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INTERIM GOVT COMMITTED TO FREE & FAIR POLLS: YUNUS

MONEY 6

WINDFALL TAX ON CRUDE PETROLEUM REDUCED

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LET'S JUST LEAVE IT TO THE GODS: CHOPRA ON 90M AND BEYOND

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Patients suffer as doctors strike work over WB horror



Doctors and staff of RML Hospital stage a protest demanding justice for the woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, in New Delhi, on Saturday

SAUMYA SHUKLA n NEW DELHI

Healthcare services across the nation were paralysed as doctors and other medical workers from the Government, private, and even corporate hospitals went on a 24-hour strike starting at 6 am on Saturday, leading to the shutdown of OPDs, elective surgeries, and IPD services. The strike — called to protest rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a State-run hospital in Kolkata last week — caused significant disruption,

with hospitals across the national Capital turning away patients, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. While many sympathised with the cause, they struggled to receive necessary medical treatment. The Indian Medical Association (IMA), which represents over 4 lakh medical professionals nationwide, called for the strike after resident and junior doctors, along with medical students, ceased work for six consecutive days

and took to the street to protest the August 9 incident. As senior doctors also joined the strike, medical services were hit hard in many States, severely impacting primarily poor patients who had traveled long distances from across the country to access care at centrally run facilities like AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, and Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital. A 60-year-old heart patient who had come to AIIMS for an OPD visit expressed his frustration and said, "I had an appointment for a routine

checkup today, but it was cancelled due to the strike. I understand the doctors' concerns, but we haven't done anything wrong. I hope the strike ends soon." Relatives of another patient echoed similar sentiment, acknowledging the tragedy in Kolkata but emphasising that the strike had severely affected them. They had travelled from Rajasthan to Delhi seeking treatment for their uncle, as they believed the best healthcare services were available in the Capital. In display of solidarity and demanding a Central Protection Act, doctors across the Capital also marched towards Jantar Mantar, despite resistance from Delhi Police, who tried to prevent the demonstration from disrupting public life. Nurses too joined the protest, holding a sit-in to show their solidarity and outrage over the West Bengal tragedy. Dr Arpit, a protesting doctor who participated in the march to Jantar Mantar, said, "Our demands are clear. We don't want another incident like the one in West Bengal. The Government must finalise the Central Protection Act. This is not about politics; it's about justice and safety."



CBI focusing on victim's diary to crack case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

Was the murdered doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital aware of any threats to her life? And if so, who were her tormentors? As they work to answer these questions, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials are focusing on the victim's personal diary and statements from her family, including her father, regarding the events leading up to the alleged rape and murder inside the hospital premises on the night of August 8 and 9. Sources indicated that CBI officials have identified around thirty individuals of interest in their investigation, including some doctors, interns, senior nurses, and other hospital staff. According to these sources, the victim's father informed investigators that his daughter had recently expressed reluctance to perform night shifts. She had also voiced suspicions about certain colleagues, fearing that they might cause her harm. The CBI is now meticulously

examining her personal diary to gather as much information as possible about her concerns and the potential threats she faced. The victim's father reportedly informed investigators, citing some of her colleagues, that she may have been murdered elsewhere and then her body was moved to the seminar hall of the Department of Chest Medicine, where she was a final-year postgraduate trainee. CBI officials, who interrogated Sandip Ghosh — the influential former principal of the college, known for his close ties with the topmost family in the State — for approximately 13 and a half hours on Friday night, resumed questioning him on Saturday. Sources suggested that Ghosh has started to crack under CBI pressure, and the interrogation was ongoing at the time of the last reports. On Saturday, a team of CBI officials visited the crime scene inside the hospital for the second time, equipped with three-dimensional cameras and other instruments to gather additional evidence.

Guv OK's K'taka CM prosecution in MUDA scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday ruled out his resignation, following Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot granting sanction to prosecute him, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', and said he had done no wrong to step down. He termed the Governor's decision "anti-Constitution and against law". The Chief Minister also said Governor's decision will be questioned in court and that he will battle it out legally. "It is a big conspiracy to dislodge the elected Government. They (BJP) have done this in several States including Delhi, Jharkhand. A conspiracy has been designed to destabilise the elected Government in Karnataka also. The Central Government, BJP, JD(S) and others are involved in this conspiracy," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. "High command (of Congress) is with me, the entire Cabinet and the Government is with me. All Congress MLAs, MLCs, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members are with me...I have done no wrong to resign," he asserted. Accusing the Opposition of wrong doings and behaving illegally and anti-Constitutionally, he further said, "They are using Raj Bhavan as a political pawn. The Governor is functioning like a puppet in the hands of the Central Government." The Governor has accorded sanction against the Chief Minister under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna.



Police personnel during a rescue operation after coaches of the Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed between Kanpur and Bhimsen stations in Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday

Sabotage suspected in Kanpur train derailment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n KANPUR/NEW DELHI

Twenty coaches of the Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed near Govindpuri station in Kanpur early Saturday after the engine hit an "object placed on the track", rail officials said. There is no report of any loss of life or injury in the accident. The Varanasi-Ahmedabad train derailed between Kanpur and Bhimsen railway stations around 2.35 am. Rescue and relief operations are underway, officials said. In a post on X, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The engine of Sabarmati Express (Varanasi to Amdavad) hit an object on the track and derailed near Kanpur at 02:35 am today." "Sharp hit marks are

observed. Evidence is protected. IB and UP police are also working on it. No injuries to passengers or staff. Train arranged for passengers for onward journey to Amdavad," Vaishnaw added. Railway Board officials said involvement of miscreants or anti-social elements is being looked into as prima facie it appears that the engine hit an object placed on track. "We found a foreign material near the 16th coach of the train. Looking at the size of the damaged portion of cattle guard of the engine, it seems that the engine hit this foreign object and derailed," an official said. "The loco pilot said some boulder hit the cattle guard (front portion) of the engine which got badly damaged and bent," another official said.

Mumbai terror attack plotter faces extradition to India

PTI n WASHINGTON

In a huge setback to Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a US court has ruled that the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman could be extradited to India where is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists. "The (India US Extradition) Treaty permits Rana's extradition," the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in its ruling on Thursday. Ruling on an appeal filed by 63-year-old Rana, a panel of judges of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California's denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate judge's certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Rana, currently lodged in a jail in Los Angeles, faces charges for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attack and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the terror incident that hit India's financial hub in 2008.



Rana has the option of appealing against the ruling. He still has not run out of all the legal options to prevent his extradition to India. Under the limited scope of an extradition order, the panel held that Rana's alleged offence fell within the terms of the extradition treaty between the United States and India, which included a Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) exception to extraditability "when the person sought has been convicted or acquitted in the Requested State for the offence for which extradition is requested". Relying on the plain text of the treaty, the US State Department's technical analysis, and persuasive case law of other circuits, the panel held that the word "offence" refers to a charged crime,

rather than underlying acts, and requires an analysis of the elements of each crime. The panel of three judges concluded that a co-conspirator's plea agreement did not compel a different result. The panel held that the Non Bis in Idem exception did not apply because the Indian charges contained distinct elements from the crimes for which Rana was acquitted in the United States. In its ruling, the panel also held that India provided sufficient competent evidence to support the magistrate judge's finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes. The three panel of judges were Milan D Smith, Bridget S Bade, and Sidney A Fitzwater. Rana, a Pakistani national, was tried in a US district court on charges related to his support for a terrorist organisation that carried out large-scale terrorist attacks in Mumbai. A jury convicted Rana of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organisation and conspiring to provide material support to a foiled plot to carry out terrorist attacks in Denmark. However, the jury acquitted Rana of conspiring to provide material support to terrorism-related to the attacks in India.

KALASH YATRA



Women devotees carry holy water as they take part in the 'Kalash Yatra' during 'Shravan' month, in Jaipur, on Saturday

Hoax bomb threats send cops into tizzy in NCR-Delhi, Maha

PARVESH SHARMA/STAFF REPORTER n GURUGRAM/NOIDA

Two malls in Gurugram and Noida were evacuated on Saturday after they received bomb threat through emails with police later saying nothing suspicious was found following anti-sabotage checks. The bomb threats to DLF Mall of India in Sector 18 of Noida and Ambience Mall in Gurugram came over three months after similar threats were emailed to multiple schools in the National Capital Region (NCR). The



Saturday threat, which had thrown police and security personnel into a tizzy, turned out to be a hoax in the wake of upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, which announced by the Election Commission

on Friday. Besides Delhi and NCR, the Inorbit Mall in Vashi in Navi Mumbai was also evacuated by the police after the mall's management received a bomb threat email on Saturday afternoon. According to Gurugram police, the Ambience Mall management received a bomb threat email at 9.27 am. The email, which was sent from hiddenbones101@gmail.com, read, "I planted bombs in the building. Every person inside the building will be killed, none of you will escape. You deserve death.

This nation also knows how to respect a woman

PTI n NEW DELHI

Celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Saturday received a grand welcome on her return to the country with hundreds of supporters gathering outside the IGI airport, showing immense solidarity with her. Stars such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and panchayat leaders received Vinesh, who endured a heartbreaking exit at the Paris Olympics where she was disqualified for being overweight on the day of her 50kg final. Heavily garlanded, Vinesh stood in an open Jeep and thanked all the supporters. Congress leader Deepender Hooda accompanied Vinesh and offered her sweets.

"I thank the entire country for support," she said, her hands folded in humility. There was a thick security cover as Vinesh, who was found 100 grams overweight at the Olympics, landed in the national Capital. Vinesh's caravan left for her native village Balali in Haryana and on the way she met her supporters, positioned at different spots. Hooda presented a mace, a 'symbol of victory' to Vinesh, who got emotional and was consoled by her husband Somvir. In a series of twitter posts, Hooda praised the 29-year-old Vinesh for her fighting spirit. "In our eyes, you have been a winner in the past and will remain so in the future too. Your courage, struggle and



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat gets emotional as she arrives after Paris Olympics heartbreak, at IGI airport, in New Delhi, on Saturday

determination have not only won the hearts of crores of countrymen but you are an inspiration to crores of youth of the country," read one of his tweets. A group of 50 supporters followed her jeep. They offered prayers at a temple in Delhi's Dwarka before continuing their journey towards Balali. Vinesh had stayed back in Paris after challenging her disqualification in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and demanding a joint silver. The application was dismissed on Wednesday. "She has come back to her country after such a long time. She is very emotional also. She will spend time with family and calm herself. What Vinesh has done for women is praiseworthy. She

might not have received a medal, but she is a champion for us," said Sakshi Malik. London Olympics bronze medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang, who was the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent in Paris, called her a champion, posting a photo with Vinesh at the Paris airport. Both of them were on the same flight to Delhi. "She came as a champion on day 1 into the games village and she will always remain our champion. Sometimes one doesn't need an Olympic medal to inspire a billion dreams.. @vineshphogat you have inspired generations. Salute to your grit," Narang posted on X. "People are waiting to welcome her to our village. People are excited to meet Vinesh and

encourage her," her brother Harvinder Phogat said. The feisty wrestler, in her first reaction after her disqualification, on Saturday said that under "different circumstances" she could see herself competing till 2032 because she still has a lot of wrestling left in her, but is now unsure about her future as things "might never be same again". Vinesh had announced her retirement from the sport after her disqualification. In an emotional post on social media, Vinesh shared her childhood dream, the hardships she faced after losing her father and also put on record the contribution made by people in her extraordinary journey that ended in heartbreak in Paris.

Vikas Yatra to continue until MP becomes prosperous: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has highlighted that Madhya Pradesh has experienced significant progress in recent years. The ongoing Vikas Yatra aims to fully realize a prosperous, literate, healthy, and happy Madhya Pradesh. The state government is committed to advancing this mission, focusing intensively on the development and welfare of youth, women, the poor, and farmers.

These investments and industries will generate local employment opportunities, empowering youth and steering them toward self-reliance. On Independence Day, Yadav emphasized the crucial role of youth in realizing the vision of Vikas Bharat-2047. He asserted that the country's progress hinges on the determination, hard work, and innovative thinking of its younger generation. The forthcoming Yuva Shakti Mission is a pledge to secure a promising and robust future for the youth. In alignment with this vision, the state government has invested Rs 485 crore to equip young people with education in cutting-edge technologies such as AI, machine learning, and coding. Additionally, new subjects like Bio-Technology and Computer Science have been

introduced at the PM College of Excellence across 55 districts, along with 35 new professional courses added to the curriculum. The Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana has been launched to boost youth skills and improve business opportunities through enhanced internships. Under this initiative, Rs 6.6 crore in stipends has been allocated to 8,000 selected trainees. The establishment of 22 new ITIs across the state will add 5,280 new seats, while Green Skilling ITIs in Dewas, Chhindwara, and Dhar will offer specialized courses in Solar Technology and Electric Vehicle Mechanics. Additionally, incubation centers at six universities are established fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, with financial support for startups ranging

from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh. These measures aim to stimulate innovation among youth, align employment with current industrial needs, and open new avenues in entrepreneurship. Chief Minister Yadav stated that true development in the state remains unfinished until the welfare of the most disadvantaged members of society is achieved. The Garib Kalyan Mission is dedicated to transforming the lives of youth from poor and marginalized communities. This mission focuses on empowering and uplifting the most deprived sections of society, addressing their needs through social security schemes, housing, education, and healthcare. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty and ensure a dignified and secure life for the underprivileged. Yadav announced the comple-

tion of 7 lakh houses in rural areas and 7.51 lakh houses in urban areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, aimed at providing basic facilities to the poor. In the 2023-24 period, the Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana and Nikah Sahayata Yojana supported the marriage of 62,583 girls. Additionally, a monthly stipend of Rs 600 is provided to senior citizens, differently-abled individuals, destitute persons, and Kalyani Behnas. Last year, over 66,000 artificial limbs valued at Rs 43.8 crore were fitted for 34,000 disabled individuals. Efforts are being made with utmost dedication to ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes for the poor. The Chief Minister affirmed the state government's commitment to the comprehensive empowerment of women.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav gets his hand decorated with henna during Shraavan Utsav and Rakshabandhan celebrations in Anuppur Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Football-sized tumor from patient's face removed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A team of expert surgeons from AIIMS Bhopal recently performed a highly intricate surgery to remove a football-sized tumor from a patient's face. The surgery, which lasted over six hours, was a resounding success, offering the patient a new lease on life. The patient presented with an enormous tumor, measuring 12 x 8 x 12 cm, originating from the right parotid gland. This tumor, located beneath the main facial nerve and its five supporting nerves, posed significant risks due to its continuous growth. The increasing size of the tumor threatened to impair the patient's vision and risk nerve rupture, necessitating immediate and expert

intervention. Professor Dr. Manish Swarnkar of the General Surgery Department, who led the surgical team, explained the complexity of the case. "Prima facie, it appeared to be a parotid tumor. The histopathology examination has now confirmed this. The tumor had spread from the lower part of the face, exerting pressure on the facial nerve and its branches. These nerves are crucial for controlling facial expressions and the muscles of the eyes, lips, forehead, ears, and nose. Preserving the integrity of these nerves during surgery was a monumental challenge. Even the slightest error could have resulted in the loss of control over vital facial functions." The successful surgical team included Dr. Manish

Swarnkar, Dr. Murat Singh, Dr. Harsh Vaidya, and anesthesiologist Dr. Sandeep. Their collaborative efforts ensured the safe and complete removal of the tumor, while meticulously preserving the patient's facial nerve function. Reflecting on this achievement, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh remarked, "This surgery exemplifies the dedication of our General Surgery Department to provide advanced and meticulous care. Our commitment is to ensure that patients receive the best possible outcomes, even in the most challenging of circumstances. AIIMS Bhopal remains at the forefront of medical innovation, continually striving to improve patient care through state-of-the-art procedures and a relentless pursuit of excellence."

Police Commissioner refutes allegations by Digvijay Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal police commissioner has denied allegations raised by former CM Digvijay over a tweet after theft at his MLA son Jaivardhan Singh. Former CM Digvijay's MLA son Jaivardhan Singh's bungalow at Char Imli was burgled on August 14. After the complaint, the police reached the spot and investigated. Based on CCTV footage and the mobile location of the suspects, the police have arrested two accused. One accused is said to be absconding. The police have seized the stolen cash Rs 15000. The accused have admitted to committing a dozen other thefts. However, only the goods of two thefts could be recovered from the possession of the accused, after the theft incident in his son's government residence, the former CM had

The police have seized the stolen cash Rs 15000. The accused have admitted to committing a dozen other thefts

tweeted against the Police Commissioner Bhopal. In this, it was written that in-charges were posted on the basis of the bids of the police stations on the CP. Now, as soon as the theft was revealed, Police Commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra replied to Digvijay's tweet and called his allegations baseless and malicious. Also, he has been informed about the disclosure of the case. Habibganj police station in-charge Ajay Kumar Soni said

that the team reached as soon as the information about the theft was received. The Forensic Science Lab also reached. The team also took fingerprints from the spot. We had some CCTV footage. Three suspicious people were seen in it. They were identified and the accused were taken into custody on the basis of mobile location. This theft took place in the office built in the government residence of former minister Jaivardhan Singh. The TI had confirmed that only Rs 15000 was stolen. Apart from this, no other goods were stolen. The arrested accused will be interrogated on remand on the orders of the court. One accused in the case is absconding. He is being searched. After the theft incident at the bungalow of MLA son Jaivardhan Singh, Digvijay Singh has targeted the government.

Congress MLA from Raghogarh, Jaivardhan Singh lives in D-21 bungalow located at Char Imli. His government bungalow is just 100 meters away from the CBI office. Even in such a situation, the thieves carried out the crime. After this theft incident, questions are being raised on police patrolling, because the area where the theft took place, many big officials including ministers live here. Char Imli area is considered to be one of the most VVIP areas. Ankit Gujre (23) resident of Balaji Nagar Phase 2 Neelbad, Deepak Mandal (30) resident of H.No. 634 Vishwakarma Nagar Habibganj. The absconding accused was identified as Vijay Dindoria (19) resident of H.No. 191 Vastu Vihar Colony Ratibad. Against the three accused, crimes including theft, burglary and assault have been registered in the past.

Free bus ride on Rakhi festival

Bhopal: On the day of Rakshabandhan in the state capital Bhopal, on Monday, the 'city administration' will give the gift of free travel in city buses to all women, they will be able to travel in buses for free from 6 am to 9 pm. The proposal has been approved in MIC (Mayor in Council). Orders will also be issued regarding this. BCLL (Bhopal City Link Limited) operates the buses. A total 368 city buses run on a total of 25 routes in Bhopal. Out of these, 140 buses have been halted for the last one month. In such a situation, women will be able to travel in the remaining 228 buses on Monday, 19 August. Mayor Malti Rai said that every year on Rakshabandhan, sisters have to go from one place to another to tie Rakhi to their brothers. Sisters are given a gift by the Municipal Corporation. This time too this gift will be given. MIC has approved this proposal. These buses cover all areas of the city. They ply from Chirayu Hospital near Bairagarh to most of the urban areas including Avadhuri, New Market, Ayodhya Bypass, Karond, MP Nagar, Misrod, Mandideep, Bhojpur, Hoshangabad Road, Katara Hills, Bairagarh Chichli, Kolar Road, Gandhinagar, Bangarasia, Raisen Road, Lambakheda, Nariyalkheda, Bhauri. One and a half lakh passengers travel in a day. More than one and a half lakh people travel in city buses in Bhopal in a day. Up to 40 percent of these i.e. about 60000 are female passengers. On the day of Raksha Bandhan, this number can reach 70000. Apart from working people, students also travel by buses. They pay a minimum of 7 and a maximum of Rs 42 as fare.



Junior Doctor Association members stage a protest during their strike demanding justice for a woman trainee doctor who was on duty allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, at Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Youth rapes girl by changing religious identity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Mangalwara police have booked a youth who sexually assaulted a girl by posing himself with Hindu identity, by hiding his religion. The accused and the victim came to know about each other on Instagram. After meeting for the first time, the accused took photos with the girl. Later, he molested her by threatening to defame her by making these photos viral. On the girl's complaint, the Mangalwara police has registered a case. The police have taken the accused into custody. As soon as the information spread Bajrang Dal activists created a ruckus outside the police station. After he was taken into custody, they tried to assault the accused. The police said that the 19-year-old girl is originally from Vidisha district. She is



studying B.Com from a private college while living in Bhopal. Recently, she became friends with the victim on Instagram. The accused told his name as Ashu and his Insta profile is also with the same name, but his original name is Asgar. On August 8, the accused called the victim to meet him at Peoples Mall while roaming here, the accused took some pictures with the victim. On August 15 was the accused's birthday. He called the girl to meet him in the name of a party. Took her to

a hotel near Bhopal station. There Asgar Khan alias Ashu intimidated the victim and raped her. On protesting, the accused threatened to defame her by making her personal photos viral. Not only this, on complaining to the police, the accused threatened to kill the girl. On Saturday, the victim reached Mangalwara police station. There she filed a complaint against the accused. The police registered a case on the girl's complaint. The accused was taken into custody. He was being brought to the police station by Dial 100, when the workers tried to beat up the accused. With great difficulty the police saved the accused and took him to the police station.

Medi-Caps International School celebrates Independence Day

PNS ■ INDORE

MediCaps International School witnessed a remarkable celebration on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of Indian Independence, as the intersection of all four cardinal directions-East, West, North, and South, represented by the four blocks of the school-became a hub of vibrant patriotism and unity. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Col. Rajesh Mishra, who served as the Chief Guest, alongside Mr. Udassi, a distinguished educationalist, as the Guest of Honour, and Vice Chairman Gopal Agrawal. The patriotic program commenced with the ceremonial flag hoisting, setting the tone for an afternoon filled with powerful and inspiring performances. The event was a powerhouse of talent, with captivating music and dance acts that brought the spirit of freedom alive. The younger students particularly shone, captivating the audience with their inspiring poems and engaging speeches, which echoed the themes of patriotism and responsibility. A standout moment of the cel-

ebration was the heartfelt message delivered by the little children, emphasizing the importance of sustainable development, the conservation of Earth and Water, and the need for a cleanliness drive. Their message served as a reminder of the collective responsibility to uphold the freedom that so many have fought for. In his address, Col. Rajesh Mishra inspired the students to fulfill their duties with unwavering integrity. He acknowledged the dedication of parents and teachers in nurturing the students and a meeting their needs, and expressed his optimism for India's future, stating that witnessing such programs reinforced his belief that India is on the path to becoming a global leader. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Cultural Head of the Student Council, leaving everyone with a renewed sense of patriotism and a deeper commitment to the responsibilities that come with freedom. The celebration was not just a reflection of the past but a pledge to continue building a better, stronger India.

AWWA organizes 'Veer Nari' sammelan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To mark the auspicious 58th AWWA Day, a Veer Nari meet was held at the 3 EME Centre in Bairagarh under the auspices of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. Smt. Nandita Singh, Zonal President of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps AWWA, engaged with and honored the "Veer Naris" and Next of Kin (NOKs) from the Bhopal District. She expressed deep gratitude for the ultimate sacrifices made by the Fallen Heroes and reaffirmed the commitment to provide all possible support to the Veer Naris, emphasizing that it is both a "Duty" and a "Dharma." This event marked the beginning of the 58th AWWA Week. The Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA), established in 1966, is dedicated to the welfare of Veer Naris, as well as the families of serving and retired soldiers of the Indian Army. AWWA's primary focus is on supporting war widows, known as "Veer Naris." The association provides essential emotional and moral support to help them cope with their loss while addressing any concerns they may have. AWWA plays a vital role in ensuring that army widows never feel abandoned at any stage of their lives.

Bank of Baroda observes 78th Independence Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, observed India's 78th Independence Day with a series of initiatives. The Bank's Managing Director & CEO, Debadatta Chand, Executive Directors, CVO and senior executives participated in the flag hoisting program at its Corporate Office in Mumbai. The Bank and its employees also enthusiastically supported the HarGharTiranga campaign. This initiative invites citizens to proudly hoist the Tiranga at their homes and offices and post the pictures on the HarGharTiranga portal, fostering a deep sense of patriotism. Further, Bank of Baroda observed "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" by hosting exhibitions at the corporate office and at 75 lead districts across India. "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" is aimed at shedding light on the suffering and pain endured by millions during the partition. The exhibition narrates the story of India's

Partition and is meant to commemorate the victims & the sacrifices made by them and ignite the spirit of unity and oneness amongst all Indians. The Bank invited prominent local dignitaries to inaugurate the exhibitions. In Mumbai, Brigadier S.D. Salokhe, a 1971 War Veteran, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "As we celebrate India's 78th Independence Day, it is important that we also honour the memory of the people who suffered and to commit ourselves to a future where every individual is respected. By doing so, we not only commemorate the past but also contribute to a more compassionate and united society." He also urged for active participation of staff in the HarGharTiranga Campaign. "Bank of Baroda has been a steadfast partner in supporting the growth aspirations of the Indian economy and we are committed to playing a pivotal role in the nation's economic & social progress," Chand added.



Canara Bank, Zonal Office Bhopal organized "Mega Property Expo-2024" on August 14 under the guidance of General Manager Sudhanshu Suman and Deputy General Manager 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

AIIMS Director appeals resident doctors to end the strike

Bhopal: In the aftermath of the recent resident doctor case incident at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, medical professionals across the country have raised concerns about the safety and security of healthcare workers. This incident sparked meetings between representatives from the Federation of Resident Doctors Association

(FORDA), Indian Medical Association (IMA), and Resident Doctors' Associations of government medical colleges and hospitals in Delhi with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in New Delhi. The associations voiced their demands for stronger safety measures for healthcare workers. In response, the Union

Ministry acknowledged their concerns, assured them of comprehensive efforts to ensure the security of healthcare professionals, and announced the formation of a committee to address these safety issues. The Ministry also highlighted that 26 states have already enacted legislation for the protection of healthcare workers.

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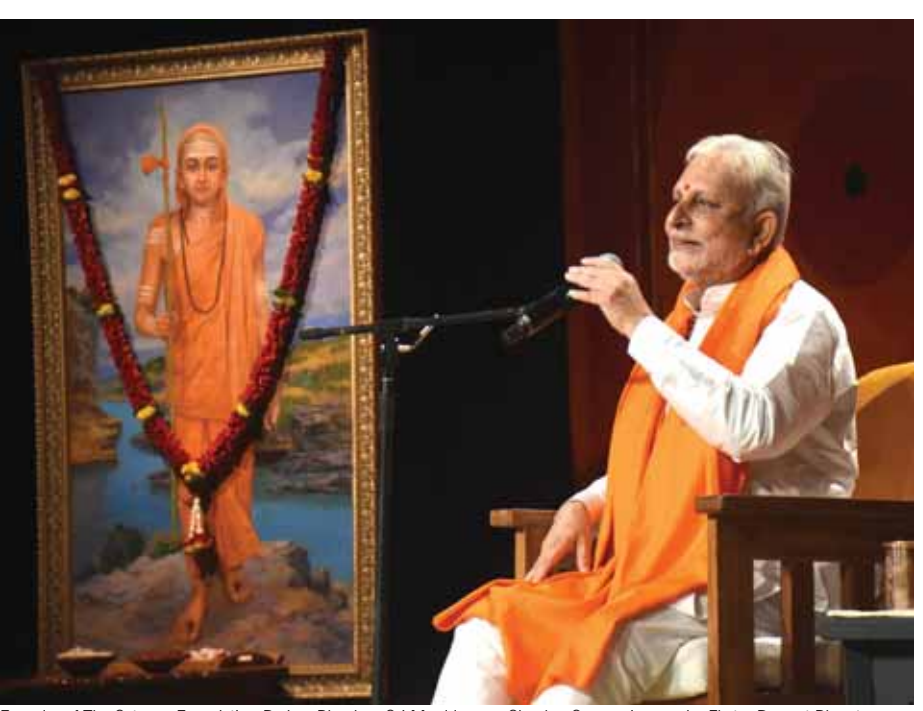
Atishi asks CS to resolve the sewer overflow issue

PNs ■ NEW DELHI
Holding Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar accountable for sewer overflow, Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Saturday directed him to resolve sewer overflow issues across Delhi and take strict action against negligent officials responsible for the crisis.



Shashi Garden, Khichripur, Subhash Park, Raj Nagar Part 2, Satya Niketan, RK Puram, Z block Ranjeet Nagar, Faridpuri, Budh Nagar, Pandav Nagar, WEA Karol Bagh, Garhi Village, Pillanji Village, Chandrawal Village, Kotla Village, Sarai Kale Khan Basti, Zamrudpur and Chirag Dilli (to name a few) are the worst affected.

meetings of Delhi Jal Board along with concerned local area representatives and DJB officers. Specific complaints with locations have been forwarded to the concerned officials during these meetings. However, there is an impasse because there is no on ground coordination between different departments.



Founder of The Satsang Foundation Padma Bhushan Sri M addresses Shankar Symposium under Ekam Parv, at Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal on Saturday.



Youth Congress State President Mitendra Darshan Singh releases a poster to launch a fund raising programme for the relief and rehabilitation for landslide victims of Wayanad, at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Saturday.

Rock climbing facility at Siri Fort road

New Delhi: In its continuing efforts to promote sports in the national capital, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) Vice Chairman Subhashish Panda on Saturday inaugurated rock climbing facility at the Squash and Badminton Stadium at Siri Fort Road.

10 schools to get benefited with digital bus service

There are 20 computers installed in the digital bus. In this, students will be able to take advantage of internet facilities and smart education programs

Basic information about computer literacy will be provided in 10 government schools of Bhopal district through the digital bus launched by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Independence Day.

LG for developing an App to upload illegal parkings

New Delhi: Taking note of parking woes in the national capital, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed creation of an App wherein pictures of illegally/unauthorised parked vehicles could be uploaded from a phone for action.

Axita Cotton income in Q1FY25 at Rs 154.96 cr

New Delhi: Axita Cotton Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of exporters of international quality cotton bales, cotton seeds and cotton yarns in India, has recommended issuance of bonus equity shares in the ratio of 1:3 (i.e., 1 bonus equity share of Re 1 each for every 3 fully paid-up equity shares as on record date) subject to the approvals from the shareholders.

Withdraw strike by August 20, HC directs striking doctors

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has ordered the junior doctors to end their strike. The court said that they should withdraw their strike by August 20.

Bank of Maharashtra DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR. Includes details of borrowers, property descriptions, and demand amounts.

Canara Bank logo and contact information for the Recovery Section, Circle Office, 7th Floor, Ansal Towers, 38, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019.

MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. Details of property being auctioned, including location, area, and terms of sale.

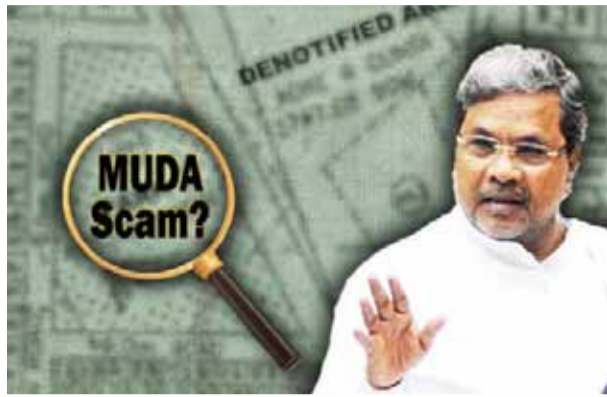
K'taka CM must quit for fair MUDA scam probe: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday asked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to step down from his post to ensure an impartial probe into his alleged role in the MUDA site allotment "scam" as it welcomed the Governor's decision to sanction his prosecution in the case.

BJP MPs Sambit Patra and Tejasvi Surya, at a press conference, rejected the Congress' allegation that Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's decision was motivated by politics and claimed that it was a serious case of corruption involving Siddaramaiah and his family. Taking a swipe at Mallikarjun Kharge, Patra said the Congress President went to Bengaluru to "protect" the Karnataka Chief Minister and wondered when will he go to Kolkata which is witnessing massive protests against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at a West Bengal Government-run medical college and hospital.

Surya said the Karnataka Government has constituted two commissions, one headed by an ex-IAS officer and another by a former High Court Judge, to look into the



allegations of corruption. It was an acknowledgement of irregularity, said the BJP MP from Bangalore South Lok Sabha constituency. In the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru that had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by MUDA. MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Giving details of the alleged scam, Surya claimed the Karnataka Chief Minister's wife was allocated 14 prime upmarket sites in Mysuru in

compensation for a parcel of rural land which was first bought by their son-in-law from its original owner and then gifted to her. Siddaramaiah was first a Deputy Chief Minister and then Chief Minister when decisions were taken related to the land, while his son was a member of the Mysuru body which made the allotment, he claimed. Surya said any State probe agency reporting to the Chief Minister is unlikely to carry out a fair probe into the matter as he demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation. It is a scam like the National Heard case and the suspected hanky-panky in the allotment of land to Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra, he alleged. Patra claimed that the entire "scam" runs into Rs 4,000

crore, adding mockingly that Congress Leaders do not commit any scam less than thousands of crore. The alleged National Herald scam in which Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are the main accused is worth Rs 5,000 crore, he said. Governors used to sit over such files due to political compulsions but the corrupt will not be spared under the Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Patra said. Karnataka Governor Gehlot on Saturday granted sanction for the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the MUDA site allotment "scam". Siddaramaiah has repeatedly said that the Congress Government led by him is ready to fight legally and politically, in case the Cabinet's advice to withdraw the "show cause notice" to him, and grants permission for prosecution. Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist TJ Abraham, Gehlot had issued a "show cause notice" on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him.

WB Govt accused of silencing doctors, media in cover-up bid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused the West Bengal Government of cracking down on doctors and a section of the media for demanding justice in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor, terming it the "most sinister and institutional cover-up" to save the culprits. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla claimed that the sole agenda of the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led government is "silencing the truth, saving rapists and destroying evidence at any cost". He told reporters that 43 doctors were transferred in the state, including a few to remote areas, for allegedly raising their voice for justice while police have been warning citizens and journalists of legal action for their crusade for justice. In a swipe at Banerjee for leading a march seeking justice in the case, Poonawalla asked as to what she was protesting when she was in charge of home and health ministries. The priority of police is not to act against thousands of vandals who stormed RG Kar Medical Hospital but to act against those raising their voice for justice, he claimed, adding that some journalists have had to deactivate their social media accounts. "The TMC has come to represent an authoritarian



and Talibani mindset," the BJP spokesperson alleged, adding that the biggest of dictators will admire Banerjee for her action in this case. Poonawalla said TMC spokesperson Santanu Sen was removed from his position for saying that there were many complaints against the college Principal, who was immediately rehabilitated by the Government after his decision to quit. There is outrage across the country and everybody is demanding justice but the Government's priority is to save criminals, he said. Poonawalla also targeted Opposition INDIA bloc parties for their "conspiracy of silence". The postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at the RG Kar MCH last week. A mob entered the hospital in the early hours of Thursday and ransacked the stage where junior doctors had been demonstrating against the alleged rape and murder of the doctor and demanding security in their workplace. The mob also vandalised the emergency department, nursing unit and medicine store.

Multilateral bodies failed to deliver during global crises: Jaishankar

PNS
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday once again strongly pitched for reforms of key multilateral institutions, saying it is an "undeniable" fact that when the global order faced "critical challenges", solutions did not emerge from them. In his address at the third India-hosted virtual Voice of the Global South Summit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called for facilitating low-cost financing and critical technologies to developing countries. "It is an undeniable fact that even as the global order faced critical challenges, solutions did not emerge from the multilateral domain," he said, calling for revitalising multilateralism. "The reason is both the obsolescence and the polarisation of multilateral organisations," he said, speaking at the foreign ministers' session of the summit. "Here too, India has argued for reformed multilateralism and sought reforms of Multilateral Development Banks through the G20. As a group, we need to press home our case," Jaishankar said. India has been consistently pressing for reforms of multilateral institutions, including the United



Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, arguing that they must reflect the realities of the current world. The external affairs minister put across his views in four specific areas of strengthening economic resilience, climate change and energy transitions, revitalising multilateralism and democratising digital transformations. On economic resilience, he said the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate events have driven home the necessity for reliable and resilient supply chains. "Not just that, there is also an acute need to diversify production itself in various domains to de-risk the international economy," he said. "What we earlier argued for in terms of socio-economic justice is today an equally compelling logic for the entire world in terms of predictability," he noted.



In fresh push to lateral entry UPSC advertises 45 posts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Forty-five specialists will soon be joining on key posts of joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries in different central Ministries as part of the Modi government's ambitious plan to infuse fresh talent to further improve ease of governance. Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services -- the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) -- and other Group A services, among others. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday advertised 45 posts -- 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries to be filled through the lateral entry mode on contract basis. "The Government of India has submitted the requisitions for lateral recruitment of joint secretary and director/deputy secretary level officers. Accordingly, on line applications are invited from talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building to join the Government at the level of joint secretary or director/deputy secretary..." reads the advertisement. The vacancies in different Ministries/Departments with headquarters at New Delhi, are to be filled on contract basis (on deputation for officers of States/UT cadres, public sector undertakings (PSUs), autonomous bodies, statutory organisation, universities, recognised research institutes) for a period of three years (extendable to five years depending upon performance) through website https://www.upsonline.nic.in by September 17, it said. The 10 posts of joint secretaries are in Home, Finance and Steel ministries among others. Thirty-five posts of director/deputy secretary-level will be filled in the

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Civil Aviation and Information & Broadcasting among others. The latest induction is being done through the lateral entry mode referred to as the appointment of private sector specialists in Government Departments -- aimed at bringing fresh talent and perspective into the Government. The lateral recruitment, at the levels of joint secretary, director and deputy secretary in the Central Government, has been undertaken since 2018 to appoint persons for specific assignments, keeping in view their specialised knowledge and expertise in the domain area. The officers at these levels play an important role in policy-making. So far, 63 appointments have been made through lateral entry out of which 35 appointments were from the private sector. At present, 57 officers are in positions in Ministries/Departments, according to the latest data. The posts of Joint Secretary (Policy & Plan), NDMA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Joint Secretary (Emerging Technologies) and Joint Secretary (Semiconductors and Electronics) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Joint Secretary (Digital Economy, Fin Tech and Cyber Security), Department of Financial Services and Joint Secretary (Investment), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Joint Secretary (Shipping), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, among others are to be filled through the latest recruitment drive. Of the total of 35 posts of Directors/Deputy Secretaries, a highest of eight are to be filled in the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, followed by three each in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Law and Justice, among others.

Venugopal to head PAC to keep close eye on Govt expenditure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress Leader KC Venugopal will head the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which keeps a close eye on Government expenditure, according to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also constituted four other Parliamentary panels, including Estimates and Public Undertakings committees which will be chaired by BJP Leaders. Public Accounts, Public Undertakings and Estimates committees are the key financial committees of Parliament tasked with keeping a watch on the Government's accounts and the functioning of public sector firms. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a bulletin on Friday announcing the constitution of parliamentary committees. The Committee on Welfare of OBCs will be headed by Ganesh Singh of the BJP. His party colleague Faggan Singh Kulaste will head the Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs. BJP Leader Sanjay Jaiswal will head the Committee on Estimates while his party colleague Baijayant Panda will chair the Committee on Public Undertakings.



The committees have a tenure of one year and have members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. They are elected by the two Houses. The PAC is usually headed by a senior Lok Sabha member of the principal Opposition party. Congress Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury headed the PAC for five years. Unlike the previous Lok Sabha, committees in the 18th Lok Sabha have taken shape mostly through consensus instead of elections. Besides the PAC, Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Joint Committee on Office of Profit and Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes have been constituted without an election this time.

Rajnath to inaugurate Indian Coast Guard's MRCC building at Chennai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate on Sunday the newly constructed state-of-the-art Indian Coast Guard's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) building in Chennai, the Ministry said on Saturday. The Defence Ministry in a statement said the MRCC underscores the ICG's commitment to safeguarding lives at sea and ensuring swift response in critical situations. On Sunday, Rajnath will also inaugurate two additional key facilities, at the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPRC) in Chennai and the Coast Guard Air



Enclave (CGAE) in Pudukcherry. "This landmark occasion highlights a major advancement in maritime safety and regional coordination, marking a significant step towards enhancing maritime security and emergency response along the Indian coastline," the statement said. The new MRCC is set to become an iconic structure, significantly enhancing the coordination and effectiveness of maritime

rescue operations for mariners and fishermen in distress at sea, officials said. The RMPRC, located on Chennai Port premises, represents a pioneering step in marine pollution management. As the first of its kind in the region, the RMPRC will play a crucial role in coordinating responses to marine pollution incidents, particularly oil and chemical spills, in the waters adjoining coastal states. The Coast Guard Air Enclave at Pudukcherry marks a significant milestone for the ICG and will be instrumental in bolstering maritime security along Pudukcherry and south Tamil Nadu coast, the Ministry said.



BJP filling vacancies by undermining quota: Cong

PNS
NEW DELHI

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday alleged the BJP is deliberately making recruitments in jobs in a manner that the SC, ST, OBC classes can be kept away from reservation. He asserted it is necessary to fully implement the provisions of economic, social and political justice contained in the Constitution and that is why the Congress is demanding a caste census for social justice. In a social media post in Hindi, Kharge said, "BJP, which has ripped apart the Constitution, has made a double attack on reservation!" "Today the Modi Government has issued an advertisement to fill at least 45 posts of Joint Secretary, Directors and Deputy Secretary at the Centre through lateral entry. Is there SC, ST, OBC and EWS reservation in this?" Kharge alleged. "Under a well-planned conspiracy, the BJP is deliberately making such recruitments in jobs so that SC, ST, OBC classes can be kept away from reservation," the Congress President alleged. The "reservation scam" in the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh has now been exposed by a decision of the High Court, he claimed. Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi had raised the voice of the deprived candidates by writing a letter to the Prime Minister in the "reservation scam" in Dalit and backward classes in March 2024, he said. "The Yogi Government had filled these posts by doing injustice to the candidates in which the constitutional right of reservation of Dalit and backward classes was snatched from them," Kharge alleged. "Now we know why the Union Minister, who is a BJP ally, drew the attention of the Government to the irregularities in job reservation," he said.

IAF, Army hold para-drop operation at 15,000 feet

PNS
NEW DELHI

The IAF and the Army have jointly carried out a "first-of-its-kind precise para-drop operation of the Aarogya Maitri Health Cube at a high-altitude of about 15,000 feet, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday. These critical trauma care cubes have been indigenously developed under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri). The operation was conducted in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of providing critical supplies to affected areas as part of humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR), it said. The IAF utilised its advanced tactical transport aircraft C-130J Super Hercules to airlift and precisely para-drop the cube. The Indian Army's Para Brigade, known for its operational acumen and agility, played an instrumental role in the successful



deployment of the trauma care cube, utilising their advanced precision drop equipment, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. This demonstration underscored the capability of such specialised military assets to effectively support HADR operations, even in the most remote and mountainous regions, it said. The successful para-drop and deployment of the BHISHM trauma care cube exemplified the synergy and jointness of the armed forces and underscored the commitment to providing timely and effective assistance as first responders, it added.

Poachers target lesser-known species: WCCB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

With heightened security measures making it increasingly difficult for the traffickers to smuggle high-profile species such as tigers and elephants, their focus seems to be now on lesser-known species like musk deer, avian species, otters, and monitor lizards, according to the data available from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). These species are often disguised as plant roots or synthetic materials, making them easier to smuggle due to their relative obscurity and lack of widespread awareness, say wildlife experts. "The illegal trade in these lesser-known species is accelerating due to heightened security for charismatic species and a general lack of awareness. The presence of fake wildlife articles further complicates detection, making it nearly impossible for law enforcement to register cases

without concrete evidence," said an official from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), an organization engaged in wildlife conservation in the country. During various operations since 2024 till date, the WTI official said that a staggering 128 kg of pangolin scales were seized. On average, 1 kg of scales can be extracted from one Indian pangolin, and 500-600 grams from one Chinese pangolin, indicating significant poaching activity. Another commonly trafficked item is hatha jodi, the hemipenis of the monitor lizard. In the last eight months, 590 hatha jodi were confiscated, revealing the rampant illegal trade of monitor lizards across India. The recent seizure of hathjodi was in early July during a joint operation by WCCB, the forest department, and Amritsar police along with the WTI. The raid resulted in the confiscation of 137 hatha jodi, 38 bear bile vials, 69 sea fans, 1.4 kg of organ pipe



corals, and 4.814 kg of gorgonian corals. These items, derived from Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, were intercepted as they were being transported through Delhi from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. In fact throughout the first quarter of the 2024 as per the WCCB data, enforcement officials were on their toe, curbing illegal wildlife trade. For instance, in Gujarat early this month, the wildlife security agency confiscated a Red Sand Boa snake and a Barn Owl, while Bihar saw the seizure of hundreds of

mongoose brushes. Uttar Pradesh's efforts led to the capture of 36 kg of calipee and 745 turtles. Other significant recoveries included 250 kg of processed sea cucumbers in Tamil Nadu, 9 kg of pangolin scales in Assam, and various wildlife parts in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. In Madhya Pradesh, Carcass of sloth bear, body parts and meat of Barking deer, wild boar, peafowl and bear reproductive organ were seized in joint operation conducted by WCCB, STSF and MP Forest department at South Seoni forest division in February 25 while in West

Bengal, two jars suspected snake venom weighting 2.029 kg and 1.769 kg were seized on February 27. Also five Channa Barca, a rare species of snakehead which is endemic to the upper Brahmaputra River basin in northeastern India and Bangladesh were seized in joint operation conducted by WCCB, West Bengal Forest Department at Baruipur. Additionally, other lesser-known items seized were ea fans, mongoose hair brushes, turtle carapaces, and live birds along with their eggs—all protected under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, there were a few cases involving large animals like big cats too. In Gujarat's Valsad, authorities seized a leopard skin and four leopard paws earlier this year. In Madhya Pradesh, a tiger skin was confiscated in Bichiya Mandla, underscoring ongoing challenges in wildlife protection.

Interim govt committed to free & fair polls: Yunus

PTI n DHAKA

The caretaker government in Bangladesh is committed to ensuring a transition to inclusive and pluralistic democracy and creating an environment in which "free, fair and participatory elections can be held, its head Mohammad Yunus assured the international community on Saturday.

Yunus, the Chief Advisor of the interim government, said while addressing the third Voice of Global South Summit which was hosted by India in a virtual format.

"You all are aware that Bangladesh witnessed a 'Second Revolution' on 5th August 2024, through a mass uprising spearheaded by our valiant students and joined by the masses," the 84-year-old Nobel laureate said, referring to the political turmoil in his country and the resignation of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

Noting that the current interim government led by him was

sworn in on August 8, Yunus said, "Our government is committed to ensuring a transition to inclusive and pluralistic democracy and creating an environment in which free, fair and participatory elections can be held," Yunus assumed charge of the interim government amid ongoing violence and vandalism, including against the minorities.

"Our task is now to carry out vital reforms in our electoral system, judiciary, local government, media, economy and education," Yunus said at the summit being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I invite you to visit Dhaka soon. Otherwise, you may miss something important. Much of Dhaka has turned into the graffiti capital of the world. Young students and children aged as young as 12-13 have been painting the walls of this 400-year-old city with images of a New Democratic environment-friendly Bangladesh," he said.

"There is no central planning

or guidance for that. No budget support from anybody. It is just an outpouring of their emotions and commitment to the goals of the Second Revolution," the noted economist said.

Former Prime Minister Hasina, 76, fled to India on August 5 after being forced to resign from her post amidst unprecedented anti-government student-led protests.

The student-led protests demanding reforms in government job quotas evolved into a government-toppling movement in early August.

Yunus further said, "We must place the youth and students, who constitute a significant portion of the Global South's population at the heart of our strategies. Two-thirds of our population are youth. They are the most powerful segment of the society. They are different. They are committed to creating a new world. They are capable. They are technologically far ahead of the previous generation..."

He also emphasised redesign-



ing the financial system to make sure that wealth is shared by all.

"It should not be a one-way path for wealth. We must ensure financial services for all people, particularly women and youth. We can learn from each other how this can be done successfully."

He also mentioned 'The Bengali language movement' in 1952.

"In 1952 the Bangladeshi students sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue. It inspired struggles for the right to speak in the mother language all over the world. Some seven

decades later our students-led Second Revolution is inspiring youth throughout the global south to raise their voice for democracy, human rights, dignity, equality and shared prosperity."

"I am honoured to be the oldest 'young person' to take part in this revolution and help them make their dreams come true. They need support from all of you," Yunus said.

"Being old should not mean that you have to retire, withdraw yourself from economic activities. Human creativity never stops on a date fixed by the state. It doesn't stop until the last breath. We may work together to see how to make societies supportive of the creativity of all people as long they live," the octogenarian economist said.

During the anti-government protest in Bangladesh, over 230 people died during violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 during the three weeks of violence.

10 killed in Israeli strike in southern Lebanon

AP n NABATIEH (LEBANON)

An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon early Saturday killed at least 10 Syrian nationals, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The strike on Wadi al-Kfour in Nabatieh province is among the deadliest in Lebanon since the Hezbollah militant group and Israeli military started trading strikes on Oct. 8, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel and sparked the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah maintains that it will stop its attacks once a cease-fire is reached in the Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were a woman and her two children, the ministry said. Five others were wounded, two of whom in critical condition.

An Arabic-language spokesperson for the Israeli military, Avichay Adraee, said the strike in the southern province targeted a weapons depot belonging to

Hezbollah.

Mohammad Shoaib, who runs a slaughterhouse in Wadi al-Kfour, said the area struck was an "industrial and civilian area" that contained factories producing bricks, metal, and aluminum, as well as a dairy farm.

The uncle of three of the people killed in the strike said they were factory workers who were in their housing accommodation when they were hit. He denied that there were weapons at the facility. "There was nothing at all like that," Hussein Shahoud said. "There was metal for construction, for building, for all kinds of purposes."

Hezbollah has not immediately commented on the strikes.

The Lebanese government and international governments have scrambled for weeks to put an end to the monthlong clashes, with the region on a knife edge since July.

An Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's

top commander, whom Israel accused of leading a rocket attack on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths. Hours later, an explosion widely blamed on Israel killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital.

Both Tehran and Hezbollah vowed to retaliate, but have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors and Gaza cease-fire talks continue in Qatar.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a six-week war in the summer of 2006 that ended in a draw. Hezbollah's military capabilities have developed significantly since then.

More than 500 people have been killed in exchanges since Oct. 8, most of them fighters with Hezbollah and other armed groups but also including around 100 civilians and noncombatants. In Israel, 22 soldiers and 24 civilians have been killed. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of tense frontier.

Nearly 650 people killed in recent violence in Bangladesh: UN report

PTI n DHAKA/GENEVA

Nearly 650 people have been killed in the recent unrest in Bangladesh between July 16 and August 11, the UN Human Rights Office has said in a preliminary report, suggesting a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions.

According to the 10-page report titled "Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh", nearly 400 deaths were reported between July 16 and August 4 while around 250 people were reportedly killed following the new wave of protests between August 5 and 6, leading to the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The available public reports by media and the protest movement itself claimed that between July 16 and August 11, more than 600 people were killed due to the wave of violence following the Anti-Discriminatory

Student demonstrations. The number of reported killings in revenge attacks since that time remains to be determined, the report, released on Friday in Geneva, said.

Several deaths were reported between August 7 and 11, including those who died while undergoing medical treatment for injuries sustained in the violence, the UNHCR report suggested.

Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists and several security forces personnel, it said, adding that thousands of protesters and bystanders were injured, with hospitals overwhelmed by the influx of protesters.

The report said the reported death toll was likely an underestimate as information collection faced a hindrance by restrictions on movement due to the curfew and the internet shutdown.

Furthermore, hospitals were reportedly prevented by state authorities from providing

details of those killed and injured, the report suggested. Triggered by the reinstatement of a quota system for the allocation of jobs in civil services, the student protests in Bangladesh in mid-June turned violent, with reports of severe human rights violations by security forces.

"There are strong indications, warranting further independent investigation, that the security forces used unnecessary and disproportionate force in their response to the situation," the report said.

"Additional, alleged violations, that also warrant thorough, impartial and transparent investigations included extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, as well as severe restrictions on the exercise of freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly," the report said.

There were also reports of looting, arson and attacks on members of religious minorities, as

well as reprisals against and revenge killings of members of the former ruling party and police following the resignation of Hasina on August 5, the report said.

On August 15, mobs armed with bamboo sticks, iron rods and pipes reportedly assaulted the former prime minister's Awami League Party supporters who had gathered to pay their tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his death anniversary.

The UN report emphasised the importance of rapidly restoring law and order, as well as the need for effective measures to prevent further loss of life, violence and acts of reprisals.

"Law enforcement agencies need to receive clear instructions and training on the use of force, in line with international human rights standards. They must protect populations at risk against any retaliatory or revenge violence, including minority communities," the report said.

Missile hits Ukraine as Kyiv's troops push into Kursk region

AP n MOSCOW

A Russian missile strike sparked a blaze in the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Saturday, while Ukrainian forces continued to push into Russia's Kursk border region. Two people were injured in the Sumy strike, which also damaged cars and nearby buildings, said Ukraine's State Emergency Service. It said that the hit had involved an Iskander-K cruise missile and an aerial bomb.

Ukraine's air force also said it had shot down 14 Russian drones overnight, including over the Kyiv region.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since August 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

Alexander Kots, military correspondent with the pro-Kremlin newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, said that Ukrainian pressure in Kursk "is not weakening yet".

"In the main sections of the ragged front, the situation has stabilized. But there are areas where the enemy continues to try to expand its bridgehead," he wrote on his Telegram channel.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday that Ukraine had destroyed a bridge across the Seim River in the Glushkovsky district with US-made HIMARS rockets, marking their first use in the Kursk region.

Zakharova's statement couldn't be independently confirmed, although the Washington-based think tank the Institute for the Study of War said that geolocated footage published on August 16 showed that the bridge had collapsed following the strike.

Russian military bloggers said that the destruction of bridges would impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces, but not cut them off completely.

"No one has cancelled the pontoons," said Kots, stressing that



A damaged monument to Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin stands in a central square in Sudzha, Kursk region. AP/PTI

the Kursk incursion is notable for its size, speed, the reported involvement of battle-hardened Ukrainian brigades and the length of time they have stayed inside Russia. As many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops are involved, according to Western military analysts.

The incursion, which Russian authorities say has led to the evacuation of more than 120,000 civilians, came as a shock to many. Yan Furtsev, an activist and member of local opposition party Yabloko, told the AP.

Ukrainian forces have also captured a number of Russian troops as they have moved across the region.

On Friday, the AP visited a detention centre in Ukraine, the location of which cannot be disclosed due to security restrictions. Dozens of POWs were seen, some of them walking with their hands tied behind their backs while a guard led them down a corridor. Some had rations of a thin soup with cabbage and onions.

Teenager shoots Indian-origin man dead in US

PTI n WASHINGTON

A 36-year-old Indian-origin man has been shot and killed after a teenage boy robbed a convenience store in the US state of North Carolina, authorities said.

Mainank Patel, the owner of the Tobacco House store at 2580 Airport Road, died after the shooting on Tuesday morning, the Salisbury Post reported.

A juvenile male is in custody for the crime, according to Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Because the young man is a juvenile, deputies are not able to release his name.

The juvenile was arrested Tuesday evening but no additional details have been released.

Deputies initially responded to the Tobacco House convenience store in response to a 911 hang-up call, said Captain Mark McDaniel, public information officer for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office.

While they were en route to the location, communications were received that there had been a shooting. When the deputies arrived on scene they found Patel suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, said McDaniel.

The victim was taken to Novant Health Rowan Medical Center and then transported to Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, where he died as a result of his injuries, the report added.

A security video showed a tall, slender white male running across the store parking lot away from the building. He was wearing black shorts, a black hoodie, a black ski mask and white Nike tennis shoes with burgundy logos, and appeared to have a black handgun in his hand, said McDaniel.

McDaniel said that the sheriff's office is not certain of the motive in the shooting, but that it currently appears to have been a robbery. No one else was injured.



American businessman and Microsoft founder Bill Gates during flagging off the First India Day celebrations, in Greater Seattle area, USA. PTI

Rana can be extradited to India, rules US court

PTI n WASHINGTON

In a huge setback to Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a US court has ruled that the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman could be extradited to India where is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

"The (India US Extradition) Treaty permits Rana's extradition," the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in its ruling on Thursday.

Ruling on an appeal filed by 63-year-old Rana, a panel of judges of the US Court of

Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California's denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate judge's certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Rana, currently lodged in a jail in Los Angeles, faces charges for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attack and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the terror incident that hit India's financial hub in

2008.

Rana has the option of appealing against the ruling. He still has not run out of all the legal options to prevent his extradition to India.

Under the limited scope of habeas review of an extradition order, the panel held that Rana's alleged offence fell within the terms of the extradition treaty between the United States and India, which included a Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) exception to extraditability "when the person sought has been convicted or acquitted in the Requested State for the offence for which extradition is requested".

Pak Intel agencies continue to abduct critics, reveal families

PTI n LAHORE

Intelligence agencies in Pakistan continue to abduct social media activists and vloggers for criticising the government and the powerful military establishment in the country, their families have alleged and approached courts in Punjab province.

Two social media activists of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Naem Ahmad Yasin and Arsalan Akbar, and vlogger-comedian Aun Khosa, have allegedly been arrested by intelligence agencies in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

They have been reported "missing" by their families.

The Shehbaz Sharif government and the establishment have been facing scathing criticism on social media for "abducting" Khosa for singing a parody song on soaring electricity bills.

Days before his abduction, Khosa had sung a song "Bill Bill Pakistan", a parody of the

famous Pakistani song "Dil Dil Pakistan" and released a video on social media criticising the high prices of electricity and extra taxes added to it. Khosa also took on the worthlessness of the Pakistani passport and the cash-strapped country's loans. The comedian has a following of 137,000 on YouTube.

The families of three "missing persons" filed petitions in the Lahore High Court which on Friday directed the Punjab police chief to recover Khosa by August 20.

Binish Iqbal, the wife of Khosa, told LHC Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi that unidentified persons barged into her house a few days ago and manhandled her husband before bundling him into a van and speeding away.

Separately, LHC Justice Shakil Ahmad directed the Punjab police to recover missing PTI activist Arsalan Akbar before August 28.

The PTI has expressed concern over recent "forced disappear-

ances" of its political workers. Professor Mazhar-ul-Hassan and Zahoor-ul-Hassan, the brothers of PTI former social media head Azhar Mashwani, and Khan's close aide Shahbaz Gill's brother Ghulam Shabbir have also been missing since June last year.

"Whereabouts of all five individuals remain unknown despite their families' efforts to locate them by approaching the police and the court. A pattern of enforced disappearance is emerging, seemingly to intimidate those living abroad, who are critical of the Pakistani government," a PTI official said on Saturday.

He urged the judiciary to ensure the safe recovery of all the missing people associated with the PTI.

Amnesty International has also demanded that the Pakistan government immediately disclose their whereabouts and "ensure an effective, independent, and impartial investigation into these disappearances".

Army officials, civic authorities and scientists on Saturday confirmed that the massive flash floods in a high-altitude village in the Everest region of Nepal were caused by two glacial lake outbursts leading to widespread devastation. Hurling down the steep slopes, carrying boulders, debris and muck with it, the floods devastated more than half of the homes in Thame village in the scenic Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality-5. The incident occurred at around 1.30 pm local time on Friday.

Although no deaths have been reported so far, one person is reportedly missing, news portal MyRepublica said about the damage caused due to the flooded Thame rivulet, one of the tributaries of Dudhkoshi River.

"Authorities reported that around 93 villagers who fled to higher altitudes or were rescued are now being sheltered in an army camp, while 42 others have been temporarily placed in a nearby community building," The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

Glacial lake outburst devastated Everest village

PTI n KATHMANDU

A team of experts and authorities were dispatched in a helicopter to inspect and monitor the disaster site and investigate the cause of the sudden flood and mudslide that struck the village. The helicopter went right upstream up to the glacial lakes in higher reaches.

"Following the aerial inspection, the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality confirms that the flood was triggered by the outburst of a glacial lake, one of the many lakes situated above the valley," The Himalayan Times said.

The Kathmandu Post quoted officials to report that two of the five lakes formed above the Thame village had burst and flooded downstream areas. Glacial lake outburst floods, or GLOF, are a sudden release of water from a lake fed by glacier melt that has formed at the side, in front, within, beneath, or on the surface of a glacier. Experts have warned that global warming poses major threats to glacial lakes and subsequent GLOFs in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

Corroborating that it was indeed a GLOF, the Cryosphere Society

of Nepal (CSN), a group of Nepal-based glaciologists working in the Himalayas, said in a post on X: "The lake, which is approximately 39,081.87 square meters in size and located upstream of Thame Village in Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, caused the devastation in Thame Village on August 16th.

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Phone : +91-120-610200/610209 CIn: 140101UP2007PLC032635

CORRIGENDUM
This is with reference to the Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited advertisement of Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type) of 3x560 MW Thermal Power Plant released on 17 August 2024 in financial express all edition & pncor all edition please note that submission date of tender fee for issue of bid document to be extended to 26th August 2024 instead of 18th August 2024. All other contents shall remain same.

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Majority blue-collar jobs pay less than ₹ 20,000 per month: Report

PTI | MUMBAI

Majority of blue-collar jobs in India pay within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, suggesting that a substantial portion of the workforce is grappling with financial strain, struggling to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare, and education, a report has said.

Over 57.63 per cent of blue-collar jobs fall within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, indicating that many workers earn close to the minimum wage, tech-enabled blue collar recruitment platform WorkIndia said in a report. In addition, the report revealed that about 29.34 per cent of blue-collar jobs are in the moderate earning bracket, with salaries ranging from Rs 20,000-40,000 per month. Workers falling under this category, experience marginally improved financial security but are far from achieving a comfortable standard of living, it said. The income in this range may



cover necessities but it leaves little room for savings or investments, which highlights the economic vulnerability of a large segment of the blue-collar workforce, it added.

"The data reveals a significant concentration of low-wage jobs and limited opportunities for higher earnings within the blue-collar sector. This disparity not only reflects the economic challenges faced by a large portion of the workforce but also has broader implications for

social stability and economic growth," WorkIndia CEO and co-founder Nilesh Dugarwal told PTI. Addressing these issues may require targeted interventions such as skill development, wage reforms, and the creation of more high-paying job opportunities, he added. The report further revealed that a very small segment of the workforce, constituting only 10.71 per cent, get salaries over Rs 40,000-60,000 per month. This higher earning bracket

among the blue collar reflects the presence of specialised skills or experience among these workers, yet the restricted availability of such positions suggests that upward mobility within the segment remains challenging, it said. Only 2.31 per cent of blue-collar jobs offer salaries exceeding Rs 60,000, which is an extremely small percentage that signifies the scarcity of well-paying opportunities in this sector, it stated. Positions in this top bracket are typically highly-specialised or involve significant responsibility, making them accessible only to a select few, the report added. The report is based on an analysis of job data collected from the WorkIndia platform over the past two years, which includes over 24 lakh job postings across various industries. The report said, field sales positions lead the list of the highest-paying blue-collar roles, with 33.84 per cent of roles offering salaries above Rs 40,000 per month.

Identify high-value cash transactions at hotels, hospitals: CBDT to I-T Dept

PTI | NEW DELHI

Rampant cash transactions in business sectors like hotels, luxury brand sales, hospitals and IVF clinics need to be checked in a "non-intrusive" manner, the CBDT has asked the I-T department.

The apex body for direct taxes administration in the country — the Central Board of Direct Taxes — has also asked the tax department to undertake "concerted efforts" to recover arrear demands which have been witnessing a "steep rise" since the last financial year. The CBDT recently issued an annual action plan dossier called the central action plan (CAP) 2024-25. Senior officials told PTI that transactions over Rs 2 lakh in cash were required to be reported through a statement of financial transaction (SFT) by financial institutions but that was not happening. "While examining such reports, it is noticed that the circumvention of these provisions is widely prevalent," the Board told the I-T department. "Further, although section 139A requires PAN (permanent account number) to be provided or obtained in specified transactions, there is



no reporting/verification mechanism for determining the compliance with this obligation," it said. In any case, it said, "high value" consumption expenditure needs to be verified with information about the taxpayer and therefore, it is imperative to identify the sources which could be involved in possible circumvention. The department identified some of the businesses, such as hotels, banquet halls, luxury brand retailers, IVF clinics, hospitals, designer clothing stores, and NRI quota medical college seats, where the non-adherence to these rules and large cash transactions was being found. "Such sources will have to be identified and a verification exercise could be conducted by calling for information in a non-intrusive manner," the

CBDT directed the tax department.

A senior officer said the extent of cash in the economy can be gauged from the fact that during the 2023-24 fiscal, the tax department mounted 1,100 searches or raids across the country to check tax evasion, resulting in seizure of assets amounting to about Rs 2,500 crore out of which Rs 1,700 crore was in cash.

The CBDT also informed the I-T authorities that "new opportunities for identification of potential taxpayers have opened up due to data mining and data analytics" and effective use of such data may result in "identification of a large number of potential taxpayers."

"The case of non-filers and those whose ITRs (income tax returns) do not match with financial transactions done by them are selected based on rules through management information system and taken up for e-Verification. The outcome of e-Verification results in widening and deepening of taxpayer base," it said.

The Board said the tax department has been given a target to add in the current fiscal 10 per cent more tax return filers to what the filer base was at the end of 2023-24.

Windfall tax on crude petroleum reduced to ₹ 2,100/tonne



PTI | NEW DELHI

The government has slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 2,100 per tonne, from Rs 4,600 per tonne with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).

The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from August 17, an official notification said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

Sebi proposes expansion of sustainable finance framework in securities market

PTI | NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed expansion of the sustainable finance framework in the securities market by introducing a new category of financial instruments.

This category will include Social Bonds, Sustainable Bonds, and Sustainability-linked Bonds in addition to the current green debt securities. It aims to provide issuers with flexibility in raising funds for projects that align with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives.

In a consultation paper released on Friday, Sebi proposed that issuers, in addition to existing green debt securities, be allowed to raise funds through issuance of social bonds, sustainable bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds. These bonds will collectively be known as ESG Debt Securities. This will enable issuers to raise money for more sustainable projects, assisting in closing the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals.



Sebi said it received representations from market participants including the Confederation of Indian Industry to expand the scope of the regulatory framework pertaining to sustainable finance to include Social Bonds, in addition to existing Green Debt Securities as a mode of raising sustainable finance, in line with global practices. As per the consultation paper, Sebi said, it "proposed to introduce the concept of Sustainable Securitised Debt Instruments for the purpose of providing originators of the underlying credit facilities which are within such international or domestic frameworks for sustainable finance, and thereby provide

investors as well an opportunity to participate in the sustainable securitised debt instruments".

The consultation paper also addressed the initial and continuous disclosures for sustainable securitised debt instruments that would be based on international frameworks.

Initial disclosures could be made in the offer document for the securities, while continuous disclosures might be included in annual reports or other mandated formats. The markets watchdog also suggested that issuers of ESG debt securities and sustainable securitised debt instruments appoint an independent external reviewer or certifier, to facilitate transparency and credibility.

The review could take various forms including, secondary opinions, verification, certification, or scoring/rating. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited comments and suggestions from the public on the consultation paper by September 6.

Open to exploring more ways to increase India's collaboration with IMF: FM



PTI | NEW DELHI

India is open to exploring more ways to increase its collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said during a meeting with IMF's First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath on Saturday. During the meeting, Gopinath congratulated the Finance Minister on policy continuity in the fiscal consolidation path being followed by the Government

of India. "FM Smt. @nsitharaman stated that India deeply values its relationship and continuous engagement with IMF; and looking ahead, the Government of India is open to exploring more ways to increase India's collaboration with the IMF," the finance ministry said in a post on X. Besides acknowledging the vibrancy of the Indian economy, Gopinath appreciated the strength of India's relationship with IMF - valuable to both India, IMF, and to the world at large.

CBIC asks GST officers to consult board on law interpretation while conducting audit

PTI | NEW DELHI

The CBIC has asked GST officers conducting audit to refer to the board those cases where they face issues of conflicting interpretation of provisions of the tax law.

In an instruction to field offices, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said during the process of audit, a CGST Audit Principal Commissioner may come across a scenario where a taxpayer has followed a prevalent trade practice based on particular interpretation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) law and more than one such interpretation of the law could result in litigation.

"In such cases, it is desirable that the zonal (Pr.) Chief Commissioner make a self-contained reference to the relevant policy wing of the Board i.e. The GST Policy or TRU (Tax research Unit)," the CBIC said, adding that the Commissioner would make the reference before conclusion of the audit and before issuing show cause notice to promote uniformity and avoid litigation. Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said industry has been facing significant challenges during GST audits and one of the recurring issues has been the inconsistency in interpretations of GST laws by various audit authorities. These inconsistencies have often resulted in conflicting decisions, leading to increased litigation and uncertainty for businesses. Industries have frequently reported that during audits, differing views among audit officers regarding the applicability of certain provisions have led to undue pressure and prolonged disputes. This not only causes



operational disruptions but also increases compliance costs for businesses as they are compelled to engage in prolonged legal battles, Mohan said.

"In response to these concerns, the CBIC's instruction aims to standardize the audit process by requiring Zonal Principal Chief Commissioners to consult with the relevant policy wing of the Board (GST Policy or TRU) before concluding any investigation where multiple interpretations of the law exist."

"This step is crucial in ensuring that a uniform interpretation of the GST laws is maintained across different jurisdictions, thereby reducing the likelihood of unnecessary litigation," Mohan added. Deloitte India Partner and Leader Indirect Tax, Mahesh Jaing said "this proactive step, applicable to ongoing audits as well, ensures policy alignment, focuses on ease of doing business and reduces unnecessary litigation by maintaining uniformity."

India exports first consignment of fig juice to Poland

PTI | NEW DELHI

India has exported the first consignment of fig juice to Poland as part of its initiative to increase shipments of unique agro products from the country, the commerce ministry said on Saturday.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the export of India's first ready-to-drink fig juice, made from GI-tagged Purandar Figs, to Poland, it said. The GI (geographical indication) tag provides legal protection to that item,



preventing unauthorized use by others, and helps in promoting exports of the product. The shipments reflect the potential of Indian agro-products in global markets, it added.

Govt invites bids to empanel AI infra providers under ₹ 10,372-cr India AI mission

PTI | NEW DELHI

The government has invited bids for the empanelment of entities for providing artificial intelligence services on cloud under the Rs 10,372-crore India AI mission, which was approved by the cabinet in March this year.

The empaneled agencies, like data centers and cloud service providers, will have to provide access to high-speed computing AI infrastructure like graphics processing unit (GPUs), accelerators, Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), storage etc to academia, startups, researchers, government bodies among others at the lowest rate that

will be discovered through the bidding process.

Under the IndiaAI Mission, supercomputing capacity, comprising over 10,000 GPUs, will be made available to various stakeholders for creating an AI ecosystem.

"With an objective to empanel service providers for making this possible, IndiaAI - an IBD under Digital India Corporation, MeitY has issued a RFE (request for empanelment)," Meity, Additional Secretary Abhishek Singh said in a social media post. The rapid development of AI across the globe has led to an increase in demand for GPU-based servers, as they can



process data at a higher speed compared to CPU-based servers.

The rate of accessing GPU-based cloud services in India is estimated to be at double the price compared to the price of countries that have installed a

large number of GPUs.

According to the bid document floated by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) empaneled agencies will be responsible for offering high-performance computing,

network, and storage services that are essential for implementing the activities planned under the IndiaAI Mission, such as the development of indigenous LLMs (large language models like ChatGPT) and AI applications.

"IndiaAI will approve the end users who can access these cloud-based AI services, ensuring that the services are provided at prices determined through a transparent and competitive process. The empaneled AI service providers will be engaged for a period of 36 months, with the possibility of extension based on mutually agreed terms," the document said.

The document categorically mentions that the 'Invitation for Application' is not an offer to enter into a procurement agreement but rather an invitation to receive proposals from eligible and interested bidders.

"IndiaAI would make the payments for the utilised AI services of the approved projects from the end users to the extent of the approved subsidy," the document said.

"The agencies eligible for bids will have to make available 1,000 AI compute units through their cloud service platform, as AI services on cloud within 6 months from the date of signing the agreement with IndiaAI.

India will need more reforms to stay on growth path, create jobs: Gita Gopinath

PTI | NEW DELHI

India will need to undertake more reforms to be able to continue on the path of raising economic growth and to make sure that enough job creation happens in the country, IMF deputy managing director Gita Gopinath said on Saturday. Addressing an event here, Gopinath further said that India will be required to reduce import tariffs if it wants to be an important player in the global supply chains.

"The significant improvements have been made by the government over

the years in terms structural reforms."

While noting that the world is in an environment where trade integration has been questioned, Gopinath said it is important for India to remain open for global trade. "Tariff rates in India are higher than in its other peer economies. If it wants to be an important player on the world stage and an important part of global supply chains, it is going to require reducing those tariffs," the eminent economist said. Gopinath said it is a tremendous aspiration to get to a developed country status but it does not happen

automatically, and requires ongoing, consistent efforts, pretty broad scale, across many areas to deliver on that. "India has grown well in terms of its overall growth rate, and at 7 per cent, it is the fastest growing major economy in the world. "The question is, how does one keep up the momentum and raise it further so that you can increase per capita incomes in India to get to being an advanced economy," she said.

Responding to a question on taxation, she said India has parallels with other developing countries, where most of the tax revenue that is

collected is indirect taxes and not direct taxes, not in form of income taxes.

"We have been advising other developing countries too, that it is helpful to broaden the personal income tax base and so that you can have more income coming from there," she said.

Referring to the cut in corporate tax rate by the Modi government, Gopinath said although it was helpful it is less the tax rate that matters, but what matters is just making sure that there are no loopholes and there are not too many leakages that happen in terms of tax exemptions.

Demand for warehousing spaces in Delhi-NCR dips 77% in Jan-June; Chennai sees 3-fold jump: Vestian

PTI | NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR witnessed a 77 per cent decline in leasing of warehousing and logistics spaces during January-June this year, while Chennai saw a 3-fold jump in demand, according to real estate consultant Vestian.

As per Vestian's latest Warehousing and Logistics Sector review for January-June 2024, the absorption of warehousing and logistics spaces in January-June across seven major cities rose 8 per cent to 16.6 million square feet during the first half of this year, from 15.4 million square feet in the year-ago period.

Among seven cities, Delhi-NCR reported the highest annual decline of 77 per cent at 1.1 million square feet during January-June, from 4.7 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year. Similarly, the demand in Kolkata fell 65 per cent to 0.3 million sq ft from 0.8 million square feet. In Bengaluru, the leasing of warehousing spaces declined 19 per cent to 1.4 million square feet, from 1.7 million square feet.

However, the leasing of spaces in Chennai jumped to 1.5 million square feet, from 0.5 million square feet and in Hyderabad, the absorption of

warehousing spaces rose 48 per cent to 1.9 million square feet, from 1.3 million square feet. Mumbai and Pune together accounted for 63 per cent of the total absorption in H1 (January-June) 2024.

Leasing of warehousing and logistics spaces in Mumbai rose 80 per cent to 6.8 million square feet, from 3.8 million square feet. In Pune, the absorption of spaces grew 40 per cent to 3.6 million square feet in January-June 2024, from 2.6 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year.

According to Vestian, the warehousing and logistics properties received

investments worth USD 1.6 billion in H1 2024, accounting for 42 per cent of the total institutional investment received in the real estate sector.

Shrinivas Rao, CEO, Vestian said, "As participation of foreign investors increased, availability of funds eased in the sector."

"Moreover, recent government announcements to boost infrastructure developments is likely to reduce logistics costs from 8-9 per cent to 5-6 per cent of the GDP, which in turn will lead to an increase in real estate activities in the warehousing sector," Rao added.

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT TO THE GODS: CHOPRA ON 90M AND BEYOND

PTI | NEW DELHI
Having missed out on breaching the elusive 90m mark at the Paris Games, two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has left that widely debated matter "to the gods". After all, Chopra has been chasing that milestone for years and the wait got longer when his only legal throw of 89.45m got him a silver at the Paris Olympics earlier this month. A back-to-back medal at the Summer Games was a monumental feat for an Indian athlete but it was way short of Arshad Nadeem's sensational 92.97m that comfortably secured a historic gold for the Pakistani. Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra managed to be on the podium and now he will be seen in the Lausanne Diamond League starting August 22. After a busy couple of days post the Olympic final on August 8, Chopra started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by the injury. "I need to leave it to gods now," he said when asked about his target throw in the foreseeable future.

"I just want to prepare well and see where the javelin goes. There has already been talk about 90m, now I feel just let it be. In Paris, I thought it would happen and it could have happened. "Now I will give my 100 percent in the next two or three events and see what happens," he said in a virtual interaction arranged by JSW. Following the season-ending Diamond League in Brussels from September 13-14, Chopra will consult the doctors on his groin injury with surgery being the most likely option. The 26-year-old has been managing the injury since winning the gold in the World Championships last year. With Arshad producing an Olympic record throw in the final, Chopra needed to up his game but he said he could not do that because of his physical state. "I felt I could increase the distance. My two no throws in qualification and final, they were second and third best throws and my season best as well. To increase distance I need to be injury free. "In my mind I know need to give 100 percent but because of the injury I am not able to give 100 percent. My body and mind stops me from



making that extra effort. "What is most important in training session is throwing sessions which I have not been able to do as much as I would like (due to injury). If you can't throw regularly then you are not able to work on your technique. I need to throw as much as I can. The rest is all fine," said Chopra. He needs to make a few technical tweaks in his game. "When we run with the

javelin there is also lot of strain on groin, when we take cross step. But right now I am

not able to tweak my technique. Also my line of the javelin was also not perfect.

"Arc speed was good in Paris but the line was disturbed. If it would be straighter, I could

have got two three metres out of it. However, not for once I thought that Arshad's throw could not be bettered. My mind was ready to push the limits but body was not," said the champion athlete. Chopra needs to finish in the top-six of Diamond League Meetings series to qualify for the season finale in Brussels. "I came to Switzerland for training ahead of Diamond League. Luckily I did not aggravate my injury as I took extra care of that. I thought of continuing my season like most other athletes. There is one month to go for season end. I will go to the doctors in free time," he said. WE NEED TO SPOT TALENT BETTER TO BECOME SPORTING POWERHOUSE: India finished an abysmal 71st in the Paris medals tally with five bronze and Chopra's silver. Asked what India needs to do

to become a sporting power, Chopra said: "Overseas, there are more talent spotters. For example I took up javelin I don't know how, I liked it so I pursued it. But if we try multiple sports and pick the best one on recommendations of an expert that way Indian sport can move forward. We need to spot talent better. "Also, we can't just focus on one sport. We need to be good in all sports. I feel the leaders in the medals tally (China, USA, Japan). They all are powerful nations in various fields, sports play a big part as well in lifting the profile of the nation. "Hope we do well in the next Olympics, and qualify for FIFA World Cup as well. Cricket we already are doing well. There is no dearth of talent, mental, we also need to have more coaches," added Chopra, who plans to open javelin academies going forward.

Jhajharia confident of 25 medals' target despite Pramod suspension



PTI | NEW DELHI
The shadow of Pramod Bhagat controversy won't linger on the Indian contingent, and Paralympic Committee of India president Devendra Jhajharia is hopeful of winning at least 25 medals at the upcoming Paralympics. India have an 84-member contingent across 12 disciplines for the Paralympics slated in Paris from August 28-September 8. Tokyo Paralympics gold medal-winning shuttler Pramod Bhagat was handed an 18-month suspension for breaching BWF's anti-doping whereabouts clause. "Look, there is no doubt that Pramod Bhagat is our star athlete but the target of 25 medals that we have set is from our current contingent of 84 players. Pramod Bhagat is not included in this," the two-time Paralympics gold medal-winning javelin thrower Jhajharia told PTI Bhasha. "Pramod being a gold medal winner of the last Games not being in the Indian team is extremely sad and unfortunate, but we cannot do anything." Asked about his confidence about target of 25 medals, he said, "I have kept this target after closely monitoring our players." "You may think I am exaggerating. But I have seen the practice sessions of players. We have worked hard on their physical fitness and mental strength." Badminton's world governing body (BWF) had on Tuesday announced that Bhagat has been "suspended for a period of 18 months and will miss" the Paris Paralympics. "On 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months." The five-time para world champion Bhagat had appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division but it was rejected last month. Jhajharia further said the number of players this time is much more than the previous games and they are competing in more sports. India were ranked 24th in the Tokyo Paralympics table with 19 medals which included five gold.

"I have set a target of 25 medals and to be in the top 20 in the medal table, but we will win more medals than this," said the 43-year-old former javelin thrower. "We had 56 players in the Tokyo Paralympics, this time 84 players will compete. For the first time, our players will participate in Blind Judo, Para Sailing and Para Cycling." Jhajharia is expecting the highest medal haul from the

athletics team and is hoping new stars to emerge from these games. "Each and every player of our contingent is a medal prospect. We have 38 track and field athletes and I am expecting the most medals from them. "Our contingent has 47 new players, despite their first Paralympics games they are very confident and mentally strong about their performance," he concluded.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sagar, 1st Floor, BSNL Building, City Center Gwalior M.P. 474001, Mob. No. 7880153116
Email id: sarsag@bankofbaroda.co.in | Web: www.bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagor	Give short Description of the Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any (Mortgaged by)	Total Dues.	Date of Auction Time of E-Auction Start Time to End Time	Reserve Price Rs. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. Bid Increase Amount Rs.	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower- M/s Manglam Traders (Prop. Mr. Ramgopal Sharma) Add: Ward No.39, Matadeen ka Pura, Bhatta wali Gali, Bhand, M.P- 477001 Proprietor : Mr. Ramgopal Sharma S/o Late Shri Ramsharan Sharma Add: Ward No.39, Matadeen ka pura, Bhatta wali Gali, Bhand, M.P- 477001 Guarantor: Mr. Shivkumar S/o Late Shri Ramsharan Add: Ward No.17, Gram Khera, Post Aaroli, Tehsil & Distt Bhand, M.P- 477660	Property Owner - Mr. Ram Gopal Sharma S/o Shri Ram Sharan Sharma - All that part and parcel of the property bearing Khasra No.218/2 and 220, situated at Ward No.39, Matadeen ka Pura, Tehsil & District Bhand, admeasuring area 1000 Sq.Ft., Boundaries - East: 25 Ft. wide Road, West: House of Bhagwati Prasad North: Guddi Devi House South: 25 Ft. wide Road	Rs.25,18,427.50/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven and Paise Fifty Only) + unapplied interest and charges	06.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 29,70,000 Rs. 2,97,000 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	02.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
2.	Borrower- 1. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pathak S/o Vasudev Prasad Pathak Add- 1. House No.2, Rambag Colony, Shinde ki Chhavni, Gwalior, M.P 2. Flat No. G-01, Balaji Apartment, Hem Singh ki Pared, Ward No.53, Lashkar, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh Borrower- 2. Mrs. Swati Pathak W/o Sanjay Kumar Pathak Add- 1. House No.2, Rambag Colony, Shinde ki Chhavni, Gwalior, M.P 2. Flat No. G-01, Balaji Apartment, Hem Singh ki Pared, Ward No.53, Lashkar, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Property Owner - Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pathak S/o Vasudev Prasad Pathak and Mrs. Swati Pathak w/o Sanjay Kumar Pathak - All that part and parcel of the property bearing Survey No. 367, 368, 369, 370, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 470, 504, 521, 522, 525, 527, 528, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546 at Gram Guda situated at Flat No. G-01, Ground Floor, Balaji Apartment, Hem Singh ki Pared, Nagar Palika Ward No.55, New Ward No.53, Lashkar, Gwalior, M.P admeasuring area 94.51 Sq.Mtr. (1017 Sq.Ft.) Boundaries: North- Common Road 6 Ft and House of Bambalya, South: House of Bharat and Property Phool Singh, East: Flat No. G-02, West: Common Road 8 Ft. and House of Sadhu Singh	Rs.28,72,931.89 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One and Paise Eighty Nine Only)* + unapplied interest	06.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 12,42,000 Rs. 1,24,200 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	02.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://ebkray.in> also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Mobile No. 78801-53116

Place: Gwalior Date: 18/08/2024 Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL
Saket Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.) 462020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No. AIIMSBHOPAL-TENDER/NIT/24-25/011 Date: 17/08/2024
AIIMS Bhopal invites e-Tender from registered manufactures/dealers/distributors/Contractors for below mentioned items:

E-Tender ID No.	Required Items/Services at AIIMS Bhopal	Est. Cost
AIIMS/BPL/Refilling/24-25/008	Rate Contract for Various Model of Cartridges Refilling & Replacement of Cartridge's Spare at AIIMS Bhopal.	25,32,200/-

For further details of the above e-Tenders, the prospective bidders may please visit email: www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in and Tenders may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Any corrigendum/ amendments related to this NIT shall be published in the same websites only. **I/c. Senior Procurement Cum Store Officer For & On behalf of Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal**

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण
टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल (म.प्र.)
ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश, द्वारा "विभिन्न अकादमियों जैसे म.प्र. राज्य वाटर स्पोर्ट्स अकादमी (जलक्रीड़ा केन्द्र) की बोर्ड्स/हैंगर/ट्रंक पेटी तथा म.प्र. राज्य घुड़सवारी अकादमी के घोड़ों तथा अन्य सामग्री के लिए प्रतियोगिता के दौरान परिवहन उपलब्ध कराने हेतु" निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें 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-टेंडर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।
म.प्र. माध्यम/115985/2024

संचालक

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda Sukhisevaniya Branch GOLD AUCTION SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **06-09-2024** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at **2.00 P.M. on 06-09-2024** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank

Sr. No	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Outstanding Amt.	Name and address of the borrower
1.	20-10-2022	13430600002073	₹ 94000/- +int. & other charges	Rajni Trichel, 121, Rishipuram Phase-3, Anand Nagar, BHEL, Near TIT College- Bhopal 462022

Date : 17-08-2024 Branch Manager

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sagar, 1st Floor, BSNL Building, City Center Gwalior M.P. 474001, Mob. No. 7880153116
Email id: sarsag@bankofbaroda.co.in | Web: www.bankofbaroda.com

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Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagor	Give short Description of the Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any (Mortgaged by)	Total Dues.	Date of Auction Time of E-Auction Start Time to End Time	Reserve Price Rs. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. Bid Increase Amount Rs.	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower- M/s Rifiuto Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. Add- 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023 Guarantor: 1. Mr. Jay Narayan Tripathi S/o Gopil Tripathi Add- 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023 Guarantor: 2. Mr. Vipin Tripathi S/o Jaynarayan Tripathi Add- 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023	Property Owner - M/s Rifiuto Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. - All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Factory Land and Proposed Building situated at Plot No.1, C-Sector, Jambhar Bagri Industrial Area, Vidisha-464226, admeasuring Area 0.28 Hectare (2800 Sq. Mtr.) Boundaries:- East:- 18 Mtr wide Road, West:- Land of ETP, North:- 24 Meter wide Road, South:- Plot No.2	Rs.1,11,70,325.88/- (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five and Paise Eighty Eight Only) + unapplied interest and charges	06.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 22,14,000.00 Rs. 2,21,400.00 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	02.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
2.	Borrower- Mrs. Kavita Shivnani D/o Shri Nathuram Shivnani Add: LIG 206, Sector-B, Sonagiri Bhopal 462022	Property Owner- Mrs. Kavita Shivnani D/o Shri Nathuram Shivnani - All that part and parcel of the Residential Flat situated at Flat No.05, Fourth Floor, Shipra Block -1, Part of Plot No.10, Sector-D, Industrial Area, Ward No.13, Mandi-deep, Tehsil Goharganj, Distt Raisen, M.P., admeasuring area 600 Sq. Ft., Boundaries : EAST: Shipra Block 01, Flat No.04, WEST: Shipra Block- 01, Flat No.06, NORTH: Corridor, SOUTH: Shipra Block 02, Flat No. 02.	Rs.12,36,928/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight Only) + unapplied interest and charges	06.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 5,85,000.00 Rs. 58,500.00 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	02.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
3.	Borrower- Mrs. Kavita Shivnani D/o Shri Nathuram Shivnani Add: LIG 206, Sector-B, Sonagiri Bhopal 462022	Property Owner - Mrs. Kavita Shivnani D/o Shri Nathuram Shivnani - All that part and parcel of the Residential Flat situated at Flat No.06, Fourth Floor, Shipra Block-1, Part of Plot No.10, Sector D, Industrial Area, Ward No.13, Mandi-deep, Tehsil Goharganj, Distt. Raisen, M.P., admeasuring area 600 Sq. Ft., Boundaries : EAST: Shipra Block 01, Flat No.05, WEST: Open, NORTH: Corridor, SOUTH: Shipra Block 02, Flat No. 01.	Rs.12,24,450/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Only) + unapplied interest and charges	06.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 5,85,000.00 Rs. 58,500.00 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	02.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM

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Place: Gwalior Date: 18/08/2024 Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

DOUBLE TRAP GREAT PETER WILSON APPLIES FOR POST OF INDIAN SHOOTING COACH



PTI n NEW DELHI

Legendary double trap marksman Peter Wilson of Great Britain, who guided country-mate Nathan Hales to trap gold at the recently-concluded Paris Olympics, has shown interest in the Indian team coaching job and wants to train the shooters for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Wilson, 37, was the youngest competitor in double trap at the 2012 London Olympics to win a gold medal. He holds the world record in double trap and took up shooting after a snow-boarding accident left him unable to play cricket. After double trap was removed from the Olympic curriculum, Wilson started coaching the Great Britain team in trap, with the crowning glory coming in Paris where his ward Nathan won gold with an Olympic record to break a 12-year-long wait for the country in the event. "I have e-mailed my CV to the National Rifle Association of India and am waiting to hear from them," Wilson told PTI from UK. "I want to work with the senior

team to prepare them for the LA Games and the juniors to prepare them for the next 8-12 years," said Wilson, adding that he only aims for "success" and nothing less. Asked if it would be a challenge coming to terms with the setup in India, he categorically said "there shouldn't be any problem". He added that for him the continental championships such as the "Asian Games, the World Cups, World Championships among others are a stepping stone towards the ultimate aim of winning an

Olympic medal" and he would strive for that. Wilson, who has been honoured with the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) has been coached by the great Ahmad Al Maktoum, who is a member of the ruling family of Dubai and the 2004 Athens Olympics gold medallist in double trap. India's Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had finished second behind Al Maktoum in Athens. India is without a foreign trap coach for quite some time with most shooters, who competed

Durand Cup derby cancelled amid protests over doctor's rape and murder; fans to unite for a cause

PTI n KOLKATA

The Durand Cup derby between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, scheduled at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday, has been called off because of the prevailing unrest in the city. The decision was taken following a meeting between the Kolkata Police officials and organisers of the tournament. The city has witnessed widespread protests following the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. On Saturday, the Indian Medical Association called for a 24-hour nationwide strike to protest the heinous crime. Around one lakh people are expected to gather near the 66,000-capacity stadium, especially after both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal fan clubs called for protests. "On behalf of the Durand Cup Organising Committee, this is to regretfully inform you that the final Group A fixture between Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Emami East Bengal FC, scheduled to be played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kிரangan in Kolkata on August 18, 2024 at 7.00pm, stands abandoned," said a statement from Durand Cup Media. "The Pre-derby press conference scheduled for 5.30pm today (August 17, 2024) also stands cancelled," it added. All online and offline tickets will be refunded following the cancellation of the match, according to their ticketing partner, Bookmyshow. "The dates and the refund process will be notified within the next two days," it added.



It is learnt that both the teams will be awarded a point each, but it has to be decided by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's apex body in the country. It is also not known whether the knockout stage matches and the summit clash, which is slated at the Salt Lake Stadium on August 31, will be shifted. The marquee clash between arch-rivals Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, which was the season's first derby, was also the concluding league match of the tournament. As per the current standings, Mohun Bagan are ahead on goal difference against East Bengal and both have six points each. The six group toppers and two best second-placed teams will make the cut for the last-eight. FANS TO 'UNITE FOR A CAUSE': Despite the cancellation of the derby match, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal fans clubs have vowed to come together and make "their voices heard". "Sarkar maath atakale amra raasta atkabo (If the government stops us to enter the stadium, we will block the roads)," reads a poster jointly issued by Mohun

Bagan and East Bengal fan clubs. Terming this a 'Black Day' for Kolkata Maidan, Prasenjit Sarkar, president of the Mariners' Base Camp — Ultras Mohun Bagan said fans from both the clubs will join together for "one common cause: justice for RG Kar victim". "The government has dealt a severe blow to football by calling off the derby. The government's action has shown a desire to impose an autocratic rule, and we cannot stand by it silently," Sarkar told PTI. "Tomorrow, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal fans will join for a cause, and no one can stop us from our voices being heard. There will be thousands on the street opposite the stadium. "Politics should never be allowed in the stadium. This time we will stand up together for a bigger cause. "Together, with tifos and banners, we will demand justice. They may try to silence us, but we will not let our voices go unheard," he added. Rabi Shankar Sen of East Bengal the Real Power' also said they will come in huge numbers and gather in front of the stadium's VIP gate.

AP n LONDON

Zirkzee scores on debut for Man United in 1-0 win over Fulham on opening night of Premier League

Joshua Zirkzee marked his debut for Manchester United by coming off the bench and scoring an 87th-minute goal to give his team a 1-0 victory over Fulham on the opening night of the Premier League season on Friday. The Netherlands striker poked out his left foot to guide home a cross by fellow substitute Alejandro Garnacho at Old Trafford. Zirkzee, who joined from Bologna for a reported \$47 million last month, was one of three off-season signings to make their first appearances for United, along with defenders Noussair Mazraoui and Matthijs de Ligt. "To win here in my first home game, and to grab a goal, it couldn't be better," Zirkzee said. Zirkzee, Mazraoui and De Ligt

have arrived as part of a \$180 million spending spree by the record 20-time champions, a club under new leadership and looking to return to its former glories. Erik ten Hag was retained as manager despite guiding United to an eighth-place finish last season and this was a solid, if unspectacular, start to the campaign by his team. "It's just the first game, but it's good to strengthen the belief and confidence in the team," Ten Hag said. "I have seen the places where we need to improve. But that's normal in the first game of the season." With Zirkzee not fully match



sharp and Rasmus Hojlund injured, United started the season without an out-and-out striker on the field and it showed, with midfielders Bruno Fernandes and Mason Mount wasting the best opportunities in a game that was petering out before Zirkzee's late intervention. Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno came to his team's rescue, saving twice at the feet of Fernandes in one-on-one chances then getting down sharply to deny Mount from close range in the second half. Leno had no chance with Zirkzee's shot in front of the Stretford End, however, and Garnacho

squandered a great chance to make it 2-0 in stoppage time when he dragged a shot wide in front of an empty goal. "That's the only criticism I have of the team," Ten Hag said. "To kill. Kill in the box." Mazraoui played 81 minutes at right back - and was one of United's better players, along with Casemiro - before being replaced by De Ligt, three days after they both joined from Bayern Munich. Zirkzee entered in the 61st. On Saturday, there are six more games in the league's first round, including Liverpool - under a new manager in Arne Slot - at promoted Ipswich and Arsenal - the runner-up in the last two seasons - hosting Wolverhampton. Reigning champion Manchester City begins its title defense at Chelsea on Sunday.

Matsuyama, McCarthy tied for lead in opening PGA Tour playoff event



AP n MEMPHIS

Hideki Matsuyama and Denny McCarthy combined to make nearly 300 feet of putts, so it was no surprise to see them sharing the lead going into the steamy weekend of the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Matsuyama recovered from a shaky start - he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on No. 2 and put his tee shot into the water on the par-3 fourth - with two long birdie putts and a 3-wood to about 12 feet on the par-5 16th for one of his easier birdies. He had a 6-under 64. McCarthy, with a reputation for a smooth putting stroke, put that to good use on the smooth greens of TPC Southwind. He holed three birdie putts from about 25 feet or longer to offset a pair of bogeys in his round of 63. They were at 11-under 129, one shot ahead of another great putter, Sam Burns, shot 29 on the front nine before cooling slightly. He had a 63. Scottie Scheffler got on track late with three straight birdies for a 65 and was two back. The first PGA Tour postseason event is the most

consequential. The points are quadrupled, and the top 50 players in the FedEx Cup advance to the BMW Championship next week and are assured of playing in all the \$20 million signature events next year. Jordan Spieth moved closer to the end of his year. He had a pair of double bogeys on the par 3s, one from the water on No. 4, another by taking two shots to get out of bunker on No. 14, and posted a 75 that left him in a tie for 65th. Spieth has talked about the possibility of wrist surgery in the offseason, and he could have the next three months clear barring two of his best rounds of the year. Others who had better seasons could afford a spotty performance. Rory McIlroy is the No. 3 seed going into the postseason and turned in a lackluster performance on another day when the heat index was in the range of 110 degrees (40 degrees Celsius). He played the two par 5s in 3 over and shot 73, leaving him in a tie for 58th. This is a big week for McCarthy, who has never won on the PGA Tour and is at No.

45. A victory would move him into the top five in the standings and secure a spot in the Tour Championship for the top 30. Ditto for Justin Rose, who is outside the magic number at No. 55. He had another 66 and was tied for fifth with Nick Dunlap (65). Amazingly, McCarthy is doing this with what he described as a torn labrum without getting into too many details. "I don't want to divulge too much. It's bothering me, and I've been able to do enough the last few days to push through it," he said. "The heat helps it. Yeah, looking forward to a challenge on the weekend." Matsuyama doesn't divulge too much on any topic, and he summed up his round thusly: "I missed a short putt there at 2, knocked it in the water at 4, but from that point on, I really played well and putted well." As for the hot weather? "Today was nice and cool," the Japanese star said, smiling as it was translated to English. Matsuyama was in good spirits about his game. He is coping with having a bag stolen last week in London while at a restaurant that included his wallet and the passports of his caddie and coach. They are in Japan trying to get new passports. He's tied for the lead in Memphis. Players will go off both sides in groups of three Saturday to cope with thunderstorms expected in the morning. Scheffler and Xander Schauffele generated the most interest from a gallery that was subdued by the scorching heat, a pairing that combines three of the four majors and \$44 million in earnings on the PGA Tour this year.

PTI n NEW DELHI

Riiohlang Dhar became the second Indian woman assistant referee to be selected for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which will be held in the Dominican Republic. Riiohlang, a 34-year-old articulate lady from Meghalaya, has been on Friday named by FIFA among the elite list of 38 match officials, who will be on call for the October 10-November 3 event. Uvena Fernandes is the first Indian woman assistant referee to have the honour of supervising in the World Cup. She did duty in the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Jordan. "My appointment for the World Cup has come as a great honour for me," said Riiohlang, who works for the Meghalaya police department. "I have to work harder to live up to FIFA's expectations. I will also keep in mind that I will be there as a representative of India. I will do everything to keep India's flag high," said the assistant referee.

India's Riiohlang to supervise in FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup



Riiohlang said refereeing has been a part of her life since 2009. "After I stopped playing football, I joined a referee course in my local town and found it interesting since it will

keep me in touch with the game I love dearly. "So, I decided to take up the whistle and the flag. I have come a long way since then. I have supervised many international tournaments, but

the World Cup is going to be a different experience," she said. The Chairperson of the AIFF Referees' Committee, K Sankar, said Riiohlang's fine performance in AFC and FIFA international matches remained one of the main reasons behind her appointment. "In this year's AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup in Indonesia, Riiohlang officiated in one of the semi-finals and also the third-place play-off. Her performance was excellent. Her appointment is a great honour for the AIFF too. On behalf of the Referees' Committee, I wish her a great World Cup ahead," Sankar said. AIFF's secretary general, M Satyanarayan, said: "FIFA's announcement that Riiohlang is among the match officials for the U17 Women's World Cup

is like an Independence Day gift for us. "Recently, we have started to focus on referees' development. To build the base, we have appointed five zonal referees' development officers. Our Elite Referees' Development Programme is also doing very well for the match officials at the top of the pyramid. "The nomination of Riiohlang Dhar will be a boost for the growing number of women officials in India." Riiohlang knows that it is the teamwork that has taken her thus far. "Without the help of my state association, the AIFF and my employers, I wouldn't have reached the World Cup. The AIFF is doing a tremendous job in the development of women's referees. We have all been greatly benefitted," she said.

Aditi exits early, Lee, Khang share lead as Olympic champion Ko lies 6th

PTI n IRVINE (SCOTLAND)

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok carded a 13-over 75 in the second round to make an early exit from the ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open. Aditi, a five-time winner on the Ladies European Tour, had a 81 in the first round. Aditi had a bogey on the front nine and a double on the back nine and no birdies. It was one of those rare weeks, when she had no birdies in either round. The Scottish Open has never been kind to Aditi, who has won the cut at the event six times in eight starts since 2017 with a best of T-55 in 2023. She will be back in action at the AIG Women's Open next week at St. Andrews. At the top, Minjee Lee and Megan



Khang share the lead on eight-under-par at the midway mark of the event that precedes the AIG Women's Open. Australian star Lee led overnight thanks to an opening round of 67 (-5) at Dundonald Links and she followed that up with a 69 (-3) on day two. Three players sit in a tie for third place on the leader board with American Lauren Coughlin (69-69), England's Charley Hull (70-68) and New Zealand's Olympic gold medallist Lydia Ko (69-69) all on six-under-par. Three-time LET winner Hull had a colourful scorecard on day two with an eagle, six birdies and four bogeys for her round of 68 (-4). Olympic gold medallist Ko produced a second consecutive round of 69 (-3) which included four birdies and one bogey to also be two shots off the lead. The cut fell at +4 with 69 players making it through to the weekend.

"Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up"
— Gareth Thomas



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

RAKSHA BANDHAN

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF PURE BONDS

In the heart of Delhi, with monsoon clouds overhead, the streets burst into life for Raksha Bandhan. Amidst the lively chaos and bright colours, the festival unfolds as a touching celebration of sibling love. Each stall, filled with colourful rakhis, tells a story of pure bonds and heartfelt traditions, turning everyday moments into cherished memories, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As the festive season arrives, bringing with it a time of warmth, togetherness and cherished traditions, one celebration stands out for its profound significance — the bond between brothers and sisters. Raksha Bandhan, a festival that embodies untold love and silent care, is not just a ritual but a celebration of a "PURE BOND." Amidst this atmosphere, the vibrant marketplaces come alive with the spirit of Raksha Bandhan and nowhere is this evident than in Delhi's iconic Sadar Bazar. The festival's essence is captured not just through rituals but through the bustling, colourful preparations that fill the market, making it a focal point of the celebration.

THE ENCHANTING FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE

Sadar Bazar, one of Delhi's oldest and busiest markets, undergoes a remarkable transformation as Raksha Bandhan approaches. The market, typically known for its wide range of goods, turns into a hub of colour and excitement, with rakhis and festive decorations taking center stage. Every shop and vendor gears up for the big day, filling the air with a lively sense of excitement. The narrow lanes of Sadar Bazar, usually crowded with shoppers, become even more packed as people move from stall to stall, searching for the perfect rakhi. The market itself seems to join in the celebration, with every corner reflecting the spirit of Raksha Bandhan. Despite the unpredictable weather during the monsoon season, with sudden bursts of rain and heat, enthusiastic shoppers continue to pour into Sadar Bazar. The market remains crowded, even in the rain, as people carry umbrellas or brave the elements to get what they need. There is a shared determination among the shoppers, a sense that no amount of rain or heat can dampen the joy of preparing for Raksha Bandhan.

A MARKET FULL OF CHOICES

One of the most striking features of Sadar Bazar during Raksha Bandhan is the sheer variety of rakhis on display. The market caters to all tastes and budgets, ensuring

“ONE OF THE MOST HEARTWARMING SIGHTS IN THE MARKET IS THE SELECTION OF CHILDREN'S RAKHIS, OFTEN FEATURING POPULAR CHARACTERS. A YOUNG GIRL, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS OVERHEARD ASKING A VENDOR, "BHAIIYA, DO YOU HAVE A SPIDER-MAN RAKHI?" THIS SMALL MOMENT BEAUTIFULLY ENCAPSULATES THE SIBLING BOND, A SISTER KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT WILL MAKE HER YOUNGER BROTHER SMILE

that everyone can find something special. From simple, traditional rakhis costing as little as ₹ 10 for a dozen to more elaborate designs priced at ₹ 70 or ₹ 100 per dozen, the market offers something for everyone. Rakhis come in every imaginable style, from classic designs featuring beads and threads to more modern versions adorned with glitter and stones.

Children's rakhis, often featuring popular cartoon characters and superheroes, are among the most popular items. Little girls excitedly pick out rakhis for their brothers, carefully choosing ones that they know will bring a smile to their siblings' faces. A young girl, for example, was overheard asking a vendor, "Bhaiya, do you have a Spider-Man rakhi?" This small moment beautifully encapsulates the sibling bond, a sister knowing exactly what will make her younger brother smile. A small moment that perfectly captures the thoughtfulness and love that define Raksha Bandhan. The girl knew exactly what her brother would love and she was determined to find it for him.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FESTIVAL

The vendors and artisans are integral to the Raksha Bandhan experience. Their work begins long before the festival, with many starting preparations at least a month in advance. Crafting each rakhi requires skill, patience and a deep understanding of what the festival means to people. For these artisans, Raksha Bandhan is more than just another business opportunity; it's a chance to contribute to a tradition that has been passed down through generations.

A shopkeeper in Sadar Bazar explained how much effort goes into preparing for Raksha Bandhan. "We start getting ready about a month before," he said. "There's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it when you see the market come alive like this. Even in the rain, people come. It's something we love." His words highlighted the dedication that goes into making the festival special for everyone. Despite the long hours and sometimes challenging conditions, the vendors take pride in being part of something bigger than just selling rakhis. They are part of a tradition that brings people together, year after year.

The artisans also take great care in crafting each rakhi. They understand that these simple threads carry significant emotional weight. For them, it's important that every rakhi reflects the love and care that

siblings have for each other. They often work late into the night, ensuring that their creations are perfect. It's not just about making something that looks good, it's about creating something that will be cherished.

A FESTIVAL OF EMOTIONS

Raksha Bandhan is a time of joy and celebration, but it can also bring about feelings of longing, especially for those who are separated from their loved ones. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be with their siblings on this special day, and for them, the festival carries a bittersweet note.

A woman in Sadar Bazar, carefully choosing rakhis to send to her brother who lives far away, shared her plans to send them by post. Despite modern courier services offering faster delivery, she preferred the traditional method, finding something special in the anticipation that comes with receiving a package by postman. Her story is just one of many that highlight the emotional depth of Raksha Bandhan. The festival is not just about the physical act of tying a rakhi, it's about the connection that siblings share, a connection that goes beyond time and distance. Even when miles apart, the bond remains strong and the act of sending a rakhi is a way of maintaining that bond. It serves as a reminder that, no matter where life takes people, the relationships that matter most are always worth celebrating.

THE ESSENCE OF TRADITION

As Raksha Bandhan draws near, the market becomes a living embodiment of tradition. With its rich history and vibrant atmosphere, it reflects the enduring values of family and togetherness. In a world that often moves too fast, these moments offer a chance to slow down and appreciate what truly matters. The festival is a time to reconnect with loved ones and honour the bonds that have shaped lives. During this time, the market becomes more than just a place to buy rakhis, it transforms into a space where memories are made. Every purchase, conversation and shared smile contributes to the festive atmosphere. The streets serve as a symbol of the festival,

where tradition is not just remembered but actively experienced, blending the past and present in a heartfelt celebration of love and family.

THE MEANING BEHIND THE RAKHI

At the heart of Raksha Bandhan is the rakhi itself — a simple thread that carries profound meaning. It's more than just a decorative piece, it's a symbol of a sister's love, gratitude and appreciation for her brother. Tying a rakhi is an act of trust, a way of saying, "Thank you for always being there." This small thread binds not just wrists but hearts, reinforcing a bond that is as old as time.

For many, the rakhi is also a reminder of the shared history that siblings have, the moments of joy and support and the times when they've stood by each other. It's a token of the relationship that has shaped who they are. Though it may be simple in appearance, the rakhi holds a depth of meaning that goes beyond words. It's a symbol of a bond that is pure, unbreakable, and everlasting.

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Raksha Bandhan is more than just a date on the calendar, it's a celebration of the relationships that connect people, the memories that hold them together, and the love that sustains them through life's challenges. In today's fast-paced world, festivals like Raksha Bandhan remind everyone of the importance of family and the connections that define them. In Sadar Bazar, the spirit of Raksha Bandhan is alive and well. The market, with its history and vibrancy, captures the essence of the festival. It's a place where love is expressed through simple gestures and where the bonds between siblings are honored in all their beauty. As brothers and sisters across the country prepare to tie the rakhi this year, they are reminded of what the festival truly stands for. It's not just about the rituals, it's about the love, care and unbreakable bond that siblings share. In the end, that's what makes Raksha Bandhan so special — a celebration of love that goes beyond time, distance and the challenges of life.



NOE – WHERE GLOBAL FLAVOURS MEET RARE INGREDIENTS!

Nestled in the heart of Lutyens Delhi in the iconic Diplomat Hotel, the recently launched 'NOE' is set to redefine the dining culture in the city, bringing a vibrant social atmosphere and an innovative culinary experience

By SHARMILA CHAND

I wanted an elevated comfort food zone to take guests through a culinary journey blending global flavors with local influences to craft a unique experience," says Sandeep Bishnoi, the Founder who has been associated with creative brands such as Perch Wine & Coffee Bar and Hoots. Here innovative culinary experience is the key with Chef Dhruv Nijhawan, at the helm of affairs. An alumnus of Le Cordon Bleu, India, Chef Dhruv's passion for ingenious cooking techniques and for reviving rare, authentic ingredients, is well known. At NOE, he brings forth his passion as is evident in the distinctive menu that celebrates the art of 'elevating comfort food'. Evoking nostalgia and inspiring innovation, the kitchen at NOE re-invents handpicked traditional comfort dishes from world cuisines using lesser-known ingredient pairings and creative cooking techniques. From high-quality produce to regional and international cuisines, each dish encapsulates a rich tapestry of flavours and the ingredients' culinary heritage.

Speaking about the cooking methods, chef Dhruv tells me, "Every dish tells a story of a unique ingredient and a different cooking method. Reinventing modern classic dishes in a flavour forward method lies at the heart of our cooking. NOE incorporates culinary techniques from around the world using star ingredients to create an innovative dining experience." Hence, Potato & Chilli Orange sits nicely looking pretty in front of me. Swedish Hasselback potatoes in smoked brown butter with savoury cheena, bajji chili, orange zest, Korean chilli oil and pea shoot cress, is one perfect example of Dhruv's philosophy. And so is 'Tofu & Garum' - an umami flavoured silken tofu with vegan mushroom garum, soy, leek circles, porcini mushrooms & nori powder. For mutton lovers, what better than 'Kanda & Picante'? "Kaffir lime and coriander mutton kanda with broccoli picante puree finished with chermoula crumble," explains chef. He also recommends 'John Dory & Mazavaroo' - pan-seared John Dory with cauliflower crème, smoked Mazavaroo, tossed almond flakes served with cashew duqqa. The menu is extensive with a lot more stars like 'Lamb & Molé' - medium-rare cooked lamb chop with curry leaf, thyme, black molé sauce, togarashi tossed snap peas, sumac onions with seasonal cress. For crab lovers, 'Crab & Wasabi' is strongly recommended. Crab meat with avocado, wasabi, lime puree, water chestnuts, asparagus, compressed cucumbers and seasonal cress. From large plate section, Pumpkin & Pomegranate turned out to be my favourite. Braised pumpkin with pomegranate sauce reduced with all spice and tahini, served with a sumac cress salad. 'Potato & Capers' is another one I lapped up. You will love layered potato slices with lemon zest cream, asparagus and olive. The relish of smoked onion added to the flavor



brilliantly accompanied by a side salad in orange dressing. 'Onigiri & Rasam' is a brilliant take on innovative experimentation. Jasmine rice onigiri with a light rasam sauce finished with celery dust, furikake peashoot, you would have never relished rasam in this medium. The dessert section looks pretty impressive, each dish comes with a lavish dose of drama to oomph things up. For me, Biscoff & Chai was the perfect way to wind up the meal. A vanilla cardamom sponge cake with Biscoff mousse and masala chai whipped cream cheese, with a spiced ginger sable & Biscoff gelato, simply bowled me over. Complementing culinary experience is the creative highball cocktail program served at NOE's bar. Managed by Hoots - recently awarded as one of Asia's Top 50 Bars, the highball bar concept emphasises refreshing, perfectly balanced cocktails created with premium spirits and house-made mixers, showcasing creativity and craftsmanship. Inspired by its prestigious address



flows effortlessly into a trendy bar and a plush rustic outdoor deck as well as an intimate courtyard," tells Amit Chhabra, of studio LDC, the team behind the design architects of NOE. With diverse settings, NOE offers layers of sensory experiences for all moods and occasions where guests can enjoy different spaces in a single visit or each separately over multiple ones. Whether it's a casual gathering over food and drinks, a rendezvous with a friend, a special celebration, solo culinary adventures, a romantic date, or even small events, NOE promises for a memorable time. Featuring an extensive breakfast spread, an all-day dining menu, delectable Sunday brunches, and a creative drinks menu along with rotating seasonal menus and pop-up surprises, NOE welcomes you to a world of elevated comfort food, exquisite cocktails, and unforgettable dining experiences. Overall, the vibe at NOE is elegant and chic. Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle



A NOSTALGIC CULINARY FARE AT INDIAN REPUBLIC CANTEEN

By SHARMILA CHAND

Ever heard of Waffle Imarti, Mac n Cheese Pakora, Waffle Bread Pakora, Samosa Cannelloni? If no, head to Indian Republic Canteen in the heart of capital's popular Connaught Place and you will get to taste innovative dishes with a flair for fun. Why the name Indian Republic, I asked the team. "The concept is inspired by the diversity of the Indian Republic, aiming to create a welcoming and accessible environment to a familiar canteen setting, where all patrons can feel comfortable and engaged," is the answer. Alok Aggarwal Co-Founder- Indian Republic Canteen further explains, "Our establishment is founded on the concept of nostalgia, aiming to evoke cherished memories of simple, beloved foods such as noodles, samosas, and bread pakoras from one's college days. We are devoted to celebrating these dishes and encouraging patrons to savor

them without reservation. The interior design of our space is a contemporary fusion of modernity and nostalgia. It reflects both cutting-edge trends and traditional influences, presenting a vision of India that is globally stylish yet deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities."

BREAKFAST SOIREES

If not in a mood to rustle up breakfast at home, then just hop in here. They have introduced a new breakfast menu, serving a delightful array of morning treats that promise to start your day on a flavorful note. Imagine the perfect morning with a spread of traditional and contemporary breakfast dishes, curated to suit every palate. From 8 AM to 11 AM, you can indulge in a hearty and wholesome breakfast experience that blends the best of regional flavors with popular morning staples. The highlight of my breakfast was the comforting taste of Nagori Halwa, a classic dish that combines the rich flavors of semolina and sugar, bringing a touch of nostalgia to your breakfast. How could I miss the delicious Bedmi Sabzi, just perfect for my taste. For a flavour of traditional regional classic, Indori Poha, garnished with fresh



muesli, fresh bananas, and yogurt, offering a perfect balance of taste and nutrition. For the ubiquitous South Indian flavors, the menu includes crispy and golden Dosa, served with traditional sambar and chutneys, transporting you to the streets of Southern India. Complement your meal with a selection of fresh juices, made from seasonal fruits, to add a refreshing touch to your breakfast. Or go for signature drinks like The IRC Shichanji, a longstanding favorite, alongside the Imli Fritz. Each drink is crafted to be unique and memorable, aligning with the overall concept of the place.

TO CONCLUDE

Whether you are looking for a quick bite or a leisurely breakfast, Indian Republic Canteen's thoughtful and exciting menu is well curated to cater to all your hunger cravings.

CHECK IT OUT

Time: 08:00am to 11:00am
Location — H-26, Connaught Circle, Block H, Connaught Place, New Delhi

coriander, sev, and a squeeze of lemon, captures the essence of Indore's street food culture so beautifully. If you prefer something nutritious and savory, the Besan Chilla with Chutney

provides a protein-packed option, featuring a gram flour pancake served with a side of tangy chutney. The Bombay Sandwich offers a taste of Mumbai with layers of fresh vegetables and

tangy chutneys sandwiched between slices of soft bread. Health-conscious diners need not worry as they have option of Masala Oats, Banana Muesli Bowl, a refreshing mix of



BKP SINHA



DR ARVIND K JHA

FOREST RIGHTS ACT: A BEACON OF HOPE OR A VICTIM OF EXPLOITATION?

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 was heralded as a transformative piece of legislation designed to recognise and empower forest dwelling communities while promoting sustainable forest management. However, the implementation of FRA has faced significant hurdles, including mismanagement, exploitation, and inadequate scrutiny write **BKP SINHA** and **ARVIND KUMAR JHA**

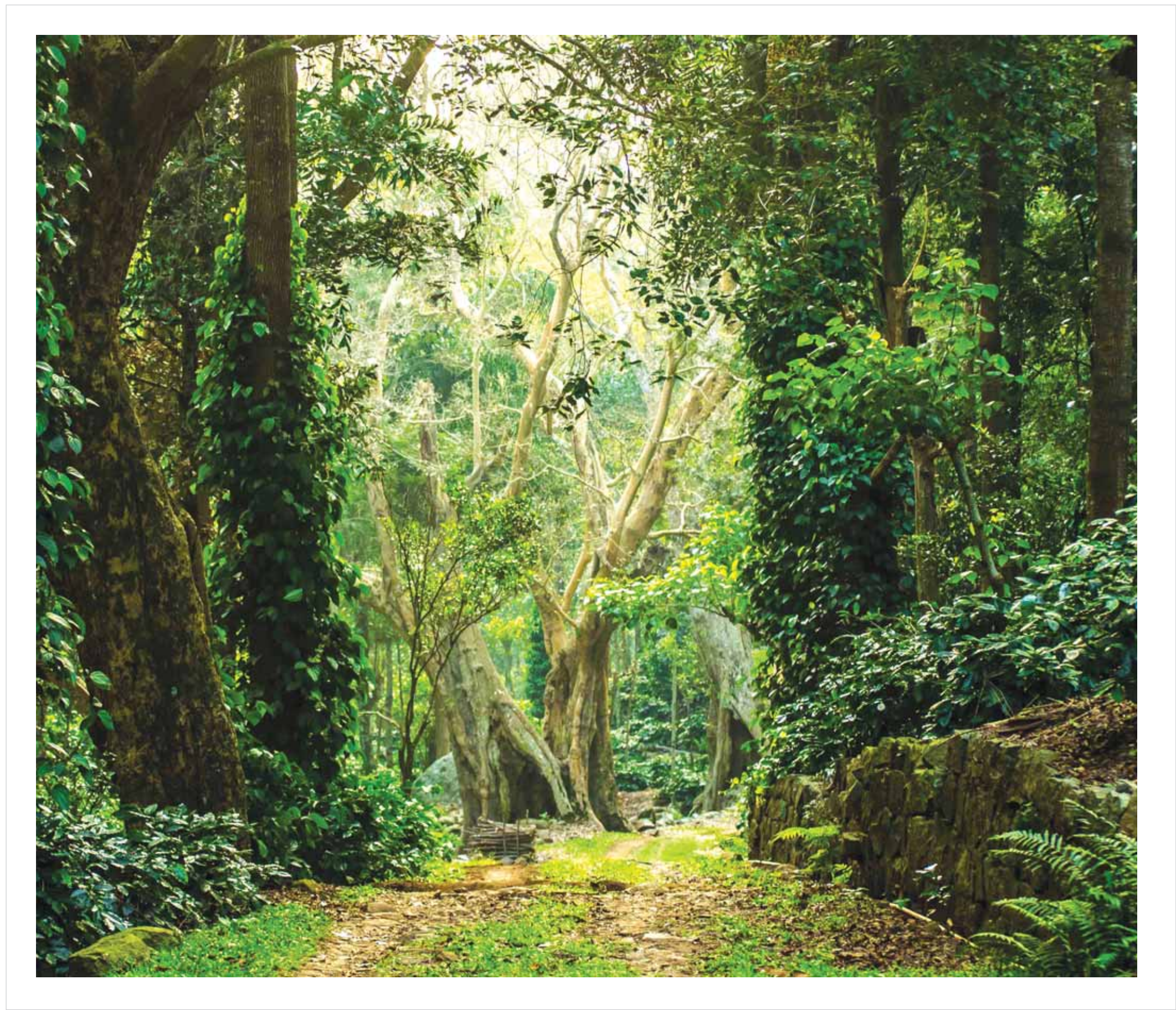
The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, a landmark legislation in India, was introduced to recognise forest rights (FRs) of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) and empower them aiming at strengthening the conservation regime of forests. It was seen as a beacon of hope ushering in an era of community-led sustainable use of forest resources, conservation of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecological balance, which are essential for the sustenance of FRs. The Act however has faced serious implementation challenges and is overly involved in debates about the fulfilment of this vision indicated in the preamble.

The FRA outlines fourteen distinct FRs for its target group but its initial implementation focused primarily on just two viz. habitation and self-cultivation. This emphasis led to large-scale encroachments by people claiming that they occupied the forest land before the mandated cutoff date of December 13, 2005. Not very surprisingly, the high volume of cases and the pressure to decide them quickly resulted in many ineligible claims getting recognized as valid. This, in turn, encouraged even more people to make similar claims, hoping that theirs would also be approved. During this time, the claims related to Community Forest Rights (CFRs) were given low priority, except for those involving traditionally collected minor forest produce.

In 2012, significant amendments to the FRA Rules were made and new guidelines issued thereafter. Although these amendments purportedly aimed to streamline implementation, they resulted in unintended consequences. Some of these amendments, allegedly extending beyond the Act's original scope, relaxed the eligibility criteria for claimants, allowing non-deserving individuals and communities to exploit the system. The amended Rule introduces a new right, known as the 'Title' to Community Forest Resources.

It enabled communities with only a few members from the FDST and OTFD to make such claims thus allowing the rural elite and powerful individuals to take advantage of the system marginalizing the genuine target group of FRA. Additionally, the evidentiary value of satellite imagery was lowered, making it more challenging to distinguish between legitimate and fabricated claims. No system was established to scrutinize the approved claims while the Tribal Ministry, GOI repeatedly issued directives to review just the rejected ones. In the existing atmosphere, it was 'practical' to approve claims rather than reject them even when the evidence was weak and essential criteria were not met. At times hundreds of cases were cleared in just one meeting which often lacked adequate representation of non-officials and women members, and objections by foresters, even when based on ground reality, were generally labelled as anti-tribal and anti-FRA.

The protection-related duties of forest right holders, gram sabhas, and village-level institutions mentioned under Section 5 of the FRA still await alignment with existing Acts and Rules given the purport of Section 13. Some state tribal departments, as nodal agencies for implementation, have excluded the forest department from village-level management plan committees constituted for community forest resources. Such exclusion precludes inputs from trained foresters and consideration of a landscape-based forest management approach, which is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity, survival of wide-ranging wildlife, and the provision of eco-services that extend beyond village boundaries. Village-centric



management systems, influenced by electoral politics, may undermine long-term conservation efforts and harm ecological balance. Instances of clear felling and over-exploitation in bamboo coupes, in violation of sustainability principles, have already been observed in some villages. Encroachments and land-use alteration near watercourses and on slopes pose significant risks. In 1992, the Forest Department attempted to remove encroachments in Mundakai, Wayanad but faced violent resistance resulting in assaults, injuries, and the torching of six vehicles by locals. Over time, emboldened encroachers and developers constructed large resorts on slopes increasing landslide susceptibility. This risk was tragically realized with the recent landslide in Mundakai in July 2024.

Under FRA also, recognition of claims by ignoring the terrain is an extremely serious issue. In Maharashtra, a 2014 satellite-based study on FRA implementation revealed that out of randomly selected 56,029 claims for cultivation and habitation in Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nandurbar, and Dhule districts; 8,472 and 11,988 sites respectively were within 50 and 100 meters of water bodies or watercourses. Similar claims were found in different districts on slopes exceeding 20 degrees, pockmarked with a total area of

485 acres, many of which could potentially become the epicentre of additional encroachments and imminent disasters.

To date, 5.18 million acres of forest land scattered over 2.37 million sites have been recognized in the country as individual FRs of cultivation and habitation and the process is still on. The absence of a cut-off date for claim submission, however, makes misuse of the Act easier with time since the verifiability of evidence about 2005 becomes increasingly difficult. It may allow the exploitation of the Act for political purposes too.

An analysis of cases cleared just before elections, for instance, 1,33,920 titles granted to podu cultivators reportedly based on village elders' statements; ramping up of claim clearances in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; and current invitations for new claims in Jharkhand should be revealing. A worrying trend, however, has emerged in Madhya Pradesh, with encroachers from other villages and districts targeting forest land in Burhanpur district and nearby areas, often with local politician's support. These actions have sparked violent clashes between the encroachers, local villagers, and forest officials, who are struggling to protect the forests.

An examination of randomly selected CFR cases in Maharashtra reveals that the 'nature' and 'extent' of FRs are often missing from title documents. The issue reportedly

“THE PROTECTION-RELATED DUTIES OF FOREST RIGHT HOLDERS, GRAM SABHAS, AND VILLAGE-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS MENTIONED UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE FRA STILL AWAIT ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING ACTS AND RULES GIVEN THE PURPORT OF SECTION 13. SOME STATE TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS, AS NODAL AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, HAVE EXCLUDED THE FOREST DEPARTMENT FROM VILLAGE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED FOR COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES”

exists in other states as well. Understanding the quantity of forest produce (as a forest right) is crucial for the sustainable management of community forest resources and the long-term continuance of the exercise of forest rights. Accurate quantification can prevent issues such as the dwindling supply of medicinal plants for the Ayurvedic industry, which has led to the use of substandard materials and tarnished the reputation of Ayurveda. Unregulated removals could lead to future disputes over forest produce among neighbouring villages which would simply be disastrous.

The process adopted for recognizing Rights over Community Forest Resources (RCFR) raises significant concerns. According to Section 3(1)(i), RCFR of management is admissible only for communities of FDSTs and OTFDs who have traditionally protected and conserved these resources for sustainable use. Further, section 4(3) of the Act mandates that these communities must have occupied the forest land before the cutoff date of December 13, 2005. However, in practice, management rights under Section 3(1)(i) have been liberally granted, ignoring the mandated criteria, on more than 13.5 million acres out of the country's total recorded forest area of 191.5 million acres. The trend continues unabated also

due to the absence of a deadline for claim submission. Surprisingly, RCFRs for management have been granted on thousands of acres in the core areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in Achanakmar, Udanti Sitanadi, Dhantari, Navegaon Nagzira, and Tansa without fulfilling the required criteria. Apart from the illegalities involved in RCFR cases, the overall situation indicates that the concerned District Level Committees have unauthoritarily transferred the State's responsibility mentioned in Article 51A of the Constitution. In the past, forests were vast and tribal populations were small and cohesive with minimal influence from market forces. They existed harmoniously. Today, we face a crisis of fractured village populations and fragmented forests. The traditional arrangements that once worked may no longer be effective. Any harm to forest conservation and management has far-reaching consequences and Nature responds to it in compounded ways, leading to unpredictable weather patterns, desertification, global warming, and ecological crises.

These environmental changes exacerbate climate change, creating a vicious cycle that further threatens the sustainability and health of our forests and communities. It is crucial to set a deadline for claim

submissions, revisit the rules under the FRA, and swiftly correct its implementation to benefit genuine beneficiaries. Cancelling irregularly granted rights, removing encroachments, and relocating FR holders from high-risk areas will establish confidence in the administration among the voiceless target group of the FRA.

The Supreme Court must prioritize the hearing of writ petition 109/2008, duly because their earlier order to evict encroachers was stayed on February 28, 2019, due to the Tribal Affairs Ministry's submission that due processes were not followed in implementing the FRA. The ministry had also highlighted that the process of settling the claims and rights of the applicants left much to be desired.

At this critical juncture, the choices we make will shape the destiny of India's forests, its people including forest-dependent communities, and its ecology and economy. The question remains: Will the FRA fulfil its promise of empowering legitimate forest right holders while safeguarding India's ecological wealth, or will it succumb to exploitation and misuse? Only time, and our commitment to a sustainability-oriented implementation of the Act, will tell.

(The writer are former PCCFs, UP and Maharashtra; views expressed are personal)

