeshi students, who were behind the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, are still controlling traffic on the roads in the country despite traffic police personnel rejoining their workplaces.

A wave of violence, including revenge killings and arson, persisted after Hasina fled to India on August 5.

Almost all of the country's police officers went into hiding, afraid of reprisals for the force's role in the deaths of hundreds of young protesters demanding the scrapping of quotas in government service jobs.

In such a situation, the students came out on the streets and tried to regulate traffic. However, traffic police personnel rejoined their workplaces on Monday. Still, the students say they do not want to leave the traffic management to the designated units of the police, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Even on Wednesday, students were seen controlling traffic on the roads. There are also members of Ansar, Border Guard Bangladesh Red Crescent, Scouts and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC). A limited number of traffic police were also seen on the roads. Students were managing traffic, checking licenses and reminding people to use helmets.

The students say that they want to stay on the streets until full order is restored. Meanwhile, traffic police personnel say that students have played a commendable role in controlling traffic during a critical period. But now that the traffic policemen have rejoined work, the students are no longer needed there.

Enayet Ullah, a student of psychology at Dhaka College and a volunteer of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society said: "We have been working on traffic control since August 7 on behalf of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Gen Munir's remarks came days after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots and said that the Army owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

Khan, 71, was on May 9, 2023, arrested by the Pakistan Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises during his appearance in a corruption case. His arrest sparked countryside protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country.

Meanwhile, at least 70 people were injured by aerial firing in different areas of Karachi during the celebrations of Independence Day on Tuesday night, Geo News reported.

Last year, two people lost their lives while more than 80 sustained injuries due to aerial firing in different areas of the city during the Independence Day celebrations.

# Shehbaz Sharif to unveil 5-year plan for Pakistan's economic stability

**PTI n ISLAMABAD**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday announced that he would soon unveil a new five-year plan to bring cash-strapped Pakistan out of the economic crisis and asked countrymen to undertake self-inspection to correct mistakes of the past.

Sharif's remarks came as the nation commemorated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said a "fresh journey with new zeal should be started to steer the country out of existing crises" and a five-year economic programme will soon be launched. He said that there is a need for self-introspection to correct mistakes of the past.

The nation would hear good news regarding the reduction in electricity prices in the next few days, Radio Pakistan quoted him as saying at the main ceremony held in Islamabad. Turning to issues being faced by the country, Sharif pledged to work hard till the last drop of his blood to reduce inflation and electricity prices and revamp Pakistan's battered economy.

He said the reduction in inflation and electricity bills is vital for the development of agriculture and industry, enhancing exports and providing solace to domestic power consumers.

Sharif also urged the youth to focus on their studies, training, and skills and avoid becoming prey to the forces of chaos, anarchy and



A driver decorates his rickshaw with national flag colors to celebrate the country's 78th Independence Day from British rule in Peshawar on Wednesday.

deception.

He said the foes of Pakistan have continuously been targeting the minds of young people through digital terrorism to mislead them.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sharif said: "We pay homage to the immense sacrifices of our forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values.

He also said Pakistan shall continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir until they achieve their universal right to self-determi-

nation. President Asif Ali Zardari in his message said: "Today, we need to set aside our differences and work committedly for unity, integrity, and economic stability."

He called for upholding the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions and also reaffirmed its support to the people of Kashmir and Palestine for their legitimate rights. India has repeatedly said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

India has asserted that the "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India."

President Zardari on the occasion of Independence Day approved the conferment of awards upon 104 Pakistani and foreign nationals in recognition of their services to Pakistan.

These awards will be given at a special ceremony on 23rd March next year. Former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), will be conferred upon Nishan-e-Pakistan for his marvellous contribution to the field of public service.

Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's sensational javelin thrower who won the country's first individual Olympics gold in 40 years, will get Hilal-e-Imtiaz, the second-highest civilian award.

# 'Weakening military is weakening nation,' says Pak Army chief

**PTI n ISLAMABAD**

Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir has said that any attempt to undermine the nation's powerful military is equivalent to weakening the country. Addressing the Azadi Parade at the Pakistan Military Academy on the eve of the country's 78th Independence Day, he also underscored the importance of maintaining national unity amidst efforts by foreign powers using 'digital terrorism' to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan.

"We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself," Geo News quoted him as saying.

Asserting that the nation's unwavering trust in the Pakistan Army is the military's most valuable asset, he said, "Neither any negative force has ever been able to weaken this relationship of trust and love nor can it do so in future." "Historically, we as a nation have always emerged stronger after every hardship," he said, adding that mutual trust between the country and the armed forces played a key role.

He also highlighted the importance of

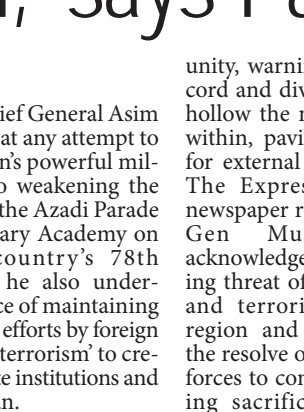
unity, warning that discord and division could hollow the nation from within, paving the way for external aggression, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Gen Munir also acknowledged the ongoing threat of extremism and terrorism in the region and reaffirmed the resolve of the armed forces to continue making sacrifices for the nation's security.

He blamed foreign powers for a wave of 'digital terrorism', which he said aimed to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Last week, addressing a conference of Islamic clerics here, Gen Munir warned against attempts to create chaos in the cash-strapped country, saying the armed forces will foil any such move and safeguard national integrity.

The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled coup-prone Pakistan for many years of its existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.



Gen Munir's remarks came days after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots and said that the Army owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

Khan, 71, was on May 9, 2023, arrested by the Pakistan Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises during his appearance in a corruption case. His arrest sparked countryside protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country.

Meanwhile, at least 70 people were injured by aerial firing in different areas of Karachi during the celebrations of Independence Day on Tuesday night, Geo News reported.

Last year, two people lost their lives while more than 80 sustained injuries due to aerial firing in different areas of the city during the Independence Day celebrations.

Gen Munir's remarks came days after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots and said that the Army owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

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# Judge rejects Trump's latest demand in hush money case

AP n NEW YORK

Donald Trump has lost his latest bid for a new judge in his New York hush money criminal case as it heads toward a key ruling and potential sentencing next month.

In a decision posted Wednesday, Judge Juan M. Merchan declined to step aside and said Trump's demand was a rehash "rife with inaccuracies and unsubstantiated claims" about the political ties of Merchan's daughter and his ability to judge the historic case fairly and impartially.

It is the third that the judge has rejected such a request from lawyers for the former president and current Republican nominee. All three times, they argued that Merchan, a state court judge in Manhattan, has a conflict of interest because of his daughter's work as a political consultant for prominent Democrats and campaigns. Among them was Vice President Kamala Harris when she sought the 2020 nomination for president. She is now her party's 2024 White House nominee.

A state court ethics panel said

last year that Merchan could continue on the case, writing that a relative's independent political activities are not "a reasonable basis to question the judge's impartiality".

Merchan has repeatedly said he is certain he will continue to base his rulings "on the evidence and the law, without fear or favour, casting aside undue influence".

"With these fundamental principles in mind, this Court now reiterates for the third time, that which should already be clear — inuendo and mischaracterisations do not a conflict create," Merchan wrote in his three-page ruling. "Recusal is therefore not necessary, much less required."

But with Harris now Trump's Democratic opponent in this year's White House election, Trump lawyer Todd Blanche wrote in a letter to the judge last month that the defence's concerns have become "even more concrete".

Prosecutors called the claims "a vexatious and frivolous attempt to relitigate" the issue. Messages seeking comment on the ruling were left with Blanche.

The Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted the case, declined to comment.

Trump was convicted in May of falsifying his business records to conceal a 2016 deal to pay off porn actor Stormy Daniels to stay quiet about her alleged 2006 sexual encounter with him. Prosecutors cast the payout as part of a Trump-driven effort to keep voters from hearing salacious stories about him during his first campaign.

Trump says all the stories were false, the business records were not and the case was a political maneuver meant to damage his current campaign. The prosecutor who brought the charges, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, is a Democrat.

Trump has pledged to appeal. Legally, that cannot happen before a defendant is sentenced. In the meantime, his lawyers took other steps to try to derail the case. Besides the recusal request, they have asked Merchan to overturn the verdict and dismiss the case altogether because of the US Supreme Court's July ruling on presidential immunity.

That decision reins in prosecutions of ex-presidents for official acts and restricts prosecutors in pointing to official acts as evidence that a president's unofficial actions were illegal. Trump's lawyers argue that in light of the ruling, jurors in the hush money case should not have heard such evidence as former White House staffers describing how the then-president reacted to news coverage of the Daniels deal.

Earlier this month, Merchan set a Sept 16 date to rule on the immunity claim, and Sept 18 for "the imposition of sentence or other proceedings as appropriate".

The hush money case is one of four criminal prosecutions brought against Trump last year. One federal case, accusing Trump of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, was dismissed last month. The Justice Department is appealing. The others — federal and Georgia state cases concerning Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss — are not positioned to go to trial before the November election.

# 'Americans give Harris an advantage over Trump on honesty, discipline'

AP n WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris has a perceived advantage over former President Donald Trump on several leadership qualities such as honesty, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds, although Americans are slightly more likely to trust Trump on the economy and immigration.

Nearly half of Americans say that "committed to democracy" and "disciplined" are attributes that better describe Harris. About 3 in 10 say these qualities better describe Trump.

About 4 in 10 say Harris is someone who "cares about people like you" while about 3 in 10 say that about Trump. About 4 in 10 say "honest" better describes Harris and 24% say that quality better describes Trump.

Both parties are racing to define Harris as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination at the party's convention next week. The poll suggests she carries some of the same baggage that weighed down President Joe Biden before he ended his reelection bid but has advantages over Trump when they're compared to each other. And Democrats continue to be much happier about her candidacy than they were about Bidens.

Trump has spent the campaign championing himself as a strong leader who is capable of handling tough crises facing the country and suggesting that foreign leaders wouldn't respect Harris in the White House. But he doesn't have an advantage with Americans on that characteristic, according to the survey. Four in 10 US adults see Trump as a strong leader, and roughly the same share say that about Harris. About 4 in 10 say Trump is capable of handling a crisis, and a similar share say Harris is better positioned to do so.

Americans are about evenly divided between who they think is more capable of winning in November — Trump or Harris. In July, before Biden dropped out of the race, only about 2 in 10 Americans thought he was more capable of winning, while about twice as many thought that about Trump.

"Trump had a better chance when Joe Biden was running," said Lisa Miller, a 42-year-old student in Elko, Nevada, and a Republican. "I think a lot of people who were insecure about Joe Biden are more secure with Kamala Harris' age and cognitive abilities."

**Trump has advantages on the economy and immigration:**

Americans are more likely to trust Trump over Harris when it comes to handling the economy or immigration, but the difference is slight — 45% say Trump is better positioned to handle the economy, while 38% say that about Harris. The difference is similar in handling immigration. Independents are about twice as likely to trust Trump over Harris on economic issues, and they give him the advantage on immigration as well.

Howard Barnes, a 36-year-old artist in San Francisco, is a Republican who says he trusts Trump over Harris on the border.

"She doesn't really seem to be proactive about it or even interested in it," Barnes said.

Harris has more of an advantage over Trump when it comes to handling issues related to race and racial inequality, abortion policy, and health care. Roughly half of US adults say Harris would do a better job than Trump handling each of those issues, compared with about 3 in 10 for Trump. Harris is especially strong among Democrats, independents and women on the issue of abortion policy. Democrats and independents give her the edge on health care, as well as on issues of race and racial inequality. About two-thirds of Black adults say Harris is the candidate they trust more on that issue, as well as about half of Hispanic adults and white adults.

Harris' strengths also accentuate two areas where Republicans give Trump relatively low marks: abortion policy and issues related to race and racial inequality. Only about 6 in 10 Republicans trust Trump over Harris on these issues.

There are possible signs of trouble for Harris in the poll, though. Only about 6 in 10 Democrats trust her over Trump to do a better job handling the war in Gaza, her lowest rating within her party on the issues asked about. About one-quarter of Democrats say they trust neither Trump nor Harris on this topic.

# NZ food bank distributes candy made from potentially lethal Methamphetamine

AP n WELLINGTON

A charity working with homeless people in Auckland, New Zealand unknowingly distributed candies filled with a potentially lethal dose of methamphetamine in its food parcels after the sweets were donated by a member of the public.

Auckland City Mission told reporters on Wednesday that staff had started to contact up to 400 people to track down parcels that could contain the sweets —

which were solid blocks of methamphetamine enclosed in candy wrappers. New Zealand's police have opened a criminal investigation.

The amount of methamphetamine in each candy was up to 300 times the level someone would usually take and could be lethal, according to the New Zealand Drug Foundation — a drug checking and policy organisation, which first tested the candies.

Ben Birks Ang, a Foundation spokesperson, said disguising

drugs as innocuous goods was a common cross-border smuggling technique and more of the candies might have been distributed throughout New Zealand.

The sweets had a high street value of NZ\$ 1,000 (\$608) per candy, which suggested the donation by an unknown member of the public was accidental rather than a deliberate attack, Birks Ang said.

The City Missioner, Helen Robinson, said eight families, including at least one child, had

reported consuming the contaminated candies since Tuesday. No one was hospitalized and Robinson said the "revolting" taste meant most had immediately spat them out.

The charity's food bank only accepts donations of commercially produced food in sealed packaging, Robinson said. The pineapple candies, stamped with the label of Malaysian brand Rinda, "appeared as such when they were donated", arriving in a retail-sized bag, she added.

# Calmer winds, reinforcements help battle scattered fires in Athens suburbs

AP n ATHENS

Firefighters in Greece battled scattered fires in hopes of containing the remains of a major wildfire that burned into the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering multiple evacuations and leaving at least one person dead.

With strong winds that had fanned the flames on Sunday and Monday dying down overnight, the fire department on Tuesday said the fire no longer had any active, advancing fronts and firefighters focused on extinguishing hundreds of slow-burning areas. Reinforcements of water-dropping aircraft and firefighters were arriving from abroad after Greece requested assistance from Europe's joint disaster response mechanism. Dozens of homes and businesses were reported to have burned, although authorities did not yet have an exact number. Winds strengthened again Tuesday afternoon, but no new major flare-ups were reported. The European Union's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, which

provides mapping services for natural disasters using satellite images, said that by Monday the blaze had burned 8,500 hectares (21,000 acres, 85 square kilometres).

Helicopters, planes and hundreds of firefighters and vehicles were arriving from France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Serbia and Romania. Turkey's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said two firefighting planes and one helicopter had taken off Tuesday morning headed to Greece. "I wish all the best to our colleagues who work with the motto Forests are the world's common heritage," Yumakli posted on the social media platform X.

Relations between neighbours Greece and Turkey are frequently tense over territorial disputes, but they tend to put differences aside and send each other help when faced with natural disasters such as earthquakes and forest fires. Several other Balkan countries also struggled with wildfires. Water-dropping planes and helicopters from Cyprus, Germany and Slovenia were

helping North Macedonia tackle blazes that have been burning for weeks, while Bosnian firefighters and local authorities appealed for international help to tackle fires raging in a national park in the east of the country. The Athens blaze began Sunday afternoon near Lake Marathon, about 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of the city, and coursed across Mount Pendeli, descending into the city's suburbs.

Firefighters found the burned body of a woman in an industrial building in the suburb of Vrilissia just after midnight. The woman, an employee of the business, was believed to have become trapped inside the building.

More than a dozen people were treated by paramedics, mostly for smoke inhalation, while five firefighters suffered light burns and breathing problems, the fire department said. Three hospitals, including a children's hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated on Monday, while about 30 push alerts were sent to cell phones warning people in several Athens

suburbs and outlying settlements to flee.

Authorities said some people who refused to leave their homes later became trapped and required rescuing, endangering the lives of firefighters. The affected areas — at the closest, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the heart of Athens — typically have thousands of residents. However, it was unclear how many were away on vacation at the height of the summer season, and how many had obeyed the evacuation orders or stayed to fight the blaze. Ten water-dropping planes and 10 helicopters were fighting the remaining flames Tuesday, backing up hundreds of firefighters on the ground, the fire department said.

Earlier in the week, the fire reached heights of about 25 metres (80 feet). It raced through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July were the hottest months ever recorded in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever. An early start of the fire season this year has strained Greece's firefighting force.

**UPSIDA**  
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**उत्पत्कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

एलए द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जगहों में विस्तृत औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विस्तृत विकास/अनुसंधान कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिचर/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/उकेकरों से उत्पत्कालीन ई-निविदों का आयोजन की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा का प्रकार	संकेतिक क्र.सं.
1.	Supply and Installation of CCTV Camera system including Annual services charge and 05 year AMC at IA. Bulandshahr Road, Loha Mandi, SSGT Road, Site-4 Sahibabad, Loni Industrial Estate, Meerut Road, Kavi Nagar and Loni Road, Ghaziabad.	उत्पत्कालीन	65.77

निविदा दिनांक 15.08.2024 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 22.08.2024 को 18:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 23.08.2024 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा उपलब्ध शब्द पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्यदिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरें अंकित करें, अलग से मात्र जीएसटी/0 देय होगा। 2. निविदादाताओं को निविदा उपलब्ध करते समय Eligibility Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रश्न अवलोक करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्वागत लिंक यूपीएलसी की website: https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। **सचिव** उत्पत्क, अवरकाशी/विभाग, गाजियाबाद

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscil.in  
Mobile No.96461-22067

**E-Tender Enq. No. 7593/P-1/EMP-12772 dated 12-08-24**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tendor ID No. **2024\_POWER\_125417\_1** for the Procurement of HRC fuses under EP Group for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tendor Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **13.08.24/ 02.00 PM** onwards.  
**Note:-** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> **RTP-89/24**

76155/12/3304/2023/36668 Dated CHD - 8/13/2024

<b>Equinox India Developments Limited</b> (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)					
Statement of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Preceding	Corresponding	Rs. in million
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations	4,033.9	395.4	2,091.0	4,687.5
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(479.7)	(3,937.2)
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(6,770.4)	(10,227.9)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(284.7)	(3,020.2)	(6,795.5)	(10,386.5)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(91.4)	(3,036.4)	(6,377.2)	(9,072.0)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
7	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)

**Notes to the consolidated financial results:**

- The above consolidated financial results of the Group for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (the Board) at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.

<b>Equinox India Developments Limited</b> (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)					
Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Preceding	Corresponding	Rs. in million
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	86.7	523.6	98.0	802.1
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	96.2	22.4	31.1
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	(35,733.2)	22.4	(35,798.3)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(121.0)	(35,736.3)	22.2	(35,802.3)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	70.0	(35,741.8)	438.4	(34,482.5)
6	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 2 per equity share)	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
8	Other equity				31,839.9

**Notes to the standalone financial results:**

- The above standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (the Board) at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://equinoxindia.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

**Registered Office:** Office No 01-1001, WeWork, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram, Haryana 122016 (CIN) : L45101HR2008PLC095409

**For and on behalf of the Board of Directors**

Place : Mumbai  
Date : 14 August 2024

**Sachin Shah**  
Executive Director

<b>JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED</b> CIN - L60231CT2008PLC016434									
Regd. Office: A-11 (7), Udy Society, Sector-3, Tatibandh, Dharsina, Raipur- 492099, Chattisgarh Corp. Office: Jindal ITF centre, 28, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi- 110015									
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2024									
(₹ Lacs)									
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended		Year ended	Quarter Ended		Year ended		
		30.06.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Refer Note 1	30.06.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited	30.06.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Refer Note 1	30.06.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from operations	83.77	75.63	85.73	320.81	67,000.17	90,904.54	67,437.35	333,624.71
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,242.30	2,809.33	785.56	13,045.51
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and after share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,245.45	4,708.65	790.32	14,955.18
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	4.96	2.82	7.57	17.19	2,311.93	4,095.21	(574.62)	9,082.33
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	5.20	3.77	7.57	18.14	2,401.32	4,613.34	(575.35)	9,641.19
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as at Balance Sheet date				31,528.69				(56,063.28)
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each)(Not annualised)								
	(1) Basic (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78
	(2) Diluted (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78

**Note:**

- The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the financial year ended March 31, 2024 and the published unaudited figures for the nine months ended December 31, 2023.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter on 30th June, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2024 are available on the websites of stock exchanges ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and on the Company's website ([www.jindalinfra.com](http://www.jindalinfra.com)).

**On behalf of Board of Director of JITF Infra Logistics Limited**

Sd/-  
Amarendra Kumar Sinha  
Whole Time Director  
DIN: 08190565

Place: Raipur  
Date: August 14, 2024



**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, ( यांत्रिकी शाखा, ) भोपाल**  
 क्रमांक 48/चौ.वि./24 भोपाल, दिनांक 12.08.2024

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
 निम्न कार्य हेतु म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत विवरण website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर है।

क्र. निविदा क्र.	कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	निविदा क्रय करने का अंतिम दिनांक समय	
			दिनांक	समय
3 2024_UAD_346583_2	CONSTRUCTION OF BITUMINOUS ROAD AT VARIOUS PLACES BARFANI DHAM TO BHEL SANGAM CULVERT MAIN ROAD W-54, REMAINING WORK AT ARVIND VIHAR BAGMUGALIYA W-55, BAGMUGALIYA EXTENTION REMAINING ROADS W-55 Z-13	1,72,88,098/-	27-AUG-2024	05:30 PM
6 2024_UAD_346885_2	ASPHALTING OF ROAD FROM RAVINDRA NATH TAIGORE PARISHAR TO AIIMS SULABH, 68-2C TO 367-2C, INFRONT OF 377-2C AND 48-2C, INFRONT OF BHIMSEN JOSHI PARISHAR, BESIDE VIVEKANAND PARK, FORM RASRANG SWEETS TO 112-1, 28-1 TO 43-1 SHAKTI NAGAR, VYANJAN SWEETS TO DRM R	1,05,69,117/-	27-AUG-2024	05:30 PM

संशोधन केवल वेबसाइट पर ही देखा जा सकेगा, समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं होंगे।  
 कार्यालय नगरी (सिविल)  
 नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल  
 नि.क्र. 316/024/025

# Sensex snaps 2-day losing streak

**PTI n MUMBAI**  
 Snapping its two-day losing streak, benchmark BSE Sensex closed higher by 150 points on Wednesday following a rally in IT stocks amid a surge in the US markets on renewed hopes of a rate cut by the Fed in September.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 149.85 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 79,105.88 with half of its constituents ending higher. During the day, it gained 272.91 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 79,228.94.

The NSE Nifty closed marginally up by 4.75 points or 0.02 per cent at 24,143.75. As many 26 Nifty shares closed lower while 24 advanced.

"The domestic market traded within a narrow range; even as global markets saw a positive turnaround. The IT index edged up, reflecting optimism for improved US CPI data expected later today, which could increase the scope of a loose monetary policy from the Fed," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services rose the most by 2.3 per cent. HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Power Grid and



NMDC tanked 6 per cent, Hind Copper by over 4 per cent, Nalco by 2.7 per cent. "The PPI (Producer Price Inflation) numbers from the US indicate softening of inflation, and a confirmation of this declining trend is likely from the CPI numbers coming today.

The US market moved up yesterday in anticipation of this and a rate cut by the Fed in September," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.41 per cent. Among the indices, IT jumped 1.41 per cent, teck surged 1.33 per cent, consumer durables went up 0.13 per cent and consumer discretionary (0.09 per cent). Commodities, energy, telecommunication, utilities, metal, power, realty and services were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

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**Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**  
 Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069  
 Bhopal Branch: Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1 St Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001 (M.P.)  
 Sagar Branch: 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia Road, Sagar - 470004 (Madhya Pradesh)

**POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Loan Code No. 00600002931 / Bhopal Branch) Jhanak Singh (Borrower), Dhan Bai & Laxman Singh Rajput (Co-Borrowers), Sanju Rajput (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh 163 166 167 170 171 176 193 Plot No 590 Tirupati Vatika Colony Vill Age Kalyanpur Near Transport Nagar Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh - 462010 <b>Boundaries:</b> East - Plot No. 602, West- Road, North- Plot No. 589, South - Plot No.591	08-05-2024 & ₹ 3,12,091/-	13-08-2024
2	(Loan Code No. 00600004244 / Bhopal Branch) Late. Neelesh Sen (Represented Through Their legal Heir (Borrower), Chinta Bai (Co-Borrower)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Part of Kha No 280 1 Ka New Highway City Plot No 55 Highway City Village Islam Nagar Bhopal, M.P. - 462010. <b>Boundaries:</b> East - Road, West- Plot No. 93, North- Plot No. 56, South - Plot No. 54	08-05-2024 & ₹ 4,21,778/-	13-08-2024
3	(Loan Code No. 02300000016 / Sagar Branch) Gulam Muhammad (Borrower), Iman Khan & Azam Khan Bakshi (Co-Borrowers), Asharam Sen (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 172 1 K Ph No. 77 Plot No. 21 Rajakhedi Makroniya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh - 470001. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- 12 Ft Wide Road, West- Naala, North- Plot No.20 of Pradeep Jain, South- Plot No. 22	16-05-2024 & ₹ 3,81,864/-	13-08-2024

Place : Madhya Pradesh  
 Date : 15-08-2024  
 Authorised Officer  
 Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

## स्वतंत्रता दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



समस्त ग्राम पंचायत के नागरिकों से निवेदन है कि शासन की निम्नलिखित योजनाओं की जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिये जनपद कार्यालय में संपर्क करें।

1. मनरेगा।
  2. S.B.M. स्वच्छ भारत मिशन।
  3. प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना।
  4. नल जल योजना।
  5. प्रधानमंत्री सिंचाई कृषि योजना।
- श्रीमती सुशीला गुमान सिंह  
 अध्यक्ष  
 जनपद पंचायत देपालपुर
- श्री मोहन लाल वर्मा  
 C.E.O.  
 जनपद पंचायत देपालपुर
- जनपद पंचायत देपालपुर जिला इंदौर म.प्र.

## स्वतंत्रता दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



समस्त ग्राम पंचायत के नागरिकों से निवेदन है कि शासन की निम्नलिखित योजनाओं की जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिये जनपद कार्यालय में संपर्क करें।

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- श्रीमती रामकन्या बाई  
 अध्यक्ष  
 जनपद पंचायत सांवेर
- श्री मुकेश जैन  
 C.E.O.  
 जनपद पंचायत सांवेर
- जनपद पंचायत ग्राम सांवेर जिला इंदौर म.प्र.

**समस्त देशवासियों को स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**

**सौजन्यसे: शुभचिंतक**

## Rupee rises two paise to close at 83.95 against US dollar

**PTI n MUMBAI**  
 The rupee traded in a narrow range to settle 2 paise higher at 83.95 (provisional) against the American currency on Wednesday, helped by a sharp decline in the US Dollar against major currencies overseas.

Forex traders said a mixed-to-positive tone in the domestic market also supported the rupee.

However, foreign fund outflows and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East restricted the rise in the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.90 but soon fell into the negative zone and touched an intra-day low of 83.97 against the American currency.

The domestic unit finally settled at 83.95 (provisional) against the American currency, 2 paise higher from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled for the day on a flat note at 83.97 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on elevated commodity prices and heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran.

"However, the weak Dollar and rising odds of a rate cut by the US Fed may support the rupee. Positive global markets may also support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Choudhary further noted that traders may take cues from US CPI data today. "USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20," it added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.13 per cent lower at 102.42.

Forex traders said the US dollar has weakened against majors post the US Producer Price Index (PPI) print, which came in softer than anticipated, leaving the Dollar Index vulnerable to further correction. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.28 per cent to USD 80.92 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 149.85 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 79,105.88 points. The Nifty rose 4.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 24,143.75 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,107.17 crore, according to exchange data.

## NBCC reports growth in operational income

**PNS n NEW DELHI**  
 The Board of Directors in the meeting held on Tuesday approved the financial results of the company for the quarter ended on 30.06.2024. Company reported standalone income from operations of Rs 1627.34 crore for Q1 FY 2024-25 compared to Rs 1478.07 crore for Q1 FY 2023-24. Consolidated income from operations for Q1 FY 2024-25 stood at Rs 2144.16 crore compared to Rs 1926.09 crore for Q1 FY 2023-24. Profit Before Tax (PBT) on standalone basis increased from Rs 84.67 crore to Rs 116.25 crore and on consolidated basis increased from Rs 103.78 crore to Rs 143.84 crore on YoY basis for quarter ended 30.06.2024. Profit After Tax (PAT) on standalone basis has shown growth from Rs 63.13 crore to Rs 86.63 crore and on consolidated basis from Rs 77.41 crore to Rs 107.19 crore on YoY basis for the Q1 FY 2024-25. NBCC with its robust order book and a strategic focus on redevelopment, PSU land monetisation, real estate development, overseas expansion and PMC works is well positioned to contribute towards a "Vikshit Bharat".

**HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
 Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saidapet, Chennai - 600015  
 Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010

**NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY**  
**SALE OF IMMOVABLE (SECURED) ASSETS CHARGED TO HHFL UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (SARFAESI ACT).**

Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount Bid Increase Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserved Price (in Rs.)	Date of Inspection of Property
				Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	
Loan Account No. MP/IDR/INDR/A000000805 1. MR. ANIRUDDH AGRAWAL (Borrower) 2. MR. BEENA AGRAWAL (Co Borrower)	21.09.2023 Rs. 24,69,825/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Sixty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Only)	Flat No. 607, 6th Floor, Shree Ji Heights, Block-A on survey No. 322/3 & 322/4, Village Bhicholi Madana, Indore Measuring 860 sqft with following four boundaries <b>Bounded by:</b> East- Flat No 602, West- Open Space, North- Flat No. 608, South: Flat No.606.	02/07/2024	18,25,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only)	27.08.2024 between 11 AM to 5 PM
				Rs. 1,82,500/- (Rupees One Lac Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	29.08.2024 between 10 AM to 4PM. 31.08.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of HHFL has taken over possession of the schedule property us/ of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that the secured property as mentioned in the Schedule are available for sale through Private Treaty, as per the terms agreeable to HHFL for realisation of its dues on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". Standard terms & conditions for sale of property through Private Treaty are as under: 1. Sale through Private Treaty will be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". 2. The purchaser has to pay 10% of Bid amount prior to 29/08/2024 for participating in Private treaty 3. The purchaser will be required to deposit 25% of the sale consideration on the next working day of receipt of HHFL's acceptance of offer for purchase of property and the remaining amount within 15 days thereafter. 4. The Purchaser amount paid in EMD i.e. 10% will be adjusted in total payment of 25% of the deposit to be made as per clause (2) above. 5. Failure to remit the amount as required under clause (2) above will cause forfeiture of amount already paid including 10% of the amount paid along with application. 6. In case of non-acceptance of offer of purchase by the HHFL, the amount of 10% paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest. 7. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to HHFL. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/ rights/ dues. 8. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date. 9. HHFL reserves the right to reject any offer of purchase without assigning any reason. 10. In case of more than one offer, HHFL will accept the highest offer. 11. The interested parties may contact the Authorized Officer for further details / clarifications and for submitting their application. 12. The purchaser has to bear all stamp duty, registration fee, and other expenses, taxes, duties in respect of purchase of the property. 13. Sale shall be in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act / Rules. 14. AND WHEREAS the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor - Hinduja Housing Finance Limited has decided to dispose off the said secured asset. This notice of sale is published today that the secured asset detailed above will be sold on 31/08/2024 at Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, Branch Office: Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- 101-B, Business Park, NRK Near Mangal City, Vijay Nagar Indore - 450210. For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Mr. Vaibhav Shrivastava, Mo. No. 987969803, Mr. Rajesh Chokotiya Mo. No. 84355 71111, Sitaram Prajapat - 9584567867, Govind Chouhan - 89628 16436  
 Place-Indore Date- 15.08.2024  
 Authorised Officer

**संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण**  
 टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल (म.प्र.)

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश, द्वारा "म.प्र. राज्य तीरंदाजी अकादमी एवं तीरंदाजी फीडर सेंटर्स के लिए तीरंदाजी खेल सामग्री/उपकरण क्रय हेतु" निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-वेबडार पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।  
 म.प्र. माध्यम/115956/2024  
 संचालक



हर घर  
तिरंगा  
अभियान  
9-15 अगस्त, 2024



स्वाधीनता दिवस अवसर पर

# आज़ादी का महापर्व



नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव  
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

15 अगस्त, 2024 ♦ सायं 6.30 बजे

हंसध्वनि सभागार, रवीन्द्र सभागम, रवीन्द्र भवन परिसर, भोपाल

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव

के मुख्य आतिथ्य एवं

माननीय राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) संस्कृति, पर्यटन, धार्मिक न्यास एवं धर्मस्व

श्री धर्मेन्द्र सिंह लोधी की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में

मध्यप्रदेश में स्वाधीनता संग्राम विषय पर आधारित

पुस्तकों का लोकार्पण एवं

प्रख्यात गायक-गायिका

**पलक मुघाल**

**पलाश मुघाल**

एवं साथी कलाकार, मुम्बई द्वारा

सांगीतिक प्रस्तुति।

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।

स्वराज संस्थान संचालनालय

संस्कृति विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन का आयोजन



@MP Culture Department  
@Swaraj Bhawan

प्रवेश नि: शुल्क ♦ प्रथम आएं प्रथम पाएं

आज़ादी के महासमर में अपने प्राणों की आहुति देने वाले  
असंख्य क्रांतिवीर-वीरांगनाओं को शत-शत नमन्।

डॉ. मोहन यादव  
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



सत्यमेव जयते  
Government of India

## Greetings to all fellow citizens on 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

### Jai Hind

Best wishes to all fellow citizens on Independence Day. At this historic moment, let's strengthen the resolve of building Viksit Bharat during the Amrit Kaal.

- Narendra Modi

Hoist Tiranga at your home and adorn it with colours of national unity, pride and progress

To upload selfie with Tiranga visit [harghartiranga.com](http://harghartiranga.com) or scan the QR code







मध्यप्रदेश शासन

## देश की आज़ादी के लिए प्राणों की आहुति देने वाले वीर शहीदों को कृतज्ञतापूर्ण नमन



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

78 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की  
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

## चौतरफा विकास का परचम लहराता मध्यप्रदेश

युवाओं के लिये गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा एवं व्यावसायिक क्षमता निर्माण के लिए सभी 55 जिलों में पी.एम. कॉलेज ऑफ़ एक्सीलेंस प्रारंभ

मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव की पहल पर प्रदेश में पहली बार रीजनल इंडस्ट्री कॉन्क्लेव हो रहे आयोजित

संबल योजना, प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना, सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन, आहार अनुदान योजना एवं राशन आपके ग्राम जैसी योजनाओं के माध्यम से गरीब और जरूरतमंदों को सहायता

मुख्यमंत्री लाइली बहना योजना में 1.29 करोड़ महिलाओं को रक्षाबंधन पर प्रतिमाह ₹1250 के अतिरिक्त ₹250 का विशेष उपहार, अब तक ₹22 हजार 924 करोड़ की सहायता, लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना के माध्यम से बेटियों की शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य का ख्याल

मुख्यमंत्री किसान कल्याण योजना में 83 लाख से अधिक किसानों को ₹14254 करोड़ की सहायता



डॉ. मोहन यादव  
मुख्यमंत्री



मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव से जुड़ने के लिए स्कैन करें



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